



THE ENLISTED *ECHO*

Spring 2024



President Rick Vanden Hoek
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sdngea.com
blackhillsveteranmarch.org



SDNGEA Continues Working Legislative Priorities for 2024

2023-2024 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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State SEL	Marcus Stacey	CSM		
State CCM	Andy Anderson	CMSgt		

* = Voting Members

Upcoming Events

FUTURE STATE CONFERENCES

19-21 April 2024 -Chamberlain, SD
TBD 2025-Sioux Falls (co-located)

FUTURE NATIONAL CONFERENCES

18-21 August 2024—Detroit, MI

FUTURE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

April 19, 2024— Chamberlain, SD

FUTURE BLACK HILLS VETERANS HONOR MARCH

September 21, 2024- Deadwood, SD

NEXT ECHO DEADLINE

Summer 2024- Deadline for submissions is 15 May 2024

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 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: Rick Vanden Hoek, Wepsman69@gmail.com

From Your President



By CMSgt Rick Vanden Hoek

The Enlisted Association has been quite active trying to ensure we keep our membership level up. I have been reaching out to members who have memberships expire and those that are coming close to expiring. This has helped in keeping our numbers stable. On that note, we are all recruiters for new members. Communicating with Airmen/Soldiers that are not members to get our message out is important. This is the best recruiting tool.

The Legislative dining out sounded like it was a success. I was unable to attend due to a medical situation. I always enjoy those events and they are a valuable tool to get our message out to the State Legislators. It is important to get face to face time with them to let them know our needs and wants.

We have a delegation going back out to meet with our Congressional Delegation the end of February. Again, it is important to get some face-to-face time with them. I am unable to attend, but we have very qualified members heading there.

The State Convention will be held in Chamberlain 19-21 April. It will be at the AmericInn in Chamberlain, SD. The format will be a little different and more compacted to not take away as much time away from home. You should be able to pay for the event on our website. There are also raffle tickets for some great prizes. You can pay for them with Venmo. I would love to see as many members as available to attend. This is a great event to see what our association does.

Another upcoming event is the National EANGUS convention in August in Detroit. This should be a great event also. If you are interested in going, please contact a Council member.

In closing, I would like all our members to be recruiters, communicate with those who are not members, and if available, please attend the State conference. Please reach out to a Council member if there is something that you would like us to do for you or if there is questions on what we are currently working.

CMSgt Rick Vanden Hoek
SDNGEA President

**Register for the 65th
Conference at [https://
sdngea.com/2024conference/](https://sdngea.com/2024conference/)
or using the QR code here =>**



Legislative Priorities Summary

Check out what the association is advocating for at the national level!

Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act

EANGUS TriCare for all Reservists

Major Richard Star Act

Affordable Health Care for Gray Area Reserve Retirement

Early Tricare for Eligible National Guard Members

Fully Burdened and Lifecycle Costing Model

Remove Forced Arbitration from SCRA

Reserve Employers Comprehensive Relief and Uniform Incentives on Taxes Act

Space Force Reserve Component Importance

Taxes_Update Tax Laws and Policies to Reflect Changes in the Military

The Servicemember's Civil Relief Act – Waiver Section 517 Removal

COVID-19 reinstatement of pay and points

G-Rap investigations

National Guard Cyber Program

Servicemembers Email Addresses

Tax Code Removal Title 26

Tricare Reserve Select For Dual-Status Technicians

USERRA For Spouses

25 Fighter Squadrons

Computerized Training Aids (CTAs)

Could Zero Cost TRICARE Save Money For the National Guard?

We Care America Codified in Law

Visit <https://eangus.org/legislative/> for detailed Legislative Issue Papers on the above priorities for EANGUS!

At the state level we are advocating for allowing SDNG members to receive 100% State Tuition Assistance at in state private, non-profit post secondary institutions (SB 29), creation of a state award for SDNG personnel who retire, and a state small game hunting and fishing license rate reduction for SDNG service members and retirees.

Executive Council Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2024 - 1400 CST - Ramkota, Pierre, 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 Erlandson, 10 Soldiers and Airmen from Legislative 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 Randall Hotchkins, Sarah Callies, Kyle Tobin, Lance 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

Executive Council Meeting Minutes Continued

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 (Integrated Primary Prevention 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.

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**



Executive Council Meeting Minutes Continued

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.

Is there an issue impacting your unit? You can make a difference!

The conference is a good time to work through ideas and propose solutions to improve an issue impacting Enlisted personnel in the National Guard. You can also send your ideas to Courtney Totton at courtneytotton@yahoo.com for discussion by the resolution committee. If you have a complete plan and solution for an idea, send a resolution proposal to Courtney with the following information:

- a. Title: (This will be the working title of the Resolution)
- b. Short Description: (A very brief description of the issue)
 - c. Proposal Type: (New or Resubmission)
- d. Submitter: The state or Area sponsoring the Resolution
- e. Business Case: (The story of why, justification, the vital information)
- f. Recommendation: (What you want to be done and how)

SDNG ENLISTED ASSOCIATION 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



AmericInn | 1981 E King St. | Chamberlain



APRIL 19TH 4-6PM
Registration Pickup
Followed by a Meal & Activities

APRIL 20TH
Committee Meeting,
Business Session
& Derby Supper

APRIL 21ST
Business Session &
Awards Luncheon



Kentucky

DERBY

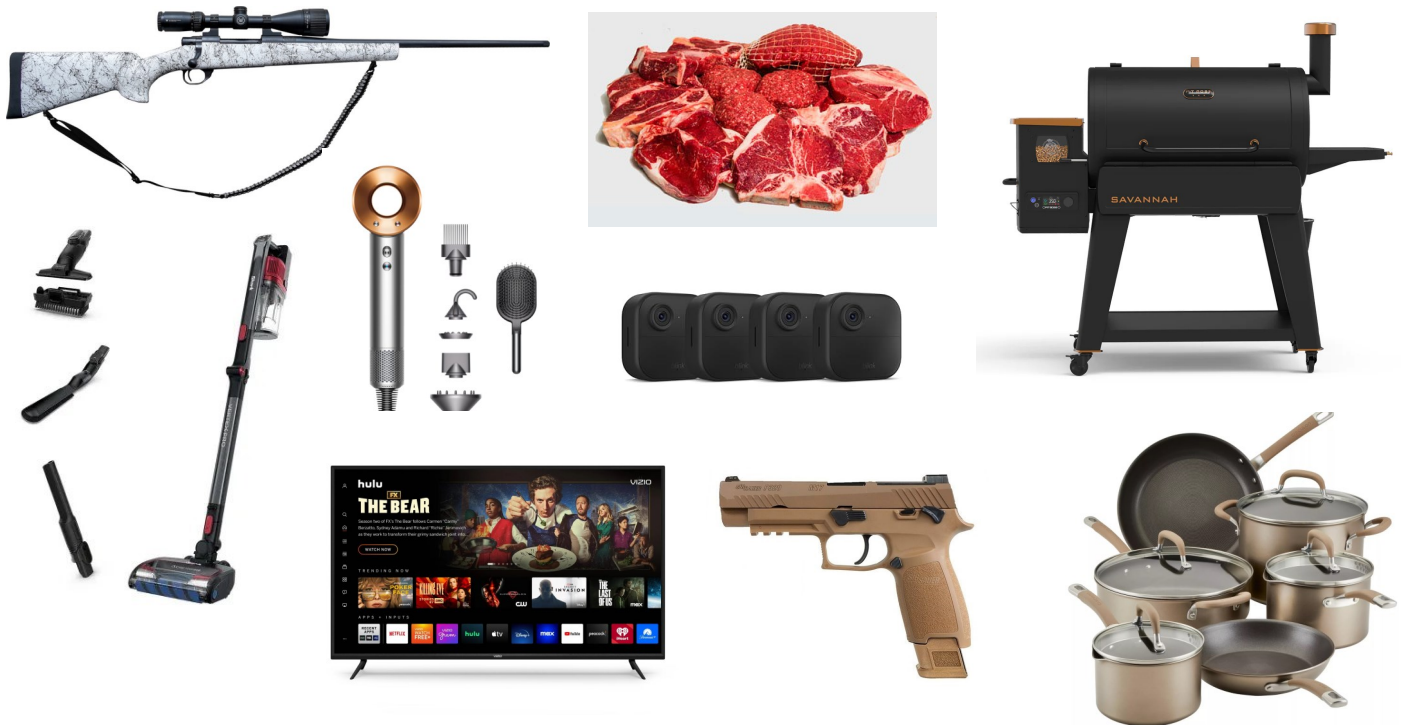
www.sdngea.com

SDNG Enlisted Association

\$50 donation for chance at 10 prizes!
ONLY 300 tickets will be sold!

Prizes:

- * Vizio 75" Class V Series 4k UHD LED Smart TV (\$1066 Value)
- * SIG Sauer P320 (M17 Pistol) (\$700 Value)
- * Howa 22-250 Snow Camo Coated Rifle (\$700 Value)
- * Pitboss Savannah 1500 Wood Pellet Grill (\$600 Value)
- * Two Meat bundles (\$500 Value Each)
- * Dyson Supersonic Hair Dryer with Attachments (\$429 Value)
- * Shark Vertex Pro Cordless Stick Vacuum (\$450 Value)
- * Blink 4 Camera Outdoor Home Security System (\$360 Value)
- * 10 Pc Circulon Premier Professional Nonstick Cookware (\$250 Value)



Winners will be drawn 20 April 2024 at the 65th Annual South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association Annual Conference. Need not be present to win.

Please return tickets to Courtney Tyrrell (605-730-0654) or Taitha Carr (605-350-1786) and let them know if you have any questions! Thank you for the support!



venmo