

Lake Sharpe Room, Ramkota Hotel, Pierre, SD
3 February 2022

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 881st 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 Auxillary 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. CSM Couser brought up the fear that 1SG's and SGM's have with JAG, we can legally share the info, we cannot 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 educate the Retention NCO's so that they can also help our association. Convivence was discussed, specifically the fact that computers re 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 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 Vandenhoek motioned for adjournment and Bob Aiken seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1630 hours.