

**South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association
Business Session
1000 MST, 22-23 April 2022
Ramkota Hotel, Rapid City, SD**

Joint Call to Order **NGASD President Cody Becker & SDNGEA President Derek Jaeger**

Posting of Colors **OCS**
Students

National Anthem **Tamra Simes**

Invocation/Memorial Service **Chaplain Stimes**

Introduction of Special Guests **President Jaeger**

- The Adjutant General MG Jeffrey Marlette, Assistant Adjutant General BG Pat Parady, Chief of Staff COL Scott Petrack, Ken Schoenfelder, State Senior Leader CSM Pat Couser, MG Retired Ray Carpenter, NAGUS Chief of Staff COL Retired Paul Drake, EANGUS Area V Army Representative MSG Nate Hedin

Introduction of Sponsors **President Becket**

- USAA, Keystone Mortgage, Columbia State University, Waldorf University, Pioneer Bank, Family Programs Support Team Financial Support Team, ESGR, VA Black Hills Health Coordinator and Military to VA Social Worker and Patient Advocate

Representative of Senator Michael Rounds **Mike Beckert**

- Topics discussed included: Full-time National Guard manning issues, Technician Bonuses, Tricare for Federal Employees, Tricare rates for grey area retirees, concurrent receipt offset, MOMS Act, SAD Reimbursement, and Military Construction.

Representative of Senator John Thune **Jesse Uing**

- Topics discussed included: National Security and Defense, Second Amendment, Inflation, Energy Independence for America, Protection of the Southwest Boarder, and VA commission recommendation to build new Black Hills VA Hospital in Rapid City while transitioning Hot Springs and Sturgis.

Representative of Congressman Dusty Johnson **Andrew Christianson**

- Also discussed topics included: South Dakota National Guards' awards, Military Pay Raises, GI Bill Eligibility, and Defense Spending.

NAGUS Chief of Staff **COL(R) Paul Drake**

- Discussed sharing the accomplishments of these professional organizations with others in order to increase membership.

- Additional topics discussed included: Emergency funding to help Guard members in times of need, Changes to our Insurance Program, Scholarships, News and Publications, Professional Development Opportunities in Washington DC, Advocating for Guard Readiness and Quality of Life, Parity with the Active Component – resources and benefits, DD 214 vs NGB 22 for Guard members, Suicide Prevention, and NAGUS Think Tank.

Adjutant General's Comments

MG Jeffrey Marlette

- Thank you for the general body for attending the session and for what all of the Soldiers have done in the past year. Thank you for understanding the value of these organizations and dedicating your time to be here.
- National Guard periods of history are always changing and we are currently changing with the international conflicts and the pandemic.
- Number one priority remains taking care of Soldiers, Airmen, and their families. Times have been tough but the priority remains.
- This past year we had a record number of suicides within the SDNG. We need everyone's help to prevent this from happening. As teammates we need to remain engaged in our force.
- Sexual Assaults are still happening in our ranks and cannot be tolerated.
- Thankful that we have a governor that understand the National Guard. Governor Kristi Noem is a strong advocate for the guard members.
- Vaccine mandates have been tough but it was a direct order. The ANG was not able to pay drill pay for anyone who is not vaccinated starting 1 Jan and has not applied for an exemption, and the ARNG will follow suit on 1 July 2022.
- Deployments are still happening and the SDNG has been in every combatant command, and this is not slowing down. Discussing what is the Guard's role with the Russian / Ukraine conflict, whether with equipment, manpower, or both.
- Recognize the fact that the SDNG continues to support to civil authorities. Missions have included mass testing, vaccination support, civil disturbance, wildland fire, search and rescue. Continue to meet all federal requirements in addition to state support.
- State Partnership with Suriname is in the best shape that it has ever been in.
- Bills related to the SDNG include funding for new Readiness Center in Sioux Falls, addition to the Wagner Armory, possibly add on to the Brookings Armory, Renovation of the Camp Rapid BOQ, New Maintenance Shop in Watertown, Range Road Cold Storage, Drainage projects, additional land purchased near FMS Shop in Chamberlain.
- 100% State Tuition Assistance is in the work with the Governor and the SD Board of Regents, hopeful that we can get it into a bill during the next business session.
- Tricare for all guard members is being pushed at the national level. Wyoming pushed their state legislator to ensure that their soldiers and airmen were covered by Tricare.
- Our South Dakota National Guard museum needs updated and architects have been interviewed. Support is out there to help this happen but it is in its infancy.
- AGR force reduction by 32 slots hurts.

- Future challenges include having a timely federal budget, recruiting struggles, aging armories, equipment updates, and vaccine requirements.
- Acknowledge the support, dedication and sacrifice from the employers and families.

Assistant Adjutant General (Army)

BG Pat Pardy

- Major concern is that recruiting is not keeping up with attrition, not to mention some force structure growth. This is a National issue as well and this has a lot of ramifications.
- The military is becoming a family business; people who are joining our ranks are likely related to someone already enlisted. We need to all help fill the ranks with quality soldiers and airmen

Assistant Adjutant General (Air)

LTC Sally Ketchum for BG Gregory Lair

- The SDANG continues to win national awards, most awarded in the National Guard, and has strong Fighter Aviation Heritage.
- There will be some leadership changes with promotions and retirements.
- End Strength is number one in the nation and has airmen from 20 states.
- Vision and mission statements have changed verbiage.
- Continue to deploy and support many missions.
- Continue to support the community, airmen and family members with monthly talking points.
- Excited for new buildings, updates, and new simulator building.

Break for Lunch 12:00-12:45

Reconvened as SDNGEA at 12:45

Introduction of Special Guests

President Jaeger

- EANGUS Area V Army Representative MSG Nate Hedin, Area V Auxillary Treasurer Edna Steinberg, Past President Jerry Eisenbraun, State Senior Enlisted Leader CSM Patrick Couser, and Past President Don List

Roll Call

Courtney Tyrrell

- Roll call of Executive Council was conducted with members present. Quorum was met.

Motion to Deviate from Agenda

Tabitha Carr

- Tabitha Carr made a motion to deviate from the agenda and Don Kranz seconded. Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes

President Derek Jaeger

- Motion was made for approval of minutes of the 62nd Annual SDNGEA Conference by Shelley Reeder and seconded by Helen Juelfs. Motion passed.

Guest Speaker - SDNG Psychological Health Program

Krisi "Cricket" Palmer

- Heartfelt thanks was given for the SDNGEA's support of the Red Ribbon Week in the past. President Jaeger had the honor of helping to present to one of the winner at Brandon Valley Middle School Red Ribbon Week coloring contest.
- Red Ribbon Week started in 1985 and has a large local impact with our youth. She asked for our continued support with sharing the information to spread drug prevention information to our youth.

Auxiliary Report

President Kayleen Meyers

- Membership is at 12 and 15 associate members and 9 life members. Please see Kaylie if you would like to sign up your spouse or if you would like to join as an associate member.
- There were 6 scholarship applications but only 2 were eligible. Please encourage more students to apply.

Area V Auxiliary Report

Edna Steinberg

- Edna oversees 9 states but only 2 have active auxiliary states. She also encouraged membership to help their organization.

Scholarship Report

Tabitha Carr

- 30 competitive applications but 8 were not eligible.
- A board was compiled to review the applications and winners were selected.
- 2 Duke Corning \$1000: Matthew Lafave and Zoey Mager.
- USAA \$1000: Connor Eimers
- Malow \$500: Rebecca Hekkman
- 4 NGASD \$500 Scholarships: Tyson Lein, Olivia Reese, Levi Redlof, Reese Henry
- Report filed as presented

Nominations Report

Nate Hedin

- Derek Jaeger for President
- Tabitha Carr for 2nd Vice
- Rick VandenHoek for Area V Committee Member At Large
- Kayleigh Cihak for Treasure
- Nominations will close at noon tomorrow

Investment Committee Report

Nate Hedin

- Recommends leaving the CD in place in Watertown as well as starting an additional CD, based on interest rates increasing.

By Laws Committee Report

Nate Hedin

- No recommended By Laws Changes were submitted for this year.

Sponsorship Report

Nate Hedin

- Tracy Hague and Wyatt Resman were both sponsored to attend this conference.

Audit Report

Wyatt Resman

- No significant errors were found, but encourages all to attend the committee meetings for more information.

Preliminary Resolutions Report

Courtney Tyrrell

- 4 resolutions were discussed by the committee and another resolution is being researched.

Publications Report

Sarah Callies

- Feedback has been positive about the spring 2022 ECHO publication.
- Hoping to better utilize social media platforms to share information.
- Hoping to find more sponsors for advertisements and also print more copies to place in Armory's.
- Deadline for Summer Echo will be 20 May 2022.

Ways and Means

Jerico Witte

- Discussed ways to increase income, specifically an online store. This will be looked into as the startup costs could be detrimental unless another avenue can be found.

Awards Ceremony

American Legion State Commander

- Senior Enlisted Leader, CSM Pat Couser thanked the American Legion for teaming up with the best Warrior and Airmen competitions.
- 1SG Taylor Sperl, SDARNG 1SG of the Year
- SPC Connor Elrich, SDARNG Best Warrior
- SSG Jordan Johnson, SDARNG NCO of the Year
- Ssg Cooper Eiliason, SDANG NCO of the Year
- Msgt Collin Tobin, SDANG SNCO of the Year
- SA Wyatt Resmon, SDANG Airmen of the Year

20 Year Certificate Prestation

President Jaeger

- SSG Bjorn Heinstein, 1SG Cory Richert, and SFC Mark Poncelett were present and presented pin's by the Senior Enlisted Leader, CSM Pat Couser. We would like help in handing out the remaining certificates of the individuals that were not able to attend the conference.

BHVM Committee Report

Josh Wermers

- 230+ registered last year, slightly down from the previous year. The 110 mile endurance march continues to grow.
- Thank you to CSM Couser and Chief Erlandson for handing out coins at the finish line.
- \$2250 donated – \$500 to helping hands, \$500 to BH Health Care, \$500 to Veterans Community Project.
- Registration is currently open.

Admin Notes

President Jaeger

- Last call for Proxy Letters.

- EANGUS will be hosting the first virtual career fair and more info will be shared when it comes available.
- Shelly Reeder stepped up as our Historian so please let her know if you have any questions or documents for her.
- MSG Hedin recognized the E-8 and E-9's in the room and thanked them for their support of this organization. This is the most Senior Enlisted that we have had present at a state conference in a very long time.

Recess of 1st business session at 1:48pm on April 22, 2022

President Jaeger

Start of 2nd business session 10am on April 23, 2022

President Jaeger

State Senior Enlisted Leader

CSM Pat Couser

- Thanked everyone for attending this conference. Also, he encouraged everyone to spread the word to help this conference grow and share the knowledge gained from this organization.
- He would like to meet with his E-8's and E-9's to see why our conference attendance and membership continues to decrease. As well as polling the junior enlisted to make sure that they know what the organization does for them.
- Remarks were made about Best Warrior and Airmen competitions, as well as "This is my squad". These programs are bringing back some of the old time comradery that has slowly changed with technology. One big change that is coming is that there will no longer be a National Best Warrior Competition, instead they would like to have a National This is My Squad Competition. Financially, this is very taxing and will have numerous other challenges, and because of this, SDARNG is still going to have a Best Warrior and NCO Competition. The Best Airman of the Year, and NCO, and 1SG Competition will stay the same in the SDANG.
- CSM Couser also informed us that he will probably be retiring next year but he will still be at our conference and will continue to support this organization.
- MSG Hedin asked a question about pushback that is sometimes received when members of our organization try to share information. CSM Couser stated that he is working to ensure that his E-8's and E-9's are educated to ensure that rules are being followed, but that it is certainly ok to talk about this organization. He also invited MSG Hedin to talk to the group when they meet next.
- 1SG(R) Reeder suggested that we challenge units to have the most participants at the next conference. This was something that happened in the past and was a healthy competition that supported this organization.
- Bob Aiken and Neil Harris volunteered to attend SRP's to share information and CSM Couser supported them.

Additional Award Presentation

President Jaeger

- MSG Hedin read about the Don and Marlys List award, and we were honored to present this award to Bruce and Cathy Anderson! They have been the cornerstone of this organization for so many years. Cathy is a past president, and Bruce spent over

25 years as our Executive Director. Their kids have been raised within this organization and the Anderson's are truly family to us all!

- Don and Marlys List presented the award to Bruce and Cathy Anderson.

Time and Place Committee Report

Tabitha Carr

- 2023 State Conference- Brookings, SD – POC Barb Boyer
- 2024 State Conference- Chamberlain, SD – POC Tabby Carr and Courtney Tyrrell
- 2025 State Conference, Co-located with Officers in Sioux Falls, SD

Position Evaluations Committee Report

Tabitha Carr

- No changes will be made this year but she is compiling a list of ideas to better utilize our Executive Council.
- Some ideas include eliminating Area Committee Members At Large and instead replace with positions such as a Mentorship Chairperson, a Sponsorship Chairperson, a Marketing Chairperson, and other ideas are welcome.

Legislative Committee Report

Josh Wermers

- Committee met and discussed legislative priorities, as discussed in depth during the opening ceremonies of this conference.
- Nate Hedin, Josh Wermers, Rick Vanden Hoeck, and Austin Pearce attended the Legislative Workshop in Washington DC this past February. They met with each congressman, along with our EANGUS staff, and other states' Legislative Chairpersons.

Membership Committee Report

Helen Juelfs

- 1283, down 369 members from this time last year. We only obtained 48% membership of our state strength.
- Only 3 units achieved 100% membership this year.
- In addition to attending SRP's, an idea was also proposed to speak at the G1 Conference to brief the Readiness NCO's from across the state.

Credential Report

Helen Juelfs

- Roll call of units was taken and recorded.
- The following did not have attendance and did not get their votes:

Awards Committee Report

Jerico Witte

- Updates to the SOP were recommended.
- The committee is also looking for more ways to solicit more award nominations.

Veterans Community Project

LTC(R) Trent Bruce

- This program started a couple years ago in the city of Sioux Falls and ground was broken this past spring. There will be 22 individual homes, 8 family homes, and a VCP Village Community Center.
- Mark Solomon, one of the National Organizers of the Veterans Community Project, spoke more about the project. A few combat vets got together and developed a plan

to help veteran housing. There are now 40 full-time staff members and active projects in 6 cities across the nation, hoping to grow by another 8 cities in 2022. Over 3,000 communities have inquired about the organization.

- An estimated 40,000 veterans are homeless and 1.5 million veterans live in poverty. Innovative tiny houses and trusted partnerships within the communities are their primary goals. They also help develop other skills to help these veterans succeed after their stay in the village. The average number of days a veterans stays in the village is 444 days and 85% of veterans transitioned to permanent housing.
- Outreach Centers are also available to help with more than just housing. They also helped run COVID operations in Kansas City for homeless in the beginning of the pandemic when there were so many unknowns.
- If you would like to get involved, learn more info, or make a donation please visit the website www.vcp.org
- VCP for Sioux Falls is partnering with the military alliance and attempting to complement other charitable organizations and their processes. Trying to fill missing gaps for needs and not compete.

USAA

Marty Baker

- A proud supporter of our organization presented gift card drawing to Don List.

Pioneer Bank and Trust

Chelsie Martin

- A proud sponsor of this conference donated Steak House gift certificates and winners were draw.

Treasurers Report

Nate Hedin

- Checking balance \$63,xxx and savings balance \$50,xxx.
- Profit and loss statement was also reviewed. Net income for last year was roughly \$19,000.
- We did hire a professional tax accountant to help keep our books and we plan to keep this up in the future.
- Motion to accept the report was made by Nate Hedin and seconded by Bob Aiken. Motion carried.

Budget Committee Report

President Jaeger

- Each section of the proposed budget was reviewed by the body.
- Motion to accept the report was made by Josh Wermers and seconded by Tabitha Carr. Motion carried.

Gavel turned over to 2nd Vice

Derek Jaeger

President's Report

President Jaeger

- Even though this year was challenging for membership, President Jaeger thanked everyone for supporting him and the organization.
- President Jaeger expressed his interest to run for President again.

Gavel turned over to President

Tabitha Carr

Resolutions Report

Courtney Tyrrell

- There were 12 resolutions proposed by the committee. The resolutions were read to the body, discussed, and voted on.
- A motion was made by Courtney Tyrrell to accept all of the resolutions as proposed by the committee and seconded by Jerry Eisenbraun. Motion Carried.

Nominations Report and Voting on Executive Council

Nate Hedin

- Derek Jaeger for President, Jerico Witte and Don Kranz for 1st Vice, Tabitha Carr and Charles Buttler for 2nd Vice, no one for Area I Committee Member at Large, no one for Area II Committee Member at Large, no one for Area III Committee Member at Large, no one for Area IV Committee Member at Large, Rick VandenHoek for Area V Committee Member at Large, Kayleigh Cihak for Treasure.
- Dallas Vallery made a motion to cease nominations for President and to cast a unanimous ballot for Derek Jaeger, seconded by Don Kranz. Motion carried.
- Jerico Witte and Don Kranz briefed the body on their desire to run for 1st Vice President. Courtney Tyrrell made a motion to cease nominations and Tabitha Carr seconded. A roll call vote was conducted and Jerico Witte won.
- Tabitha Carr and Charles Buttler briefed the body on their desire to run for 2nd Vice President. Charles Buttler withdrew his nomination. Josh Wermers made a motion to cease nominations for First Vice President and to cast a unanimous ballot for Tabitha Carr, seconded by Bob Aiken. Motion carried.
- Don Kranz made a motion to cease nominations for Treasure and to cast a unanimous ballot for Kayleigh Cihak, seconded by Josh O'Dae. Motion carried.
- Helen Juelfs made a motion to nominate Courtney Tyrrell for Area I Committee Member at Large. Shelly Reeder made a motion to cease nominations for Area I and to cast a unanimous ballot for Courtney Tyrrell, seconded by Don Kranz. Motion carried.
- Seeing there was not a single person present for Area II, it will remain vacant.
- No nominations for Area II,
- Courtney Tyrrell nominated Don Kranz for area IV and seconded by Bruce Anderson. Sarah Callis made a motion to cease nominations for Area IV and to cast a unanimous ballot for Don Kranz, seconded by Shelly Reeder. Motion carried.
- Shelley Reeder made a motion to cease nominations for Rick VandenHoek for Area V Committee Member at Large and seconded by Sarah Callies. Motion Carried.

Young Hero's Report

Kelsey Lambert

- This past year has been hard with the pandemic and there were no ceremonies held.
- Currently there is one nominee and the committee is looking for more nominations.

Old Business

Support of Auxiliary

Josh Wermers

- Josh Wermers made a motion to continue support of the SDNGEA Auxillary with a \$300 donation and Don Kranz seconded. Motion carried. Check was presented to Kaylie Meyers, SDNGEA Auxiliary President.

Support of BH National Cemetery

Josh Wermers

- Josh Wermers made a motion to continue support of the Black Hills National Cemetery Avenue of Flags with a \$500 donation and Bob Aiken seconded. Motion carried. Check was presented to Neil Harris.

Support of the SDNG Museum

Josh Wermers

- Josh Wermers made a motion to continue support of the SDNG Museum with a \$500 donation and Don Kranz seconded. Motion carried. Check will be presented at a later date.

New Business

Support of the Vietnam Era Veterans

Neil Harris

- Neil Harris asked if there was any Vietnam Era Veterans. Mike Birnbaum, Bob Aiken, Neil Harris, and Mike Reeder were presented lapel pins and 50th anniversary memorabilia.

New SDNGEA Logo

President Jaeger

- This past year the idea was presented to change our organization logo. The current logo is great, however the intricate detail make it unrecognizable when printed on small items, such as pins or logo polo shirts.
- Two logo's were presented to the body and discussed. This will be voted on by the Executive Council at the next meeting.
- It was suggested that we possibly simplify the current logo or put a challenge out in the ECHO, Distro A, and social media to have people design a new logo.
- Leaving the current logo in place was also suggested. There was much support for leaving it because the members in attendance like it and there was worry about the cost associated with rebranding our organization.

New Scholarship Proposal

Tabitha Carr

- Currently the NGASD has a specific scholarship and we would like to follow suit and have a scholarship that only members of the SDNGEA members and dependents are eligible for.
- This is possibly an idea for the Ways and Means Committee to discuss and plan. It was suggested to make it a substantial amount, such as \$3000, in order to increase the enticement.
- This proposal would have to be put into the president's budget and voted on by the body at the next conference.
- The current scholarship program generated new members to our association and this addition could generate even more membership.

Co-located Conference Changes with Officers

Dean Steinberg

- It was suggested that the Executive Council discuss the options of moving co-located with NGASD to every 5 years instead of every 3 years or possibly eliminating.

Instillation of New Executive Council

Josh Wermers

Adjournment

President Miller

- Motion to adjourn by Courtney Tyrrell and seconded by Shelley Reeder. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 1400.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

**Courtney Tyrrell
SFC, SDARNG
Secretary**

**Derek Jaeger
MSgt , SDANG
President**