

**Executive Council Meeting  
South Dakota Enlisted Association  
25 Sep 02  
Cedar Shores Resort  
Chamberlain, SD**

President Craig Towns called the meeting to order at 1130 Hrs.

Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

Roll call taken with a quorum present.

Introduction of EANGUS Area 5 Director Robert Aiken.

Minutes of the April meeting were approved as written in the ECHO.

Bruce Anderson gave treasurer's report. Accepted.

Committee Members at Large:

President Towns gave the Legislative committee report for Don List. For Personnel Resolutions, issues of priority included BAA (02-07), matching contributions for TSP for the Selected Reserve (02-04), the honoring by Congress of all enlisted contracts and back pay of accrued interest on student loans (02-01), changes to SSCRA to include members of the National Guard called to active duty under Title 32 (02-08), weapons of mass destruction civil support teams retention and special duty assignment pay (02-12), relating to equitable personnel benefits (02-10), inequity in jump-pay status (02-09), and all new army recruits now going through Advanced Individual Training (AIT) as medics will be required to pass National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) testing (02-18). For Veterans Retire, issues of priority included retirement eligibility to Reserve Component Members (02-02), immediate retirement benefits of medical/dental for traditional members of the National Guard (02-16), and appropriation of full funding for disabled military retiree pay in fiscal year 2003 budget (02-05). For Employee Support, issues of priority included tax credits for employers of the National Guard members and self-employed members (02-05). For Full Time Personnel, issues of priority included full implementation of 1990 Federal Pay Comparability Act (FEPCA) (02-13), and use of 44 day leave program during periods of declared national emergencies (02-17). For Education and Equipment, issues of priority included distributive training technology project (02-14), and the Reserve Component Automation System (02-15). For National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance, issues of priority included that it be strongly recommended by the body that both the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance be performed and recited at all official enlisted Army functions (the original Resolution did not contain the word Air) (02-20).

Gary Kafka spoke of the kick-off of the Annual Membership drive. This year, the hope is to get the majority of memberships in by December. Also, for those members who were promoted to E-5 or E-6 in calendar year 2002 will only need to pay \$5.00 for his/her dues for calendar year 2003. USAA will be making up the difference.

Ken Shultz gave the athletics report. He discussed the Softball Tourney held on 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep at Yale, SD. The bowling tourney was cancelled due to lack of interest. Bike ride went very well this year with no incidents. Ken said it's time to begin thinking about next year's activities and get them planned. If any unit is interested in hosting an event let Ken know. Report accepted.

Publications report by Kim Chase states that normally the ECHO is at 24 pages per issue and occasionally reaches 32 pages per issue. Recently the ECHO has been staying at 32 pages per issue. So, cost-cutting ideas need to be discussed whether we keep the issues down to 24 pages or find other ways to make up the difference in publication costs. One idea brought up was to recruit Associate Members, business members in the communities that were interested in receiving the ECHO. Dollar amounts were discussed, but it was

determined more research would need to be conducted before deciding on the issue. It was suggested that a page in the ECHO would be reserved for advertising to Associate Membership. Ben Lamp and Scott Schmidt will be working on creating a committee for Associate Memberships. Also, the ECHO is still looking for new cover suggestions. The ECHO will be published in late October and received 15 November. Report accepted.

President Towns gave a short report on Young Heroes program and upcoming presentations. He suggested getting the word out if you have any people you would like to nominate.

#### Old Business:

President Towns gave a report on the Legislative issues. It is an election year, a great time to push our issues both on state and federal levels.

The committee is really pushing for the completion of the South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association Web site.

Wayne Fokken gave an update on the Junior Enlisted Council for the Air-side of the house. In July, the elections were held for the Executive Council. Each month, the meeting participation is increasing. Order of business now is getting representatives from all the different squadrons. The President, Vice-President and Secretary were able to attend the National Conference in Niagara Falls, NY. At this point, there is no JEC on the Army side.

2003 Conference Update: the program will be done the same as in the past.

#### New Business:

Area 5 Caucus will be in Sioux Falls, 16-17 May 2003. It will be held at the Holiday Inn Civic Center in downtown. POC is Ed Revel.

It was presented to have the presidents from the Army and Air Junior Enlisted councils be voting members on the Executive Council. Wayne Fokken will have a draft for the by-laws by 15 October 2002.

Bob Aiken spoke of the National Conference workshop 1-3 November. He was looking for representatives to participate.

One huge money-maker brought up was a "Memorial Death March" as done in New Mexico. Tracy Settle is familiar with the activity and is presenting it to the officer side of the house. It was suggested that this could be put on by both the officers and enlisted personnel.

Next meeting will be at the Legislative Dining Out in Pierre on Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> of Feb. 2002 at the Ramkota Inn. Encourage everyone to attend if possible.

Ed Revell moved to adjourn, second by Bruce Anderson. Meeting adjourned.