

SDNGEA Executive Council Meeting
15 April 2021
Bldg. 54, Fort Meade, SD

Meeting was called to order at 1600 hours, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Derek Jaeger.

President Jaeger welcomed everyone and introduced the following guests: Past Presidents Josh Wermers and Jerry Eisenbraun.

ROLL

Roll was taken and the following members were present: Derek Jaeger, Josh Guthmiller, Josh Wermers proxy for Nathan Hedin, Kayleigh Cihak, Jeremy Eccleston, Don Kranz, Rick Vanden Hoek, Charles Fincher, Joshua Schaefer, Meagan Krahn, Helen Juelfs, Tabitha Carr proxy for Sarah Henle, Charles Butler, Joshua Wermers, Louis Clement, Charles Fincher proxy for Briana Grage, Bruce Anderson proxy for David Frock, and Robert Aiken. Enough were present for a quorum.

Josh Guthmiller made a motion to deviate from the agenda and Bruce Anderson seconded it.

MINUTES

Copies of the minutes from the last Executive Council Meeting were provided for review. Derek Jaeger made a motion to approve the minutes as printed and Helen Juelfs seconded it. Motion carried.

TREASURES REPORT – Kayleigh Cihak – Report will be presented at the State Conference.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee-Members-At-Large - Area 1, Area 2, Area 3, Area 4, Area 5 – None

Insurance Update – Josh Schaefer presented the insurance update. Enrollments as of 1 January 2021 was 497, and since then we have gained an additional 293 which brings the total to 790. This year we paid out \$15,500 to each association and that leaves the current balance at \$52,102. At the end of every year anything over \$50,000 is split between each Association (Officers and Enlisted). AFBA comes out and does all of the briefings now. Brad Howell is our main point of contact and he will contact the units/squadrons to coordinate those briefs. One change this year is that the board got rid of the administrator position so we don't have to pay for anything there. The insurance trust board conducts minimum admin duties and maintains the account. Everything is done through electronic funds now. Report will be filed as presented.

Scholarships Report– Josh Guthmiller – Will present at the business session during the State Conference.

Membership Report – Tabitha Carr / Karl Hoskins – Tabitha gave a brief overview, but will present the full report at the business session. She has the breakdown per unit for each online registration. The face to face interaction for registering members was brought up in topic. Charles Butler then discussed the idea of using an iPad or tablet to do the online membership versus tracking the paper forms and it would still allow the one on one with the Service member. The problem with paper forms is that units wait until

the end of the year to mail them in or they misplace them. We need to find a good representative at each unit to spread the word on the association. We also don't have the full leadership support for the association or they don't put enough emphasis on it. Kelsey Lambert called in to brief the membership status for the Air Guard side. She will be turning membership over to Karl Hoskins. Kelsey reported that it's a different dynamic on the Air Guard side because they are all in one location. She is able to go shop to shop and talk to the Airmen. Kelsey also noted that the lifetime membership has significantly increased on the Air Guard side. One main complaint that was noted is the cost of membership. Maybe we need to revisit the idea of the cost per member. Kelsey feels as if we've lost the presence of the Association in some of the units. The Turkey Feed will be back on this year and it is a good event to promote the association membership drive. It was noted that some units have concerns about the way the association communicates and that they feel the association only reaches out when it's time to collect dues. In the past, we did have some of our retirees attend a few SRP/PHA drill weekends to assist with the membership drive, but then things got put on hold with COVID this last year. Tabitha suggested that it would be beneficial for the Membership Chair to be someone that works at State or in JFHQ's because they would have more access to personnel rosters. It's difficult for most BN Reps if they are full-time employees because they are balancing unit requirements as well as trying to get out to the various units. We need to get the support from our leadership, and that goes from the First Sergeant up. As members, we also need to emphasize that joining is not mandatory, but sell them on the benefits it has provided and what the association continues to work towards. Filed as presented.

Legislative Report – Josh Wermers – Will present at the business session during the State Conference. Take a look at the EANGUS YouTube channel.

Resolutions Report – Courtney Tyrrell – Josh Wermers submitted 4 proposals for resolutions. (1) Allow retirees to continue paying into their TSP. (2) Work on a plan for 100% state tuition assistance. (3) Military Occupation Compatibility with civilian certificates. (4) Tricare for grey area retirees. Will hold Zoom resolution meeting at 0900 MST Friday morning. Filed as presented.

Constitution and By-Laws (State and National) - Bruce Anderson – Discovered a few minor spelling and punctuation errors that have been corrected. #4 under dues collection; will remove the narrative about needing the SSN.

Other Committee Reports - Bruce Anderson talked about the Sponsorship program. David Kelley was sponsored this year and in attendance at his first State Conference.

Publications Report – Sarah Callies – Has experienced some difficulties over the last year due to COVID. Sarah is looking for additional help or ideas on how we can improve. She suggested that setting up a Google drive would be helpful to share information. It would also be nice if at the National level they put out some kind of social media platform. Bruce asked if it would be too much to incorporate the website and the publications responsibilities. We still have our Instagram page going as well as the Facebook page which seems to be going well. **The next deadline is May 15th**. Please send pictures to Sarah for the ECHO. Filed as presented.

BHVMM Update – Josh Wermers – will forego until the State conference.

Old Business

Area V Caucus Update – Josh Wermers – This event will be held May 21-22 at the VFW in Deadwood. There will be one suite at the Deadwood Mountain Grand for the hospitality room. Josh is looking for additional help to bring in food. Neil and Bob will assist. There is a form on the website and it will be available in the booklet for the state conference.

2021 State Conference Final update – Kayleigh Cihak or Josh Wermers – Everything is all decorated and set up. Registration will be open following this meeting. The hospitality room will be open. We will be doing Facebook live during the conference for anyone that could not attend in person.

2021 National Conference update – Derek reported. According to President Craig, the National Conference is still a go. All hotel reservations must be completed by 14 July. If you do need to cancel, get a hold of the point of contact for the event versus doing it online or through the hotel. The deadline for delegate names is 1 July 2021. The other deadline is to submit for the re-charter by 1 July. There are four required documents in order to complete this. The charter is somewhat of a ceremonial thing. SD originally chartered with Mississippi and they hold the original charter documentation. We should vote to re-charter. We have approximately 10 delegates/reservations, and sitting board members have first pick to attend as a delegate.

New Business

Committee Meetings – reserved from 0800-1100. Give a time when you want to meet.

State Cemetery - Bruce Anderson visited the State Cemetery last month and talked to Erin Brown. The print we got from EANGUS is hanging in the conference room there. Neil Harris also spoke with Erin Brown (Director for the cemetery) about providing replacement flags. We fly 62 American flags, 5 branch of service flags, and the POW flag up at National. At this time, we do not know how many flag poles are at the new State Cemetery. We are not necessarily looking at buying all of the flags, but providing a donation to them. They will need the 4x6 polyester flags. May 31st will be the dedication ceremony. The BH Veterans March will also look at donating. The new cemetery will be able to do 7 funerals a day; 90 currently pending.

Annual Auxiliary Donation - Derek Jaeger brought up the Auxiliary donation. We usually make a \$300 donation every year to the Auxiliary, but since we were unable to have our State Conference last year this did not happen. Josh Wermers made a motion to donate \$600 this year to cover 2020 and 2021. Motion seconded by Josh Guthmiller. Motion carried. Donation will be presented at the conference.

Future State Conferences

- 2022 – 21-23 April - Rapid City Co-Located with NGAUS – Neil Harris and Bob Aiken are co-chairs. Lew Weber is the chairman for the Officers. The Conference will be held at the Ramkota in Rapid City. The chairmen are gathering ideas for some of the activities. Lew Weber has some connections with the Elks Theatre so maybe looking at a movie night. What are some options for touring around the hills? We might look at doing some silent auction items. If anyone has ideas please email Neil Harris at harris@rap.midco.net. Bruce Anderson noted that attendance seems to be better during co-located conferences. It was suggested we co-locate every year. Josh Wermers noted that the enlisted folks usually end up doing most of the work during the co-located conferences.

- 2023 – Brookings – Barb Boyer – no updates at this time
- 2024 – Watertown, Chamberlain, Yankton??

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 meeting will be Sunday morning at Fort Meade in Sturgis following the State Conference. This will be an informal meeting for all new council members. The date and time of the next Executive Council Meeting will be Friday, 17 September 2021 at 1600 hours in Deadwood, SD.

With nothing further to discuss, Don Kranz made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Josh Guthmiller seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 1720 hours.