**South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association**

**Executive Council Meeting**

**1400 MST, 15 September 2023**

**VFW, Deadwood, SD**

**Call to Order Jerico Witte**

**Pledge of Allegiance Jerico Witte**

**Introduction of Special Guests Jerico Witte**

* Past President Nate Hedin, Past President Cathy Anderson, and Past President Dale Greenfield, Past President Josh Wermers, Chief Anderson, Chief Wollensen?, 10 Soldiers and Airmen from Leg Dining Out Committee.

**Roll Call Courtney Tyrrell**

* Roll call of Executive Council was conducted with the following members present: Jerico Witte, Josh Wermers, Nate Hedin proxy for Derek Jaeger, Courtney Tyrrell proxy for Tabby Carr, Harley Hoogendoorn proxy for Randal Hotchkins, Sarah Callies, Kyle Tobin, Dave Gushwa, Michael Rollag, Cindy Erickson proxy for JFHQ and 881stTC, 152nd CSSB, and 109th EN, Tyler Engen proxy for Charles Butler, Kimberly Hasslebrook proxy for 196th RTI, Josh Wermers proxy for 109th RSG, Josh Laabs proxy for 153rd EN, David Frock, Bob Aiken. Quorum was met.

**Deviate from the Agenda Josh Wermers**

* Josh Wermers made a motion to deviate from the agenda to conduct business. Sarah Callies Seconded. Motion carried.

**Meeting Minutes Rick VandenHoek**

* The minutes from the last meeting are not posted on the website but they were published in the ECHO. September EC Meeting was not an actual meeting because a quorum was not met but minutes were recorded with discussion of those in attendance.

**Legislative Committee Josh Wermers**

* Will be sitting down with TAG.
* Current focus: GI Bill Parity, Tax incentives for employers, State Retirement Award Creation, State Hunting and Fishing license rate reduction.
* National EANGUS Legislative Workshop is coming up in DC. Hoping that EANGUS hires a new Legislative Director this prior to the workshop.
* Motion to accept report as presented. Committee Report does not require a second. Filed as presented.

**BHVM Jeremy Eccelston**

* Over 300 participants at the 20th BHVM.
* Donated to 5 charities at $750 each.
* Quenton Johnson and Jeremy Eccelston are chairing the event. Next BHVM is scheduled for 21 Sep 2024.
* Motion to accept report as presented. Committee Report does not require a second. Filed as presented.

**Treasure Update Mike Rollag**

* Mike Rollag briefed the members present.
* New State Conference Bank Account and Venmo account created, free for non-profit organization.
* Northern Hills Accounting has been working out well.
* Current account balances discussed.
* Bob Aiken made a motion to accept Treasure Report, Dave Frock Seconded. Motion carried.

**Moving CD’s Nate Hedin and Mike Rollag**

* Discussed moving CD’s out of Dakota Bank to Wells Fargo another CD at about a 5% rate on a 10 month contract. Total of about $22,000 between 2 CD’s.
* Kathy Anderson made a motion to have Nate Hedin remove the CD’s from Dakota Bank and research the best option for an investment in CD as soon as possible. Seconded by Bob Aiken. Motion carried.

**ECHO Sarah Callies**

* The last issue was published and emailed out but needs to be uploaded to the website. The next deadline is 15 Feb for submissions to the ECHO.
* Motion to accept report as presented. Committee Report does not require a second. Filed as presented.

**Membership Josh Wermers**

* Currently around 1,100 members, down about 800 from last year.
* Need to continue to recruit and retain members. The organization is wonderful but we need to share the information about it.
* Looking for a new membership chair.
* Motion to accept report as presented. Committee Report does not require a second. Filed as presented.

**Awards Jerico Witte**

* Need to get the list of 20 year pin recipients and then get the invites out so that they can be recognized at the 2024 State Conference.
* Possibly provide a coin instead of the pin going forward.
* Motion to accept report as presented. Committee Report does not require a second. Filed as presented.

**Scholarship Josh Wermers**

* State Scholarship info was sent out in October but we will be sending out EANGUS and SDNGEA information on Scholarships again. The deadlines are approaching for both state and national.
* Motion to accept report as presented. Committee Report does not require a second. Filed as presented.

**By-Laws Bruce Anderson**

* Bruce Anderson volunteered to manage updates to our document and post to website.

**TAG Address Major General Morrell**

* Lines of effort in the SDNG: culture, mission and community. Published in 2 graphics that we may include in our ECHO.
* Leadership development course in the ANG started about 5 years ago and now 6 Soldiers have been invited to join the next course. Teaches awareness, but mostly focuses on character development as a leader.
* IPPW (I P P Workforce), it is an important effort and also a congressional mandate.
* Encouraged the reading of the Executive Summary of the National Defense Strategy. You can find the unclassified document on the internet with your chosen search browser.
* Deployments continue. Many Soldiers returned from numerous deployments this year, and a significant number of Airmen will be deploying this coming year.
* State Active Duty is always a possibility and likely with the SW Boarder. Gov Noem wants to do it right, not hastily, with much forward planning.
* State Tuition Assistance Enhancement Bill: expansion to private schools.
* Defend the Guard Bill: National movement trying to change the way the Guard is mobilized. Department of the Military is opposed to the bill, as written it is not good for the Guard.
* Looking forward to building community tonight at the Legislative Dining Out.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Flags and Banners Courtney Tyrrell**

* Motion to purchase 3 banners by Courtney Tyrrell and seconded by Mike Rollag. Estimate for the 7 foot vertical banner was $187.35 from a local vendor, about $150 from online and would include a stand. This would be great visual aid for events, such as SRP’s. Motion carried.
* Discussion about getting membership feedback on design to make sure it is well received and professional.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Membership Drive Input Issue Josh Wermers**

* An envelope with cash, checks, and membership forms for 2023, in the amount of $517 was misplaced.
* Josh Wermers made a motion to pay 2024 dues for those Soldiers who paid and did not get input. Seconded by Kathy Anderson. Motion Carried.

**Moving CD’s Nate Hedin and Mike Rollag**

* Kathy Anderson made a motion to have Nate Hedin remove the CD’s from Dakota Bank and research the best option for an investment of CD’s as soon as possible. Seconded by Bob Aiken. Motion carried.
* Discussion included current rates, possibly 5% rate on a 10 month contract with Wells Fargo. The total of the CD’s is about $22,000, between 2 CD’s at Dakota Bank.

**Veteran Benefit Booklets Neil Harris**

* Has about 5 copies of this booklet if anyone is interested and he can get more if needed. It’s a great resource.

**Sponsorship Nate Hedin**

* There is an upcoming deployment in the SDANG and many of our key members will miss the 2024 SDNGEA Conference. We should try to be more proactive to sponsor more people to get more people involved in the association. We will sponsor Soldier and Airmen of the Year, and NCO’s of the year. More sponsorship opportunities are available.

**2024 Conference Updates Tabby Carr & Courtney Tyrrell**

* AmericInn in Chamberlain, SD 19-21 April 2024 with a Kentucky Derby Theme. Currently the entire motel is reserved for this conference. Registration will be $50 and set up soon on the website.
* Changed the date structure of the conference with hopes of attracting more attendees. Friday at 1400 there will be an Executive Council Meeting, followed by committee meetings, supper, and hospitality room. Saturday will be committee meetings, business session, and dinner event. Sunday will conclude the business session and a banquet lunch. Tentative.
* Raffle tickets with 10 high dollar prizes need to be sold. $50 per ticket.

**Monthly Email Communication Jerico Witte**

* The EC is moving towards monthly virtual meetings or email conversations to continue the communication between EC Meetings.

**Future State Conferences Jerico Witte**

* 19-21 April 2024 – Chamberlain – Tabitha Carr and Courtney Tyrrell
* 2025 – Sioux Falls– Combined Conference

**Future Area V Caucus Jerico Witte**

* Please let President VanDenHook or 1st Vice Witte know if you would like to attend in Detroit, MI 17 May 2024.

**Future National Conferences Nate Hedin**

* 2024 – Detroit, MI

**ADJOURNMENT**

The date and time of the next Executive Council Meeting will be Chamberlain, SD on 19 April 2024 at 1400 hours.