

South Dakota
National Guard



THE ENLISTED ECHO

Fall/Winter 2025



President Jerico Morgan
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The Future is Now: Preparing
for Change in the Guard

2025-2026 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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State SEL	Marcus Stacey	CSM		
State CCM	Dan Johnson	CMSgt		

* = Voting Members

Upcoming Events

FUTURE STATE CONFERENCES

17-19 April, 2026-Deadwood, SD
TBD 2027-Watertown, SD
TBD 2028-Rapid City, SD (co-located)

FUTURE NATIONAL CONFERENCES

30 July– 4 August 2026—Daytona Beach, FL

FUTURE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

Feb 5, 2026— Pierre, SD

FUTURE BLACK HILLS VETERANS HONOR MARCH

September 19, 2026- Deadwood, SD

NEXT ECHO DEADLINE

Spring 2026- Deadline for submissions is 15 February 2026

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



Dear Members,

It has been another productive and successful year for the South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association. In February, we had a valuable opportunity to engage with Senior Leaders during the Legislative Dining Out, where we discussed current membership challenges and requested their support in bolstering our ranks.

While we unfortunately did not have representation at the Legislative Workshop in Washington, D.C. this February, reports from EANGUS indicate it was a highly successful event.

The 66th Annual Enlisted Conference in Sioux Falls, SD, was a resounding success. We were pleased to welcome several new attendees to the conference, and participation in events

was strong. We extend our sincere gratitude to all our vendors for their generous support of the Joint Conference.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce our 67th SDNGEA State Conference, to be held April 17-19, 2026, at the Deadwood Mountain Grand in Deadwood, SD. We encourage you to mark your calendars and join us for this important event.

Logo Update

As many of you know, we recently conducted a member vote to update the SDNGEA logo. The winning design is now available for viewing on our website: <https://sdngea.com/>. We are currently working with a vendor to produce branded apparel and merchandise featuring the new logo, and we anticipate these items will be available soon.

Membership Drive

We have initiated our membership drive, which will conclude on December 30, 2025. The response for the E4 and below free annual membership has been outstanding, with approximately 350 new and renewal memberships processed.

Additionally, the unit competition is currently underway! The top three units with the highest percentage of participation will be awarded a plaque and a cash prize to support their unit morale fund account.

We are also excited to offer a free trip to Daytona, FL, for the National Conference. All new, renewed, and lifetime members will be entered into the drawing for this opportunity.

National Conference & Upcoming Events

The National Conference in Reno, NV, from August 11-14, 2025, at the Grand Sierra Resort was a success. We had 14 people attend with 3 PD's – 2 Air and 1 Army. They were all excited that we even have 2 members taking on additional duties.

The Black Hills Veterans March and Marathon was a resounding success this year, with an overwhelming number of participants contributing to its achievement. The awards ceremony also saw a great turnout, and we look forward to maintaining this positive trend in the years ahead.

Next year marks the 10th anniversary of the 110 Endurance March—let's spread the word and aim for even greater participation!

Thank you for your continued dedication and support. It is through your involvement that we can continue to advocate for the needs of our Soldiers and Airmen. **Please SAVE THE DATE for our 67th State Conference in Deadwood, SD, April 17-19, 2026.** We look forward to a strong turnout from the enlisted ranks.

Sincerely,

SFC Jerico Morgan
SDNGEA President

National Conference Reflections

By SGT Sara Hemmingson

Attending the Professional Development Program at the 2025 EANGUS Conference was one of the most impactful experiences of my career so far. Going into it, I expected a week of sessions and speeches. However, what I walked away with was a renewed sense of purpose, stronger connections with my peers, and practical lessons I can bring back to my unit.

From the very first day, I was pushed out of my comfort zone. The orientation and “speed introductions” forced me to step up, share my story, and really listen to others. I quickly realized this wasn’t a week of sitting back and absorbing information; it was about fully engaging and being present.

The sessions with senior enlisted leaders stood out the most to me. Hearing them share their own struggles, lessons, and philosophies reminded me that leadership isn’t about perfection. Leadership is about growth, humility, and resilience. The Senior Enlisted Panel left me with pages of notes and a clear reminder that no matter how far you go, there is always someone you can learn from.

As a junior enlisted Soldier, it was extremely meaningful to have the opportunity for our concerns to be heard by the highest levels. Too often, we think our voices get lost in the layers of command, but the PD Program gave us a space where our questions, ideas, and challenges weren’t just tolerated but truly welcomed by top officials.

The “speed mentoring” event was another highlight. In just a few minutes with each mentor, I picked up insights that would have taken me years to learn on my own. More than that, it showed me how much senior leaders are invested in helping the next generation succeed. I left those conversations feeling both encouraged and challenged to be that same kind of mentor for others.



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Some of my biggest takeaways came from outside the official agenda. Conversations in the morning coffee line, quick chats between sessions, or late nights playing Cribbage in the hospitality room reminded me how important it is to build relationships beyond our immediate circles. Leadership doesn’t always happen in formal settings; sometimes, it happens in the small, unplanned moments.

As the week wrapped up, I realized that professional development isn’t just about adding skills and experiences to a toolbox. It’s about shifting the way you think about leadership, service, and growth. Being a PD challenged me to be more intentional, not just in my own career, but in how I support and mentor those around me. If there is one comment that really stuck with me, it is: “Your network is your net worth.” The connections we build and the relationships we nurture are just as valuable as the knowledge we gain. These relationships will carry us so much further than we can go on our own, and attending the EANGUS conference was great way to foster these relationships.

Executive Council Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2025 - 1500 CST - Sioux Falls, SD

Downtown Holiday Inn, Sioux Falls, SD

Call to Order **Jerico Morgan**

Pledge of Allegiance **Jerico Morgan**

Introduction of Special Guests **Jerico Morgan**

Past President SGM Josh Wermers

Roll Call **Barb Jensen**

Roll call of Executive Council was conducted with the following members present: Jerico Morgan, Rick VandenHoek, Benjamin Laabs, Derek Jaeger, Mike Rollag, Nate Hendin, Sarah Callies, Will Sutterer, Dave Peck, Charles Butler, Chance Ragsdale, Cindy Erickson, Steven Biteler, Richard Buechler, David Frock, Bob Aiken. Quorum was met.

Meeting Minutes **Jerico Morgan**

The minutes from the last meeting were published in the ECHO. Motion to approve the minutes by Rick VandenHoek. Derek Jaeger seconded. Motion carried.

Deviate from the Agenda **Jerico Morgan**

Josh Wermers made a motion to deviate from the agenda to conduct business. Bob Aiken seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer Update **Mike Rollag**

- Current account balances and CD accounts were discussed.
- New memberships and renewals are what supports us.
- Mike stated that the books are always open for members to view.
- Mike Rollag made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as reported. Dave Frock seconded. Motion carried.

2025 Conference Update Steven Biteler/Charles Butler

Reviewed the agenda for the conference, April 10-12, Downtown Holiday Inn, Sioux Falls, theme: Masters in Driving Excellence (golf)

By-Laws Update **Jerico Morgan**

- By-laws have been retyped.
- Any changes need to be brought to the floor during the business session.
- Grammar changes do not change the intent and can be updated without bringing to the floor.
- Article III, Section 2 and A under Section 2: Update three members from the Air National Guard to five members. (Sarah Callies provided language for this.)
- Under Duties and Responsibilities of the President, change 15 to Publications and Marketing Committee.
- Should the President be responsible for selling 1 advertisement for the ECHO annually? (Sarah Callies confirmed that sponsorships have replaced ads.)
- Secretary: Propose to change disk to electronic
- Membership Chairperson: Update 12.



Executive Council Meeting Minutes Continued

OLD BUSINESS

Website logo voting: Logo 1 has won the popular vote on the website. This logo will be brought to the floor tomorrow for motion and approval.

- Officers are in Spearfish next year
- Planning for Deadwood
- Bob A. will be co-chair, Cindy will help

NEW BUSINESS

Bank Account Discussion Mike Rollag
Proposed diversifying into money market funds.

- 2025 National Conference** **Jerico Morgan**
- Reno, 11-14 August, 10 August is travel day
 - Professional Development

Thank You **Jerico Morgan**

Thank you to the 153 for sponsoring

- Nominations** **Derek Jaeger**
- Can serve two consecutive one-year terms
 - Will be accepting nominations for President, 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, Treasurer
 - Send nominations to Derek

Area V Caucus **Jerico Morgan**

- 25-27 APR, Omaha
- Each state gets 2 votes, an Air vote and an Army vote
- Jerico and Bruce are going

- Sustaining the Association** **Neil Harris**
- What kept the association going back then was dues and money collected at the conference--1SG sat at the end of the pay line and collected their dues
 - Continue to do the hard work to increase membership and seek out sponsorships

2026 Conference **Jerico Morgan**

- Member Relief Fund Proposal** **Mike Rollag**
- Proposing \$500 for occurrence, with board approval
 - Mirror similar structure to We Care for America, a national organization within EANGUS (The We Care for America name is changing.)
 - Mirror We Care for Iowa program

ADJOURNMENT

Derek Jaeger made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Sarah Callies seconded. Motion carried at 1630.



2025 National Conference Reports

By A1C Aiden Petersen

My involvement as a Professional Development attendee to the national conference was such an influential time to reflect on and improve my abilities as an effective asset to my team. These values that came from some of the highest positions of leadership in the National Guard were true and honest towards several situations that you as the reader may find yourself in your career. I'll open with CSM Jesse S. Withers of the Kentucky National Guard's quote "prioritizing everything means prioritizing nothing at all," and I'll leave you a moment to reflect on how that can apply to your current situation and how it also applies to your foreseeable future. With that being said, foresight was a key point in nearly all our meetings at the conference. Unless you've had your blinders on, you know that one of the biggest topics coming down is the growing threat within t Asia. As real as you know that is, it must also be acknowledged that you are more likely to be a greater asset to your team than you previously considered.

If you're a South Dakotan like me, you know it takes great dedication and grit to stay resilient with everything that you may face. Many senior leaders gave us unconcealed notice that these upcoming changes in how we structure our force are going to be vital in how we fight someday very soon. For example, a big change is coming my way as an Avionics Technician for the 114th FW in Sioux Falls. In my specific career field, they are going to merge more than fifty of the aircraft maintenance specialties into just seven core Air Force Specialty Code's (Military Occupational Specialty). This initiative is part of a broader push to streamline training, and theoretically ensures maintainers are highly adaptable in contested environments. More specifically, entry level airman will begin in a "generalist" track which revolves around launching, fueling, and recovering aircraft across multiple airframes. Later, as you reach the grade of E-4, you will branch into one of six specializations that are provided for the airframe. After you reach the grade of E-6, you have two options. One of them is to pursue a leadership track, which is institutional or functional oversight. The other is a technical track, which is a "nose-to-tail cross-functional expert" on your airframe. The plan aims to free up experienced personnel for more complex, technical tasks while simplifying the training pipeline for large cohorts of new maintainers.

The Acting Director of the Air National Guard Major General Duke Pirak spoke specifically on this subject to a question from a concerned airman from the 185th Air Refueling Wing in Sioux City, Iowa. Major General Pirak said it is an "opportune time to adapt and see through the challenges that come with change." It is important to know it was apparent that the Acting Director is optimistic and ready for the change to phase into effect. He wanted the airman in attendance to know that this is not the time for pushback nor pessimism toward the change, as the fight to get to the fight starts with preparedness at home. He also paused and took a moment to acknowledge that traditional guardsmen have only 40 days to prepare until April 2027 is here. It was stated that soldiers and airmen in attendance need to think about the most effective way to prepare their guardsmen for the next fight.

Altogether, the conference was a time to reflect on what we've learned as a team in the last year. It is crucial to learn from our past to have better foresight towards our readiness in any situation going forward. I am so very grateful for this opportunity to listen and witness firsthand how dynamic and active our community really is. The success of the conference for Professional Development will undoubtedly fuel the advancement of our National Guard leaders and members.

By SSgt Theodore Openhowski

Attending the national conference provided a valuable opportunity for professional development and reflection on the National Guard's evolving role. Key takeaways included the importance of prioritization and foresight in light of emerging global threats, particularly in Southeast Asia. A significant shift discussed was the streamlining importance of the cyberspace domain in future conflicts. Senior leaders emphasized the need for embracing these changes and preparing for future challenges with optimism and proactive adaptation, highlighting the limited timeframe for traditional guardsmen to prepare for future challenges. Ultimately, the conference underscored the necessity of learning from the past to enhance readiness and the positive impact of professional development on the National Guard's leadership and members.

Outside of the formal Professional Development activities, I enjoyed the unique opportunity to meet more Air Guard and Army Guard leaders in our state. The networking with not only South Dakota, but many other states, was a new and enjoyable experience for me. It was great to be introduced to the Enlisted Association and learn more about the organization at the national conference. I really appreciated the opportunity to learn and develop as an Airman! I recommend that more members pursue involvement in the Enlisted Association.



2025 Conference Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2025 - 1500 CST - Sioux Falls, SD

Downtown Holiday Inn, Sioux Falls, SD

Call to Order **Jerico Morgan**

Introduction of Special Guests **Jerico Morgan**

MG Mark Morrell, CSM Marcus Stacey,
Recognition of Past Presidents and E-9s

Roll Call **Barb Jensen**

Roll call of Executive Council was conducted with the following members present: Jerico Morgan, Rick VandenHoek, Benjamin Laabs, Derek Jaeger, Mike Rollag, Nate Hedin, Sarah Callies, OG: Mike Rollag by proxy, Will Sutterer, Dave Peck, Chance Ragsdale, Cindy Erickson, Steven Biteler, Chris Achen, Richard Buechler, David Frock, Bob Aiken. Quorum was met.

Deviate from the Agenda **Jerico Morgan**

Josh Wermers made a motion to deviate from the agenda to conduct business. Bruce Anderson seconded. Motion carried.



Meeting Minutes **Jerico Morgan**

The minutes from the last meeting were published in the ECHO and were approved by the Executive Council yesterday. Jerico made a motion to accept the minutes as reported. Rick VandenHoek seconded. Motion carried.

Special Address **MG Morrell and CSM Stacey**

- CSM Stacey encouraged training, leadership, and flexibility.
- MG Morrell encouraged demonstrating value of the organization to impact legislation and participation in membership, and he also encouraged us to tell our stories.

Insurance Report **SGM Josh Schaefer**

- Gave overview of state-sponsored life insurance program; more detail can be found in the conference booklet.
- There is an insurance board of 5 people.
- The report will be filed as presented.

Museum Report **Sonja Johnson & Corey Christianson**

- Will have designated program and gallery space.
- Seven schools (150 kids) have visited the museum, three more schools scheduled this year.
- The report will be filed as presented.

Treasurer's Report **Mike Rollag**

- Current account balances, CD accounts, and insurance money was discussed.
- Mike stated that the books are always open for members to view.
- Mike Rollag made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as reported. Neil Harris seconded. Motion carried.

2025 Conference Update **Steven Biteler**

- 0800 Breakfast buffet for 70 people
- 1700 social tonight, dinner, speaker

2025 Conference Meeting Minutes Continued

Preliminary Resolutions

Josh Wermers

Dean & Edna Steinberg

- GI Bill—why do we need a 4 year contract to be able to transfer benefits?
- Tricare benefits concurrent with 60th birthday
- Wi-Fi in all South Dakota armories
- Preliminary report, does not need approval at this point.

BreAnna Paul

First Command

Makenna Jacobson-Officer

Ashton Squires-Enlisted

Audit Committee Report

David Frock

- Mike Rollag and Northern Hills provided reports to the committee.
- The committee feels funds and reports have been handled appropriately.
- Hiring Northern Hills is well-worth what is paid for their service.
- Engagement of treasurer and committee members will improve.
- Report will be filed as presented.

Preliminary Nominations Report

Derek Jaeger

- Can serve two consecutive one-year terms
- Will be accepting nominations for President, 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, Treasurer
- Current nominations:
 - President: Jerico Morgan
 - 1st Vice: Ben Laabs
 - 2nd Vice: Richard Buechler
 - Treasurer: Mike Rollag

Publications Committee Report

Sarah Callies

- Sarah Callies is the main point of contact for articles and photos.

Scholarships Report

Ben Laabs

20 applications, more applicants than in previous years

MG Duane L “Duke Corning”

Eva Jensen

Jacquelin Kreber

CW2 Darren R Mallow

Samuel Gigov

USAA

Lily Gruber

NGASD

Reagen Morrell

Avreigh Long

Adam Stimes

Hailey Oswald



2025 Conference Meeting Minutes Continued

- Sarah and Barb Jensen made updates to the website.
- Sarah invited others to join the committee and share their talents.
- Report will be filed as presented.

Investment Committee Report **Will Sutterer**

- Strategy of managing our accounts was shared.
- Report will be filed as presented.

Proxy Discussion **Derek Jaeger**

Derek needs letters of proxy before voting tomorrow, needs them tomorrow by morning break.

20-Year Certificate/Coin Recipients **Jerico Morgan**

Jerico would like names of recipients who will be here tomorrow.

RECESS - Jerico called the meeting to recess at 1630. 0900 CST, 12 April 2025

Downtown Holiday Inn, Sioux Falls, SD

Call to Order **Jerico Morgan**

Budget Review **Jerico Morgan**



Josh Wermers approved the proposed budget, Bruce Anderson seconded. Motion carried. Budget will be filed.

State Sponsorship Committee Review **Nate Hedin**

- Association sponsored SSG Jeremy Jungeman, wife Ashley
- SFC Richard Buechler, 153rd, sponsored Jason Malecik
- President sponsored SSG Sonja Johnson
- Thanked CSM Stacey for encouraging the attendance of this conference.
- Report filed as presented.

Volunteerism Appreciation **Jerico Morgan**

Thank you to Josh Wermers

Dean & Edna Steinberg Scholarship **Edna Steinberg**

Edna explained the scholarship that she and her family is providing to the next generation.

Museum Appreciation **Jerico Morgan**

Jerico presented a \$500 check to Sonja Johnson

Appreciation **Jerico Morgan**

- Jerico presented checks to Neil Harris for VA and Cemetery flags
- Neil encouraged visitors to the Veterans Cemetery on Memorial Day.

Old Business

Motion to print Echo to members **Josh Wermers**

- Ben Lamps proposed that we print the Spring

2025 Conference Meeting Minutes Continued

edition for members and members of Congress to help communicate scholarship winners and other information.

- 1500 copies would be enough
- Barb Jensen proposed an incentive in the printed version to help track the use of printing.
- Josh Wermers made a motion to print the summer edition at a cost of up to \$2000. Cathy Anderson seconded. Motion carried.

Awards Committee Report Derek Jaeger

- Derek presented the committee’s report by Rick VandenHoek.
- There are other awards available, and the awards SOP will be revamped.
- Josh ___ suggested a fillable nomination form.
- Jerico encouraged everyone’s input and help.
- Report will be filed as presented.



Membership Committee Report Derek Jaeger

- Derek presented the committee’s report.
- As of 10 April 2025, membership is 1107.
- Addressed downward trend. Figuring out what motivates Soldiers and

Airmen—the value and the why—will impact our numbers.

- Possibly have a table at SRPs to share information.
- Set up Venmo for dues instead of paying through the website.
- Incentivizing lifetime membership: those who sign up by date TBD could be entered into drawing to go to National Convention in Daytona.
- The number of members we get by date TBD determines the number of people that can vote at the National Conference.
- Website is not user-friendly.
- Need to go through membership list, update ranks and names, identify retirees.
- Almost 65% of our membership consists of lifetime members.
- Report will be filed as presented.

Proxy Discussion Derek Jaeger

Derek reminded to turn in proxy letters.

Future Enlisted Conferences Jerico Morgan

- 2026: Deadwood
 - Josh Wermers suggested we put out the schedule for 3 years
- 2027: Watertown
- 2028: Rapid City, co-located
- 2029: Pierre
- Report will be filed as presented.

Young Heroes Committee Kelsey Lambert

- For kids ages 0-18 with life-threatening injury
- Kids do not need to be a military dependent
- Nominations come from us—it’s an opportunity to be able to give back

2025 Conference Meeting Minutes Continued

- Certificates and coins are presented. Units can donate other items.
- Presented in an official military ceremony.
- Please let Jerico know if you would like to help/lead this committee.
- Report will be filed as presented.
- Senator Kim (NJ) reintroducing Healthcare for Our Our Troops Act (White Paper issue on EANGUS website)
- Senator Kelly (AZ)
- Major Richard Star Act (White Paper issue on EANGUS website)
- Report will be filed as presented.

BREAK

Jerico announced a 15-minute break at 1000.

Vendor Presentations Conference Vendors

Navy Federal Credit Union, Sponsor

VA Hospital Outreach

Keystone Mortgage, Sponsor

American Legion

American Military University

Bulldog Financial

Dave and Co. Real Estate Team/Homes for Heroes

First Command Financial Services, Ashton Squire and McKenna Jacobsen are scholarship winners

USAA

Black Hills Veterans March, 17-20 September 2025

Warriors Never Give Up

Legislative Committee Report Josh Wermers

- Bill to require the Secretary of the Air Force to establish a permanent program to provide tuition assistance to members of the Air National Guard.
- HR 1423 & S 649 introduces. Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act (White Paper issue on EANGUS website)
- HR 1851 & S 873 introduced. Fighter Force Preservation and Recapitalization Act (White Paper issue on EANGUS website)

Resolutions Committee Report Josh Wermers

- Comparable benefits to active duty for service members ordered to State Active Duty outside of South Dakota
- Thank you to the hosts of this conference
- Report will be filed as presented.

Voting Strength

Derek Jaeger

73 votes in the body, 20 in the Council

20-Year Awards

CSM Marcus Stacey

Steve Sprecher

Derek Jaeger



2025 Conference Meeting Minutes Continued



President's Report

Jerico Morgan

- Voted in as president last April, learning lots and still has lots to learn.
- Appreciates the guidance shared by the team.
- Will continue to work on membership, and we need everyone's support.
- Will continue to share information via email.
- The 153rd has been phenomenal with the support they've provided.
- Thank you to Steve Biteler and Charles Butler for putting on a great conference.
- Jerico Morgan made a motion to accept the President's Report as reported. Sarah Callies seconded. Motion carried.

Resolutions

Josh Wermers

- 2025-01: Motion carried
- 2025-02: Motion carried
- 2025-03: Motion carried
- 2025-04: Motion carried
- 2025-05: Motion carried
- 2025-06: Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS

Donation for SDNG Museum

Nate Hedin

Nate Hedin made a motion to donate \$10,000 to the SDNG Museum to help with their expansion, Cathy Anderson seconded. Motion carried.

Grant Proposal

Josh Wermers

- Josh Wermers made a motion for a one-time \$30,000 grant to pay for all national dues for current enlisted members of the SDNG, Army and Air, for 2026. Matt Thorn seconded.
- Will benefit us because we will have voting power at National, we will have their contact information, and we'll have the opportunity to follow up after that first year.
- Motion to call to question. Motion carried.



2025 Conference Meeting Minutes Continued

- 21 for to 9 against, 2/3 passed.

State Association Sponsorship Derek Jaeger

Challenge battalion and squadron reps to sponsor one person for the 2026 State Conference. Seconded by Josh Wermers. Motion carried.

SDNGEA Logo Jerico Morgan

- Three logos were put on the website for voting.
- The top vote recipient is Logo 1.
- Nancy Asland made a motion to accept Logo 1 as the new SDNGEA logo. Bob Aiken seconded. Motion carried.

SDNG Museum Sonja Johnson

Sonja Johnson made a motion to have anything with the old logo donated to the museum. Nate Hedin seconded. Motion carried.

SDNGEA Logo Change Nate Hedin

Nate made a motion to spend up to \$5K to facilitate logo change. Mike Rollag seconded. Motion carried.

Presentations

Jerico Morgan

- Thank you to TJ Pierce for coming from Michigan to join us.
- Presented \$10,000 check to Sonja Johnson and Corey Christianson for SDNG Museum

Final Nominations Report and Voting Derek Jaeger

- Can serve two consecutive one-year terms
- Will be accepting nominations for President, 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, Treasurer
- Current nominations:
 - President: Jerico Morgan
 - 1st Vice: Ben Laabs
 - 2nd Vice: Richard Buechler
 - Treasurer: Mike Rollag

President: Sarah Callies, Bob Aiken ceasing nominations. Motion carried.

1st Vice President: Josh Wermers made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Ben Laabs, David Frock seconded. Motion carried.

2nd Vice President: Nate Hedin made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Richard Buechler, Bob Aiken seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer: Sarah Callies made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Mike Rolag. Dave Peck seconded. Motion carried.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

ADJOURNMENT

Josh Wermers made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Sarah Callies seconded. Motion carried at 1210.



September Executive Council Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2025 - 1500 MST
VFW, Deadwood, SD

Call to Order **Jerico Morgan**

Pledge of Allegiance **Jerico Morgan**

Introduction of Special Guests **Jerico Morgan**

Past President Nate Hedin, Past President Cathy Anderson, and Past President Josh Wermers, Senior Enlisted Leader CSM Marcus Stacey

Roll Call **Courtney Tyrrell**

Roll call of Executive Council was conducted with the following members present: Jerico Morgan, Ben Labbs, Cathy Anderson, Cathy Anderson proxy for Derek Jaeger, Courtney Tyrrell, David Sullivan, David Sullivan proxy for Michael Rollag, Lance Gushwa, Aiden Peterson, Aiden Peterson proxy for Sarah Callies, Marcus Stacey proxy for James Long, Ben Labbs proxy for David Johnson, William Sutterer, William Sutterer proxy for David Peck and Alec Sosa, Ben Laabs proxy for Steve Bietler, Chris Achen, Josh Wermers, David Frock, Ben Laabs proxy for Richard Buechler, Ben Laabs proxy for Tiffany Nolz, Bob Aiken, Marcus Stacey. Quorum was met. 11 present. 10 proxy. 3 vacant. 4 absent. 26 voting members.

Roberts Rules **Nate Hedin**

Proxy debated whether the proxy's actually count towards quorum.

Meeting Minutes **Courtney Tyrrell**

- The minutes from the last meeting were emailed to the Executive Council.
- Courtney Tyrrell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Bruce Anderson seconded. Motion carried.

Treasure Update David Sullivan (proxy Mike Rollag)

- Accounting service has continued to serve us well and has eliminated all of our late tax issues.

- Current account balances discussed. Report attached.
- David Sullivan made a motion to accept Treasure Report as presented, Chris Achen Seconded. Motion carried.

Membership **Jerico Morgan**

- Email was sent to all RNCO's about a free membership for E-4 and below and they have until 31 Oct to finish sending the membership forms in.
- After all of the E-4 free memberships are input there will be a competition between the units for the most renewals or new memberships. There will be a plaque and a drawing for a free trip to Daytona for the next National Conference.
- Website needs updated, specifically the units on the membership page. Barb Jensen has historically helped with this but she is deployed.
- Filed as presented.

Scholarship Report **Ben Laabs**

No changes currently. All have been paid out. Report attached and filed as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

National Conference Review **Jerico Morgan**

- 14 attended in August in Reno, NV. We had 7 delegates and 3 Professional Development in attendance. There was a lot of discussion about future locations. Daytona next year, California in 2027 and the rest are not locked in. With our membership drive, we should have more delegate badges next year.
- David Sullivan went to Resolutions Committee. He printed the info shared it with his wing and many were very enlightened. He made a 13 slide presentation that he will share with the EC so that everyone can share the good word. There could be a disconnect between what we are accomplishing and what the enlisted of SDNG think we do.
- Stripe charges us fees when we have online payments. Zeffy is an alternate vendor that does not charge fees. Will be moving that direction in the future.

September Executive Council Meeting Minutes Cont.

NEW BUSINESS

New Plaques for Executive Council Jerico Morgan

Donated by Jerico and her husband. Each EC position will have one so that attendees at the state conferences can easily identify EC.

Executive Council Changes Jerico Morgan

Chis Achen will take FW. Aiden Peterson Jr En Air.

NG Museum Update Jerico Morgan

SDNGEA donated \$10,000 to the National Guard Museum in Pierre, SD and we received a sincere thank you from Sonja Johnson.

Echo Update Jerico Morgan

- The ECHO will still be emailed to all members. There will also be printed copied presented to each unit in hopes to get more reach with the publication.
- Bruce Anderson has an idea for articles in the ECHO based on the EANGUS Past Presidents' banners and the information on them.

Website / Membership Idea David Sullivan

- Equity towards Life Membership based on previous Annual Dues Payments. Example: An E-4 Enlisted Member has paid annual dues for 10 year (\$4 to state, \$11 to EANGUS) so we offer them \$40 off their life membership and keep increasing the equity as they pay annual membership.
- General discussion was positive and a by laws change will be presented to the EC in Feb so that it can be present
- Retired pay COLA is not paid their first year – I will talk to Mr. Adel to get White Papers that were written by a student in War College.

2026 Conference Updates Jerico Morgan

- 17-19 April Deadwood Mountain Grand. SDNGEA Room Block (50) will end on 17 March. Rodeo theme.
- Thanks to Bob Aiken and Jerico Morgan.

- A request was made for some of the EANGUS Staff to attend our conference.
- SEL will have 1SG of the year interviews at the conference.
- If you have any vendor ideas for the conference please let Jerico know.
- Star Quilt was donated to be raffled off at the conference, more info to follow.

Sponsorship

Nate Hedin

- Please put out feelers for individuals who would be good candidates to be sponsored to attend the 2026 State Conference. Let Nate know if you have any names.
- Sponsorship will include registration cost and 2 nights motel room (dual occupancy).

Future State Conferences and EC Meetings

Jerico Morgan

5 Feb 2026 - Military Dining Out and EC Meeting - Pierre

17-19 April 2026 - SDNGEA Conference - Deadwood

19 Sep 2026 – EC Meeting - Deadwood

Future Area V Caucus

Jerico Morgan

Fargo, ND - June 2026

Future National Conferences

Jerico Morgan

30 July – 4 Aug 2026 – Daytona, FL

Start thinking about 4 PD spots

ADJOURNMENT

Courtney Tyrrell made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Bob Aiken seconded. Motion carried at 1635.

The date and time of the next Executive Council Meeting will be in Pierre, SD on 5 Feb 2026 at 1400 hours.