

# Bucky's Bulletin

WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION



WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD  
ENLISTED ASSOCIATION

*presents*

**Scholarship Winners and the 66th  
WINGA/44rd WNGEA Annual Conference Photos**



# EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ROSTER

| Name      | Last           | Council Position                       | Membership | Status |
|-----------|----------------|--|------------|--------|
| Roberta   | Coker          | President                              | Life       | *      |
| Nathan    | Nickel         | Past President                         | Life       | *      |
| Michael   | Krausz         | Vice President                         | Life       | *      |
| Gary      | Hans           | Executive Director/Treasurer           | Life       | *      |
| Rhonda    | Martinson      | Secretary                              | Annual     | *      |
| Patti     | Winter-Schmidt | Publications Manager                   | Life       | *      |
| John      | Olson          | Corporate Partnership Manager          | Life       | *      |
| Nicolas   | Ripley         | Education Selection Chair              | Life       | *      |
| Stephen   | Berry          | Chaplain                               | Life       | *      |
| David     | Coker          | Historian                              | Life       | *      |
| Sid       | Traxler        | Parliamentarian                        | Life       | *      |
| Lowell    | Koehler        | Insurance Trust Liaison                | Life       | *      |
| Robert    | Serrahn        | Retiree Liaison                        | Life       | *      |
| Thomas    | Skaug          | Legislative Manager - National         | Life       | *      |
| Libby     | Muller         | Legislative Manager - State            | Life       | *      |
| Wayne     | Trelka         | By-Laws Manager                        | Life       | *      |
| Gregory   | Cullen         | Resolutions Manager                    | Life       | *      |
| Gerald    | Parchem        | Ways and Means Manager                 | Life       | *      |
| Melanie   | Lange          | Awards Manager                         | Annual     | 02 16  |
| Ross      | Baker          | Website Co-Manager                     | Life       | *      |
| Brandon   | Zahn           | Website Co-Manager                     | Life       | *      |
| Steven    | Cywinski       | Special Projects Manager               | Life       | *      |
| Catherine | Berry          | Auxiliary President                    | AUX        | *      |
| Shirley   | Spitz          | Past Auxiliary President               | AUX        | *      |
| Roxie     | Barwick        | Aux Secretary/Legislation/Publications | AUX        | *      |
| Marie     | Traxler        | Aux Treasurer/Membership               | AUX        | *      |

*Life Member\**

# Bucky's Bulletin

The official publication of The Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association

Volume 41      Number 2      Fall 16

*Bucky's Bulletin* is the voice of the Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association. It is published every six months by and for members of the Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association and its Auxiliary. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the United States Army or Air Force or Army or Air National Guard. Any letters or comments should be directed to the Publications Manager, in care of WNGEA, 3512 18th Avenue, South Milwaukee, WI 53172. Material for Winter and Fall issues will be submitted by 31 January and 1 September respectively. Correspondence for other than Publications should be directed to: WNGEA Inc., c/o EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2400 Wright Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53704.

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### Special Message:

Are you aware that the United Services Automobile Association (USAA) has made significant contributions to both the State and National Associations?

Because of USAA's contributions, we have been able to keep the New Patriot Magazine on time for the last couple of years. USAA pays for the printing and mailing of that quarterly magazine. This saves the membership a lot of money and helps us keep our membership dues to a minimum. In addition to supporting the New Patriot magazine, USAA provides scholarships to the National Association and a **\$500.00 scholarship to each** State Association.

We need to support the organization that has shown fantastic support for our Association, both at State and National level. All we have to do to keep these important benefits is to **call USAA at 1-800-531-8366** for a free auto or homeowners insurance quote or you can explore the other financial services they have to offer. Even if you do not need these services at this time it won't cost you anything but will help us as an Association. Their continued support hinges on our support to their organization.

*P.S.* You might be surprised at the deals you can get. Please take time to call today.



## Report of Change of Contact (Please Print)

(Please update your own record online if you know your access information)

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(STREET) (CITY) (STATE) (ZIP)

New Email: \_\_\_\_\_

RETIREES ONLY: IF NO INTERNET ACCESS, CHECK HERE: [   ]

Email to: [wngea@yahoo.com](mailto:wngea@yahoo.com) or mail to: WNGEA Executive Director, 2400 Wright St., Dist. Box 45, Madison WI 53704

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



*Roberta Coker,  
WNGEA President*

I would like to take this time to introduce myself and tell you a little about my vision and goals for your Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association over the next 18 months. I am Senior Master Sergeant Roberta Coker and I am currently a member of the Air National Guard, 128th Air Refueling Wing, in Milwaukee, WI. I was elected

as your vice president in 2014 and assumed the responsibility of presidency this past April at your State Joint Conference.

As your President, my goal and vision this year is to have members of our board and myself reach out to all Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted members to communicate to them about the association and to increase our membership. Our board has some great experienced individuals, with great ideas. I also feel when a great team gets together

we can accomplish anything, and this team we have is amazing. As my predecessor has started, our team will continue working on communication. As an Association we are finding many ways to reach out by social media, so please take the time to check us out on Facebook and on our website. Another huge part of our process this year is the team will be reaching out to members to have them update their membership information in order to make sure they are receiving every detail the Wisconsin National Guard Association is doing for all enlisted members.

I am your 2016-2018 Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association President. I am here to act in the best interest of the enlisted members of the Wisconsin National Guard; past, present and future. Reach out to me or any member with your feedback at any time and let's take this Association to the next level! I believe throughout my military career the best way to accomplish anything is by working together as a team and I am lucky to have an amazing team on the board.

Respectfully,

ROBERTA COKER, SMSgt, WI ANG  
WNGEA President

# TREASURER'S REPORT

|   | Account                      | 2015 Budget<br>as of 31 Dec 15 | 2016 Approved Budget<br>24-Oct-15 | 2016 Current Budget<br>1 Jan - 13 Sep 2016 |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Acct Code</b>                                    |                              |                                |                                   |  |
| 4010  | WINGA Insurance Trust        | \$23,000.00                    | \$28,000.00                       | \$28,000.00                                |
| 4020  | Membership Dues              | \$11,876.66                    | \$7,500.00                        | \$5,601.46                                 |
| 4040  | Ways & Means Sales           | \$27.00                        | \$300.00                          | \$0.00                                     |
| 4050  | Interest Income              | \$0.00                         | \$50.00                           | \$0.00                                     |
| 4060  | Misc Income                  | \$210.16                       | \$100.00                          | \$19.00                                    |
| 4070  | USAA Education Grant         | \$1,000.00                     | \$1,000.00                        | \$0.00                                     |
| 4075  | State Conference Income      | \$829.00                       | \$2,000.00                        | \$0.00                                     |
| 4080  | Raffle Income                | \$1,757.00                     | \$4,000.00                        | \$2,087.00                                 |
| 4085  | Area V Caucus Income         | \$0.00                         | \$0.00                            | \$0.00                                     |
| 4090  | Donations                    | \$3.00                         | \$0.00                            | \$0.00                                     |
|   | <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>          | <b>38,702.82</b>               | <b>42,950.00</b>                  | <b>35,707.46</b>                           |
|   | <b>EXPENSES</b>              |                                |                                   |  |
| 5020  | Raffle Expense               | \$971.30                       | \$1,000.00                        | \$850.00                                   |
| 6010  | EANGUS Dues                  | \$4,444.00                     | \$2,000.00                        | \$3,179.00                                 |
| 6050  | Membership Expense           | \$1,995.80                     | \$2,000.00                        | \$2,642.77                                 |
| 6100  | WNGEA Grants                 | \$2,000.00                     | \$3,500.00                        | \$3,000.00                                 |
| 6120  | Awards                       | \$676.71                       | \$500.00                          | \$780.46                                   |
| 6200  | Payroll Expense              | \$12,798.32                    | \$15,600.00                       | \$8,354.98                                 |
| 6205  | W.C. Insurance Expense       | \$0.00                         | \$300.00                          | \$0.00                                     |
| 6210  | Executive Director Expense   | \$1,373.41                     | \$2,000.00                        | \$1,839.26                                 |
| 6300  | Professional Fees            | \$607.60                       | \$1,500.00                        | \$722.50                                   |
| 6350  | Bank Service Charges         | \$0.00                         | \$50.00                           | \$0.00                                     |
| 6400  | Association Office           | \$1,725.24                     | \$3,000.00                        | \$2,007.79                                 |
| 6500  | Publications Expense         | \$4,995.32                     | \$5,000.00                        | \$3,134.76                                 |
| 6600  | Presidents Fund              | \$1,141.32                     | \$1,700.00                        | \$298.96                                   |
| 6650  | State Conference Expense     | \$2,286.66                     | \$2,000.00                        | \$2,439.14                                 |
| 6670  | Executive Council Mtg Exp    | \$423.40                       | \$2,000.00                        | \$343.80                                   |
| 6700  | National Educational Seminar | \$4,747.86                     | \$5,000.00                        | \$1,736.70                                 |
| 6790  | Regional Educational Seminar | \$0.00                         | \$1,000.00                        | \$0.00                                     |
| 6850  | Committee Expense            | \$120.31                       | \$100.00                          | \$129.98                                   |
| 6950  | Taxes                        | \$0.00                         | \$300.00                          | \$42.00                                    |
| 6980  | Permits, License, Fees       | \$20.00                        | \$50.00                           | \$0.00                                     |
| 6999  | Misc Expense                 | \$0.00                         | \$0.00                            | \$0.00                                     |
| 8010  | Donations                    | \$0.00                         | \$0.00                            | \$0.00                                     |
|   | <b>Total Expenses</b>        | <b>\$40,327.25</b>             | <b>\$48,600.00</b>                | <b>\$31,502.10</b>                         |
| <b>Submitted By: Gary R. Hans, Treasurer, WNGEA</b> |                              |                                |                                   |  |

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR by Gary Hans



Gary Hans,  
Executive Director

The 45th EANGUS Conference in New Orleans, LA from 21-24 August 2016 was attended by the following Wisconsin personnel.

#### WNGEA Delegates:

Roberta and Dave Coker, Michael Krausz, Gary Hans, John and Kaye Olson, Bob Serrahn, Sid Traxler, Wayne Sedgwick Lowell Koehler, Bonnie Moser, Libby Schmiedlin, Steve Berry Ross Baker, Chris Sower, Delma Howell, Nicolas Ripley

#### WNGEA Auxiliary:

Cathy Berry, Barb Sedgwick, Marie Traxler, Kathy Serrahn  
Barb Sedgwick, Cora Sower

I want to thank all of you who helped make the 45th EANGUS Conference in New Orleans a huge success. Your dedication and support ensured the Conference was a success in the face of overwhelming challenges due to the severe flooding in Baton Rouge and the mobilization of most of the Louisiana National Guard support personnel and equipment. The Wisconsin delegation represents only a small portion of the total 54 states and territories that were present, but I am very proud of our participation. The Wisconsin delegation attended many of the daily committee meetings to include retiree affairs, bylaws, time and place, resolutions, and legislative committees. EANGUS Committee reports can be found at EANGUS.ORG under the Documents Library.

The 2016 Resolutions Committee Report is also listed in the same place under the document library. The Resolutions Committee Report can be downloaded and printed to be used as a document to show what EANGUS is actively pursuing on the National level for Enlisted National Guard personnel. Besides the approved 23 Resolutions recommended by the resolutions committee, the Report also lists 11 resolutions that are still standing resolutions from 2014 and 3 that were reaffirmed from 2013 for another year.

Congratulations to Keely Neeb, daughter of MSgt James Neeb from Volk Field CRTIC. Keely was awarded the CSM Virgil R. Williams Scholarship Award. Keely and her family were present at the EANGUS Conference to accept the CSM Virgil R. Williams Scholarship. This is a \$2,000.00 dollar scholarship awarded by EANGUS. The CSM Virgil R. Williams Scholarship is available to members of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) and the unmarried children and spouses of EANGUS members. EANGUS members must have at least one year remaining on their enlistment following completion of the school year for which the application is submitted, or have served 20 or more years of service to qualify for this award. You must enroll as a full-time student at a college, university, trade or business school and demonstrate scholarship, character, leadership and financial need.

**The 45th Annual WNGEA Conference** will be 28-30 April 2017 at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, WI. We are look-

ing forward to another successful Combined Conference with the Officers Association (WINGA).

**The 46th Annual EANGUS Conference** (the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States), will be held in Reno, Nevada from 27-30 August 2017. To register, go to the EANGUS.ORG web site and register online. Early Registration cost is \$150.00. The Conference Hotel will be the Silver Legacy Resort Casino. Rates will be \$97.00 plus tax per night. A reservation link is posted on the EANGUS.ORG site

#### Future EANGUS Conferences Locations and Dates:

**2018 West Virginia (19-22 August)**

**2019 Des Moines, IA (4-7 August)**

**2020 Little Rock, AR (9-12 August)**

**Listing of Upcoming Scholarships, applications are posted on the WNGEA.ORG website.**

**The Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association College Grant Program** which include 1-\$1000.00 dollar grant and up to 4-\$500.00 dollar grants based on the number of applicants. **Suspense: 1 May 2017.**

**The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, CSM Virgil R Williams Scholarship Program.** This is a \$2000.00 dollar scholarship. **Suspense of 1 May 2017.**

**The Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association Auxiliary Scholarship Program.** Applications will be accepted **between 1 and 15 August 2017.**

**The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States Auxiliary Scholarship Awards Program** which includes 1-\$1250.00 dollar scholarship and 3-\$1000.00 dollar scholarship. **Suspense: 15 June 2017.**

**Life Membership. In 2015, EANGUS and the WNGEA lowered Life Memberships to \$220.00.** The Lifetime Membership numbers for 2015 increased by 44 members to 374 lifetime memberships.

**Please visit our websites at [www.WNGEA.org](http://www.WNGEA.org) and [www.EANGUS.org](http://www.EANGUS.org).** These sites will keep you up to date on current legislation and resolutions that affect the enlisted force of the Wisconsin National Guard. The Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association (WNGEA) is a voluntary membership organization. Its purpose is to foster and improve the National Guard, promote the welfare, status, and professionalism of all enlisted members of the Wisconsin National Guard.

**“Serving the Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Forces since 1972”**

Gary R. Hans, Sergeant Major, (Ret)  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association  
[wngea@yahoo.com](mailto:wngea@yahoo.com)  
C-920-723-8098



# Bucky's Auxiliary News



## WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION AUXILIARY

SIDE-BY-SIDE WE STAND WITH PRIDE

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER



*Catherine Berry  
Auxiliary President*

Thanks to all of you who attended our annual meeting April 23, 2016 in Wisconsin Dells. Shirley Spitz was recognized for her outstanding service to the WNGEA Auxiliary with 9 years and 3 terms as President and also for serving as Area V Director.

Thanks to all who supported our silent auction to raise funds for the WNGEA Auxiliary Scholarship. There were

no eligible applications for the one-time \$500 scholarship in Adele Cywinski's name in fall 2015. One scholarship application was forwarded in June to national for consideration. The WNGEA \$700 Auxiliary 2016 scholarship is awarded to Laura Yenchesky, granddaughter of WNGEA Lifetime Auxiliary Member Betty Yenchesky. Please note that any members, children, or grandchildren of WNGEA Auxiliary members are eligible to apply for our state auxiliary scholarship. More details are included on the application included in this issue. The form to join the auxiliary is also included in this issue and will be on our website. Join now for a family member to be eligible for next year's scholarship.

**Area V Caucus** May 21, 2016 in Des Moines, Iowa had 2 representatives including Area V Director, Angela Kennebeck and Area V Treasurer, Sharon Henderson from Iowa; Carol Benda from Minnesota; Marlys List and Edna Steinberg from South Dakota;. I was the only representative from Wisconsin and served as Area V Director. Edna and Marlys reminded attendees to include legislative contacts locally in addition to state and national contacts with legislators. EANGUS Auxiliary attendees were invited to wear purple and contribute doorprizes for national conference.

At the August 2016 **EANGUS Auxiliary Conference** in New Orleans, 50/50 raffles were held in the Area V hospitality room as a fundraiser for the Area V Auxiliary. Area V EANGUS Auxiliary Caucus was chaired by Area V Director Catherine Berry of Wisconsin. Angela Kennebeck has completed her term as Area V Director. Sharon Henderson from Iowa was elected new Area V Director. Sharon continues as the Area V Director.

Auxiliary members from Louisiana and Wisconsin worked through Habitat for Humanity a day before the conference on a house being rebuilt after Hurricane Katrina. Conference attendees also contributed time and treasure to aid victims of the Baton Rouge flooding. 101 volunteers from thirty-three states assisted in the Hands On New Orleans relief efforts. The August 2016 EANGUS Auxiliary Conference in New Orleans featured a brunch again instead of luncheon and was well attended. Corporate and individual donations sponsored this during the business meeting at no additional cost to the delegates. Marie Traxler, Barbara Sedgwick, and Kathy Serrahn attended the Scholarship Committee Meeting. Catherine Berry attended the Nominating Committee Meeting. Kathy Serrahn, Barbara Sedgwick, and Marie Traxler were delegates from Wisconsin. Cora Sower from Wisconsin served as EANGUS Auxiliary Treasurer and I served as Area V Director. Area V is Alive Newsletter was awarded first place as 2016 EANGUS Auxiliary Area Newsletter. Bucky's Auxiliary News also received 2016 National Award for State Newsletter. Outstanding Area Director Award was presented to Catherine Berry, Area V. Roxie Barwick was recognized for her legislative contacts within Area V. Mrs. Connie Myers, a resident of Mississippi, was elected EANGUS Auxiliary President; Angela Kennebeck, Iowa, was elected Vice President; Vivian Taylor of Mississippi was reelected Secretary; and Pam Brown, Tennessee, was elected Treasurer.

Our WNGEA 2017 Conference will be at the **Osthoff Resort, 101 Osthoff Ave, Elkhart Lake, WI**. Start planning now for 2017 EANGUS Conference in Reno, Nevada.

Our national newsletter the **Signal** is available through the national website <http://eangusauxiliary.org>. Any of you interested in it and not yet accessing it, let me know and I can send as an attachment to an email for you. One of our roles is to lobby for legislation to support our military, veterans and retirees. Calls are posted on the EANGUS website for updates on latest issues. If you have been contacting legislators we would like to hear about it and their responses, if any.

Catherine Berry, WNGEA Auxiliary President  
4203 Meadowwood Drive, Eau Claire WI 54702-3202  
715-579-7733 (ok to text...cell phone)  
[Cathy.berry@charter.net](mailto:Cathy.berry@charter.net)



Area V Auxiliary Caucus, Des Moines



Judy Wood Presenting the Outstanding Area Director Award to Catherine Berry.



WNGEA Officers: Roxie Barwick (Secretary), Catherine Berry (President), Marie Traxler (Treasurer).



Shirley Spitz being recognized for Outstanding Service to WNGEA Auxiliary.



Wisconsin Delegates: Kathy Serrahn, Marie Traxler, Barbara Sedgwick



Nominating Committee



**WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD  
ENLISTED ASSOCIATION  
AUXILIARY  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The Auxiliary of the Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association has established a fund to be used for scholarship awards. The following persons are eligible:

- 1) Unmarried dependent children and stepchildren (up to 25 years of age) of Auxiliary member
- 2) Unmarried grandchildren and step-grandchildren (up to 25 years of age) of Auxiliary member
- 3) Auxiliary members and spouses of Auxiliary members

Sponsors verification of membership for two (2) years in WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION AUXILIARY, immediately preceding the application, must be provided. Applications will be accepted August 1st to August 15th.

Scholarship grants will be awarded by the WNGEA Auxiliary Scholarship Committee on the basis of fund availability for the current year. Applicants must be enrolled as full-time student at an accredited college, university, trade or business school. Graduate students are not eligible. An alternate shall be designated to cover the possibility that the primary recipients do not actually enroll and matriculate for the school term.

Grants will be awarded on the basis of scholarship, character, leadership and need. All applications will be accompanied by:

- (1) An **official transcript** of high school credits, or college credits for applicants already enrolled in accredited institutions of higher learning;
- (2) **Signed and dated letter** from applicant with specific goals to continue his/her education and why financial assistance is required;
- (3) Three **signed and dated** letters of recommendation verifying the application and giving general personal traits. These may be from high school principal, counselor, dean, professor, minister, employer, etc.);
- (4) a copy of Auxiliary Membership card

Checks will be sent directly to the recipient when verification of completion of the first semester and recipient is registered for the second semester is received.

These grants are a one-time award and shall not be repeated. Non-winners may reapply as long as stated requirements are met. If the school term is not completed due to causes other than sickness or physical injury, the student shall refund the scholarship award in full to the Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association Auxiliary.

Each application shall be sent to the Scholarship Chairperson for review and acceptance (address below and also at the end of the application form). Applications must be received by August 15th of the designated year. Acceptable applications will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee.

SUBMIT APPLICATIONS BETWEEN 1 AUGUST AND 15 AUGUST TO:

Catherine Berry, WNGEA Auxiliary President/Scholarship  
4203 Meadowwood Drive  
Eau Claire, WI 54701-9214

2016



**Wisconsin  
National Guard Enlisted Association  
Auxiliary  
APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
                     Last    First    Middle

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
                                 Street    City    State                      Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
     Telephone    Birth Date    Social Security Number

Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Single \_\_\_\_\_ Married \_\_\_\_\_

Name, Rank, Address, Phone and Unit of Sponsor: (Parent, Stepparent, Grandparent, Step-  
 Grandparent, Spouse, Self of National Guard Member):  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date of Enlistment: \_\_\_\_\_

Current status of applicant (check one):

High School \_\_\_\_\_ College \_\_\_\_\_ Business/Trade \_\_\_\_\_ Working \_\_\_\_\_

If in school or college, fill in the following information:

Name and Address of School or College and grade or term: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of brothers and sisters and their ages (if living at home): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the following information if applicable:

Spouse's Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children and their ages (if living at home): \_\_\_\_\_

List name and address of College, University, Trade or Business School that you plan to attend:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

List activities in which you have participated (school, church, community):  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

List offices to which you have been elected in any organization:

\_\_\_\_\_

List honors (school, athletic, citizenship, etc.) which you have been awarded:

\_\_\_\_\_

What career are you planning to pursue and why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

While attending college, will you work part-time \_\_\_\_\_ or during the summer \_\_\_\_\_ ?

**Persons eligible to apply are: WNGEA Auxiliary members, their spouse, their unmarried dependent children, stepchildren, grandchildren, and step-grandchildren.**

**Wisconsin Enlisted Association  
Auxiliary member (Sponsor):**

Relationship to you (Father, Stepfather, Mother,  
Stepmother, Grandparent, Step-grandparent,  
Spouse, Self)

I have answered the above questions to the best of my knowledge and belief.

**Signatures must be hand written.**

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE OF SPONSOR (PARENT/STEP PARENT/GRANDPARENT/STEP GRAND-  
PARENT OR SPOUSE):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Phone number** \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of Sponsor)

**If granted a scholarship and I fail to complete the school term for reasons other than sickness or physical injury. I agree to return any scholarship money I received to the Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association Auxiliary.**

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT:** \_\_\_\_\_

All applications must be accompanied by:

1. An official transcript of high school credits and/or college credits for applicants already enrolled in accredited institutions of higher learning.
2. Signed and dated letter from applicant with specific goals to continue his/her education and why financial aid is required.
3. Three signed and dated letters of recommendation verifying the application and giving general personal traits. These may be from a high school principal, counselor, dean, professor, minister, employer, etc.

**IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, YOU MAY USE SEPARATE SHEETS AND ATTACH**

**SEND APPLICATION TO:**  
*(Deadline postmark date for  
Submission is August 15th)*

**Catherine Berry  
WNGEA Auxiliary President  
4203 Meadowwood Drive  
Eau Claire, WI 54701**

Revised 9.16.2016

Page 2 of 2



## **State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) Program**

The Wisconsin National Guard Association (WINGA) makes available affordable group term life insurance for Soldiers and Airmen; including Active Duty (AGR and Technicians), M-Day, Veterans and Retirees.

The advantages of SSLI\* are:

- **Most valid claims are paid within 24 hours.**
- **You can keep your insurance with no premium increase when you separate from the Guard** (rates increase as you enter a new age bracket).
- **After the first year of coverage, Guardsmen receive a 70% increase in coverage at no additional cost to you.**
- **\$1,000 of life insurance at no-cost to all Guardsmen.**
- **Premiums are payroll deductible.**
- **New Guardsmen receive \$10,000 coverage at no cost for one year.**

Other important features of the SSLI Insurance Plan are:

- Base coverage is available from \$10,000 to \$45,000.
- Maximum coverage with the 70% increase is \$77,500.
- Coverage is available for your spouse to age 70.
- Dependent children covered to age 21 or 25 if a full-time student.
- No health underwriting required for dependent children.
- Coverage is 24 hours/day, 365 days/year.
- No war clause, aviation accident or hazardous duty restrictions.
- Members 18-59 years of age are eligible to apply for insurance coverage.
- Coverage reduces by 50% at age 60 with premiums remaining the same.

Office Location: JFHQ, 2400 Wright Street, Room #205, Madison, WI 53704

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Phone: 608/242-3100 Fax: 608/242-3106

E-mail: [insinfo@winga.org](mailto:insinfo@winga.org) Web Page: [www.winga.org/insurance.html](http://www.winga.org/insurance.html)

Underwritten by New York Life Insurance Company, 51 Madison Avenue, New York, NY, 10010 on Group Policy Form GMR/G-14109-1. This is a brief summary of benefits available under SSLI Group Life Plan. For specific provisions, please refer to the Certificate of Insurance.

**“Insurance for You, Protection for Your Family”**

# NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT by. Tom Skaug

Throughout the 114th Congress, I will identify and track certain legislation that address issues important to our Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association members and their families. I hope that this edition of your Bucky finds that everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

Some of the key bills in the 114th Congress:

## ***Supply Our Soldiers Act of 2015.....H.R. 1126***

Directs the Department of Defense to provide for a program under which postal benefits are provided to a member of the Armed Forces who is on active duty and who is either: (1) serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, or another hostile fire area designated as eligible for hazardous duty pay; or (2) hospitalized at a military medical facility as a result of such service. Requires the postal benefits to be in the form of coupons, vouchers, or other evidence of credit to use for postal-free mailings. Makes the benefits program applicable during FY2016-FY2021.

## ***Military Reserve Survivor Benefit Equity Act.....H.R. 2053***

Makes the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity for survivors of members of the reserves who die from an injury or illness incurred or aggravated in the line of duty during inactive duty training the same as the annuity for survivors of members of the regular Armed Forces who die in the line of duty while on active duty.

## ***Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act.....***

### ***H.R. 1594 & Companion Bill: S.979***

Repeals certain provisions which require the offset of amounts paid in dependency and indemnity compensation from Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities for surviving spouses of former military personnel who are entitled to military retired pay or who would be entitled to retired pay except for being under 60 years age. Also directs the Secretary of the military department to restore annuity eligibility to a surviving spouse who earlier agreed to transfer such eligibility to a surviving child or children of a member.

## ***Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs Retired Pay***

## ***Restoration Act.....H.R. 303***

Permit additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or combat-related special compensation.

## ***Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act.....H.R. 333***

Permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service.

## ***Retired Pay Restoration Act.....S. 271***

Permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation.

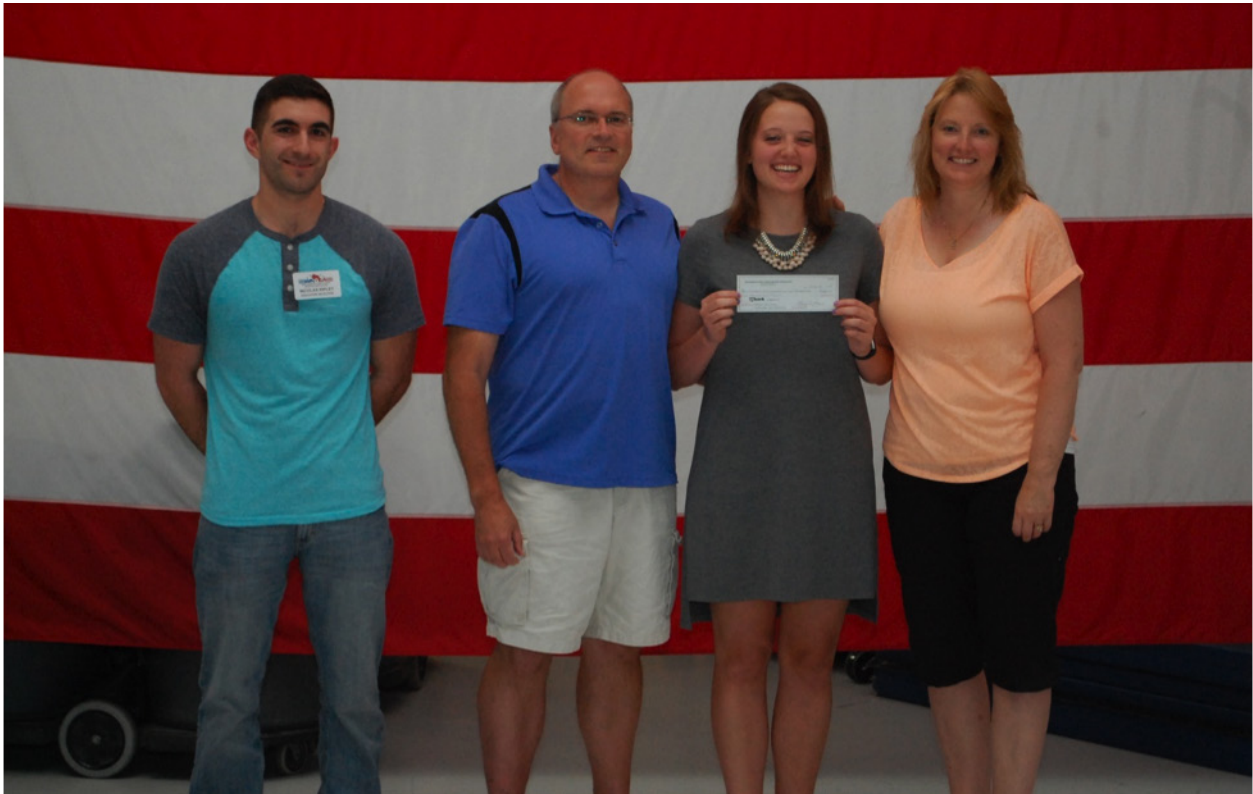
## ***Hire More Heroes Act of 2015.....S. 12***

This bill in the Senate would amend the Internal Revenue Code to add a provision to exempt any employee with coverage under a health care program administered by the Department of Defense, including the TRICARE program, or by the Veterans Administration, from classification as an eligible employee of an applicable large employer for purposes of the employer mandate under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide such employees with minimum essential health care coverage.

The Library of Congress provides FREE on line information concerning Congress and the legislative process. I direct each of you to visit [thomas.loc.gov](http://thomas.loc.gov) on all important legislation that pertain to our National Guard and Reserve military family. Bill's in both the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs can be found visiting [veterans.house.gov](http://veterans.house.gov) or [veterans.senate.gov](http://veterans.senate.gov).

# SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Education Manager Nicolas Ripley Presented the WNGEA Scholarships for 2016 to the following winners.



The \$1,000.00 Raymond A. Matera Scholarship was awarded to Stephanie Kluczykowski who will be attending UW Platteville. Her sponsor is CMSgt Allen Kluczykowski along with Mrs. Kluczykowski.



A \$1,000.00 WNGEA Scholarship was presented to David Coker (who was not present) who will be attending UW Parkside. His sponsors are SMSgt Roberta Coker and MSgt Dave Coker.

# SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



A \$1,000.00 WNGEA Scholarship was presented to Keely Neeb who will be attending UW Eau Claire. Her sponsor is MSgt James Neeb.



Miss Keely Neeb along with her sponsor MSgt James Neeb received a \$2,000.00 Scholarship from USAA at the EANGUS National Conference in New Orleans.

**WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION**

**AWARDS REPORT**

**Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI  
22-23 April 2016**

**2016 Air Guard Award Recipients**

**AIRMAN OF THE YEAR**

SrA Arteaga Ward  
128<sup>th</sup> ARW/LGRDA

**NCO OF THE YEAR**

TSgt Kitrina Vargas  
128<sup>th</sup> ARW/LGRDA

**SENIOR NCO OF THE YEAR**

SMSgt Brian Carroll  
115<sup>th</sup> FW/LGRF

**FIRST SERGEANT OF THE YEAR**

MSgt Michelle Marrero  
128<sup>th</sup> ARW/CCF

**HONOR GUARD MANAGER**

MSgt Kevin Lukas  
Volk Field CRTC/AM

**HONOR GUARD MEMBER**

SSgt Jared Hildebrand  
128<sup>th</sup> ARW/MXMG

**2016 Army Guard Award Recipients**

**NCO OF THE YEAR**

SSG James Brown  
Battery A, 1-120<sup>th</sup> FA, 32d IBCT

**NCO OF THE YEAR RUNNER-UP**

SGT Sean Armstrong  
Company B 2-127<sup>th</sup> INF, 32d IBCT

**SOLDIER OF THE YEAR**

SPC Alexander Hahn  
Company C, 1-128<sup>th</sup> INF, 32d IBCT

**SOLDIER OF THE YEAR RUNNER-UP**

SPC Taylor Hewitt  
Battery B, 1-120<sup>th</sup> FA, 32d IBCT

Melanie Lange  
Awards Chair

# WNGEA CONFERENCE AT CHULA VISTA

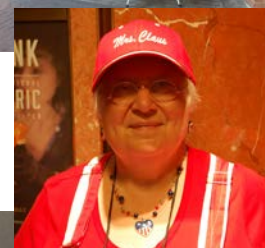
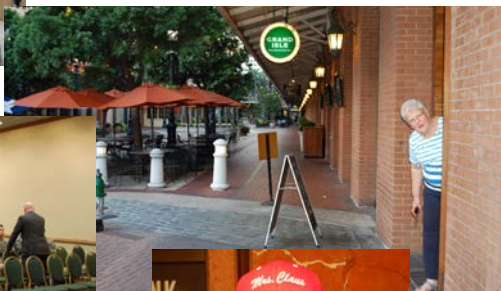




# WNGEA CONFERENCE AT CHULA VISTA



# EANGUS CONFERENCE IN NEW ORLEANS



# EANGUS CONFERENCE IN NEW ORLEANS



# RESOLUTIONS FROM EANGUS by Greg Cullen

Fellow WNGEA members,

Although I wasn't able to attend our national conference in New Orleans this year, I did read the Resolutions Committee report. The group discussed many good things that will help Airmen and Soldiers and their families. The entire report can be found on the EANGUS web site. Thought I'd share some of the highlights for you:

NR 16-01 Post 9/11 GI Bill Transfer eligibility benefit - Allow for the transfer of Post 9/11 GI Bill Benefits for service members who are ineligible to complete his/her Military Service Obligation (MSO) of four years due to non-retention/force management. Recommendation - The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges the Office of the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness changes DODI 1341.13 to allow Service Members of the National Guard that have served honorably over 20 years and who are selectively non-retained or forced to retire without completion of their MSO be allowed to keep their Post 9/11 GI Bill Transfer of Benefit (TEB) without recoupment.

NR 16-02 free annual pass to Fish and Wildlife Services and National Park Services to excluded previous members and their dependents. Would allow for a free annual pass for all military retirees, Medal of Honor recipients, and their dependents. Former military members who carry a blue DoD Form 2, pink DoD Form 2, DoD Form 1173-1, or DoD Form 2765 are not included in the free annual pass policy and are not eligible for the benefit. This policy excludes Medal of Honor recipients, Retired Members of the U.S. Active Duty, Reserves and National Guard, and their dependents who carry a military ID. Recommendation - The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to enact legislation to change the current eligibility for a free annual pass in to Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service sites for all U.S. Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard personnel, Military Retirees, Medal of Honor recipients, and their dependents with proper military ID (CAC Card or DoD Form 1173, blue DoD Form 2, pink DoD Form 2, DoD Form 1173-1, & DoD Form 2765).

NR16-03 Protect Reserve Component health care benefits eligibility for Reserve Component members. Would Ensure Reserve Component (RC) health care benefits eligibility for all RC personnel regardless of employment or employ

er. Section 706 of the FY07 NDAA authorized TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) for all National Guard Members and their families, however, the language was inserted into the statute which prohibits eligibility to enroll in TRS if the member is enrolled or eligible to enroll in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of Title 5, or better known as "Federal Employee Health Benefits" (FEHB) program. This exclusion is codified in Title 10 U.S.C. Section 1076d, (a)(2).

This exclusion affects all National Guard Technicians as well as all members working for other government agencies who participate in the FEHB Program. As many as 50,000 Guard members are prohibited from choosing TRS as a family coverage option due to this restriction. In some cases, currently, the rates for TRS can be nearly half the cost of the least expensive coverage option under the FEHB, making TRS the better option for many Guard Members who are currently not eligible. Eliminating this restriction will allow Guard Technicians greater choice in selecting the health care plan which best meets their family's needs. Recommendation - The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to amend Title 10 U.S.C. Section 1067d (a) by deleting paragraph two which creates an exclusion in TRICARE eligibility for anyone eligible for health benefits under Chapter 89 of Title 5 (Federal Employee Health Benefit Program).

NR 16-05 Reserve Component Thrift Savings Plan Improvement Act. Current tax law limits annual contributions to TSP accounts to a dollar amount which might penalize future reserve component service members who also contribute to a civilian employer provided 401k style retirement plan. Beginning in 2018, individuals entering the National Guard will receive government-matched retirement contributions in their Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) accounts. Current tax code limits all individuals under the age of 55 to contributing \$18,000 toward their retirement each year. Future members of the National Guard, who max out their employer-contributed retirement account, could lose out on their government-matched TSP accounts. EAANG strongly supports HR 4381- Service member Retirement Improvement Act, introduced by Representative Sam Johnson (R-TX). This bill would stop the IRS from stifling Guard or Reserve service members' ability to save for their retirement. This bill would give Reserve Component service members the opportunity to fully participate in the military TSP part of the new blended retirement without compromising both their civilian and military retirement plans. HR 4381 would allow members of the National Guard to max out their employer-contributed retirement account and their government-matched TSP account. It is important to remember the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, which proposed a blended retirement entitlement, did not intend for Guard and Reserve members to lose benefits. We believe the bill will encourage Guard, and Reserve members to contribute to their military TSP plan and prevent a negative impact to recruiting and retention. Recommendation - The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to support legislation similar to HR 4381 that would increase the limitations on TSP/401K type contributions for Guardsmen, thus allowing them to utilize their full civilian sponsored retirement plan as well as their military retirement benefit.

NR 16-10 FY 17 proposed Tricare enrollment fees. The

## RESOLUTIONS FROM EANGUS by. Greg Cullen

Pentagon has proposed a series of TRICARE fee increases, outlined in the President's fiscal year 2017 budget. Congress has these measures under review. The DoD proposal would require all retired service members, except those currently in TRICARE for Life, to pay an annual enrollment fee to participate in TRICARE. Without payment of the "participation" fee, access to TRICARE would be forfeit until the next open season. DoD proposed a one-time fee to access TRICARE for Life. Service members' access to Tricare is already earned by being an active member of the United States Armed Services, either in AC or RC component status. TRICARE for life is earned by 20 or more year membership in the US Armed Services. Recommendation - The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to reject the DoD proposals to start charging enrollment fees for TRICARE.

These are just a few of the topics your national association is working. Not every resolution may affect you, but all of them could affect the future of our National Guard. People would often ask me, "I'd join, but where will my money

go?" When a Soldier or Airman sees something not quite right, turns that idea into a resolution at a local level, that resolution is adopted at our national level, and then our lobbyist starts knocking on doors on Capitol Hill and explaining how a certain law needs to be changed. One person knocking on a Congressman or woman's door probably wouldn't enlist change. But, when the power of The Enlisted Association of the National Guard requests change, our elected leaders' better listen.

Locally, we currently don't have any resolutions in Wisconsin. If you have an idea for our state government to consider, please contact me. I'd be happy to assist you and submit in the proper format.

Respectfully,

Greg Cullen

## WHAT IS WNGEA?

The Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association (WNGEA) is a voluntary membership organization. Its purpose is to foster and improve the National Guard, promote the welfare, status, and professionalism of all enlisted members of the National Guard. Membership in WNGEA gives you a voice in how the state and federal government takes care of their soldiers and airmen in uniform. You may be just one little voice by yourself, but when you join the thousands of other Guard members in Wisconsin and all other states, your voice is multiplied and becomes very loud and direct, so it is heard.

As a member of the National Guard, you have certain benefits of membership. What if you were to lose those benefits, or they were reduced to 50%? What would happen if you lost your 100% college tuition that you receive by being a member of the Wisconsin National Guard? Having a membership in the WNGEA gives you a voice in how the state and federal government takes care of their soldiers and airmen in uniform.

The WNGEA is the only professional organization dedicated to supporting rights and benefits of enlisted members of the Wisconsin National Guard and the

United States. As the downsizing of the military and cutbacks continue, we must fight to maintain the benefits we have, and to continue our efforts to keep the National Guard a viable force in the military.

How to become a member:

The WNGEA and EANGUS have an online process for ANNUAL and LIFE membership signup. The online procedure allows you to sign up as a new member. When you join online, you will be asked to make a USERNAME and PASSWORD. Please use your personal primary home email address when you join. Please do not use your .MIL official military email address. Go to <http://wngea.org/>, click the Membership Information tab and select "Join or Renew" then follow the steps. The Annual Membership Rates are as follows:

E-1 – E-9 ONE YEAR - \$25.00

Life Membership for all is now only \$220.00.

Without you, the association cannot exist. Now is the time to become a member of the WNGEA to help us have a voice for all.

# How to Write a Resolution

## Guide For Writing Resolutions

A resolution is a formal expression of the opinion of an individual, or the will of a group adopted by a vote. Resolutions call for action by the person or organization that generates the resolution. This new resolution format may be different than what you have used in the past. It is much easier to use.

One of the real benefits of participating in the democratic process is the opportunity to have a voice regarding the public policy issues that affect our lives. It is therefore important that citizens understand the correct procedure for drafting resolutions. Some people are intimidated at the idea of writing a resolution. They shouldn't be. It isn't that difficult. Anyone can write a resolution that can make a change.

Why submit a resolution? If we lived in a perfect world, where all laws, procedures, and policy were made and maintained perfect, there would be no need for resolutions. The resolution process is a method to make new laws, or corrections and updates to the current law of the land that we live under. It is also used to introduce the need for a new law of the land if there is none. In simple terms, you are saying that what is currently in effect, is wrong, or not good enough, and you have a better idea or way to do it or have it.

## Steps In Preparing A Resolution:

1. Identify the concern. Be sure the concern is a matter of statewide or national scope. It cannot be a personal or an individual issue. Address only one concern per resolution. Be sure your title is clear and concise.
2. Research and gather factual support materials, which are sufficient to allow a person with no prior knowledge of the subject to make an informed, intelligent decision.
3. Write the resolution in the proposed format below, taking care to insure that each fact statement in the "Background" area is accompanied by sufficient support material. Pointing to existing documents is very good. Each now needs a recommendation or suggestion that offers a solution, or a better process, and also directs the submitting agency or organization to take action
4. All resolutions shall be typewritten or word processed. Your resolution must be accompanied by a cover letter explaining your reason for writing the resolution, and some additional background on your submission to answer the why you are doing this, question.
5. When your resolution is presented before the annual membership conference, it would be appropriate to be present in the audience to answer questions and argue for its acceptance if necessary.

## Hints To Help You Get Your Resolution Accepted And Passed:

1. Be concise. A resolution "Background" is to be a statement of fact or current policy on an issue, and your "Recommendation", a solution to solve that is-

sue. The association members will get copies of all resolutions, and this means a lot of reading. If your resolution is too wordy, it will not get the attention it deserves. Try and limit your resolution to five or less paragraphs in the "Background" area. Choose the strongest facts, and use the others in discussion and debate if necessary. Resolutions should not be longer than 2 pages. One page is best.

2. Be realistic. The "Recommendation" statements should include specific actions that are realistic and implementable. Include any resource availability (both human and financial) that will affect the implementability of resolutions, if they are known.
3. Be positive. A positive approach always works better than a negative one. Write positive statements, and address the issue positively when you are speaking to it. You may need to read your resolution many times and re-write it several to come up with the best presentation.
4. Be knowledgeable. Know the facts about all parts of your resolution. Be aware of other resolutions that have been passed on your issue, and be sure to state in your cover letter any differences in your resolution, and why your resolution should be passed.
5. Gather support and assistance. Your organization should not be the only ones involved in getting your resolution passed. Try to involve other organizations and members in supporting your resolution. Share your facts and ask others to speak pro to your resolution. This will not only help you get your resolution passed, it will also encourage other members to get involved.
6. Use your limited time on the floor wisely. As the author, you will have an opportunity to speak on the resolution. Remember that the members have a copy, so don't read it to them. Instead, take this opportunity to state some of the facts that might not be included in the "Background" clauses. Sell the group on the benefits of the resolution if it were to become law or policy.
7. Be available. Make sure you are available to the members to answer questions.
8. Have your documentation handy. Make sure you have at least two copies of your documentation with you. Questions may be asked that need further clarification. Suggestions may be offered to reword the resolution for better reading.

## Purpose Of Writing A Resolution:

The goal of the resolution is to inform, and educate the reader in order to inspire them to take action approving the resolution. To do this, a successful resolution must do two things:

1. Identify and explain the facts of the problem or issue that needs to be addressed (the BACKGROUND portion)
2. And propose a solution that will address the problem

# How to Write a Resolution *Continued*

as identified (the RECOMMENDATION portion).

## *Background:*

The first portion of a resolution identifies and states the facts of the problem that needs to be addressed. The problem should be stated in factual terms. Opinions or summations are not expressed in this portion of the resolution. Each fact should be listed as a separate sentence or paragraph. State the most important known facts for the resolution, but don't be redundant

## *Recommendation:*

The second portion of the resolution states the action that you propose, to address the problem or issue as identified in the "Background" portion of the resolution. Because resolving most problems involves an exercise of judgment, this is the portion of the resolution where the author expresses their opinions. If the author proposes more than one solution, each separate solution to the problem should be listed as a separate sentence or. When properly written, this section clearly restates the problem in summary form, and explains to the reader the action necessary to address that problem, without having to repeat any of the "Background" statements.

## **Sample Resolution Format**

RESOLUTION NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_.

(Assigned by the organization)

SUBMITTED BY: (Full Name of the author)

(City, St. Zip Code)

DATE: (Of Origination)

## *Pertaining to :*

(TITLE OF RESOLUTION WHICH IDENTIFIES THE PROBLEM OR ISSUE)

## *Background:*

- This is the part of the resolution that explains the primary issue or problem.
- This is where you list all the important facts about the issue. Facts should be listed in order of importance from most important on top to the least important on the bottom.
- Each unique fact should be presented in a separate paragraph.
- Do not summarize your facts.

## *Recommendation:*

- This is the part of the resolution that restates the primary issue or main problem and proposes a solution to the issue or problem identified in the "Background" statements; and be it further
- This is where you provide suggestions or direction for a solution to your issue.
- This is where you offer additional supporting reasoning to your solution.
- This is where you summarize how your solution can fix the issue.
- This is your instruction to the association to take action and approve this resolution.

(SAMPLE) - That the Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association, assembled at (conference location), on this (xx day of month, year), do urge the (final approving authority name) to support (the requested action to change, to increase, to initiate or do any action to) the (main subject name of the resolution).

## *Distribution:*

The author may suggest a list of recipients to receive this resolution. Distribution should be in order of priority with the final authority on top of the list. If the author cannot suggest anyone, or does not know where it is to be sent, the author may put, "DISTRIBUTION TO BE DETERMINED".

## **Resolution Submission:**

Copies of the resolution should be submitted to the Association office via postal or email with the cover letter. If sending via email, the resolution should be an attachment, and email letter body may be the cover letter, or may be a second attachment.

Resolutions can be sent to the WNGEA office anytime in the year, or brought to an executive council meeting, but must be received by the WNGEA no later than 1 January 20xx. They are then reviewed and discussed at the January Executive Council meeting. If approved by the council, they will be discussed and voted on at the annual WNGEA meeting in April. Once approved they will be sent to EANGUS for federal level resolutions, or to the Adjutant General for state level resolutions.

The author will receive acknowledgement of receipt, and then after discussions, a letter of actions that the WNGEA is taking on your submission, and the steps your approved resolution will be taking. At any step along the way, the resolutions may be rejected.

## **SUBMISSION COVER LETTER:**

Include the following information on the submission cover letter.

- Reason for and benefits you feel that this resolution should be approved and made into law or policy.
- Examples of the issue that you are aware of, if any.
- How you came about, and why you created this resolution.
- If you wish to personally present your resolution at a future Executive Council meeting.
- All contact information: Name, postal address, telephone numbers, email address.

## **What Can A Resolution Be Used For?**

- To add or change Federal law or policy.
- To add or change State law or policy.
- To add or change County law or policy.
- To add or change City ordinances or policy.
- To add or change EANGUS bylaw or policy.
- To add or change WNGEA bylaw or policy by non-council members.

## RETIREE ACTIVITY OFFICE by Bob Serrahn

The Retiree Activity Office (RAO) has been established to help Guard members that have left the National Guard with 20 plus years of service, but are under the age of 60 which is called the Gray Area, to acquire their retirement, and learn about the other benefits of their full retirement. The RAO is also available to answer any question before, during, and after you are into your retirement.

There are two RAO offices in Wisconsin:

**Madison:** Joint Force Headquarters Wisconsin  
2400 Wright Street, Room 160  
(608) 242-3115, or (800) 335-5147 ext. 3115  
Office Hours: Tues & Thur from 0730-1130 hours.

**Milwaukee:** 128th ARW Headquarters  
Building 512, Room 14  
(414) 944-8212  
Office Hours: Tues & Wed from 1000-1400 hours.

The RAO mission is to act as an interface between the active duty and retired communities, keeping retirees and widows of retirees (all ranks and all services) informed on

matters related to their military status, provide appropriate information and services as necessary including TRICARE, Military ID Cards, Survivor Benefits, Death Reporting and much more. The RAO also maintains a list of toll-free phone numbers, Web sites and e-mail addresses for additional information.

Here are some of the subjects that you can check out on the Retiree Website: <http://dma.wi.gov/retirees>

Casualty Information  
Military Health System (Tricare, etc.)  
Military News Online  
Military Organizations  
RAO Newsletter  
Retiree Information Resources  
Travel and Lodging  
Useful Telephone Numbers  
Wisconsin County Veterans Service Officers

Report submitted by: Bob Serrahn  
Wisconsin National Guard Retiree Council Member

## MEDICARE & TRICARE: HOW TO KEEP YOUR TRICARE COVERAGE

By taking a few simple steps, retirees can make sure they have their TRICARE benefits after they turn 65. Four months before your 65th birthday, you will receive a postcard from the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), the office that supports the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) A database of information on uniformed services members (sponsors), U.S.-sponsored foreign military, DoD and uniformed services civilians, other personnel as directed by the DoD, and their family members. You need to register in DEERS to get TRICARE., with information about keeping TRICARE coverage after age 65.

You must have Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B to be eligible for TRICARE For Life. TRICARE For Life is Medicare wrap-around coverage for TRICARE beneficiaries who are entitled to Medicare Part A and have Medicare Part B regardless of where you live or your age.

The Medicare initial enrollment period is seven months. If you miss your initial enrollment period, your next chance to sign up for Medicare Part B is during the general enrollment period, Jan. 1 – March 31. Your coverage will begin July 1st, and your monthly premium for Part B may go up 10 percent for each 12-month period that you could have had Part B, but didn't sign up for it. Also, there will be a lapse in your TRICARE coverage until Part B is effective.

Be sure to sign up for Part B no later than two months before your 65th birthday. If you do not receive a postcard from DMDC, call them at 1- 800-538-9552.

For more information about TRICARE For Life, visit [www.tricare.mil/tfl](http://www.tricare.mil/tfl). You can get information about Medicare Parts A and B on [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

Last Updated 8/29/2016 – reprint from TRICARE.



# YOU ARE IN CONTROL OF YOUR RETIREMENT

This message is to all National Guard members that are thinking about retiring soon from the active National Guard, and those that have retired with 20 good years of service, or more, but are not age 60. Between your retirement from the active National Guard, and age 60 you are classified as a Gray Area Retiree.

Retired pay begins on your 60th birthday (or earlier if qualify for reduced retirement age); however, you must apply for it. Retirement pay is not automatic. Air Guard may receive a notice four months prior to age 60, or call 800-525-0102. Army Guard should call the RAO in Madison

It is highly recommended that you start your retirement pay application and get your questions answered shortly after turning 59. It normally takes between one and three months for your retired pay to become active, so your first retirement payment is ready for you at age 60.

Prior to age 59, you can also attend a Retirement Appreciation Day (RAD), held every other odd number year to get some information and answers.

Each National Guard Retiree is unique as to what you need to do to apply for retirement pay: application form, getting new ID Cards, TRICARE, and MEDICARE.

The Wisconsin National Guard has an official Retiree Activities Office (RAO), located in the Adjutant General's Office/DMA, Madison, and in Milwaukee at the 128th Air Refueling Wing.

Answers to your questions and concerns about retiree issues can be ask, and answered by former retirees that volunteer in each RAO. You can call, or email to ask questions or to set up an office appointment for a short briefing. Spouses are encouraged to attend this briefing.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

### MADISON

Tuesday and Thursday – 0730-1130  
2400 Wright Street, Room 160  
Madison, WI 53704-2572  
Phone: (608) 242-3115  
Email: [widma.retiree@wisconsin.gov](mailto:widma.retiree@wisconsin.gov)  
Web: <http://dma.wi.gov/retirees>

### MILWAUKEE

Tuesday and Wednesday – 1000am – 1400pm  
128th ARW, Retiree Activity Office  
1835 E. Grange Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-8212  
Phone: (414) 944-8212  
Email: [rao.128arw@wimilw.af.mil](mailto:rao.128arw@wimilw.af.mil)

# VA ANNOUNCEMENTS

## VA Announces Elimination of Signature Requirement

The VA has announced it has eliminated paper signature requirements for veterans wishing to enroll in VA health care. Effective immediately, VA has amended its enrollment regulations to allow Veterans to complete enrollment applications for enrollment in VA health care by telephone without the need for a paper signature. This action also accelerates VA's effort to enroll all Combat Veterans with pending enrollments as part of its ongoing Veterans Enrollment Rework Project (VERP).

By adding this telephone application option to VA's regulations with this amendment, VA will now offer three ways to enroll under 38 CFR 17.36(d) (1). This option provides veterans a convenient third enrollment option in addition to the paper VA Form 10-10 EZ and the online health care application. To apply, call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Mon-Fri between 8 am and 8 pm, EST.

## VA to Offer Routine Eye and Ear Appointment Without Primary Referral

Veterans receiving care at VA Medical Centers will now be able to schedule routine ear and eye appointments at local VA Audiology and Optometry clinics without a primary care referral.

Before now, veterans seeking appointments with audiologists or optometrists had to first make an appointment with a primary care physician for a referral for a routine clinic consult visit. A clinic representative would contact the patient to set up the consult appointment, which could result in a several weeks'-long lag between the appointment and when the veteran was actually seen.

The new process, the Audiology and Optometry Direct Scheduling Initiative, which began as a successful pilot at three sites in 2015, is being expanded to all VA Medical Centers.

**The Audiology and Optometry Direct Scheduling Initiative is expected to be fully operational within all VA Medical Centers by the end of 2016.**



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