



# THE ENLISTED *ECHO*

Spring 2025



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



## SDNGEA Continues Working Legislative Priorities for 2025

# 2024-2025 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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State SEL	Marcus Stacey	CSM		
State CCM	Andy Anderson	CMSgt		

\* = Voting Members

## Upcoming Events

### FUTURE STATE CONFERENCES

10-12 April 2025-Sioux Falls  
(co-located)  
TBD 2026-Rapid City Area  
TBD 2027-Watertown  
TBD 2028-Rapid City (co-located)

### FUTURE NATIONAL CONFERENCES

11-14 August 2025—Reno, NV

### FUTURE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

April 10, 2025— Sioux Falls, SD

### FUTURE BLACK HILLS VETERANS HONOR MARCH

September 20, 2025- Deadwood, SD

### NEXT ECHO DEADLINE

Summer 2025- Deadline for submissions is 15 May 2025

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: Jerico Morgan, witte1239@yahoo.com

# From Your President



By SFC Jerico Morgan

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

The conference is the right time to work through ideas and propose solutions to improve an issue impacting Enlisted personnel in the National Guard!

You can attend the conference or send your ideas to myself or Josh Wermers at [joshua.j.wermers.mil@army.mil](mailto:joshua.j.wermers.mil@army.mil) for discussion by the resolution committee during the

conference. If you have a complete plan and solution for an idea, send a resolution proposal 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)

We will be further discussing a state property tax reduction for disabled veterans, state tuition assistance for online schooling, state small game hunting and fishing license rate reduction for SDNG service members and retirees, reimbursement of Tricare reserve select premiums while on state active duty, and creation of a state award for SDNG personnel who retire from the SDNG and have completed a minimum of 15 to 20 years of honorable service. Come on out and learn about what the organization is working toward!

**We are working on a logo update!  
Vote for your favorite SDNGEA  
Logo at <https://sdngea.com/>**

# Executive Council Meeting Minutes

*February 6, 2025 - 1400 CST - Ramkota, Pierre, SD*

**Call to Order Jerico Morgan**

tax

Registration deadline is March 26

**Pledge of Allegiance Jerico Morgan**

Registration site should be up to date

Guests \$25

**Introduction of Special Guests Jerico Morgan**

Past President Josh Wermers, CSM Marcus Stacey

If no one requests daycare then no daycare will be provided

Business casual

**Roll Call Barb Jensen**

Roll call of Executive Council was conducted with the following members present: Jerico Morgan, Rick VandenHoek, Benjamin Laabs, Josh Wermers proxy for Derek Jaeger, Mike Rollog, Sarah Callies, Lance Gushwa, James Long, the proxy for Josh O’Dea, Will Sutterer, Dave Peck, Alec Sosa, Charles Butler, Ben Laabs proxy for Chance Ragsdale, Cindy Erickson, Steven Biteler, Chris Achen, Ben Laabs proxy for Richard Buechler, David Frock, Barb Jensen, Bob Aiken?. Quorum was met.

**Sponsorship Pitch Jeff Merchant, First Command Financial Services**

Worked with officers, sponsored a \$1000 scholarship, daughter of guardsman received the scholarship.

Would like to be a sponsor for the enlisted conference as well, and offered a \$1000 scholarship to hand out at the conference. Can be merit-based or needs-based.

Will have a table set up at the conference.

Will we be adding it to the scholarship application form? Jeff said they have their own form. Could use the same board we use for our existing scholarships.

**Meeting Minutes Jerico Morgan**

The minutes from the last meeting are not posted on the website but they were published in the ECHO. Motion to approve the minutes by Josh Wermers. Mike Rollag seconded. Motion carried.

**Showing of Proposed New Logo Options for SDNGEA Jerico Morgan**

President Jerico Morgan showed three different versions.

Tyler Martin, with sheet metal on the Air Guard side, created them for free.

Put the options on the website, they will be voted on at the conference.

**Deviate from the Agenda Jerico Morgan**

Rick VandenHoek made a motion to deviate from the agenda to conduct business. Chris Achen seconded. Motion carried.

**Legislative Committee Josh Wermers**

Josh Wermers presented a legislative report.

Put the resolutions on the website to vote.

**2025 Conference Update Steven Biteler / Charles Butler**

April 10-12, Downtown Holiday Inn, Sioux Falls  
Masters in Driving Excellence (golf)

60 rooms blocked off, under SDNG Conference, for both officers and enlisted, \$110/night plus

**Treasurer Update Mike Rollag**

# Executive Council Meeting Minutes Continued

Current account balances and CD accounts were discussed.

New memberships and renewals are what supports us.

Rick VandenHoek made a motion to accept Treasurer Report, second not required. Motion carried.

**Membership (informational report) Rick VandenHoek**

Currently 1148 members.

Need to continue to recruit and retain members.

The more numbers we have on a national level, it gives us a larger voice and makes an impact on votes in D.C to get the funding and resources for what we need to do.

There was discussion on how to engage with others to increase

There was previous discussion on paying for a new recruit's first year. A concern is that there is no guarantee they will renew.

If members have a lifetime membership and switch units, members need to update it on the website.

Since informational report, no motion needed. All agreed.

**Black Hills Veterans March Mike Rollag on behalf of Jeremy Eccelston**

New website to be released soon

Received grant to help pay for trailer

Looking at grants for e-bikes and tables

2024 was a huge success

A few key positions will need to be filled this year.

17-20 September 2025 for week-long event

20 September 2025 for one-day event

Motion to approve report by Chris Aichen. No

second needed. Motion carried.

**Enlisted Echo**

**Sarah Callies**

Need to get access to IG account.

Deadline is 15 February 2025 to get into next edition.

Motion to approve report by Ben Laabs. No second needed. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No old business discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Website Edits**

**Barb Jensen**

Send any edits to Barb Jensen.

**EANGUS State Presidents & Legislative Workshop Rick VandenHoek**

23-25 February 2025

Great event, great learning experience

Charlie Butler, Dave Peck, Chris Aichen, Jerico Morgan, Alec Sosa

**Future Conferences**

**Rick VandenHoek**

Area V, May 2025, Omaha, NE

National, 11-14 August 2025, Reno, NV

**ADJOURNMENT**

Rick VandenHoek made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Sarah Callies seconded. Motion carried at 1600.

The date of the next Executive Council Meeting will be at the State Conference in Sioux Falls, 10-12 April 2025.

# DRAFT Conference Agenda

## 2025 “Masters in Driving Excellence” DRAFT Conference Agenda

### Thursday, 10 April 2025

1600-1900 Registration, Vendors  
 1500-1700 Enlisted Executive Council Meeting  
 1700-1900 Enlisted Committee Meetings  
 1800-1900 Officer Time & Place Committee Meeting  
 1900-0000 Hospitality Rooms (TBD)

### Location

Palisades  
 Skyline Room (10th Floor)  
 Skyline Room (10th Floor)  
 Verdi Lounge (Bar Lounge main floor)  
 TBD Floor

### Friday, 11 April 2025

0700-0900 Lt of the Year Interviews  
 0700-0900 Warrant Officer of the Year Interviews  
 0800-1230 Registration, Vendors  
 0800-1000 Officer Executive Council Meeting  
 0800-1000 Jr Officer Professional Development  
 0800-1130 Enlisted Committee Meetings  
 0900-1000 Enlisted Auxiliary Executive Council Meeting  
 0930-2330 Childcare  
 1000-1100 Officer Resolutions Committee Meeting  
 1100-1200 Enlisted & Officers Retiree Luncheons (separate)  
 1100-1200 Spouse Luncheons  
 1100-1300 Green Room  
 1200-1300 Warrant Officer Meeting  
 1330-11530 Spouse Retreat (Culinary Demonstration)

Board Room  
 Cascade Room  
 Palisades  
 Skyline Room (10th Floor)  
 Falls East  
 Falls West  
 Board Room  
 Cascade Room  
 Board Room  
 Grill 100 Lounge  
 Grill 100 Lounge  
 Board Room  
 Skyline Room (10<sup>th</sup> Floor)  
 Plums Cooking Co.

### 1300-1430 1<sup>st</sup> Business Session for Members

Posting of Colors / Pledge of Allegiance  
 Invocation/Memorial Service  
 Welcome Distinguished Guests  
 Congressional Delegation Address (tentative)  
 Governor’s Address (tentative)  
 ATAG / TAG Address Army/Air  
 State Enlisted Leader Address  
 Introduction of the Conference Vendors

### Falls (Joint Session)

### (Business Casual)

### 1430 - 1500 Break (Cookies and Coffee in Falls Room)

Palisades

### 1500 - 1600 1st Business Session for Members (Officers = Falls East / Enlisted = Falls West)

Falls (Separate Session)

Roll Call  
 Approval of Agenda/Appointments  
 Approval of Minutes  
 Old Business  
 Executive Directors Report  
 Nominations – Preliminary Report  
 Resolutions – Preliminary Report  
 By-Law Change - Preliminary report  
 Museum Report  
 Treasurers Report

# DRAFT Conference Agenda

Membership Report  
 Legislative Update  
 Membership Report  
 Administrative Announcements  
 Adjourn 1st Business Session

1500 – AEA meeting  
 1700 – Social Hour (Cash Bar open 1700-2000)  
 1745 – Banquet Dinner/ Awards (Business Casual)  
 1830 – Keynote Speaker  
 2000-0000 Hospitality Rooms (TBD)

Skyline Room (10th Floor)  
 Starlight Room (10th Floor)  
 Starlight Room (10th Floor)  
 Starlight Room (10th Floor)  
 TBD Floor

**Saturday, 12 April 2025**

0730-0900 Company Grade Breakfast  
 0730-1030 Registration, Vendors  
 0800-2330 Childcare  
 0800-0900 Hospitality Room Breakfast (TBD)  
 0800-1000 Enlisted Auxiliary Meeting  
 1000-1300 National Conference Pin making

Skyline Room (10th Floor)  
 Palisades  
 Cascade Room  
 TBD Floor  
 Board Room  
 Board Room

**0900-1130      2<sup>nd</sup> Business Session-Members      Falls (Separate Session)**  
**(Business Casual, Officers = Falls East / Enlisted = Falls West)**

Resolutions – Preliminary Report  
 Time and Place Report  
 Credentials Report  
 Corporate Membership Report  
 71st NGASD Conference Host  
 Life Insurance Report  
 Retired Officer’s Committee Report  
 Warrant Officer’s Committee Report  
 Junior Officer’s Committee Report  
 Sponsor Certificates of Appreciation

**1000-1030      Break (Keg, Cookies and Coffee in Falls Room)      Palisades**

Constitution & By-Law Changes  
 NEW Business  
 Proposed Budget  
 Nominations / Elections  
 Call for other new business  
 20 Year certificate Presentations  
 Presidents Report  
 Recognition of outgoing President  
 Administrative Announcements  
 Adjourn 2<sup>nd</sup> Business Session

**1300-1600 Afternoon Activities**

1630-1730 Hospitality Rooms (TBD)  
 1800 – Buffet (Cash Bar open 1800-2100)  
**1830-2100 Entertainment**  
 2100-0000 Hospitality Rooms (TBD)

**Various Locations**

TBD Floor  
 Starlight Room (10th Floor)  
 Starlight Room (10th Floor)  
 TBD Floor

SDNG Enlisted/Officer Association  
 2025 Annual Conference, April 10-12  
 Holiday Inn Sioux Falls-City Centre

*MASTERS*



A yellow map of South Dakota with a green border, containing a list of conference events. A green flag on a pole is positioned to the right of the map.

- April 10<sup>th</sup> - 4-7 PM – Registration
- April 11<sup>th</sup> - 8 AM-12:30 PM – Registration
- April 11<sup>th</sup> - 1-4 PM – Business Sessions (Business Casual)
- April 11<sup>th</sup> - 6 PM – Banquet Dinner / Keynote Speaker (Business Casual)
- April 12<sup>th</sup> - 9-11:30 AM – Business Sessions (Business Casual)
- April 12<sup>th</sup> - 1-4 PM – Community Events
- April 12<sup>th</sup> - 6-9 PM – Masters/Golf Themed Entertainment (dress in your awesome golf attire!!)

*IN DRIVING EXCELLENCE*

**Registration Ends March 26th**



Block of rooms under  
**SDNG Association**  
**Conference** at Holiday Inn  
 City Center 605-339-2000  
[SDNGA 2025-Holiday Inn City Centre](#)



**NGASD**  
 National Guard Association of South Dakota





# SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Visit <https://sdngea.com/programs/scholarships/> today for information and application information for scholarship opportunities!

## **CW2 Darren R Mallow Memorial Scholarship**

### **BACKGROUND**

The CW2 Darren R Mallow Memorial Scholarship is awarded by Col (Ret) Bob and Shirley Mallow of Black Hawk, SD in remembrance of their son Darren who was an outstanding guard member whose life was cut tragically short by a fatal civilian helicopter accident in the summer of 1999. One \$500.00 scholarship will be awarded by the Enlisted/Officer Associations for the CW2 Darren R Mallow Memorial Scholarship.

## **The USAA Scholarship**

### **BACKGROUND**

This scholarship endowment is made possible by the USAA insurance program. The purpose of the USAA scholarship is to encourage active enlisted members of the South Dakota National Guard, (Army and Air), and their dependents to pursue degrees in higher education at an accredited institution of their choice. This objective is to be accomplished through annual award of the USAA Scholarship. A scholarship will be awarded by the Enlisted Association at the State Conference and may be in the amount of \$500 or \$1000 to be determined by USAA.

## **NGASD Scholarship**

### **BACKGROUND**

There will be four \$500 scholarships made possible by the South Dakota National Guard Officer Association. The purpose of the NGASD scholarship's is to encourage active officers of the South Dakota National Guard, (Army and Air), and their dependents to pursue degrees in higher education at an accredited institution of their choice. This objective is to be accomplished through annual award of the NGASD Scholarship. Scholarships will be awarded by the Officer Association at the State Conference in the amount of \$500.

## **The Dean & Edna Steinberg Scholarship**

### **BACKGROUND**

This is a \$2000 SDNGEA only scholarship. Dean and Edna Steinberg have been pillars of the South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States and their Auxiliaries for decades. When Dean passed away in June of 2024 Edna created this Scholarship in his memory. This \$2000 scholarship will be awarded to an Enlisted member or their dependents who are not at the top of their class to help with furthering their education.

## **The First Command Scholarship**

### **BACKGROUND**

This scholarship endowment is made possible by First Command Financial Services. The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage South Dakota National Guard members and their dependents to pursue degrees in higher education at an accredited institution of their choice. Two scholarships will be awarded for \$1000, one to each of the Enlisted and Officer Associations. The Scholarships will be paid to the schools once attendance is verified.

## **Auxiliary Scholarship**

### **BACKGROUND**

The South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association Auxiliary is offering a \$500 scholarship for the upcoming academic year. SDNGEA Auxiliary members or their spouses, unmarried high school seniors, college undergraduate or vocational/technical students up to age 26 who are children/stepchildren, grandchildren/step grandchildren of Regular or Life SDNGEA Auxiliary Members. You must be a current member of the auxiliary to apply for the scholarship.