

SDNGEA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING 23 APRIL 2009

Executive Council Meeting Minutes can be found at the website: www.sdngsea.com

SDNEGEA 50th ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE MINUTES

Past to Present, Serving our Future

Secretary - Adam Herrmann

Friday, April 24, 2009

12:30 p.m.

50th Annual Conference called to order by President Kafka.

Colors were posted by the Air and Army National Guard Color Guard.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Invocation was given by Auxiliary's Sherry Blackwell.

A memorial service in honor of our fallen Soldiers and Airmen was conducted by Bob Funk.

President gave opening remarks and welcomed everyone to the conference. Highlighted accomplishments over the past year, introduced special guests and stated his intention on running for a second term as the Associations President.

Distinguished guest, The Adjutant General of South Dakota, MG Doohen gave welcoming remarks and thanked everyone present for attending the conference—stressed the importance of coming to these events, participating and getting involved. Thanked Junior Enlisted Soldiers and Airmen for attending these types of events. This is where you can make friends with fellow Soldiers and Airmen. Keep working on legislation for Soldiers and Airmen, keep events fun, keep them involved so they want to come back. Also thanked the Retirees for their continued support and participating in these conferences.

Briefed on updates on Air and Army Guard in last year; deployments - "hats off to units deploying because of what's being asked of our organizations". Times have changed and we need to get Soldiers the best training possible. Gave updates on armories throughout the state. Army overall is 8000 Soldiers over strength, we currently have 90 to 100 Soldiers in South Dakota over strength. Highlighted Year of the NCO program, acknowledged importance to recognize the NCOs. Air Guard wanting to upgrade to A35's, F16's getting old. Air Guard strength at about 1100 Airmen. Air Guard recruiting and retention up to 99% of recruiting goal. Acknowledged the 350 Soldiers asked to help with flooding mission in Fargo, ND. Governor and TAG from ND were very pleased with SD response to flood. In closing thanks for service to state and nation, have fun at the conference. President Kafka thanked MG Doohen for his remarks and taking time out of his schedule to be at our conference. President Kafka presented him with SDNGEA 50th Annual Conference commemorative coin.

Distinguished guest Mr. Rick Murray, General Manager Best Western Ramkota River Center, Pierre, SD. Thanked everyone for their service, welcome to Pierre, go fishing along with many other things to do in the community. President Kafka thanked Mr. Murray for hosting this year's conference and presented him with SDNGEA 50th Annual Conference commemorative coin.

Distinguished Mayor Laurie Gill, made remarks welcomed body to capital city. Commented on military landmarks in city of Pierre, stop by Capital Lake to view the many bronze statues along with others throughout the city. Three Napoleon Cannons are

placed throughout the city which was used by NG troops in the Civil War. Encouraged attendees to check out the walking/bike path that will take you from the Ramkota River Center all the way to Farm Island. Stop and take note of the bridge installed over the creek on the way to Farm Island name after Linus Storms, called "Storms Crossing" honoring him and out National Guard Troops. "I am proud of all the guard units throughout state". Enjoy your stay in Pierre and go fishing. Thanked everybody for their service. President Kafka thanked Mayor Gill and presented her with SDNGEA 50th Annual Conference commemorative coin.

Distinguished guest Gary Knutson, past State VFW Commander, thanked attendees, Soldiers and Airmen for their service. Highlighted the following; 1931 SD was chartered as first VFW, there are 12,172 veterans in SD as of March 2009. Acknowledged safety program and free accidental insurance policy, Goals - wellbeing of military veterans and family "remember the dead by helping the living".

Encourage participation in all Veteran's organizations whether it be American Legion, VFW etc. . . President Kafka thanked Mr. Knutson for his remarks and presented him with SDNGEA 50th Annual Conference commemorative coin.

SCSM Michael Bekaert remarks, thanked President Kafka and senior leadership for organization of the conference. Continue to support the Auxiliary by being an Associate Member, this helps support their scholarships encouraged spouses for continuing membership in the Auxiliary. Stressed maximum participation for Junior Enlisted for membership and keep them involved. Thanked all EPs for being here, thanked the senior Army and Air NCO's along with the retirees for their continued support and mentorship. Attended NGB leadership meeting in Kentucky, highlighting SSG Ken PT exercise between Air and Army and school houses having issues with Soldiers and Airmen's with PT. CSMAC-advisory council, 7 regions meet quarterly to discuss issues, looking at stipend for medical community for training. National Conference in Rochester, MN in August encouraged maximum participation. Thanked 1st timers for attending conferences, encouraged them to go back to units and tell good things about how conference went. Highlighted GI Bill, Tricare premiums and trying to keep them at current rate vs. increases.

Acknowledge changes in ranks from top down from NGB and in SD to include CSM Zimmerman will be new State Command Sergeant on 3 May 2009. Remarkd on changes on Camp Rapid, AGO building now vacant and moved into Duke Coming Armory, AGO building scheduled for demolition. Construction of new building starting this summer along with Building 802 as the tin huts and other brick buildings will also be removed on Camp Rapid. New front gate now open. Commented on 2009 as being the Year of the NCO recognizing NCOs, played Year of the NCO video. Closing remarks; remember deployed Soldiers and those to deploy in the near future, keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Introduced new incoming SCSM Larry Zimmerman and wife Dyann.

Incoming State CSM Zimmerman remarks on three points; watch your people deploying and re-deploying, Suicide prevention...one lost soldier is one too many. Sexual Assault/Prevention "watch each other...look out for each other". EPS program, changes coming down for leadership evaluations. PT, improve on PT, look at GX online for SSG Ken's PT program. Uniforms, be aware of different types of uniforms out there. Excited about upcoming mission as State CSM and looks forward working with the troops.

State Command Chief CMSgt Lane Munger remarks recognizing auxiliary and retirees.

Thanked attendees for participating and encouraged spreading word back to units. Thanked SCSM Bekaert for loyalty looking forward to working with CSM Zimmerman. EANGUS 82.8% participation for SD, 2nd in US only to Alaska. Commented on purposing rate increase for dues, need to work on better representation for our benefits, VA loans, Tricare, early retirement, fight for more benefits, inform legislators about your issues, thanked present and past presidents and executive council committees. Presented President Kafka with Joint Coin. NGAUS Insurance Program by Neil Harris, gave remarks about insurance program, currently three enlisted and three officers are on the trustee board. Everyone is covered for basic life insurance as long as you are in a drilling status, benefits of program discussed and yearly reports passed out covering the past 4-5 years. Commented on what was donated to Enlisted and Officer Associations over the past few years. Encourage Soldiers to contact VA or VSO to for help.

SFC (RET) Robert Kusser, SDNG Museum update. Reported attendance has been a little up in the past year, website links on the internet, financials in good condition, attended national conference in Sacramento, CA. Reported on events in the last year, encouraged everyone to check out the museum. Also representing American Legion as State Vice Commander for Districts 10, 11 and 12 and representing the Pierre Post 8 American Legion Riders Director, thanked everyone for their service and stop down to American Legion next to the river, three million members of Legion, briefed history and benefits of American Legion and encouraged participating and joining the American Legion. Presented Kafka thanked him for his remarks and presented him with a \$500.00 donation check from the Enlisted Association and presented him with SDNGEA 50th Annual Conference commemorative coin.

1440 - Scheduled Break

1455 - Roll call of Executive Council to determine if a quorum is present. Roll taken, we have a quorum.. Motion by Pete Scholten for approval of the 49th Annual Conference minutes, 2nd by Dallas Vallery, motion approved.

South Dakota Military Retiree update given by President Kafka, addressed that a website has been created and located at www.sdmr.org for info benefits, web links to other military sites and upcoming events such as quarterly meetings and notices on those having retirement ceremonies. This is for all military members and encouraged them to register on the site.

State Sponsorship Report given by Bruce Anderson. He introduced sponsors for this year; Launie Stokes, Katrina Uecker, Erin Bobeldyk, Becky Greene and Joe Wiskur. Noted they needed to get with Christina Sihrer for interview and pictures for next issue of the Enlisted Echo. Thanked the Air Guard Chiefs Council for supporting and sponsoring two rooms for two nights for Air Sponsors. Moved for approval of report by Jerry Eisenbraun, report was accepted as presented.

Distinguished guest Governor M. Michael Rounds thanked everyone for invitation to speak. Service members do provide a special service, sacrifices they make for training and must thank their families for service as well. When one spouse is gone they become both mother and father and we truly appreciate the sacrifice they offer. You have served in times of floods, ice storms, and at our borders on guard duty. Briefed about current and past deployments, no one can take away our accomplishments we are responsible for. NCOs and enlisted are the corner-

stone of our military and I thank you personally for everything you've done, you are truly the best of the best. President Kafka thanked Governor Rounds for his remarks and presented him with SDNGEA 50th Annual Conference commemorative coin.

Audit Committee Report was given by Dan Weber. Accounts were thoroughly reviewed and scrutinized and found to be in excellent order. All accounts balanced and no discrepancies were found. The audit committee commends Pat Jones for his diligence for his first year as Treasurer and we would also like to commend him on making strides with our IRS tax exempt status working in coordination with Bruce Anderson. The committee made some recommendations for next year's books to assist with future audits. Recommend that the Treasurer provide a printed copy of the associations account balances as of the day of the meeting so that actual account balances can be verified. We also recommend that when filling out income and expense vouchers, that the dates on the vouchers coincide with the actual dates of the deposit or checks written. Each income voucher should also have the bank deposit slip attached to it to verify the correct account was used and the deposit amount. Lastly, the committee recommends that any withdrawals from the account, such as check charges which are automatically taken from the accounts have a voucher filled out for them. Motion to approve report as presented by Don Stewart, Christina Sihrer 2nd motion - approved.

Treasurer's Report given by Pat Jones moved for a motion to accept as read by Don List, Wayne Fokken 2nd motion. Discussion on line 113 of Profit & Loss statement concerning Veterans March income, Pat Jones addressed the questions, motion passed.

Ways and Means Committee report was given by Bob Funk, motions to approve report as presented by Wayne Fokken, no 2nd required. Discussion ensued on organization running in the red due to increased costs and with the anticipation of EANGUS wanting to raise dues to possibly \$15 per member. We are currently paying \$9 per member to EANGUS. Committee is recommending an increase in dues of \$5 per rank structure to what we currently have. Much discussion on what the revenue increase would be to get us back into the black. We are also looking at changing our deductibility status where as this would help in getting outside donations and they would be able to use it as a tax deduction. Please look at soliciting donations from corporations. Motion to approve report as presented, - approved.

Membership Committee Report was given by Jim Poppen. Membership was a little less than last year having 3214 paid members this year. We had 16 new Life Members this past year, eight from the Army Guard, 3 from the Air Guard and five retired service members. Some interesting facts discovered are that there were six Soldiers that paid last year that did not pay this year; they are still in the RSP. There are 573 new members that paid dues this year that did not pay last year. Of the 80 USAA sponsored members that paid last year only 67 of those paid this year. Early indications from the National Office is that USAA will not be running their program of sponsoring newly promoted E5 and E6 Soldier and Airmen this year. Membership Certificates were distributed to units with special recognition going to those over 95% memberships paid. A Motion to approve report as read by Gordon Kotab, - approved.

Presentation of Cities bidding for future conferences given by Dale Greenfield. Only bids submitted were from Huron, SD and Chamberlain, SD for 2013

Administrative announcements – Social and Sock Hop with CJ Tunes providing the music starts at 2000 hours. Current session was recessed at 1605 hours

until Saturday morning, 25 April 2009 at 0830 hours. Meeting reconvened at 0830 hours, Saturday, April 25, 2009

Distinguished guest SMSgt Brad Thomas, Area 5 Director, gave remarks about new leadership at senior level at NGB and Washington DC area. Talked about national conference in Rochester, MN in August, finances and reports not finalized. Comptroller hired for cleaning up reports and EANGUS is getting there. Dues increase brings key points to Area V Caucus. It costs EANGUS \$41 per member national wide. Discussion ensued regarding membership rates increasing. Looking forward to seeing SD representation at Area V Caucus meeting end of May 2009. President Kafka thanked him for coming to our conference and will see him again at Area V Caucus also presented him with SDNGEA 50th Annual Conference commemorative coin

Distinguished guest CMSgt John Harris EANGUS Historian. He commented about upcoming National Conference and Membership Dues and Membership numbers. He came to our conference to capture information on the founding of EANGUS by interviewing some of our past State Presidents and past National Presidents; Bob Spencer, John Ball and Don Stewart. We will be able to see a finished product in DVD format hopefully by the National Conference in August.

Awards Committee Report given by Dale Greenfield. Soldier and Airmen of the year awards will be presented at the banquet. 85 letters were mailed out to individuals attaining 20 years of service for pay purposes. SCSM Bekaert and CMSgt Munger presented 20 year Certificates to those individuals attaining. The following individuals were present to receive their awards: SGT Craig Eagleshielf, SSG Craig Walter, MSG Scott Kostal, MSG Susan Shoe, Travis Vallery. There were no Standing Proud Award recommendations this year. Motion to approve report as presented, - approved.

Times and Place Committee was given by Dale Greenfield. Discussion of future and enlisted events throughout the state for the next few years. Reported on upcoming conference locations; 2010 – Rapid City, SD co-located with the Officers, 2011 – Mitchell, SD, 2012 – Bids from Huron, SD and Chamberlain, SD, 2013 – Sioux Falls, SD co-located with the Officers, 2016 – Rapid City, SD co-located with the Officers. Moved for acceptance of report as presented by Neil Harris, - approved. Records reflect that 1st Vice Dale Greenfield will take over the gavel to allow President Kafka to address the Auxiliary at the meeting.

Position Evaluation Committee report was given by Roger Hansen. Reviewed all position descriptions and added to the following descriptions; Scholarship, Historian, Audit and Membership. The document is now alphabetized and more user friendly. Moved for acceptance of report as presented by Jerry Eisenbraun, - approved.

Auxiliary President Karen Bekaert addressed our body. She discussed having spouses involved and rates to join auxiliary to increase their membership numbers. Thanked us for our support to them.

Budget Committee Report given by Pat Jones. Discussed last year's budget shortfalls due to membership numbers lower having less income to work with. However tight budgeting by President Kafka and ideas of saving Echo expenses by emailing issues to members helped in cost savings. Discussion on future budget issues and moved for acceptance of report as presented by Bob Siedschlaw. Discussion on requesting written proposed budget handouts by Nancy Ausland, - approved.

Resolution Committee Report given by Dallas Vallery. Moved for acceptance of report by Al

House, - approved.

0910 1st Vice turns gavel back over to President Kafka.

The following Resolutions will be voted on:

Resolution 2009-01 pertaining to POW / MIA Flags be flown at all armories and air guard bases in the state of South Dakota. Motion to approve Resolution 2009-01 by Dean Steinberg, 2nd by Roger Hansen. Discussions ensued about costs of flags and flag poles throughout the state. Motion passed.

Resolution 2009-02 pertaining to State Command Chief Master Sergeant position is currently a M-day position. Recommend to EANGUS, Dept of Air Force and NGB make position full-time AGR or Technician position and provide funding authorization and funding for this position. Motion to approve by Dean Steinberg, 2nd by Sam Harkin, motion passed.

Resolution 2009-03 pertaining to The Adjutant General to set policy that allows the Enlisted Association members able to attend scheduled events throughout the year by scheduling unit training assembly dates to de-conflict with Enlisted Association events. Motion to approve by Bob Funk, 2nd by Christina Sihrer, motion passed.

Resolution 2009-04 pertaining to recognition of host unit putting on a great conference. Motion to approve by Dean Steinberg, 2nd by Don Stewart, motion passed.

Publications Committee Report given by Nancy Ausland. Discussed about continuing three publications per year, Spring, Summer, Fall. It is mailed out to all members of the Enlisted Association unless they request email notification when it is published. Each publication can be viewed or downloaded in Adobe format from the website. The last issue of the ECHO solicited for those wanting the mail version of the ECHO to cut down on printing and postage costs. This one time posting resulted in over 1000 email versions of this going out and a cost savings of over \$400 on the printing and mailing. We will run the ad again in an attempt to continue to reach more members. We need to sell more advertising for the ECHO, this will help reduce what it cost the association in publishing costs. Please look at selling ads in your community, all sales ad information is available on the website. Anyone can sell an ad. Moved for acceptance of report by Al House, - approved.

Investment Committee Report was given by Bruce Anderson. Nothing to report as there was no money to invest this year. Moved for acceptance of report by Pete Scholten, - approved.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee Report was given by Bruce Anderson. Discussion on 501C19 status and our goal to attaining "War Veteran" organization status to become a tax deductible organization, this would constitute a By-Laws change. We will also need to change the By-Laws in the event we implement a new dues structure change. Motion to approve acceptance of report by Brian Berger, - approved.

Legislative Committee Report was given by Don List. Motion to accept report by Bob Siedschlaw – approved.

Athletic Report-No report given as no one expressed any interest in athletic events- Chad Schmitz

Scholarship Report was given by Roger Hansen. This year we had 13 applications and the following were chosen as receiving a Scholarship: Duke Coming Memorial Scholarship – Gina Czmowski, USAA, Mallow Memorial Scholarship – Kelsey Bekaert. Motion for acceptance of the report as given by Dale Greenfield, motion passed

Junior Enlisted Report given by Jennifer Deters. Topics of discussion at the meeting included increasing membership of (Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 7)

Junior Enlisted both Army and Air. With the possible increase in dues it will be more important than ever that we ensure our junior members are educated in the benefits of being a member of the association. Ideas were discussed on how we can help do that at our units. Junior Enlisted will look at putting teams together to march in this year's BHVM in September. Air Guard has a Junior Enlisted Council that meets monthly to exchange concerns and voice concerns. One of the topics currently being worked on is the council is research on college tuition assistance and the quality across the state with these programs. On a closing note we would like to thank CMSgt Munger, CMSgt Welch and CMSgt Anderson for their help this past year adjusting the Junior Enlisted Issues. They have been great mentors to all the Junior Enlisted at the 114th FW. Motion to approve acceptance of report by Don List - approved.

Veteran's Honor March Report was given by Ted Deloy. 2008 was another successful year; registrations and volunteers were both up. This last year we purchased a lot of merchandise to sell to help promote the march. This year we already have 25% of last year's marchers registered. With the Air Guard drilling that weekend in September our volunteer and marchers numbers may be down this year. Motion to approve acceptance of report by Ed Revell - approved.

President Kafka read comments from COL(P) Tim Reich, President of the Officers Association.

Young Heroes Report was given by Bruce Anderson in the absence of Cathy Anderson. Not a lot of presentations this year mainly due to Make A Wish Foundation moving their office. Cathy is going to send out a new package to Pediatric MD's in the area to try and generate more interest and continue to work with Make A Wish Foundation. We did present three this last year with one in Sioux Falls Air Guard, Operations Building and two at Tri-Valley School. There is one pending presentation in Parkston. Motion to approve acceptance of report by Don List, - approved.

Presidents Report given by President Gary Kafka. Highlighted membership numbers a little down this year. We need to keep numbers up to keep a strong voice. Everyone was encouraged to have their spouses join the auxiliary as membership numbers are just as important on their side of the house also. Service members are eligible to be an associate member of their organization to help support the programs they sponsor. Touched on the BHVM and the need for more volunteers and marchers, this is a very worthwhile event and if you have never been to one, please attend. We need to work harder on helping to continue to educate the Junior Enlisted and keep them engaged. Received 15 calls to date, encouraged everyone to respond to these to let our Congressional Delegation what our stance is. In closing he thanked the Executive Council for their outstanding support during his first year as President, also thanks for the continued support from Past President Wayne Fokken and the rest of the Past Presidents for their guidance. "It is the ones before us that laid the foundation for us to build upon". Also thanked his wife Diane for her being there and her continued support and being a good listener when things got stressful. He is planning on running for another term and looks forward to leading this great organization in accomplishing the plans and goals set before us.

Nomination Committee Report given by Wayne Fokken. Nominations received were: Gary Kafka for President, Dale Greenfield for 1st Vice, Roger Hansen for 2nd Vice, Pat Jones for Treasurer, Christina Sihrer, Jerry Eisenbraun, Dan Weber and Calvin Christie for Committee Members At Large.

Moved for acceptance of the report by Ed Revell - approved.

1035-recessed for break

Credentials Committee Report given by Jim Poppen. Membership numbers were validated. Validated Executive Council and what unit they are assigned to ensure that proper credit was given to units for voting. Committee received 33 proxy letters and all were approved. Moved for acceptance of the report by Darrell Kulm - approved.

Budget Report clarification was given by Pat Jones on line 113 from previous day's discussion. Moved to approve acceptance of report by Dallas Vallery - approved.

Time and Place Committee Report was given by Dale Greenfield. Only bids presented for 2012 Annual Conference were for Huron, SD and Chamberlain, SD. Motion for acceptance of the report by Wayne Fokken - approved. Motion was made to conduct a by hand count vote. Hand count vote was taken and the results were the 2012 Annual Conference will be held in Cedar Shores, Chamberlain, SD. There was no unfinished business.

New business-

There was a motion on the floor by Dale Greenfield to increase the dues structure as follows (E1-E4) to \$15, (E5-E6) to \$20, and (E7-E9) to \$25 retirees stay at \$15. Life membership stay the same based on E6 dues. Received a 2nd by Ed Revell. There was discussion on proposed amounts and when if it was approved when would the dues increase take effect. Any memberships received after the State Conference will be credited towards the next year's dues. It was explained the EANGUS's calendar year and our calendar are not the same. Jerry Eisenbraun recommends having separate motion for effective date of dues. Discussion was closed and a short caucus was held. Vote was taken and motion was defeated.

Floor was opened for discussion on a proposed dues increase E1-4 (\$12), E5-E6 (\$20), E7-E9 (\$30) Retirees stay the same which is \$5 more than what National Dues are and currently at \$14. Effective date to start dues increase would be immediately following the Annual Conference. Don Stewart made a motion for the dues structure as proposed during the discussion and to also have effective date start immediately following this year's Annual conference. 2nd to the motion was made by Bob Sack. A short caucus was held, vote was taken and motion passed. Nancy Ausland motioned to change the By-Laws as per above stated dues structure and effective date of new dues structure to begin. 2nd by Don List on dues increase By-Law change, vote was taken and motion passed by over 2/3 vote.

501c19 tax deductible status voted on to add to the By-Laws, this needed a 2/3 vote. Upon clarification from the IRS on definition of a "War Veteran" we would start documenting what members are "War Veterans" for the upcoming membership drive to qualify to be a tax deductible organization. Motion by Wayne Fokken to add document from Lawyers office with proper wording as an addendum to our Constitution and By-Laws. 2nd by Brian Berger. There was discussion on Membership Chairman and Executive Director to work on proper record keeping techniques to maintain a history of our organization being considered as a War Veterans Status. Vote was taken and motion passes by over 2/3 vote.

Nominations of Officers was conducted by Wayne Fokken. The following were nominated as officers for the ensuing year. President, Gary Kafka; motion to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot for

Gary Kafka by Don List, 2nd by John Ball - approved. 1st Vice, Dale Greenfield, motion to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot for Dale Greenfield by Dallas Vallery, 2nd by Don Stewart - approved. 2nd Vice, Roger Hansen, motion to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot for Roger Hansen by Bob Siedschlaw, 2nd by Don List - approved. Treasurer, Pat Jones, motion to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot for Pat Jones by Neil Harris, 2nd by Jim Poppen - approved. Area Committee Members At Large, 5 position, Calvin Christie, Christina Sihrer, Dan Weber, Jerry Eisenbraun and Dallas Vallery. Motion to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot for the five listed above by Jim Poppen, 2nd by Brian Berger - approved.

President turned gavel over to John Ball for swearing in of newly elected officers and appointed positions of the Executive Council.

John Ball turned gavel back over to President Kafka Meeting was adjourned at 1238 hours on 25 April 2009, bringing the 50th Annual Enlisted Association State Conference, to an end.

