

# SDNGEA Executive Council Meeting

04 February 2021

Ramkota Hotel, Pierre, SD

Meeting was called to order at 1415 hours. Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Courtney Tyrrell.

President Tyrrell introduced and welcomed the following guests: CSM Pat Couser (State SEL), CMSgt Brett Cownie (State CCM), SGM Stacey, SGM Nixon, SGM Harkin, SGM Frey, SGM Jennings, and Past President Josh Wermers.

## **ROLL**

Roll was taken and the following members were present: Courtney Tyrrell, Derek Jaeger, Josh Guthmiller, Josh Wermers proxy for Nate Hedin, Kayleigh Cihak, Jeremy Eccleston, Don Kranz, Rick Vanden Hoek, Karen Tucker, Joshua O’dea, Helen Juelfs, Charles Butler, Joshua Wermers, David Frock, Robert Aiken. Enough were present for a quorum.

## **MINUTES**

Copies of the minutes from the last Executive Council Meeting were provided for review. Josh Guthmiller made a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Josh Wermers. Motion carried.

## **TREASURES REPORT – Kayleigh Cihak**

As of right now we have \$83,463.60 in our business checking account and \$50,515.60 in our market rate savings account. Since the last treasures’ report we had a total spending of \$22,284.40, and our total income was \$35,199.30. We also have a pending check for an additional \$17,500 from the State Sponsored Life Insurance program. Some upcoming expenses include the February Executive Council Meeting, the State Conference in April, and the National Conference in August. The treasurer did purchase a 2-year anti-virus protection with McAfee for \$54.99. The Association’s printer was stolen so looking at purchasing a new one. Made a motion to accept this report as presented. Filed as presented. Bruce Anderson – made a purchase with the Association credit card on a CNA bond for \$257.00 and a \$10 purchase for the annual report. He will get receipts to Kayleigh.

Josh Wermers made a point of order to deviate from the agenda and Josh Guthmiller seconded it. CSM Couser thanked the association for all that it does and for sponsoring the E9 meeting which brought in good representation from our E9’s at the council meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Committee-Members-At-Large - Area 1: Jeremy Eccleston – is still learning his position and trying to reach out to his units to make good contacts. Filed as presented.

Area 2 – No report

Area 3: Don Kranz – noted that his units were using the discount code and that he noticed an increase in online memberships. Filed as presented.

Area 4 – No report

Area 5 – No report

**Insurance Update** – Cory Star and Brad Howell work for AFBA and they are two of our agents that work our region. There is no single point of contact. Courtney provided handouts that gave an overview and the benefits of signing up for SSLI. One of the handouts gave a break down of the monthly cost and the amount of coverage for the member, their spouse, and children. It would be beneficial for every SM to sign a sheet annually because each member gets an automatic \$1000 coverage. This ensures beneficiaries are always updated. SSLI – Looking for contacts with the Air Guard side, connected Brad to Brett Cownie

MG Marlette thanked all of the Soldiers and Airmen. Gave a recap from this last year: Almost 35,000-man days of support to civil authorities in the form of the call center, civil disturbance missions, multiple joint missions, counterdrug missions that removed over \$6 million of drugs off the streets, rescue missions in the Badlands and the Black Hills, fire missions, DC Support (short notice suspense), and we continue to support our assigned missions even in a pandemic. Recently hired retired BG Michels as a State employee where his main focus will be on state and federal issues that are relevant to the National Guard. He may also take on some congressional inquiries. Some of the current issues that are still being worked include healthcare (Tricare) coverage for technicians, bonuses for technicians, federal tuition assistance for both the Army and Air. On the federal side – working issues with the new ACFT. MOMS Act – provides 6 UTAs off.

Back to the SSLI topic – Courtney. SSLI is an affordable insurance after Soldiers get out of the guard. Josh Wermers informed the body that every new member that signs up we get a \$25 bonus split between us and the officers.

**Scholarships** – Josh Guthmiller – Has been working with Ross Raulinger with SD Community Coalition to ensure funds were available. The flyer has been updated on our website so please push this information out to your Soldiers. Josh Guthmiller is the new POC if anyone has questions. There is a lot of money for applicants. Josh Wermers sent out a Distro A message with the available scholarships and the national ones as well. Filed as presented.

**Membership** – Tabby Carr – At the end of this year’s membership drive we had 2,138 members which was down 202 from last year. As of 3 February, the paid membership at all levels was at 1,657 which is a decrease of 149 members compared to last year. The Army currently has 1084 paid members while the Air has 256. The remaining quantity resides with our retired personnel. It’s still been a struggle to get dues submitted and turned in before the end of the year. Some units have expressed a lack of communication from the association except for when it is time to pay dues. We did a coupon code for those who paid online between 1 July 2020 – 30 September 2020 along with a Christmas code that ran through the month of December. The coupon code helped make online membership more popular. Tabitha Carr is stepping down as Membership Chair so if anyone is interested please reach out to her or to the association. Made a motion to accept this report. Report will be filed as presented.

Josh Wermers mentioned that Mark Jensen would be interested in taking over as Membership Chair after April. Online membership alleviates the paper forms getting turned in late, but it takes away from the personal one on one with the Soldiers. We need to do a better job educating our Soldiers on the Association, and promote the positives of what we do. Bob Aiken and Neil Harris are willing to go out to the units during SRP to talk to the Soldiers. CSM Couser brought up the We Care for America program that aided during the pandemic this last year. It is a program funded by the Enlisted Association.

Charles Butler asked about paying for Jr Enlisted to attend the State Conference. Bruce Anderson stated that we sponsor 2 Air / 2 Army every year. This year's conference is going to be inexpensive so we should be able to sponsor more this year. Bruce Anderson also touched base on available slots for the National Conference this year.

**BHVMM Update** – Josh Wermers – The Black Hills Veterans March and Marathon had its most successful year to date in September 2020. A big thank you to everyone that helped put on this great event. The committee is always looking for more volunteers so if interested please reach out to Josh Wermers. The committee was able to donate to 4 different organizations ranging in the amount of (\$250-\$500) this year: Veterans Helping Hands Project, The South Dakota Veterans Cemeteries Support Council, Black Hills Health Care System, and Mission 22. A check in the amount of \$750 will be given to the SDNGEA from the BHVMM in order to continue our cooperate membership with the organization. Meetings for this next year's march will be starting soon so if you wanted to be included let Josh know. Made a motion to accept this report. Filed as presented.

**Legislative Report** – Josh Wermers – Things that are happening in the State Legislation include: SB 33 (Funding for the USS Pierre Commissioning), HB 1017 (Federal spending authority for \$750K for a cold storage facility in Sioux Falls), HB 1122 (Requires Congress approval for formal declaration of war before SDNG Airmen/Soldiers can be deployed overseas. National Legislation includes topics as such: Guard/Reserve Education Bill, HR127 45P (Tax for employers increased to 50% from 20%). NDAA 2021 highlights include: 3% pay raise, an increase to the amount paid to reserve members Student Loan Repayment, standardize hazardous duty pay, ACFT study before implementation, maternity pay and retirement points. EANGUS Legislative Workshop will be held virtually on 27 February 2021 from 1200 to 1700 hours. Anyone can sign up on [www.eangus.org](http://www.eangus.org) for \$10. Made a motion to accept this report. Report will be filed as presented.

**2021 Annual Conference Report** – Josh Wermers – The planning process is well underway. The 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual State Conference will be held at the gym on Historic Fort Meade 15-17 April. Rooms are blocked at the Super 8 and Baymont Inn. The Executive Council will meet that Thursday afternoon and registration will take place in the gym. Friday we will be able to spread out on the gym floor for our committee meetings, opening ceremony and business session. There will be a 1920's themed barn dance that evening. Saturday, the business session will continue, then we'll have the closing ceremony. The committee has raised some money from a gun raffle on an AR. The winner of the rifle was Bruce Anderson! There is talk about doing another raffle at the conference. Josh Guthmiller added – the facility rental agreement is complete and discussed having Jr Enlisted stay on Ft Meade for less cost. It has been recommended that we do business casual for the conference. Josh Wermers is looking into a memo from the 90's that states Soldiers could earn retirement points for attending the conference. Filed as presented.

**Area V Report** – Josh Wermers – The National Association hired a new Executive Director, SGM Matt Kranz, to take over for Frank Yoakum. We lost our 2 Legislative Directors this last year, but have hired Kevin Hollinger to replace one of them. He is a former Area V Director. Our Membership drive is starting. The 2021 Caucus will be hosted by the SDNGEA in Deadwood 21-22 May. We are looking for volunteers to help run this event. The Legislative Workshop will be conducted virtually on 27 February. Sign up at [www.eangus.org](http://www.eangus.org) for \$10. The National Conference will be in Albuquerque, NM 8-11 August. We did lose 2 delegates this year due to our low numbers on membership. Send your names to Bruce if interested in attending. Made a motion to accept this report. Filed as presented.

**Resolutions** – No resolutions have been submitted at this time. Please be thinking of ideas to present at our Annual State Conference in April.

**Constitution and By-Laws (State and National)** - Bruce Anderson – Recommend everyone browse through their area of responsibility. Has not completed a review yet prior to the upcoming conference. If anyone sees any changes please contact Bruce.

### New Business

Josh Wermers made a motion to provide \$400 to replace the printer that was stolen; seconded by Helen Juelfs. Motion carried. Kayleigh will send out an email when she finds a replacement.

Josh Wermers and Jeremy Eccleston talked about sponsoring Soldiers/Airmen for the Annual Conference out of the BHVM funds.

Courtney Tyrrell read a personal letter informing the association that she has chosen to resign from her position as President. She still wants to stay involved, but in a less demanding position. According to our bylaws, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice will step up into the position until the State Conference in April. We will then hold elections to vote on new members of the Executive Council.

Josh Guthmiller encouraged everyone to read the bylaws and to learn their duty and responsibilities.

Bob Aiken thanked Courtney for all that she has done for the Association.

### **Future State Conferences**

- 2021 – 16-18 April – Ft Meade / Sturgis - Josh Wermers
- 2022 – 21-23 April - Rapid City Co-Located with NGAUS
- 2023 – Brookings – Barb Boyer

### **Future National Conference**

- 2021 – 8-11 Aug - Albuquerque, New Mexico
- 2022 – Little Rock, AR
- 2023 – Rochester, MN

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The date and time of the next Executive Council Meeting will be at Fort Meade in Sturgis, SD on 16 April 2021 at 1600 hours.

With nothing further to discuss, Don Kranz made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Helen Juelfs seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 1530 hours.