



# THE ENLISTED *ECHO*

Spring 2022



President Derek Jaeger  
[djaeger44@gmail.com](mailto:djaeger44@gmail.com)

[sdngea.com](http://sdngea.com)  
[blackhillsveteranmarch.org](http://blackhillsveteranmarch.org)



This issue's photos are courtesy of SSG Austin Pearce

Follow the SDNGEA from  
Washington D.C. to Rapid City

## 2021-2022 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Phone</u>
President	* Derek Jaeger	MSgt	djaeger44@gmail.com derek.jaeger.2@us.af.mil	W: 605-988-5826 C: 605-237-9284
1st Vice President	* Josh Guthmiller	SFC	joshua.j.guthmiller.mil@army.mil	C: 701-426-8769 W: 605-737-6454
2nd Vice President	* Tabitha Carr	SSG	Tabitha.a.carr4.mil@army.mil	C: 605-350-1786
Past President	* Nate Hedin	1SG	nathanjhedin@gmail.com	C: 605-645-2861
Treasurer	* Kayleigh Cihak	SGT	Kayleigh.e.cihak2.mil@army.mil	C: 605-490-2747
Secretary	Rorie Gregor	SFC	rorie.i.gregor.mil@army.mil	C: 605-881-6736
Executive Director	Bruce Anderson	CMSgt (Ret)	wfba75@gmail.com	C: 605-321-2752
<b>Committee Member at Large</b>				
Area 1	* Austin Pearce	SSG	austin.a.pearce.mil@army.mil	C: 936-499-6748
Area 2	* Derrick Kinloch	PFC	derrick.kinloch@gmail.com	C: 605-415-8618
Area 3	* Don Kranz	SFC	donkranz305@gmail.com	C: 605-610-7107
Area 4	* JP Hanson	SGT	john.p.hanson24.mil@army.mil	C: 605-203-1510
Area 5	* Rick VandenHoek	CMSgt	rick.vandenhoek.1@us.af.mil wepsman69@gmail.com	W: 605-988-5671 C: 605-321-6263
<b>Squadron Representatives</b>				
FW	* Vacant			
MSG	* Vacant			
MXG	* Vacant			
MDG	Tori Haase	TSgt	t.lynn.haase@gmail.com	C: 605-610-7934
OG	Vacant			
<b>Battalion Representatives</b>				
JFHQ	* Karen Tucker	SSG	katucker88@gmail.com	C: 605-641-4478 W: 605-737-6779
HQ 196th RTI	* Josh O'Dea	SSG	joshua.d.odea2.mil@army.mil	C: 605-499-9851
109th RSG	* Joshua Schaefer	SFC	joshua.j.schaefer.mil@army.mil	W: 605-737-6332 C: 605-390-6614
152nd CSSB	* Meagan Krahn	SSG	meagan.m.krahn.mil@army.mil	W: 605-357-2991
881st Trp Cmd	* Vacant			
196th MEB	* Sarah Henle	SPC	sarah.l.henle.mil@army.mil	C: 605-261-2302 W: 605-357-2941
1st Bn 147th FA	* Charles Butler	SSG	charles.j.butler18.mil@army.mil	W: 605-882-9325 C: 605-941-7371
153rd En Bn	* Katie Hoff	SSG	kathryn.e.hoff.mil@army.mil	C: 605-251-5767
109th En Bn	* Vacant			
R & R BN	* Louis Clement	SSG	louis.l.clement.mil@army.mil	C: 605-490-0663
Junior Enlisted - Air	* Chris Achen	SSgt	chris.achen@us.af.mil	C: 605-988-5829 W: 605-773-3812
Junior Enlisted - Army	* Roderick McRae	SPC	Mcrae.roderick@gmail.com	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	Shelley Reeder	1SG (Ret)	shell_reeder@yahoo.com	C: 605-786-2032
Legislative Officer	Josh Wermers	SFC	joshua.j.wermers.mil@army.mil	W: 605-737-6647
Membership Officer	Mark Jensen	SFC	mark.a.jensen22.mil@army.mil	C: 605-261-0231
Membership Officer	Helen Juelfs	SSG	helen.m.juelfs.mil@army.mil	W: 605-737-6103
Membership Rep - Air	Karl Hoskins	MSgt	karl.hoskins@us.af.mil	W: 605-988-5885
Parliamentarian	Ben Lamp	MSG (Ret)	benjamin.lamp@yahoo.com	C: 605-728-3358
Webmaster	Austin Pearce	SSG	austin.a.pearce.mil@army.mil	C: 936-499-6748
Auxiliary President	Kayleen Meyers	CIV	k_meyers04@hotmail.com	C: 605-940-5154
State Conference Liaison	Kayleigh Cihak	SGT	kayleigh.e.cihak2.mil@army.mil	C: 605-490-2747
2022 State Conference Chair	Neil Harris	MSG (Ret)	harris@rap.midco.net	C: 605-430-8955
State SEL	Patrick Couser	CSM	patrick.e.couser.mil@army.mil	W: 605-737-6573
State CCM	Brett Cownie	CMSgt	brett.cownie.1@us.af.mil	

\* = Voting Members

## Upcoming Events

### FUTURE STATE CONFERENCES

April 21-23, 2022 - Rapid City, SD  
(co-located)

TBD 2023-Brookings, SD

TBD 2024 - Chamberlain, SD

### FUTURE NATIONAL CONFERENCES

August 7-10, 2022 - Little Rock, AR  
TBD 2023 - St. Paul/Minneapolis, MN  
TBD 2024—TBD, Michigan

### FUTURE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

April 21, 2022— Rapid City, SD  
(agenda is published on page 20 of the ECHO)

### FUTURE BLACK HILLS VETERANS HONOR MARCH

September 17, 2022- Deadwood, SD

### NEXT ECHO DEADLINE

Summer 2022- Deadline for submissions is 15 May 2022

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](mailto:sarah.callies@live.com) or 8006 E Callies Place, Sioux Falls, SD 57110.

"The Enlisted ECHO" is published by and for members of the SDNGEA. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the United States Army or Air Force or the South Dakota National Guard, Army or Air.

Please send all e-mail changes to SDNGEA, Attn: Derek Jaeger, [djaeger44@gmail.com](mailto:djaeger44@gmail.com)

# From Your President



*By MSgt Derek Jaeger*

2021 has come and gone in what seems to be a blink of an eye and here we are in 2022. As we are nearing the end of my first term as your SDNGEA President, I want to thank everyone for the excellent support and trust in me to lead this great organization in to the future. There has been some bumps and struggles along the way so far, but I have learned so much and am confident in the future of our Association.

As an Association, 2021 was another tough year for membership. We are down several hundred members again. I want to see and am taking it upon myself to be more vocal and out in the crowd speaking with people about the greatness of the Enlisted Association. I want to see us reverse this downward trend in 2022. I am willing to help wherever, but cannot do it alone. I challenge each and every one of you, whether you are a part of the council or not, to help me spread the word about what the Enlisted Association does for the members of the National Guard and their families. There are so many great benefits for being part of SDNGEA and EANGUS. We all know about the scholarships, but there are also life insurance policies and corporate discounts for being a member. Let's not forget the best part of being in the Enlisted Association, the Great people and networking opportunities that our meetings and conferences offer!

This year will be our 63rd Annual State Conference! It is being held at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Rapid City April 22nd and 23rd, 2022. Like it is every 3 years, this one is co-located with NGASD. One of the major changes to this year's conference from years past is a more condensed business session period, this will allow for more time to network with your fellow guardsmen and their families that are in attendance. Be sure to go to [sdngea.com](http://sdngea.com) to register for the conference or speak with any of your Enlisted Association reps.

In closing, I want to thank each of you for a good first year as your SDNGEA President. Also, want to thank Bruce Anderson for his fantastic guidance and mentorship as I navigated my way through this first term. I would have struggled if not for him. For those of you who don't know, Bruce is stepping away as the Executive Director of SDNGEA. We are currently accepting applicants and will be interviewing in April during the State Conference, please check your military emails for more information. On a final note, I am officially announcing that I will be running for a 2nd term as your SDNGEA President at State Conference! I have learned so much in my first year and am ready to tackle and meet things head on as we go in to another year. I look forward to seeing each of you in April and if you ever have any questions or concerns you can contact me at [djaeger44@gmail.com](mailto:djaeger44@gmail.com).

## From Your Auxiliary President, Kayleen Meyers



It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. Soon it will be time for the Annual State Conference in Rapid City. If you haven't registered for the conference, I encourage you to do so. You can register on the SDNGEA website. I am looking forward to seeing everyone. It is a great time to meet others from around the state and support the Enlisted Association.

The meetings and agendas are being planned and there are many activities planned as well. Take a look and enjoy some of them while out in Rapid City. It will be a great Conference.

I would like to invite any spouse of an Enlisted member to attend the Auxiliary meetings. I would love to see you all there. If you have anything you would like to bring up for discussion for the auxiliary the conference is a great time for that as well. The agenda will be sent out in the next few weeks. You can also follow things on our Facebook page as well.

I would also like to mention that our membership drive for this year is underway. The applications for memberships can be found on the SDNGEA website or you may get one from an Auxiliary Member. 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.

If you have any questions please contact me anytime. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Conference in April.

## Trip Report-CMSgt Rick Vanden Hoek

I was asked by President Jaeger to attend the EANGUS Presidents/Legislative Workshops on his behalf. It was a very good learning experience for me. I have never had to opportunity to participate in an event like this.

The President's workshop contained very good information. The biggest take away is that membership is struggling all over. Many different ideas were tossed around to build membership. There were a couple that might work for us to get the awareness of our organization out there and generate more interest.

The Legislative workshop was a great learning experience. The speakers had a variety of information for us. There was also a good break down of what congressional staffers do and types of congressional staffers. We also had an opportunity to ask questions to two panels. One panel was the SEA, Command Chief and Command Sergeant Major of NGB. They provided insight as to where things are heading from their perspective. The other panel was other Veteran's Service Organizations. This was good to see what other efforts are being pursued to assist in Veteran's welfare.

The opportunity to meet with our congressional delegation was an outstanding opportunity. We met with Rep. Dusty Johnson's staffers since the House was on recess. They were open to our discussions. Following that, we had time to walk around the Capital area. Sen. Thune's office lined up a Capital tour. What an amazing building. We then met with Sen. Mike Rounds. He was very receptive to what we were lobbying for and also tossed some ideas our way on what he is working on. Following that meeting, we met with Sen. John Thune in the WHIP office. Another great meeting and receptive to our inputs.

The 4 main issues pushed to our Congressional team were:

- 1) TRICARE for all military members regardless of status
- 2) GI Bill Parity Act – all time counts for GI Bill not just Title 10 time
- 3) TRICARE for grey area retirees – make it affordable
- 4) Tax relief for small businesses who employ Guardsmen that are deployed

Thank you for the opportunity to attend this amazing event.

# Trip Report-SSG Austin Pearce

Having the privilege to go to Washington D.C. was such a great opportunity to be able to meet with our politicians and discuss legislative priorities to maintain and improve benefits for members of the National Guard and South Dakota National Guard.



“Great meeting with members of the South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association. Whether serving their communities at home or our nation overseas, National Guardsmen have always answered the call. We owe it to them to make sure they receive the pay and benefits they deserve,” said Senator Mike Rounds.



I am very thankful to have been able to attend this event on behalf of the SDNGEA and look forward to continue conversations with Congress to ensure our military members are taken care of during and after service. Senator John Thune, also the Republican Whip, had his staff give us a tour of the Capitol, which was an amazing experience considering the Capitol is closed to all visitors. We then met with him in the Whip Office at the Capitol - I can't describe how cool of an experience it was and how important our legislators



made us feel during our visit. “Enjoyed meeting with South Dakota leaders for the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States. We had a productive discussion about recruitment/retention and the broad mission set of the Guard at home and abroad. Thanks for your service and leadership,” said Thune.



I encourage all members of the National Guard to get more involved in the Enlisted Association so that they too can experience a national legislative workshop to better understand how politics play a role in giving us a voice on Capitol hill. That is truly how we can affect positive change for our service members and to be a part of that is priceless.

## *Are you looking to get involved in the SDNGEA?*

The SDNGEA is seeking nominees for Executive Director. This position is a non-paid/volunteer position. The Executive Director manages the day to day operations of the SDNGEA and implementing the strategic plan of the organization. A more detailed position description is attached and can be found in the most current by-laws at [sdngea.com](http://sdngea.com).

All applicants should submit their Letter of Interest to apply for the position via email to MSgt Derek Jaeger at [djaeger44@gmail.com](mailto:djaeger44@gmail.com) with a subject line of "Application for Executive Director". The letter of intent should outline the individual's involvement in the organization as well as what skills/experience the individual brings to the position. The nomination period will close 15 Apr 2022. Per our by-laws, appointment of this position is on a 2/3 vote by the Executive Council. That being said applicants will present why they are best for the position at the Executive Council Meeting on 21 Apr 2022. Our Goal is for all applicants to be there in person for their interview.

As to ensure a smooth transition and ample opportunity for mentoring, the current Executive Director will co-chair the position for 12 to 18 months. If you have any questions about the position please reach out to our current Executive Director, CMSgt (Ret) Bruce Anderson at (605) 321-2752.

## From your Historian-Shelley Reeder

I'm looking for the location of any of the historical data for the Association that you may have knowledge of. If you have any historical data or know where it is located, please contact me at shell\_reeder@yahoo.com. Also, if you have any fun items that you think should be included in the historical data, please don't hesitate to send it to me. These are your historical binders and I want to make sure everyone gets a voice in this.

**PAST PRESIDENTS:** I'm working on the Past Presidents' Book and would like your input for this. If you have a brief bio or can prepare one, please forward the same to me. Currently there are only obituaries from our Past Presidents and I think we can do better than that. I also have photos that were in some of the binders, but if you have a specific photo you'd like included, send it to me so I can ensure your page reflects you.

Lastly, I would like to begin a new binder of special projects that we have done as an Association. If you have articles, pictures or information, please get it to me.

**Keystone Treatment Center offers rehab programs in South Dakota for adolescents & adults who would benefit from detoxification, residential addiction treatment, outpatient care, and more.**

**Call 24/7: (888) 474-1139**



***TEST YOUR ENDURANCE. EXERCISE YOUR PATRIOTISM!***

**BLACK HILLS  
VETERAN MARCH  
AND MARATHON  
17 SEPTEMBER 2022**

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.org](http://Blackhillsveteranmarch.org)

21-23 April 2022

Best Western/Ramkota Hotel, Rapid City, SD

**ENLISTED REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

RANK: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: (C) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 GUEST Y / N NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee **REQUIRED** for all SDNGEA Members to attend any events listed below, to include Business Session breaks/refreshments.  
 Please sign up below for events you will be attending.

EVENT	GUEST	MEMBER	COST
	<i>input number of participants for each event.</i>		
SM Registration Fee - \$75	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	_____
Spouse Registration Fee - \$50	<input type="text"/>		_____
	<i>Place an X for each participant-(lunch / dinner)</i>		
Friday Lunch (Super Sub Buffet)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Included in Registration
Friday Night Banquet (Burgers & Brats)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Included in Registration
Saturday Lunch (Super Sub Buffet)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Included in Registration
Saturday Night Banquet (Fried Chicken)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Included in Registration
Past President's Breakfast (Saturday)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Order from menu
Retiree Lunch (Friday)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Order from menu
Enlisted Auxiliary Lunch (Saturday)(Off Site)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Order from menu
<b>Registration Fee is non-refundable</b>		<b>TOTAL COST: \$</b>	* Don't include below events *
<b>Events and Activities: Transportation Included</b>		<b>** Payment made at the location of event **</b>	
<b>Event 1</b> Friday - Get Air Trampoline Park	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Included in Registration 449 Americas Way, RC
<b>Event 2</b> Friday - Pub Crawl/Poker Run	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	\$20 - Poker Run Downtown Rapid City
<b>Event 3</b> Friday - Guest Speaker/Casino Night	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Included in Registration Best Western Ramkota
<b>Event 4</b> Saturday - Elks Movie Theater	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Included in Registration 512 6th St, RC
<b>Event 5</b> Saturday - Adult TBD	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Included in Registration Rapid City
<b>Event 6</b> Night at the Movies(Dress Up Theme)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Included in Registration Best Western Ramkota
<i>Uniform: Business Sessions-Business/Smart Casual; Saturday Night- Movie Theme</i>			

Register online (Additional Fees apply,

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-sdng-enlisted-conference-tickets-261095873787?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SDNGEA 2022 Conference**

**MAIL TO:** 109th RSG ATTN: SGM Danny Doty (W) 605-737-6340  
 2823 West Main St (C) 605-670-7942  
 Rapid City, SD 57702

**CONFERENCE LODGING RESERVATIONS**

Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center, 2111 N. LaCrosse St 605-343-8550

Room rates: \$89.99 per night for standard room - \$30 additional for a suite

Reservations must be made prior to 22 Mar 2022 to guarantee conference rate. First come, first serve applies.

[https://www.bestwestern.com/en\\_US/book/hotel-rooms.42048.html?groupId=D55WJ1J2](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.42048.html?groupId=D55WJ1J2)

Please state that you are with the National Guard Enlisted Conference when you make your reservation.

**CHILD CARE AVAILABLE: Friday & Saturday 0800 until 2400.**

NAME - AGE - Friday Drop off / pick up time

NAME - AGE - Saturday Drop off / pick up time

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# 63rd Annual Conference Draft Agenda

**Thursday, 21 April 2022**

1600-2000 Registration  
 1600-1800 Executive Council Meeting  
 1800-1900 Committee Meetings  
 1900-0000 Hospitality Room

**Location**

Convention Center II Foyer  
 Washington Room  
 Washington Room  
 Room 2714 & Across the Hall

**Friday, 22 April 2022**

0700-1200 Registration  
 0800-2400 Child Care  
 0800-1000 Committee Meetings  
 0830-0930 Retiree Breakfast

Convention Center II Foyer  
 Needles Room  
 Washington Room  
 Minerva’s Restaurant

**Opening Ceremony (Business Casual) Combined Session**

1000-1200

Posting of Colors  
 National Anthem  
 Invocation  
 Welcome Distinguished Guests  
 Introduction of the Conference Vendors  
 Welcome by Mayor Steve Allender  
 Governor’s Address  
 Congressional Delegate Addresses  
 NGAUS Rep Address  
 TAG Address  
 ATAG Address Army/Air

Rushmore Room

1200-1230 **Break – Sandwich Bar**

Convention Center II

**1<sup>st</sup> Enlisted Business Session (Business Casual)**

Convention Center II

Roll Call of Executive Council  
 Approval of Minutes from 62nd Annual Conference  
 Guest Speaker-Krisi “Cricket” Palmer- SDNG Psychological Health Program  
 Area V Report –  
 Life Insurance Report –  
 Museum Report –  
 Military Retiree Update –  
 Treasurers Report –  
 Budget Committee Report –  
 Audit Committee Report –  
 Scholarship Report –  
 State Conference Sponsorship Report –  
 Nominations Preliminary Report –  
 Awards Committee Preliminary Report –  
 Proxy Letters (Last Call)  
 Awards Presentations  
 Standing Proud Awards  
 Soldier and Airmen of the Year  
 20 Year Letters  
 Scholarships

1400 **Recess 1st Business Session**





# 63rd Annual Conference Draft Agenda Continued

1400-1700	Family Event	Get Air Jump Park
1400-1700	Adult Event	Downtown poker run
1600-1730	Hospitality	Room 2714 – Across the Hall
1730-1900	Social / Meal	Rushmore Room
1800-1900	Guest Speaker	Rushmore Room
1900-2200	Casino Night/Karaoke	Rushmore Room
1900-2400	Hospitality Room	Room 2714 – Across the Hall

**Saturday, 23 April 2022**

0645-0745 Past President’s Breakfast	Minerva’s
0830-2400 Child Care	Needles Room
1100-1200 Auxiliary Luncheon	Olive Garden

**1000-1400 2nd Enlisted Business Session (Business Casual)**

- Resolutions Preliminary Report –
- Membership Committee Report –
- Credentials Committee Report –
- Ways & Means Committee Report –
- Time and Place Report –
- Position Evaluation Committee Report –
- Constitution & By-Laws Committee Report –
- Investment Committee Report –
- Young Heroes Committee Report –
- Legislative Committee Report –
- Publications Committee Report –
- Black Hills Veteran Honor March & Marathon –
- Jr. Enlisted Air Report –
- Jr. Enlisted Army Report –

Convention Center II

**1200-1230 Break – Taco Bar**

- President’s Report –
- Resolutions Voting –
- Nominations Voting –
- 2022 State Conference Report –
- Old Business
- New Business
- Installation of Officers-
- Administrative Announcements
- Retire the Colors

**1400 Adjourn 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference**

1430-1730	Family Event	Elks Theater
1400-1700	Spring Olympics	Rushmore Room
1600-1800	Hospitality Room	Room 2714 – Across the Hall
1800-1900	Social Hour	Rushmore Room
1900-2400	Banquet/Costume Contest/Band	Rushmore Room
2000-2400	Hospitality Room	Room 2714 – Across the Hall

**Sunday, 24 April 2022**

0900-1030 New Executive Council Meeting	To Be Determined
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# Executive Council Meeting Minutes

*February 3, 2022 - Ramkota, Pierre, SD*

Meeting was called to order at 1400 hours. Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Derek Jaeger.

## ROLL

Roll was taken and the following members were present:

Derek Jaeger, Josh Guthmiller, Tabby Carr, Nate Hedin, Kayleigh Cihak proxy for 881<sup>st</sup> BN Rep, Courtney Tyrrell proxy for Karen Tucker, Bruce Anderson, Austin Pearce, Mark Jensen proxy for JP Hanson & Meagan Krahn, Charles Butler, Chris Achen, Rick Vanden Hoek, Charles Fincher proxy for MSG Rep, Roderick McRae proxy for Sarah Henle, David Frock, Robert Aiken, and Neil Harris. Enough were present for a quorum.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Introduced special guests.

The minutes from the last meeting are posted on the website and there was no discussion about them. A motion to accept them as posted was made by Courtney Tyrrell and seconded by Josh Guthmiller. Motion carried.

Treasure report was presented by Kayleigh Cihak. Report attached. Major topic of conversation was reconciling 2020 taxes. There may be a need to hire a professional to help with book keeping. Kayleigh is still working on getting a mailbox set up on Camp Rapid, 2823 West Main St, Rapid City, SD. Motion to accept by Kayleigh. Second by Tabby Carr. Filed as presented.

Area V report by Rick Vanden Hoek. He has been promoting the association and hoping to increase membership but is still struggling. There are so many organizations that are asking for membership and it seems like Airmen pick one instead of paying dues with multiple organizations. The AGR conversion also seems to have hurt membership, the chiefs have been brainstorming ideas to share information. Filed as presented.

Insurance update by Josh Schaefer. Discussed the benefits of the coverage, such as being able to pull directly from drill pay. Also, the \$1000 free coverage for association members and the profit sharing with the enlisted and officer associations (\$15,000 will be distributed this year). AFBA will be contacting units to set up briefings and form updates. Report attached. Filed as presented.

Scholarships report by Tabby Carr- the forms were sent out last month. There was a little delay because the Officer Association added some scholarships and we wanted to share their info as well. So far there is only 1 application and the deadline is March 15, 2022. The 2021 scholarships are taken care of. The Auxiliary scholarship info will also be coming out soon. Filed as presented.

Membership report by Helen Juelfs - Dropped of 410 members compared to December of 2020, only 46% of our goal. The

membership forms also need to be updated online again. We really need help with getting info out to the units. Tabby Carr suggested that we unite with the recruiters to help sell our association, and also encourage enlistments. This could indoctrinate the newest members of the SDNG. Nate Hedin is working on setting up time to brief the RPS. Also it was suggested that we push the info again with Soldiers and Airmen come back to SD after initial training as part of their refrad. Don Kranz works with Service Member and Family support, and they already talk to red phase of RSP and he suggested that maybe we work with them to share info. Bob Aiken and Neil Harris said they would like to set up tables at SRP's in Rapid City again and Ben Lamp will volunteer for the Sioux Falls SRP's. SGM Couser brought up the fear that 1SG's and SGM's have with JAG, we can legally share the info, we can not bully people into paying dues - instead share the info and importance of this association. It was also brought up that the Area Reps are not pushing info per their job description in the by-laws, instead rely more heavily on the BN Reps. Then we discussed the mentorship failure on the new executive council members, BN Reps and Area Reps specifically. Also suggested an org chart on our website to show unit rep contact info so that questions can easily be answered. Past President Ben Lamp spoke about how the Executive Council Members need to attend meetings, and as a whole we need to get back to the mentorship to enhance this organization. The ECHO was a major topic of discussion about how the digital copy is not as effective but it is such a great way to spread info. The State Conference agenda was addressed to allow for some more mentorship. CSM Meyrinks from the Training Center addressed the need to educated the Retention NCO's so that they can also help our association. Convenience was discussed, specifically



## Executive Council Meeting Minutes Continued

the fact that computers are hard to log on to and connectivity is often slow. Maybe we should go back to square or something 'convenient' for payment. Filed as presented.

Motion to deviate from the agenda was made by Courtney Tyrrell and seconded by Nate Hedin. Motion carried.

General Marlette addressed the body. He discussed the legislated hot topics, such as 100% state tuition assistance. The Governor is open to this discussion about 100% State Tuition Assistance but the Board of Regents expressed some concerns about the funding estimates and until it is reconciled this will be halted. There is also a new Readiness Center scheduled to be built in Sioux Falls this year, two years sooner than expected with a total of about 22 million. There is also expansion plans for the Chamberlain Maintenance Shop, as well as cold storage plans near Range Road Armory. There is a bill coming up for a SD Code Talker Memorial Monument. There is also a National Bill called Defend the Guard, in regards to the President of the United States being able to deploy troops without a declaration of war. There is another Bill trying to make it illegal to use private funds for State Active Duty, primarily referring to the Southwest Boarder mission, and ultimately the optics looked very bad but it not necessarily being portrayed accurately. On the Federal level there are some construction budgeted for the Air Guard. The Tri-Care for all, free coverage, did not make it forward this year. The COVID vaccine mandate discussion is ongoing, specifically who has the authority between state and national control. As of 1 Jan 2022 states are not able to pay airmen for drill with any federal funding, and this is also expected to take effect for the SDARNG 1 July 2022. This does not apply to those who have applied for exemptions. THE SDNG is 98% federally funded so this could be quite problematic. 900+ SDNG members have contracted COVID and only 1 has been hospitalized. COVID has potentially lead to a culture change and the effects can be substantial. The worst thing that you can do to a good Soldier or Airmen is not hold their peers to the same standards. A question was asked about budget and personnel cuts, specifically in the ANG. The Middle

East deployments and other deployments have cost a substantial amount of money. SDNG hopefully is not at great risk of these cuts because of our high standards of excellence.

Legislative report was presented Nate Hedin and Josh Wermers. GEN Marlette covered everything very well. Josh Wermers printed some info for the body. Filed as presented.

By laws report was presented by Bruce Anderson. No changes. Filed as presented.

Resolutions report was presented by Courtney Tyrrell. The national conference resolutions report can be viewed at <https://eangus.org/2021-conference-files/> Everyone is encouraged to bring forward new Resolutions prior to the upcoming state conference. Filed as presented.

Publications was discussed by Sarah Callies. The ECHO has not been completed recently. It was proposed that we go back to mailing it out as well as digital publications. One fear is that our membership mailing addresses are not updated, but hopefully the membership chair is navigating this appropriately to alleviate issues. We discussed possibly reaching out to a few people to help complete the ECHO, as well as updating the SOP. Kayleigh suggested that the EC write an article about what the association means to us and why we are so passionate about the organization. Deadline to submit to the ECHO is 15 Feb 2021. Filed as presented.

Ways and Means report was presented by Kayleigh Cihak. We need to continue to push the great opportunities within this association. Report attached. Filed as presented.

### OLD BUSINESS

BHVM report was presented by Kayleigh Cihak, via proxy for Josh Wermers. We had another great event and are looking forward this year's event to be held 17 September 2022. Registration is open. It was discussed that the Officer's Association would like to help. Report attached. Filed as presented.

2022 State Conference update was presented by Neil Harris. This conference will be 21-23 April 2022 co-located with the Officers at the Best Western in Rapid City, SD. The registration form was handed out. Online registration is still being worked. Registration will be \$75 for members and \$50 for guests, which really only covers the meals. You must make your own hotel reservation and mention the conference to get the group rate of \$89.99, block will be released on 22 March so make your reservation prior to that date. There will be a gun raffle to raise some funds for the conference. Report attached. Report attached. Filed as presented.

### NEW BUSINESS

Neil Harris discussed pre-registration forms for the National Cemetery and State Veterans Cemetery. There has been an



# Executive Council Meeting Minutes Continued



influx and this form could elevate some of the stress of this process. He asked that we share this information.

Motion to have a SDNGEA representative at the Retention NCO trainings was made by Kayleigh Cihak. Seconded by Tabby Carr. Ben Lamp discussed the need for a reliable POC for the training events so that the ball does not get dropped. Kayleigh volunteered to be the POC and will be reaching out

to volunteers to present info. Motion carried.

Motion to hire a tax representative by Kayleigh. Seconded by Josh Guthmiller. Contact has been made to Northern Hills Tax and Accounting and estimated cost is \$250-300, but never to exceed \$660 based on our income and forms required. Ben Lamp suggested that we revisit this and place limits on future. Motion carried.

Motion to loan money to the 2022 Joint Conference in the amount of \$4000, with hopes of registration and fundraising covering this and then it will be paid back. Seconded by Josh O’Dea. There is a \$10,000 food minimum and not a lot of fundraising beforehand. There is a gun raffle and 2 silent auctions to raise funds. Each unit has been asked to donate a silent auction item. Motion rescinded.

Motion to loan \$4000 to the 2022 Joint Conference with a payback date no later than 30 April 2022 by Kayleigh Cihak. Seconded by Charles Butler. Motion carried.

Derek Jaeger shared the Certificate of Appreciation from the Red Ribbon Program donation. The program greatly appreciated that donation and President Jaeger was even able to help present one of the awards.

President Jaeger left us with words of wisdom. He is currently

reading Extreme Ownership. He challenged us to get 100% buy in from the Executive Council members so that we can passionately share the info.

Bruce Anderson expressed his intent to retire from the Executive Director position in the next 2 years. He would love to mentor the next individual and has submitted names to the president of potential candidates.

**Future State Conferences:**

21-23 April 2022 – Co-located in Rapid City, SD

2023 – Brookings – Barb Boyer

2024 –

**Future National Conferences:**

7-10 Aug 2022 – Little Rock, AR

2023 – Rochester, MN

2024 – TBD (Detroit, MI or Indianapolis, IN)

**ADJOURNMENT**

The date and time of the next Executive Council Meeting will be at The Ramkota Convention Center in Rapid City, SD on 21 April 2022 at 1600 hours.

With nothing further to discuss, Rick Vandenhoeck motioned for adjournment and Bob Aiken seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1630 hours.



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  - Fire Investigation
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- » Criminal Justice Administration
- » Emergency Services Management

- » Homeland Security
  - Criminal Justice
  - Emergency Services Management
  - Management
- » Occupational Safety & Health
  - Environmental Management
- » Organizational Leadership
- » Public Administration
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# 2021 State Conference Meeting Minutes

*April 16-17, 2021 - Fort Meade, SD*

The 62nd Annual State Enlisted Conference was called to order at 1300 hours on Friday, 16 April 2021. The Colors were posted by the Rushmore Squadron Civil Air Patrol and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Derek Jaeger. The invocation and memorial service was led by SSG (Ret) Jim Blackwell. President Jaeger welcomed all of the attendees and introduced the following guests: CSM Patrick Couser, CMSgt Brett Cownie, CMSgt Troy Erlandson, Area V Director Chuck Kasin, Past Presidents Josh Wermers and Don List, former Army CSM Bob Aiken, and State CSM (Ret) Mike Birnbaum.

**Congressional Delegate:** Senator Larry Zikmund, District 14 from Sioux Falls, Air Force Veteran. Provided updates on things being worked in Legislature. Spoke about the new State Veterans Cemetery which was approved back in 2018. It is expected to be dedicated this year on Memorial Day. The State endowment fund has raised over \$840,000. Senator Zikmund is a true supporter of the Veterans and their families and encouraged our members to reach out to him for bill support on our resolutions.

**Award Presentations:** Fred Nelson (State Commander) from the American Legion and State CSM Patrick Couser announced the award recipients for 2020 and 2021. All Soldiers, Airman, and NCOs of the Year were listed and recognized if present.

President Jaeger gave a special welcome to all of our Conference Vendors.

## 1st Business Session

### ROLL

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

A motion was made by Don Kranz for the President to be able to deviate from the agenda as needed and it was seconded by Dallas Vallery.

### MINUTES

The minutes from the council meeting in February were published in the Echo and copies were provided to the attendees to review. The only change that was noted was the date for the next council meeting under the adjournment. It should read 15 April 2021 instead of 16 April 2021. Neil Harris made a motion to make the correction and Don Kranz seconded it. Motion carried.

**Area V Auxiliary Director** – Edna Steinberg. SD really leads the way on legislative reports. Noted that retirees will all need to go in

for new CAC cards.

**Area V Report** – Chuck Kasin is the EANGUS Area V chair. Noted some of the 2021 NDAA approved provisions that are priorities in legislation. Some of the benefits of being an EANGUS member: scholarships - must be a member to apply, professional development, networking with other members in other states. They just kicked off the 2nd fitness challenge. Another benefit is financial assistance under the We Care for America program. EANGUS has worked with the American Red Cross and USAA to establish a no-interest loan. EANGUS announced the selection of SGM Matthew Krenz as the new Executive Director. He replaces Frank Yoakaum in this position. We have a new Legislative Director, Kevin Hollinger. There is a new online store so take a look. The Legislative workshop was held virtually in February. The National Conference is still scheduled to be hosted in Albuquerque, New Mexico in August. The Area V Caucus will be held in Deadwood, SD in May. EANGUS is the only professional organization that works solely for Enlisted Soldiers.



Video address from MG Marlette.

State CSM Patrick Couser addressed the conference attendees and gave a special thanks to our retirees sitting at the front table. We are here because they paved the way for us. CSM encouraged everyone to bring a friend next year in order to improve our numbers and get more members involved. We all need to share the story of the association and what it can do for our enlisted members. He also talked about the We Care for America program that helped support our Soldiers this last year during COVID. If we lose these benefits, we're not getting them back. He thanked everyone for what they do.

114th FW CMSgt Troy Erlandson gave a brief update on the FW and the changes that have been happening. He also thanked everyone for their efforts and support in the Enlisted Association.

## 2021 State Conference Meeting Minutes Cont.

20-year presentations – In attendance were SFC Anson Juelfs and SFC Rorie Gregor.

The Colorado Tech Representative talked about their scholarship opportunities. Every year they award 50 full scholarships.

Auxiliary President, Kayleen Meyers, announced their recipient for a \$250 scholarship. The scholarship was awarded to Alexis. Going to really push membership this next year. The Enlisted Association presented the Auxiliary with a \$600 donation since they were unable to make their annual donation in 2020.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Life Insurance Report** - Josh Schaefer serves as President of the life insurance board, and updated the association on our current numbers. Enrollment as of 1 January 2021 was 497, and since then we have gained an additional 293 which brings our total to 790. This year we paid out \$15,500 to each association. Our current trust balance is \$52,102. One change this last year is that AFBA is sending a representative to brief the units on the benefits, and our main point of contact is Brad Howell. We no longer have the civilian administrator position that Dave Burr was sitting in. We've gained several enrollments just by having AFBA go out to the units. Filed as presented.

**Treasurers Report** – Kayleigh Cihak – As of 16 April 2021 the association has \$79,569.07 in the business checking account and \$50,516.41 in the business market rate savings account at Wells Fargo. There is also a CD worth \$7,704.74 at Dakota Bank in Watertown. The treasurer, Kayleigh Cihak, will meet with Bob Aiken and Bruce Anderson at a later date following the State Conference in order to produce a full detailed report of the Enlisted Associations finances. The itemized report will be published in the next ECHO. Kayleigh Cihak made a motion to accept this report as presented and Chad Hartley seconded the motion. Motion carried

**Budget Committee Report** – Kayleigh Cihak – After the Special Conference last year and due to COVID, business was not conducted as normal and therefore no budget was ever submitted on behalf of the President. Since last year's report we spent \$32,496.33, earned \$35,772.83, and currently have \$79,569.07 in checking and \$50,516.41 in savings. Kayleigh made a motion to accept this report as presented. Filed as presented.

**Audit Committee** – Bob Aiken – After reviewing all accounts there were no discrepancies found. All balances on the business checking, market share savings, and the CD have been verified. The committee plans to meet again within the next month to get a more in-depth audit accomplished prior to our 2021 taxes being submitted. Bob Aiken made a motion to accept the report as presented. Filed as presented.

**Scholarship Report** – Josh Guthmiller – We had 19 very competitive applications made up of Soldiers, Airman, and dependents. The board was made up of three professionals from within the community; one field grade officer with a Master's

Degree, one BDE Staff NCO, and a senior NCO. The applications were reviewed and assessed based on completion, letters of recommendation, and grade point averages. There were four scholarship recipients for 2021. The two Major General Duane L. "Duke" Corning Memorial Scholarships for \$1000 each go to: Cade Jacobson who is the son of COL Joseph Jacobson of JFHQ. Cade will be attending SD School of Mines & Technology in the fall and majoring in Computer Science. Jenna Jacobson who is the daughter of COL (Ret) Scott Jacobson. Jenna will be attending Dickinson State University and majoring in Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The USAA Scholarship for \$1000 goes to Elisabeth Ortiz. Elisabeth is the daughter of 1SG Kristi Ortiz of HQ, 196th RTI. She will be attending Dakota Wesleyan University and majoring in Nursing. The CW2 Darren Mallow Memorial Scholarship for \$100 goes to Alyssa Juelfs. Alyssa is an enlisted member in the 109th Engineer Bn as a Forward Signal Specialist. Alyssa is attending Dakota State University and majoring in Secondary Math Education with a Computer Technology minor. There are a lot of scholarship opportunities that are available to our members and their families. Motion was made to accept this report as presented. Filed as presented.

**State Conference Sponsorship Report** – Bruce Anderson – The sponsorship program solicits members who have never attended a conference in order to give them an idea of what goes on at the conference and to gain their support. The sponsorship committee is flexible and will accept names up until the day of the conference. This year we recognized SGT David Kelley out of the 147th FSC. Motion was made to accept this report as presented. Filed as presented.

**Investment Committee Report** – Bruce Anderson – The action item that was passed in 2019 was not completed. We were to reinvest the CD from Wells Fargo of \$31,731 into American Funds with Modern Woodman of America. After discussing this with Modern Woodman and the IRS, the committee opted to disregard the motion on the grounds of "best for the organization". Perm MW comments on investing money with a c19, non-profit, is very paper intensive and the IRS keeps a close eye on such investments. The Wells Fargo CD was closed and deposited into our checking in the full amount of \$31,731.00. The committee recommended investing into another CD with better interest rates. Motion was made to accept this report as presented. Filed as presented.

**Awards Report** – Derek Jaeger – The SD National Guard Enlisted Association Standing Proud Awards program was established to recognize individuals and units who, by their superior performance or service of a meritorious nature make major contributions to the well-being of this association and its membership.

This year we were proud to present the Outstanding Service Award to Kim Chase. Throughout her years as the Webmaster for the SDNGEA website, Kim has always ensured the site was up to date, accessible, and that members were properly trained on making updates. She has shown initiative and willingness to step-up when



## 2021 State Conference Meeting Minutes Cont.



needed and has contributed new ideas and dedicated her time and efforts to the betterment of the association. The 2020 and 2021 Airman and Soldier of the Year recipients were recognized. Award recipients for 2020 - Soldier of the Year: SPC Dominick Schoeberl, 200th Engineer Company. NCO of the Year: SFC Brian Voight, 881st Troop Command. Airman of the Year: SrA Tate Scotting, 114th FW Munitions. NCO of the Year: TSgt Derek Jaeger, 114th FW Electronic Countermeasures. SNCO of the Year: SMSgt Chad Weinacht, 114th Mx Group. First Sergeant of the Year: MSgt Jonathan Leffring, 114th FW AMXS. Award recipients for 2021 - Soldier of the Year: SGT Gregory Mehlbrech, 147th Field Artillery. NCO of the Year: SGT Mackenzie Harvey, 152nd CSSB. Airman of the Year: SSgt Tyler Thill, 114th FW Security Forces. NCO of the Year: SSgt Kirsten Ahlschlager, 114th FW Weapons. SNCO of the Year: CMSgt Jessica Meyers, 114th FW Munitions Superintendent. First Sergeant of the Year: SMSgt Nichole Gruber, 114th FW Civil Engineering. Congratulations to all award winners! Motion was made to accept this report as presented. Filed as presented.

**Nominations Preliminary Report** – Josh Wermers – Received 1 nomination for the following position: Don Kranz (2nd Vice). Motion to accept this report. Filed as presented.

**Legislative Report** – Josh Wermers – Keep a look out for “The Call” from the National Association on your email. Sign up at EANGUS.org. Our calls and emails assist in getting legislation passed. Share your ideas and the ideas of your Soldiers and Airman. See handouts for further details. Motion was made to accept this report as presented. Filed as presented.

**Black Hills Veterans March** – Josh Wermers – We had a great event this last September with over 260 people registered. The committed is off to a good start already for this year. Currently rebuilding the website and had registration open, but hit a setback due to the registration provider closing their doors. Nancy Ausland is working on a new registration form with RunReg and should be completed soon. Looking to fill our Advertising/Marketing Chair and requesting help with the Finish Line. The committee donated to

four different organizations this last year: The Veterans Helping Hands Project, The SD Veterans Cemeteries Support Council, Black Hills Health Care System, and Mission 22. Giving back to the Enlisted Association by becoming a Platinum Corporate Partner. Motion was made to accept this report as presented. Filed as presented.

**2022 State Conference Update** – Neil Harris – Next year’s conference will be co-located with the Officers in Rapid City. Currently contracted with the Ramkota hotel. The conference will take place 21-23 April 2022. Please email harris@rap.midco.net if interested in helping or have ideas for next year’s State Conference.

A point of order was made to move the start time for Saturday, 17 April 2021 from 0800 to 0900. Business session was put into recess at 1540 hours until Saturday morning at 0900 hours.

### 2nd Business Session – 17 April 2021

President Derek Jaeger called the 62nd Annual State Enlisted Conference back into session at 0900 hours on Saturday, 17 April 2021.

Scholarship Award Presentation – Josh Guthmiller and Marty Baker from USAA recognized this year’s scholarship winners and had them come forward.

- o Cade Jacobson – Major General Duane L. “Duke” Corning Memorial Scholarship for \$1000

- o Jenna Jacobson – Major General Duane L. “Duke” Corning Memorial Scholarship for \$1000

- o Elisabeth Ortiz – USAA Scholarship for \$1000

**Membership Report** – Tabitha Carr – Paid membership at all levels is 1652. In 2019 the paid membership was 2297 so we’ve dropped by 645. There were four units that reached 100% membership: 211th Eng Co, the 115th Signal Co, FSC 153rd Eng Bn, and Det 48 OSA Cmd. This past year the executive council voted to do a 25% online coupon for memberships. The Association also decided to donate \$1 for every Soldier that signed up online to their respective unit morale fund. Online membership seemed to increase from past years, but overall numbers are at the lowest they have been in many years. Made a motion to accept this report as presented. Filed as presented.

**Credentials Report** – Tabitha Carr read off all of the voting numbers for the units and the Executive Council members that were present. Filed as presented.

**Ways & Means Committee Report** – Kayleigh Cihak – The committee discussed reaching out to local Veteran Supporting and Veteran Owned businesses to place a direct link for their business on the resource page. A \$500 rate for a direct link on the website was discussed. As businesses agree and send in payment, they will be placed on our webpage at <https://sdngea.com/resources>. We will

## 2021 State Conference Meeting Minutes Cont.

also reference [www.veteranownedbusiness.com](http://www.veteranownedbusiness.com). Other income generating ideas include different types of raffles to include: gun raffles, coolers, lodging, and atv rentals. Resource Page Businesses: VA Home Loan Lenders, T Mobile-Mobile Hot Spot Contract, Swift Trucking Companies, Grantham University, Cabela's/Bass Pro Shop, PenFed, NavyFed, Hilton, Jack's Campers/Camping World, RING home alarms, Big Ass Fans, and Game Fish and Parks. Made a motion to accept this report as presented. Filed as presented.

**Time and Place Report** – Josh Guthmiller - The committee decided to reconvene at a later time to discuss future locations at a later time so more members would be present. Motion to accept this report as presented. Filed as presented.

**Position Evaluation Committee Report** – Josh Guthmiller – The committee meet Friday evening and reviewed the verbiage of the Constitution and By-Laws and noted a few minor changes and some suggestions to update positions. Encouraged further discussion on the Bn/Squadron Rep positions and the Committee Members at Large or Area Reps. Made a motion to accept this report as presented. Tabitha Carr expressed her experience as an Area Rep and that in recent years the people appointed in these positions have not been active in reaching out to their units. The question was brought up whether this position should stay a valid position or whether we remove it from our roster and By-Laws. Maybe more education and mentorship for the people assigned in these positions will help them understand their role better. Josh Wermers explained that the biggest perk to keeping both positions is that if the position is done correctly it pays your way to the meetings and conferences. It gives more voting purpose on the council.

**Constitution and By Laws Committee Report** – Bruce Anderson – He will make any necessary pen and ink changes as mentioned from the meeting. Bruce talked on the position changes and noted that we need to recruit or identify the right individuals that will be able to facilitate communication across the whole battalion. Open to discussion on how we can conduct business more efficiently. Made a motion to accept as presented. Filed as presented.

**Young Heroes Committee Report** – Kelsey Lambert – The Young Hero Program saw an influx of nominations and ceremonies during 2019 from previous years. A ceremony was conducted during the Harlem Globetrotters game in Rapid City.

Unfortunately, with COVID we had to stop all ceremonies. Contact has been made with families that are pending ceremonies and the interest is still there. WE just need to find more ways to hold these ceremonies safely. Currently have six Young Heroes around the state waiting to schedule their ceremonies. We would like to see this program continue to grow so please submit your nominations and reach out if interested in helping. It was mentioned last year during the Special Conference that it would be beneficial to have two teams put together, one East River and one West River. This

would allow for more ceremony availability and member involvement. Motion to accept this report as presented. Filed as presented.

**Publications Committee Report** – Sarah Callies – The deadline for submission to the summer ECHO is 15 May 2021. The Facebook page has been a great way to deliver information to our members. If anyone has any creative ideas to reach a broader audience please send them to Sarah. Also, working towards an online storage method for ECHO drafts to better assist publishers in the future. Motion to accept this report as presented. Filed as presented.

**Resolutions Report** – Courtney Tyrrell – The committee reviewed the 2018 and 2019 EANGUS and SDNGEA resolutions, in addition to discussing new ideas. The committee proposed eight new resolutions and reaffirmed one from 2019. Motion to accept this report as presented. Filed as presented.

### 2021 Resolution Voting – Courtney Tyrrell

Resolution 2021-01 – Retiree continued contributions to the Thrift Savings Plan. Allow retirees the opportunity to contribute retired pay to their existing TSP. Josh Guthmiller made a motion to approve; seconded by Kayleigh Cihak. Motion carried.

Resolution 2021-02 – 100% tuition assistance at State Sponsored Schools. Work together with NGAUS and the SD Military Affairs Department to come up with a plan to get a Governors Bill to support 100% Tuition Assistance. Kayleigh Cihak made a motion to approve; seconded by Dallas Vallery. Motion carried.

Resolution 2021-03 - Military Occupation compatibility with Civilian certificates. Find a way to connect the two skill sets to provide a certificate for the service member. Kayleigh Cihak made a motion to approve; seconded by Josh Wermers. Motion carried.

Resolution 2021-04 – Tricare for Grey Area Retirees – Provide a solution to bridge the gap and provide gray area retirees affordable Tricare coverage. Josh Guthmiller made a motion to approve; seconded by Dallas Vallery. Motion carried.

Resolution 2021-05 – Allow AGR's with USERRA rights to use T32 Military Leave. The SDNGEA urges state legislature to reinstate military leave for members covered under USERRA rights. Bruce Anderson made a motion to approve; seconded by Gordy Kotab. Motion carried.

Resolution 2021-06 – Automatic re-enrollment in Tricare Reserve Select (TRS) and current dental carrier after Active Duty time in which Tricare Prime automatically kicked in. We would like Tricare and dental carriers to auto-enroll you back into Tricare Reserve Select and dental coverage if you were enrolled before the long tour Active Duty orders. Tabitha Carr made a motion to approve; seconded by Neil Harris. Motion carried.

Resolution 2021-07 – Ensure Reserve Component health care benefits eligibility for all RC personnel regardless of employment

## 2021 State Conference Meeting Minutes Cont.

or employer, and to take effect prior to January 1, 2030. The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to consider moving the start date in Section 701 of the FY2020 NDAA that removed the statutory prohibition for TRS eligibility to take effect prior to January 1, 2030. Don Kranz made a motion to approve; seconded by Charles Butler. Motion carried.

There were no 2020 resolutions due to the by-laws voting restrictions in regards to having a virtual conference.

Reaffirmation 2019-01 – Increase the FSGLI coverage for dependent children. The Enlisted Association of the National Guard urges Congress to review the current FSGLI amount for dependent children and consider increasing the amount. Josh Odea made a motion to approve; seconded by Sam Harkin. Motion carried.

Resolution 2021-08 – Thank you to the hosts of the 62nd Annual Conference. The conference delegates give a round of applause to the people responsible for such an outstanding conference. Bob Aiken made a motion to approve; seconded by Charles Butler. Motion carried.

President Derek Jaeger called the meeting back to order at 1030 hours and welcomed Past President Cathy Anderson. The USAA drawing for a \$100 gift card went to Chuck Kasin.

CSM Patrick Couser came forward and presented CSM Marcus Frey with the Saint Christopher award/medallion.

**President's Report** – Derek Jaeger – Took over as acting President a few months ago, but has learned so much in such a short period of time. Derek thanked everyone that has helped him in this role, especially Josh Wermers and Bruce Anderson. He has a greater respect for what the organization does for our Soldiers, Airman, and their Families. This organization is strong and has the right people in place to continue to be strong voices and advocates

for our fellow service members. 2020 was a challenging year, but 2021 and beyond will prove how we can adapt to challenges as individuals and as an organization. Made a motion to accept this report as presented; seconded by Josh Odea. Motion carried.

**Final Nominations Report** – Josh Wermers – Derek Jaeger for President. Josh Guthmiller for 1st Vice. Tabitha Carr for 2nd Vice. Don Kranz for 2nd Vice and Area 3. Kayleigh Cihak for Treasurer. Derrick Kinloch for Area 2. Rick Vanden Hoek for Area 5. Made a motion to accept this report as presented. Filed as presented.

Nominations conducted by Josh Wermers:

*President* - Derek Jaeger: Neil Harris made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot; seconded by Bob Aiken. Motion carried.

*First Vice* - Josh Guthmiller: Neil Harris made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot; seconded by Dallas Vallery. Motion carried.

*Second Vice* - Tabitha Carr and Don Kranz – Call for the vote. Tabitha Carr is our new Second Vice. Motion carried.

*Treasurer* - Kayleigh Cihak: Neil Harris made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot; seconded by Bob Aiken. Motion carried.

*Area 1* - Austin Pierce: Don List made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot; seconded by Gordy Kotab. Motion carried.

*Area 2* – Derrick Kinloch: Neil Harris made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot; seconded by Bob Aiken. Motion carried.

*Area 3* - Don Kranz: Ken Rausch made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot; seconded by Charles Butler. Motion carried.

*Area 4* - JP Hanson: Ken Rausch made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot; seconded by Don Kranz.

***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

# 2021 State Conference Meeting Minutes Cont.

Motion carried.

*Area 5* - Rick Vanden Hoek: Cathy Anderson made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot; seconded by Gordy Kotab. Motion carried

**2021 State Conference Report** – Kayleigh Cihak – We welcomed 68 registered attendees with 10 vendors. The SD National Guard Enlisted Association kicked off the 62nd Annual State Conference with business as usual. Committee reports were given and business discussion took place. Friday evening’s dinner was a 1920’s theme with gangster suits and flapper dresses. The 147th Army Band rocked the night. The 2nd business session reconvened on Saturday where we honored our scholarship winners. Following the business meetings, attendees had the opportunity to participate in a fishing outing or a Poker Run. Kayleigh presented Josh Wermers with a hand-crafted flag as a small token of our appreciation from the council for all of his hard work and dedication to this organization. Made a motion to accept this report as presented. Filed as presented.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The App was approved during the Special Conference last year, but we have not finished it. We will continue to follow up on this.

During the Special Conference we had talked about setting aside \$1000 for marketing to help promote the Association. There was no budget for last year.

Need to lock in a date for the 2024 State Conference. Tabitha Carr brought up in discussion about coordinating more co-located conferences to get more attendance. Josh Wermers expressed keeping our conferences a little more separate from the officers. The question was asked if the officers would be on board with more co-located? Huron or Chamberlain were suggested for 2024. Chuck Kasin made an outside observation about co-locating every year, and he noted that he has seen other states lose a lot of their retiree attendees.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Josh Wermers made a motion to donate \$500 to the following three organizations: the flags for the Black Hills National Cemetery, the Hospice Program, and the new State Cemetery in Sioux Falls. Bruce Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Josh Wermers made a motion to look into spending up to \$10,000 to purchase a van for the association to take and use for State and National conferences; seconded by Bob Aiken. Further discussion - Charles Butler asked about rentals. The cost for a decent vehicle with low mileage and the maintenance upkeep were taken into consideration. Bob Aiken said he could check with rental companies. Nate Hedin expressed his thoughts that at this time it may not be a good investment. Motion defeated at this time. Will pursue more information and come back to this topic at a later time. Kayleigh brought up the idea of getting 2 mini vans; 1 for each side of the state. Table this discussion.

Derek Jaeger made a motion to donate \$300 to our National Guard Museum in Pierre; seconded by Josh Guthmiller. Motion carried.

Josh Wermers made a motion to take \$1000 to purchase swag for membership purposes; seconded by Cathy Anderson. Our organization will buy items and then distribute them to the units as necessary. Motion carried.

Installation of Officers conducted by Past President Josh Wermers. All newly elected officers and appointed positions took their oath.

**Future State Conferences**

- 2022 – 21-23 April - Rapid City Co-Located with NGAUS
- 2023 – Brookings – Barb Boyer

**Future National Conferences**

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

**Date and Time of next Executive Council Meeting**

- 17 Sep 2021 at 1600 hours, Deadwood, SD

**ADJOURNMENT of the 62nd State Annual Conference**

With nothing further to discuss, President Derek Jaeger officially adjourned the meeting at 1140 hours.



## SDNGEA Spring Meeting

**AGENDA**

**21 April 2022**  
**1600 MST**  
**Washington Room, Best Western Ramkota Hotel**  
**Rapid City, SD**

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction of Guests
- Roll Call
- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer’s Report
- Insurance Report
- Membership Report
- Other Committee Reports
- Old Business
- New Business
- Call for Nominations
- Call for Resolutions
- Report on 63<sup>rd</sup> State Conference
- Executive Director Interviews
- Adjournment