

The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Enlisted Conference was called to order at 0830 hrs on 20 April 2007 at the Crossroads Convention Center and Hotel in Huron, SD. The colors were posted and the Star Spangled Banner was played by the Huron Band. The invocation was given by Chaplain COL Joe Holzhauser. A memorial service was held to honor our fallen Airmen and Soldiers.

President Fokken gave his welcome speech and special guests were introduced: Tim Wolf – Area V Director, State CSM Michael Bekaert, State CCMSGT Lane Munger, Wing CCMSGT James Welch, The Adjutant General – MG Michael Gorman, & Nancy Volmer – Auxiliary President. The Retirees & Auxiliary members were recognized for all they do.

Special Guest Holly Lempke from the Crossroads was recognized and welcomed everyone to Huron for the Conference.

A letter from the mayor of Huron, Mary Ann Pierson was read by President Wayne Fokken. She welcomed everyone to Huron also.

The Adjutant General, MG Michael Gorman addressed the body. The General, CSM Bekaert, CCMSGT Munger personally thanked everyone who were 1<sup>st</sup> time attendees. They also presented the 20 year certificates to those enlisted members that were present and had completed 20 years.

Mava King from Rep Herseth Sandlin's office was present to address the body.

CSM Bekaert addressed the body and thanked all the 1<sup>st</sup> time attendees and those that sponsored many of those enlisted members. CCMSGT Munger addressed the body and thanked the General & other guests that took time out of their day to come speak to our organization.

Amy Bilka from Senator Tim Johnson's office was present to address the body.

Bob Kusser, National Guard Museum Director, was also present and recognized.

Robert Spencer and John Ball, previous EANGUS National Presidents, were also present.

Myrtle Holmen was present and made a special presentation on Bill's behalf. She donated \$150 to the association in honor of Bill Holmen.

Special guest, COL Tim Reisch, VP of Officers Association addressed the body.

Auxiliary President, Nancy Volmer also addressed the body and encouraged associate memberships.

A break was taken at 1015.

Russ Dramstead, the State Legion vice Commander and retiree of the National Guard addressed the body about the importance of being involved in Veteran organizations.

Al House made a motion and Bjorn Henstein seconded the motion to deviate from the agenda.

The BHVHM committee addressed the body. They explained that they need volunteers and marchers to participate this year. You can register online at [www.sdngca.com](http://www.sdngca.com) and follow the link on the homepage to the March. 98 marchers participated this past year with 94 finishing the 26.2 mile march. Biggest needs for this next year are medic support and bike riders. The report was accepted as presented.

Senator John Thune was present and addressed the body. Senator Thune spoke about what his future goals and what he thinks the challenges are for the military in the coming years.

President Fokken turned the gavel over to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Gary Kafka so he could speak at the auxiliary meeting and present them with a check for \$300.00 to help support their initiatives.

Ed Revell made a motion and Neil Harris seconded that motion to accept the minutes as published in the Summer 2006 ECHO from last years annual conference.

The Insurance update was given by SGT Major Gordy Kotab. The benefit of this program is that our association receives returns back from this fund. Last year we received \$5000. Every member is covered for \$1000 and every new member is covered for \$10,000 free for their first year. Jim McEwen needs to talk to every unit at least every 18 months to make sure that everyone receives this benefit that wants it. They would like to put an Ad in the ECHO. They also need trustees to be on the insurance board. This is a five year commitment and they need names if anyone is interested.

The Gavel was turned back over to President Fokken.

Nancy Volmer came forward to explain about their fund raising raffle.

Bob Kusser presented the National Guard Museum report to the body. He expressed that for all units retiring; all historical items can be given to the museum.

Area V Director, Tim Wolf, addressed the body. Membership was the big push at the National Conference last year.

The goal was to hit 60,000 members. Doug Simpson was selected to complete Marilyn Gabbert's term. For the National Conference, Area V is assigned to the Marriot. Belva Haan is our POC at the Marriot for room reservations.

The Area V Caucus is May 18-20<sup>th</sup> in Des Moines, IA.

Bruce Anderson gave the State Conference sponsorship report – it was accepted as presented. Gerald Arntz gave the membership report. Total for this year was 3024, up 162 from last year. There were 155 USAA sponsorships, 7 life memberships and 39 units in the 100% club. Report was accepted as presented.

The Audit report was given by Roger Niederwerder. Big issues were tracking of deposits made by the BHVHM, separating annual vs. lifetime memberships, and getting a new laptop and accounting software in the near future.

The Treasurer's report was given by Nancy Ausland. Our fiscal year is 1 May through 30 April. Ed Revell made a motion and Bjorn Henstein seconded the motion to accept the report as given. Motion carried.

John Mimmack made a presentation on the cities for future conferences. They want every unit to send any videos or pictures to Shelly Reeder. They will be putting together some presentations for the conference next year. The 2009 conference is being bid by Pierre.

Administration announcements were made and the meeting was recessed for the day.

The conference reconvened at 0830 hours on 21 April 07. The unit 100% awards were given out. There were also a few 20 year certificates given for those present. The Sergeant at Arms, Color Guards, and Escorts received the first Joint CCMSGT and CSM Coin of Excellence.

Dale Greenfield gave the Credentials Committee report.

John Mimmack gave the Time and Place Committee Report. There is 1 bid for 2009 conference – Pierre for 24-25 April 09.

John Mimmack had no changes for the Position Evaluation Report. The Ways & Means Committee had nothing to report.

Constitution and By-laws report was given by Will Hangman. There were administration changes to add Committee Members at Large for five areas instead of four, one for Air Guard and four for the Army Guard.

Mike Kline, Executive Director of EANGUS, sent a message to the body that Bruce Anderson presented.

Nancy Ausland gave the Budget Committee Report. They removed the athletics line item and scholarship line for Duke Corning since they have a fund to pay for those.

Bruce Anderson presented the Resolution Committee Report. Discussion was conducted about the different resolutions relating to different early retirement issues. Point of order was made by Ben Lamp that the report needs to be accepted first then we vote on individual resolutions. Report was accepted as given.

Resolutions:

07-01 – relating to amending title 10, USC which would reduce the age at which a reserve component member may begin receiving retirement pay. Motion to accept by Pete Scholten and seconded by Al House. Resolution passed.

07-02 – relating to the equitable treatment of resolutions all National Guard retirees personnel/ benefits and veterans'. There was some discussion about Title 32 vs. Title 10 status. A Motion to accept by Pete Scholten and seconded by Don List. Resolution passed.

07-03 – relating to Tri-Care for members of the National Guard and reserve component. Motion to accept by Neil Harris and seconded by Ray Herron. Resolution passed.

07-04 – relating to empowerment of the National Guard. Motion to accept by Don Stewart and seconded by Pete Scholten. Resolution passed.

07-05 – relating to family service member's life insurance. Motion to accept by Cathy Anderson and seconded by Roger Hansen. Resolution passed.

07-06 – relating to tax credit for employers. Motion to accept by Pete Scholten and seconded by Al House. Resolution passed.

A round of applause was given to the Huron unit for putting on a great conference.

Young Heroes Report was given by Cathy Anderson. She stated that everyone needs to get involved with at least one presentation.

Don List gave the Legislative Report. Everything is available on the website or contact Don for the report.

The Athletic Committee Report was given by Bjorn Henstein. There was a proposal put together by the Air Guard to host the Motorcycle Rally this summer in the hills.

The Publications Report was given by Lisa Bambas. They plan to change the spring issue to the winter issue and the article deadline will go from Feb 15<sup>th</sup> to Jan 15<sup>th</sup> with the publication date from March 15<sup>th</sup> to Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. This will give everyone a chance to register for the conference.

One more 20 year certificate was presented and a 15 minute break was taken.  
The host unit held a drawing for \$1000. Terry Stokes won.

New committees were the Web, BHVHM, and Investments.

The Web Report was given by Jenny Butler. Everyone needs to go online and look at the website and give feedback as to what you want to see on it; especially the Retirees and auxiliary links.

The Investment Committee Report was given by Roger Hansen. They invested \$7000 at 5.2% in a 12 month CD. They will continue to monitor this CD and the need for any other investments.

The Jr. Enlisted Report was given by Pat Jones and Javier Castro. Don Stewart made a motion to accept the report as presented and Bob Siedslaw seconded the motion. Report was accepted as presented.

The following guests were recognized: Senior NCO Airman of the Year - SMSgt Kevin Uthe, NCO Airman of the Year - SSgt Javier Castro, Airman of the Year - SRA Shogoofa Kabiri, Army NCO of the Year – SGT Sandy Trohkimoinen, & Army Soldier of the Year – SPC Frank Mauricio  
The podium was relinquished to the 1<sup>st</sup> vice.

The Presidents Report was given by Wayne Fokken.  
Podium was turned back over to Wayne Fokken.  
Ben Lamp presented the nominations report.

#### OLD BUSINESS

National Guard license plates – we are getting new plates in 2008  
Color guard came forward to accept their Joint Coins from the CSM and CCMSGT.

#### NEW BUSINESS

John Mimmack addressed the memorial display. He made a motion that we have to put aside items or money to get all the items for the memorial display and put them in the box so that the SDNGEA has their own items. The weapon can be sub hand receipted from the RTI to the SDNGEA. Pete Scholten made a motion to use the \$150 donated from Myrtle Holmen to be used for this if needed. Ed Revell seconded this and motion carried.

John Mimmack addressed the issue of adding to the policies and SOP's to include the Enlisted and Officers Conferences to be co-located every 3 years starting in 2010. Co-located is not joint business session, just sharing facilities and costs of facilities and events. The only concern would be having it in Rapid City area in 2010 just 2 years after Spearfish. There was a lot of discussion about this.

He also addressed that starting in 2010 that we identify four communities, i.e. Black Hills, Sioux Falls, Brookings and Pierre; alternating East to West river each year in order to have a schedule of where the conference will be held for continuity. The body has approved a co-located conference. More information will be published as it becomes available.

The Mallow Scholarship did not select an officers' family member this year since there was not one that applied for the scholarship. There was a suggestion that if the Mallow family didn't want to pay it to an enlisted member that the association pays for it out of our pocket. This was voted down.

Ben Lamp discussed a lot of the benefits that the guard members get in the State but it's hard to find a complete list. He suggested that someone needs to capture all these benefits and publish them. It was recommended that a committee be put together to gather these benefits and get them distributed to everyone.

Ben Lamp also discussed that transformation may cause a drop in membership due to confusion of what command they belong to and fall under. He recommended giving the Executive Council the authority to get new signs made as the units become clearer and also to appoint new people in the new units as representatives until the next conference. Administrative announcements were made.

Nominations and Elections of Officers were conducted.

President – Wayne Fokken was nominated. Jim Morgan made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Wayne Fokken. Bob Siedslaw seconded the motion.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice – Gary Kafka was nominated. Ed Revell made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Gary Kafka. Don Stewart 2<sup>nd</sup>.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice – John Mimmack was nominated. Neil Harris made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for John Mimmack. Ed Revell 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Treasurer – Nancy Ausland was nominated. Ed Revell made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Nancy Ausland. Gordy Kotab 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Committee Members at Large – Will Hangman, Dallas Vallery, Scott Schmitt, Josh Wermers & Tom Martin were nominated. Pete Scholten made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for those listed. Roger Hansen 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Installation of the Officers was conducted.

The colors were retired. All of the Huron unit members that put the conference on were brought forward and recognized.

Meeting was adjourned at 1155 hours.