



THE ENLISTED *ECHO*

Spring 2020



President Nate Hedin
president@sdngea.com

(605) 645-2861

sdngea.com
blackhillsveteranmarch.com



2020 Virtual Special Conference Scheduled

2019-2020 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Phone</u>
President	* Nate Hedin	1SG	nathanjhedin@gmail.com nathan.j.hedin.mil@mail.mil	W: 605-737-6939 C: 605-645-2861
1st Vice President	* Courtney Tyrrell	SSG	courtneytotton@yahoo.com djaeger44@gmail.com	C: 605-730-0654 W: 605-988-5839
2nd Vice President	* Derek Jaeger	TSgt	derek.e.jaeger.mil@mail.mil	C: 605-237-9284 C: 605-786-2032
Past President	* Josh Wermers	SFC	joshua.j.wermers.mil@mail.mil	W: 605-737-6647
Treasurer	* Anna Simons	SSG	anna_simons@live.com	C: 605-870-6992
Secretary	Rorie Gregor	SFC	rorie.i.gregor.mil@mail.mil	C: 605-881-6736
Executive Director	Bruce Anderson	CMSgt (Ret)	wfba75@gmail.com	C: 605-321-2752
Committee Member at Large				
Area 1	* Vacant			
Area 2	* Louis Durandt	SSG	Louis.durandt@yahoo.com	C: 605-270-3846
Area 3	* Don Kranz	SSG	donkranz305@gmail.com	C: 605-999-8169
Area 4	* Mark Jensen	SSG	Mark.a.jensen22.mil@mail.mil	C: 605-261-0231
Area 5	* Raechel Oyen	SSgt	Raechel.j.oyen.mil@mail.mil	C: 605-321-8734
Squadron Representatives				
FW	* Rick VandenHoek	SMSgt	rick.a.vandenhoeck.mil@mail.mil	W: 605-988-5671 C: 605-321-6263
MSG	* Charles Fincher	MSgt	charles.h.fischer2.mil@mail.mil	W: 605-988-5914 C: 605-366-8679
MXG	* Braiden Smith	SSgt	braiden.c.smith.mil@mail.mil	C: 605-839-9040
MDG	Tori Lowe	SSgt	t.lynn.haase@gmail.com	C: 605-610-7934
OG	* Vacant			
Battalion Representatives				
JFHQ	* Karen Tucker	SSG	katucker88@gmail.com	C: 605-641-4478 W: 605-737-6609
HQ 196th RTI	* Josh Guthmiller	SFC	joshua.j.guthmiller.mil@mail.mil	C: 701-426-8769 W: 605-737-6454
109th RSG	* Joshua Schaefer	SFC	joshua.j.schaefer.mil@mail.mil	W: 605-737-6512 C: 605-390-6614
152nd CSSB	* Meagan Krahn	SSG	mmkrahn@yahoo.com	C: 605-203-0316
881st Trp Cmd	* Helen Juelfs	SGT	helen.m.juelfs.mil@mail.mil	W: 605-737-6108 C: 605-261-2302
196th MEB	* Sarah Henle	SPC	Sarah.l.henle.mil@mail.mil	W: 605-357-2941 W: 605-882-9325
1st Bn 147th FA	* Charles Butler	SSG	Charles.j.butler18.mil@mail.mil	C: 605-941-7371
139th BSB	* Barb Boyer	SFC	barbara.k.boyer.mil@mail.mil	C: 605-695-3167
153rd En Bn	* Marshall Freideman	SGT	Marshall.j.freideman.mil@mail.mil	W: 605-352-0218
109th En Bn	* Robert Cole	SSG	robert.r.cole.mil@mail.mil	W: 605-642-6121
R & R BN	* Kayleigh Cihak	SGT	Kayleigh.e.cihak2.mil@mail.mil	C: 605-490-2747
Junior Enlisted - Air	* Briana Grage	SrA	briana.grage@gmail.com	C: 605-370-1808
Junior Enlisted - Army	* Roderick McRae	SPC	Roderick.r.mcrae.mil@mail.mil	W: 605-773-3812 C: 605-858-2045
Retired Air	* David Frock	CMSgt (Ret)	def59browns@yahoo.com or david.e.frock.civ@mail.mil	W: 605-737-6507 C: 605-359-2083
Retired Army	* Robert Aiken	CSM (Ret)	Robert.J.Aiken@mwarep.org	W: 605-772-4050 C: 605-391-2513
ECHO Editor	Sarah Callies	MSgt	sarah.callies@live.com	C: 605-941-1548
Historian	Mark Jensen	SGT	mark.a.jensen22.mil@mail.mil	C: 605-261-0231
Legislative Officer	Josh Wermers	SFC	See Past President above	See above
Membership Officer	Tabitha Carr	SSG	Tabitha.a.carr4.mil@mail.mil	C: 605-350-4794 W: 605-988-5956
Membership Rep - Air	Kelsey Lambert	TSgt	kelsey.m.lambert.mil@mail.mil	C: 605-480-1928
Parliamentarian	Benjamin Lamp	SFC	benjamin.g.lamp.mil@mail.mil	C: 605-728-3358
Webmaster	Kim Chase	SSG (Ret)	kkchase740@gmail.com	C: 605-651-5829
Auxiliary President	Kayleen Meyers	CIV	k_meyers04@hotmail.com	C: 605-940-5154
State Conference Liaison	Kayleigh Cihak	SGT	Kayleigh.e.cihak2.mil@mail.mil	C: 605-490-2747
2020 State Conference Chair	Dale Greenfield	MSG (Ret)	Dale.greenfield@yahoo.com	C: 605-350-2319
2021 State Conference Co-Chair	Josh Wermers	SFC	See Past President above	See above
State SEL	Patrick Couser	CSM	Patrick.e.couser.mil@mail.mil	W: 605-737-6573
State CCM	Brett Cownie	CMSgt	Brett.l.cownie.mil@mail.mil	

* = Voting Members

Upcoming Events

FUTURE STATE CONFERENCES

June 13, 2020 - Webex
 April 15-17, 2021 - Fort Meade, SD
 April 21-23, 2022 - Rapid City, SD
 (co-located)
 TBD 2023-Brookings, SD

FUTURE NATIONAL CONFERENCES

August 9-12, 2020 - CANCELLED
 Jul 31-Aug 4, 2021 -Albuquerque, NM
 TBD 2022 - Little Rock, AR
 TBD 2023 - Rochester, MN

FUTURE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

September 18, 2020- Deadwood, SD

FUTURE BLACK HILLS VETERANS HONOR MARCH

September 19, 2020- Deadwood, SD

NEXT ECHO DEADLINE

Summer 2020- Deadline for submissions is 11 July 2020

The ECHO is produced three times a year by the South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association

Letters to the Editor, article requests, and other state association items should be forwarded to the ECHO Editor, Sarah Callies, at sarah.callies@live.com or 8006 E Callies Place, Sioux Falls, SD 57110.

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Please send all e-mail changes to SDNGEA, Attn: Nate Hedin, nathan.j.hedin.mil@mail.mil

NGAUS Insurance Trust
 Administrator: Dave Burr, (605) 569-6860. This Insurance program benefits the SDNGEA with experience funds annually.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



By ISG Nate Hedin

Friends, we are sliding down a slippery slope as an organization. Our overall membership number continues to decline. The number of people who are actively involved in the organization continues to decline.

I feel that while we ended the year in decent shape, we can do better. As of this letter, 3 March 2020, we sit at about 1810 members' total. There are 318 Air members, which is a 37.8% membership rate, and 1156 Army members, which is a 44.75% membership rate, the balance made up of retired members. Our previous 12 month daily average

membership was 2,266 which means we are down almost 500 members.

Our strength is our members. Whether that is at the state or the national level, our membership is our strength. South Dakota was one of the original founders of the national association, our voice, your voice, matters at the national level.

We are the only organization dedicated to the fight solely for your benefits as a member of the National Guard. We are the only organization that works solely on the issues that you bring to the table. We need you. I can assure you that we have support from the highest levels of the South Dakota National Guard and the National Guard Bureau. Membership matters. Your membership matters!

2019 was a big year for the National Guard as a whole with the passing of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. Some of the highlights from that include the implementation of Tricare for Federal Technicians, early retirement credit for 12304b orders retroactive to 2012, bonuses for Techs and AGRs, a military student identifier for Guard and Reserve children, and removing time in service restrictions for transferring earned GI Bill benefits. Talking about Tricare for technicians, the NDAA mandated that it must be available by 2030 due to a \$200 million spending requirement. EANGUS is committed to working to find that money and get Tricare for technicians implemented as soon as possible. Personally I believe it can be implemented by 2025 at the latest based on conversations I've had with our national Executive Director and legislative staff.

We are facing unprecedented times. The COVID-19 virus pandemic has altered life as we know it. EANGUS has cancelled the National Conference that was going to be in Arkansas. We have cancelled our state conference in Huron and will hold our first virtual conference on Saturday 13 June 2020. This will be a special conference that was approved by the Executive Council so that we may still conduct the business of the Association and ensure we are in good legal standing. If you haven't received the virtual conference information and would like it, please let me know ASAP (*webex information is located on page 6*).

Thank you for what you do. Whether that is for your families, communities, friends, Guard unit, our great state, or our nation. I am truly honored and blessed to be serve with each of you. I hope that you and your families are staying safe and healthy and that God blesses you with good fortune and good health. I will virtually see you on the 13th.

FROM YOUR 2nd VICE, TSgt Derek Jaeger



I cannot believe that a year has come and gone since being elected as your 2nd Vice President. What a year it has been! I had the privilege of attending my first EANGUS National Conference in Des Moines, IA, where I met some great people and got to be part of the voting body that passed resolutions that included the removal of the year restriction for transferring your Post-911 GI Bill benefits to dependents. Additionally, I participated in my first Black Hills Veterans March as part of a 5 person relay team. It was great being there and seeing everyone come out to support such a fun and meaningful event. I encourage everyone to find a way to participate in the march, whether as a runner or volunteer. I look forward to participating and assist in planning future Veterans Marches.

Scholarship season is beginning to come to a close, but there are still several opportunities for some excellent scholarships at the National level from both EANGUS and AUSA! If anyone ever has any questions about the scholarship program please don't hesitate to reach out to me, as I will help you out with whatever questions you have.

The South Dakota National Guard Scholarships closed back at the beginning of March, and once again was composed of an excellent applicant pool that made the review board's decision very difficult. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic creating some logistical issues, we were able to put together a diverse review board and conduct the reviews virtually as to adhere to the social distancing rules. Without further delay I would like to announce this year's recipients of the SDNG Scholarships!

The two Major General Duane L. "Duke" Corning Memorial Scholarships for \$1000 each go to:

Meghan Maas

Meghan is the daughter of ISG David Maas of the 881st Troop Command in Sturgis. Meghan will be attending Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona, beginning this fall, where she will major in Nursing.

Grace Dellman

Grace is the daughter of MSgt Carl Dellman of the 114th FW in Sioux Falls. Grace is attending Dakota State University in Madison, where she is majoring in Elementary Education.

The USAA Scholarship for \$1000 goes to:

Carter Jahnig

Carter is the son of ISG Lester Jahnig of the 1742nd Transportation Unit in Sioux Falls. Carter will be attending Dakota Wesleyan University, where he will major in Biochemistry with a focus on Pre-Med.

The CW2 Darren R. Mallow Memorial Scholarship for \$100 goes to:

SrA Cassidy Carda

Cassidy is enlisted in the 114th Fighter Wing in Sioux Falls as a member of the Avionics shop. Cassidy is attending South Dakota State University, where she is majoring in Human Biology with an emphasis on Pre-Med.

This fall be looking for the opening of the 2021 SDNG Scholarships. I encourage everyone to apply next year as these scholarships are non-renewable.

In conclusion, I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity and support to serve as your 2nd Vice President this past year and I look forward to another successful year. I hope everyone stays safe, healthy, and continues to take care of themselves and family!

FROM YOUR AUXILIARY PRESIDENT, Kayleen Meyers



I hope this all finds you well. We were looking forward to having a good time and getting business done in Huron, SD. Due to Covid 19 the State and National Conferences are cancelled. Now with the Conference being cancelled there have been emails sent out for a special Conference being held with the SDNGEA on WebEx. This will help them to get their business done for the Enlisted Association. I am talking with some people about what the Auxiliary will need to do and will send out an email and newsletter with information about the Auxiliary. If you have any questions about the State online WebEx meeting contact Nathan Hedin, the State President.

While we are not able to have our annual Conference, I would like to encourage all spouses to become a member of the Auxiliary. The membership drive is underway. The applications for memberships can be found on the SDNGEA website.

Membership in strength and numbers helps to support our voice on Legislative issues that impact all Airmen, Soldiers, and their families. I encourage anyone to contact me or another member if you have any questions about the Auxiliary. Your membership helps to support the State Scholarship we are able to provide each year. Take a look at our Facebook page as well. If you have any questions please contact me anytime. Stay healthy and safe during this time.

Get involved with your Government and call your Congressmen. Know the issues and have a voice!



***Senator John Thune
Washington D.C. Office
202-224-2321***



***Representative Dusty Johnson
Washington D.C. Office
202-225-2801***



***Senator Mike Rounds
Washington D.C. Office
202-224-5842***

Additional Special Conference Information

If you are interested in attending the special conference and did not receive any information please reach out to Nate Hedin or any area representative. We would definitely appreciate your participation in our organization!

Proxy information for each voting positions and units should be gathered and submitted to Nate Hedin no later than 1 June 2020.

Committee reports need to be emailed to Nate Hedin no later than 1 June 2020. The report will be shared on the conference screen as the individual reads the report.

Resolutions need to be emailed to Courtney at courtneytotton@yahoo.com no later than 1 June 2020. If you cannot make it to the special conference, resolutions are a great way to be involved and pursue a legislative change!

Visit www.sdngesa.com and “like” the South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association on Facebook for special conference discussions and updates!

2020 Special Conference Agenda
13 June 2020 at 0800MST (0900CST)

Meeting Link: <https://meetingsamer10.webex.com/meetingsamer10/j.php?MTID=md77e60376258291daf846f6d04e8c1fa>

Meeting Number (Access Code): 624 822 399

Meeting Password: e5HMvM3E9PX

CALL TO ORDER – 0800 MST

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction and Explanation of WebEx

Roll Call – Proxy Letters - Determination of a Quorum - Rorie Gregor

Approval of Minutes of 60th Annual Conference (published in the Echo) – Rorie Gregor

Reports:

Committee-Members-At-Large - Area 1, Area 2, Area 3, Area 4, Area 5
 Treasurer's Report – Anna Simons
 Insurance Update – Dave Burr
 Scholarship Report – Derek Jaeger
 Membership Report – Tabby Carr/Kelsey Lambert
 Legislative Report – Josh Wermers
 Resolutions – Courtney Tyrrell
 Constitution and By-Laws (State and National) - Bruce Anderson
 Publications – Sarah Callies - Echo Deadline is 11 July, release date 1 August 2020
 BHVMM Update – Josh Wermers
 Ways and Means - Kayleigh Cihak
 Audit Committee Report – Dave Frock
 Area V and EANGUS Update – Josh Wermers
 Budget Report – Anna Simons
 Museum Report – Sonja Johnson
 Awards Report – Courtney Tyrrell
 Ways and Means Report – Bruce Anderson
 Time and Place Report – Anna Simons
 Position Evaluation Report – Derek Jaeger
 Investment Report – Bruce Anderson
 Young Heroes Report – Kelsey Lambert
 Legislative Report – Josh Wermers
 Publications Report – Sarah Callies
 Jr Enlisted Air Report – Briana Grage
 Jr Enlisted Army Report – Rod McRae
 President's Report – Nate Hedin
 Resolutions Voting – Courtney Tyrrell
 Nominations Voting – Josh Wermers

Old Business

2020 State Conference Refunds Update – Dale Greenfield

2020 Area V Caucus – Bruce Anderson

New Business

Future State Conferences



- 2021 – 15-18 April 2021, Ft. Meade - Josh Wermers
- 2022 – Rapid City Co-Located with NGAUS
- 2023 – Brookings – Barb Boyer
- 2024 - ??

Future National Conference –

- 2020 – CANCELLED
- 2021 – 8-11 August 2021 - Albuquerque, NM
- 2022 – Little Rock, AR
- 2023 – Rochester, MN

Date and Time of next Council Meeting

18 Sep 2020 at 1600 hours,
Deadwood, SD

Motion to Adjourn




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Presidents and Legislative Workshop Report

By 1SG Nate Hedin

I would like to thank our Association for the opportunity to represent South Dakota in Washington, D.C. in February for the EANGUS Presidents and Legislative Workshops. It was my first in our nation’s capital and it was an incredible experience.

During the Presidents Workshop the majority of the focus was on membership, corporate partnerships and making the website work for us. Josh Wermers as the EANGUS Membership Committee Co-Chair, briefed on the current EANGUS membership challenge. I can assure you that nearly every state organization is facing membership challenges. How we choose to overcome these will tell us a lot about ourselves and our state association. There are some impressive state level Corporate Sponsorship programs out there. I think we are headed in the right direction with ours but we need to promote it from all levels of the organization throughout the state. You have probably noticed the updated look of the website. Josh has been working hard on this so if there’s something you’d like to see, pictures you’d like to share, or if we inadvertently lost a certain functionality that you used please reach out to Josh and let him so we can do our best to get that restored.

During the Legislative Workshop we had the opportunity to hear from various guest speakers including the Montana TAG and AGAUS President, MG Matt Quinn, Arizona TAG and NGAUS Chairman MG Michael McGuire, and Minnesota TAG MG Jon Jensen on various topics directly affecting our organizations. Josh Wermers



and I had the opportunity to sit down with each member of our congressional delegation in their offices to discuss various topics including duty status reform, revamping the DD214, and TRICARE, as well as the DOD budget request to reprogram approximately \$3.2 billion away from modernization and safety programs directly affecting the National Guard. We brought this issue up to Senator Rounds and his staff on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 before they had heard about it. More information surrounding this issue was published in the national news a week to ten days later. The white papers are available on pages 9-11 of this Echo.

It was an incredible experience and reinforced why I got involved with our organization. We are truly here to advocate for the rights and benefits of the National Guard.

TEST YOUR ENDURANCE. EXERCISE YOUR PATRIOTISM!

BLACK HILLS VETERAN MARCH AND MARATHON 19 SEPTEMBER 2020

The Black Hills Veterans March and Marathon is an annual trek through the mountainous terrain of South Dakota’s beautiful Black Hills. This march/marathon pays tribute to the many sacrifices that this nation’s veterans have made in the past and continue to make today. All event proceeds are used to benefit veterans. We’re currently looking for sponsors, volunteers and participants. Register at Blackhillsveteranmarch.com.



Reserve Component DD214

Issue: There is no capstone document that summarizes both Reserve Component (RC) and Active Component (AC) service. The current process disregards transitions across the continuum of service between AC and RC through a Servicemembers career. The lack of a DD214 inhibits RC Servicemembers from claiming earned benefits and proving the full scope of their military service. Additionally, when an RC member does receive a DD214 upon completion of active service, it often does not include cumulative service. This makes it difficult for RC members to maximize their earned benefits.

Background: RC Servicemembers do not receive a DD214 unless they are on active duty orders for more than 90 consecutive days.¹ Without a DD214 being provided when an RC member serves less than 90 days they cannot prove eligibility for federal Veteran benefits such as the G.I Bill, Veteran's preference for federal employment, and military funeral benefits. According to DODI 1336.01, Reserve Component Servicemembers only receive a DD214 when:

- Separated from a period of active duty for training, full-time training duty, or active duty for special work when they have served 90 days or more.
- When required by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned for shorter periods.
- Upon separation for cause or for physical disability regardless of the length of time served on active duty.
- When ordered to active duty for a contingency operation regardless of the number of days served on active duty.

The VA website instructs servicemembers that the DD214 or "any other documents you think are necessary" must be presented to prove eligibility for various benefits. For example, Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits² in Title 38 requires 30 days of active duty service to qualify for this benefits.³ However, RC servicemembers do not receive a DD214 unless they are on active duty orders for more than 90 consecutive days or for a contingency operation. RC Servicemembers are often placed on assignments lasting less than 90 consecutive days. Complicating the process further, National Guardsmen can transfer states, known as Interstate Transfer (IST), over the course of their career, but the records don't always follow. Critical service-related documentation often remains in the issuing state. Human error and a convoluted personnel system can cause orders to be incorrectly documented or not documented at all. Making matters worse, servicemembers are often unaware that the onus is on them to maintain personal records of all orders. The result of the current, disaggregated personnel system results in many servicemembers receiving only a portion of their earned benefits.

Solution: Include a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2021 that requires the Secretary of Defense to complete the following:

- Modify the title of the DD Form 214 to Certificate or Release or Discharge from Active Duty or Active Status.
- Issue a DD214 upon separation or discharge from a Reserve Component similar to exit from the Active Duty. This document should reflect all AC and RC service for the Servicemember.

¹ DoDI 1336.01, Enclosure 3, Paragraph 2(d)

² [VA Website Definition](#)

³ 38 C.F.R. § 21.9520(b)



ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES

1 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 880 • Washington, D.C. 20001-1401 • 800-234-EANG (3246) • Fax (703) 519-3849

2020 LEGISLATIVE REQUEST

Reserve Component Duty Status Reform

ISSUE: EANGUS supports the consolidation of authorities which is known as duty status reform as long as none of the current benefits for each type of duty are sacrificed

BACKGROUND:

Congress has mandated numerous commissions that chartered and reported out concerning duty status reform. There are currently about 30 statuses of duty in which a member of the Reserve Components may be ordered to Active, State or Federal duty. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91), Section 513, *Consolidation of authorities to order members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces to perform duty* reduces 30 disparate duty statuses into four categories:

- Active duty for contingency operations or in support of a combatant command;
- Active service not for contingency operations or in support of a combatant command, that might consist of training, administration, operational support, and full-time support.
- Inactive service such as drilling or partial day service
- Remote duty not under direct military supervision, such as correspondence courses

Public Law 115-91 also states that the consolidation of authorities should minimize disruptions in pay and benefits for members.

RECOMMENDATION:

EANGUS asks that Congress support the intention of Section 513 of Public Law 115-91 and maintain the same benefit structure for members and their families as they currently enjoy as Congress considers the consolidation of authorities in law.



ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES

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2020 LEGISLATIVE REQUEST

Provide TRICARE at Early Retirement

ISSUE: Reserve Component Servicemembers with early retirement credit are eligible for retired pay, but are ineligible for most TRICARE plans, before the age of 60

BACKGROUND:

The membership of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S. (EANGUS) believes that Reserve Component (RC) Servicemembers should be able to receive an affordable healthcare option upon retirement. Generally, RC Servicemembers' retirement is based on twenty years of service. However, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181) enacted the reduced retirement age for RC members based on Active Duty performance. Servicemembers that served in an eligible, Active Duty status on or after January 29, 2008, could separate from the National Guard or Reserves prior to 60 years of age, but not below age 50. Early retirement credit was put in place to recognize the Operational Reserve's efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan after September 11, 2001.

Unfortunately, the reduction of the minimum age for eligibility for retired pay for non-regular service does not reduce the age for eligibility for health care under 10 USC 1074 (b). Retired RC Servicemembers under the age of 60 may purchase TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR), which is costly. Fiscal Year 2019 TRR fees cost a retiree \$451.51 per month, for an individual plan.

Public Law 110-181 helped RC Servicemembers transition into retirement, but did not take into consideration the rising cost of health care coverage. The EANGUS membership urges the 116th Congress to wed early retirement pay and affordable TRICARE coverage for members under the age of 60.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please support the legislative text of H.R. 5169, *The TRICARE Fairness for National Guard and Reserve Retirees Act*, introduced by Representative Ross Spano and Representative Tulsi Gabbard, and see that it is included in the Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 2020 - Ramkota, Pierre, SD

Meeting was called to order at 1400 hours. Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Nathan Hedin. Derek Jaeger made a motion to deviate from the agenda; Josh Wermers seconded it.

President Hedin thanked everyone who was in attendance and welcomed the following guests: Past President Don List and his wife Marlys.

ROLL

Roll was taken and the following members were present: Nathan Hedin, Courtney Tyrrell, Derek Jaeger, Josh Wermers, Anna Simons, Kayleigh Cihak proxy for Chris Montileaux, Don Kranz, Will Hangman proxy for Mark Jensen, Rick Vanden Hoek, Charles Fincher, Christopher Achen proxy for Braiden Smith, Karen Tucker, Helen Juelfs, proxy for Sarah Henle, Don Kranz proxy for Charles Butler, Kayleigh Cihak, Roderick McRae, David Frock, and Robert Aiken. Enough were present for a quorum.

MINUTES

Minutes from the last Executive Council Meeting were presented. A motion to receive the minutes as presented was made by Don Kranz and seconded by David Frock. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT

Anna Simons presented the Treasurers Report. The checking account had over \$100,000 so \$50,000 was transferred to the savings account. Current balances as of this report: Checking account with \$52,759.12 and the Savings account with \$50,509.18. The Dakota Bank CD has \$23,096.25. We also received checks for 3 corporate sponsors; HDR Inc. – silver, USAA – gold, and Dupont (DRE) Real Estate – silver. The treasurer reported that since she took over last year, the Quick Books has shown less money than our actual Wells Fargo account every month. A note will be made in the Books and she will zero out the balance difference. Anna made a motion to accept the report as presented and Bob Aiken seconded it. In further discussion, Ben Lamp inquired about our current investments. Bruce Anderson mentioned that \$10,000 should be flagged/tagged for future National conferences. David Frock, Josh Wermers, and Anna Simons will meet prior to the State Conference to review. Motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKER

SEL/SCSM Pat Couser came to speak to our Enlisted Association committee members. He thanked everyone for what they do and for what they do for the organization. He is going to work on rearranging the schedule for next year’s Legislative Dining Out/Leader’s Conference so that more Senior Enlisted members can be in attendance. He talked a little bit about “This is My Squad”. The idea behind this is to empower our NCO’s again. Let them take responsibility at the squad level. We need to rebuild relationships and trust amongst our Soldiers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee-Members-At-Large - Area 1: Chris Montileaux resigned his position. Filed as presented. Area 2, Area 3, Area 4, Area 5 – No other reports.

Tabitha Carr presented the Membership Report to the committee. It can be stated that as of 31 December 2019 we ended with 2,340 members. Our paid membership at all levels is at 1,806 members which is a decrease of 534 members. Army currently has 1,174 paid members and the Air has 324. The remaining quantity resides with our retired personnel. There were some challenges collecting dues this last year due to the increase. Some of the issues included units not being aware of the increase or not caring to follow the increase deadline. It is recommended that if we have a future dues increase, the change should be effective immediately or take effect at the next Calendar Year. Advise putting whichever decision we



Executive Council Meeting Minutes Continued

choose into the By-Laws for future council members. The coupon code ran from 1 August 19 – 1 October 19, and though it wasn't quite as successful as hoped for, there was more interest in online payment this year. The structure of the membership forms was changed to get rid of the detachments and squadrons and place those units with their parent unit. Thank you to Kelsey and Nate for updating personnel and numbers in each unit and aligning them with their MACOM. Reminder to all Area and BN Reps to have your units send in their dues after each drill weekend. A final thanks to Kelsey Lambert and Josh Wermers for assisting with the input process. In further discussion, we talked about online payments and how things balance out once we pay National. Made a motion to accept this report. Filed as presented.

The Adjutant General, MG Jeffrey Marlette, came in and spoke to the Enlisted Association committee. He thanked the group for all that they do. The SD Guard has Soldiers deployed all over the world. He noted that since 911, the SD Guard has been deployed every day with the exception of 41 days. His focus is on people. Stated that there are two types of leaders/organizations; ones that focus on results and the others focus on relationships. There needs to be a balance between the two. Mentioned that he started doing "Hear the Force" on the Army side. It's a process for everyone to share their ideas and feel as if

their voice can be heard. Working on restoring the power of the NCO.

The Legislative Report was presented by Josh Wermers. SD has been a big contributor on some of the recent issues taken to the national level. Just to mention a few recent big wins for the National Guard include: Tricare Reserve Select for military Technicians starting in 2030, paid family leave (12 weeks) for federal employees when they welcome a new baby or adopt, and a report on incentives (bonus, SLRP) for AGR/Mil Tech. Courtney also brought up the Tricare Fairness for National Guard and Retiree Reserve Act. Though we've been successful, the association continues to work and lobby at the national level. Currently pushing the following topics: HR 5169 to sync Tricare and early retirement prior to age 60, change the GI Bill from a retention incentive to an entitlement, Duty Status Reform, New T-5 Tricare contracts, monitor the Air Guard federal tuition assistance implementation, and altering the 90/10 rule to include all schools be more outcome based than revenue based. The state level is just as important and some of the issues concerning the National Guard and veterans include topics such as: appropriation to construct a storage building located in Brown County, revise appropriation for the State Veterans Cemetery, revise provisions regarding group pheasant hunts for disabled veterans, authorization for certain veterans to attend postsecondary technical



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Member COVERAGE	Monthly PREMIUM		Spouse COVERAGE	Monthly PREMIUM
\$5,000	\$2.00		\$5,000	\$2.00
\$10,000	\$3.66		\$10,000	\$4.00
\$15,000	\$5.33		\$15,000	\$6.00
\$20,000	\$7.00		\$20,000	\$7.00
\$25,000	\$8.67		\$25,000	\$8.67
\$35,000	\$12.00		DEPENDENTS	
\$50,000	\$17.00		\$2,000	\$1.33
			\$5,000	\$3.33
			\$10,000	\$6.66

Executive Council Meeting Minutes Continued

institutes without payment of tuition. Made a motion to accept this report. This report will be filed as presented.

LTC Deb Bartunek and SGM Jeff Wessels came to ask the Enlisted Association committee if we would be willing to do a monetary sponsorship for the Coyote Den. Trying to get away from the stigma of being a bar; it's an open mess/club. Looking for a onetime sponsorship. The Coyote Den is a non-profit organization. Committee will discuss and get back to them.

State Conference will be held in Huron April 16-18, 2020 at the Crossroads Event Center. Dale Greenfield gave a brief overview on activities and entertainment that they have planned. Everyone needs to get their registrations in ASAP! Informational report.

Publications – Sarah Callies – Might be looking for volunteers to help get the next ECHO out. Sarah may be TDY at the time.

OLD BUSINESS

Table Cloth/Stuff for tables at SRPs

NEW BUSINESS

Area 5 Caucus – let Bruce Anderson know if you are interested in going. It will be 16-17 May 2020 in Brookfield, WI.

Area V Report was presented by Josh Wermers. Area V is alive and well! Your current area directors are Chuck Kasin (Chair), Chuck Votema, and Josh Wermers. Going

to Washington DC for 1st Quarter Executive Council meeting, state president's workshop and the Legislative Workshop. First off, they are starting a new membership challenge for every state and territory to increase membership by 20%. South Dakota is currently down around 500 members. Secondly, nationally we have a new fitness program called Transformed EANGUS Fitness Challenge. It is an App through Wodify with a Facebook page to encourage healthy lifestyle. The App cost is \$10. It's a fun way to get motivated and stay healthy. Lastly, there is a wealth of information being put out there about EANGUS podcasts, Facebook and You Tube. Newest podcast is called coffee with congress. Made a motion to accept this report as presented. Report will be filed.

Tabitha Carr suggested that we get rid of the Area Rep positions, move those duties to the BN Reps, and then



Photo courtesy of 114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs, TSgt Duane Duimstra



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each individual unit should have a Unit Rep. It can be especially difficult for M-day Soldiers in these positions because they don't know who to contact. This decision/change would require an update to the By-Laws. This topic needs to be brought up at the State Conference for further discussion. Information needs to get distributed down to the lowest level. We need to get back to mentoring people in new positions. We need to get back to one on one conversations with our Soldiers versus overwhelming them with emails and briefings. Ben Lamp noted that membership numbers have decreased due to various changes over the last 10-20 years; the internet and online aspect of things has taken away personal relationships. It was suggested that at least 1 ECHO be printed yearly. Will Hangman and Ben Lamp both reinforced that we have to start at the top level (E9) and down. No motion made, just discussion.

Derek Jaeger has developed a flyer about sponsorship to put out on the Air Guard. He'll work on developing one flyer to cover both sides (Army & Air). Encourage sponsorship amongst your ranks and within your units.

Bruce Anderson inquired about the podcasts/videos that Josh and Nate did last year. Recommended we bring them back or start doing them again. He also talked about the

Sponsorship for State Conference. The State Association pays for Sponsorship; 2 Army and 2 Air at a minimum. Contact Bruce Anderson if you have someone interested.

Ben Lamp brought up the topic on the new SD State Cemetery in Sioux Falls. Right now, the requirement to be buried there is that you have to be a SD Veteran. This requirement overlooks National Guard Soldiers with 20-30 plus years that have never deployed. Suggested we come up with a resolution to present at the State Conference.

Black Hills Veterans March and Marathon - Ben Lamp is stepping down from his position this year with the march due to an upcoming deployment this fall. He will be turning things over to Josh Wermers. It was suggested that we may have to discontinue the March if we don't get more people involved in running this event. It's been the same people organizing it and we haven't really increased our numbers over the last few years.

Anna Simons brought up the spam email that was sent out asking for 5 / \$100 Amazon Gift cards. To avoid any future issues with this kind of thing, we may need to remove all emails from the website. Let's look at having one single email for all inquiries/questions or separate emails by position.

Future State Conferences:
 2020 – Huron, SD (POC: Dale Greenfield)
 2021 – Ft. Meade, Sturgis, SD (POC: Josh Wermers)
 – Rapid City Co-Located
 2023- ???

Future National Conferences:
 2020 – Little Rock, AR 9-12 August (10 Registrations)
 2021 – Albuquerque, NM 8-11 August
 2022 – Rochester, MN

ADJOURNMENT

The date and time of the next Executive Council Meeting will be at the Cross Roads Event Center in Huron, SD on 16 April 2020 at 1600 hours.

With nothing further to discuss, Don Kranz made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ben Lamp seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 1635 hours.

Our way to say Thank You!

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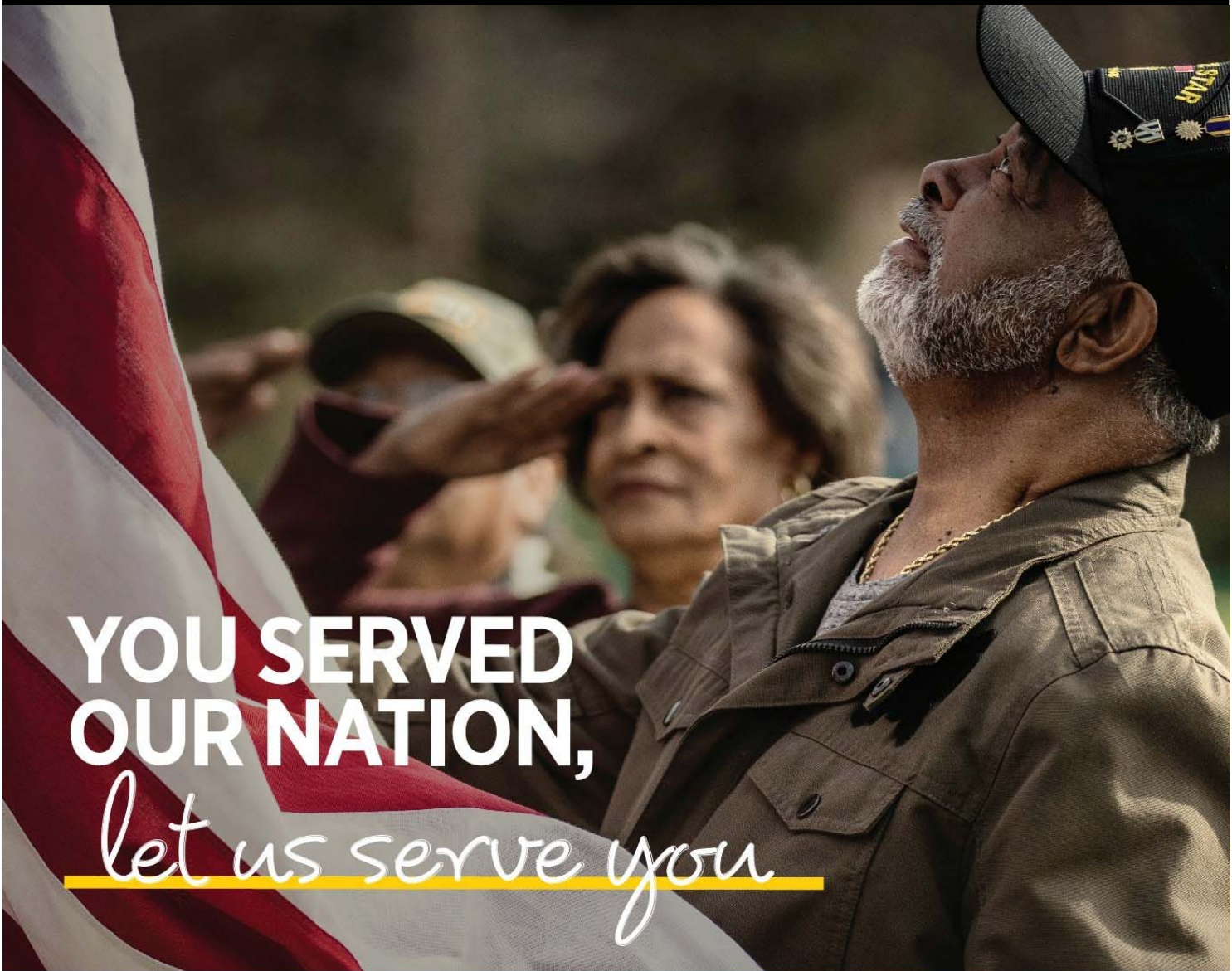
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