

# Bucky's Bulletin

WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION



**WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD  
ENLISTED ASSOCIATION**

*presents*

**2020 WNGEA Scholarship Winner**



CMSgt Allen Kluczykowski of the 128ARW presenting the USAA \$1,000.00 Scholarship Grant to his daughter, Heather Kluczykowski who will be attending UW Platteville.

FALL 20

# EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ROSTER

| Name   | Last           | Council Position                                   | Membership      | Status |
|--|----------------|--|-----------------|--------|
| Roberta  | Coker          | President  | Life            | *      |
| Nathan   | Nickel         | Past President                                     | Life            | *      |
| Libby  | Schmiedlin     | Vice President                                     | Life            | *      |
| Gary   | Hans           | Executive Director/Treasurer/Retiree & Ins Liaison | Life            | *      |
| Rhonda   | Martinson      | Secretary  | Annual          | *      |
| Patti  | Winter-Schmidt | Publications Manager                               |                 |        |
| <b>VACANT</b>  |                | Education Selection Chair                          | Life            | *      |
| Stephen  | Berry          | Leader of Prayer                                   | Life            | *      |
| David  | Coker          | Historian  | Life            | *      |
| Sid  | Traxler        | Parliamentarian                                    | Life            | *      |
| Edward   | Schmitt        | Legislative Manager - State                        | Life            | *      |
| <b>VACANT</b>  |                | Resolutions Manager                                |                 |        |
| Leslie   | Moseley        | Membership Marketing - Air                         | Auto            | *      |
| Sharon   | Dumke          | Membership Marketing - Army                        | Life            | *      |
| Morgan   | Sondelski      | Junior Enlisted Manager                            | Auto            | *      |
| Michael  | Hilson         | By-Laws Manager                                    | Annual          | *      |
| Ross   | Baker          | Website Manager                                    | Life            | *      |
| Steven   | Cywinski       | Special Projects Manager                           | Life            | *      |
| <b>VACANT</b>  |                | <b>Awards Manager</b>                              |                 |        |
| <b>VACANT</b>  |                | <b>Corporate Partnership Manager</b>               |                 |        |
| <b>VACANT</b>  |                | <b>Legislative Manager - National</b>              |                 |        |
| <b>Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association Auxilliary Leadership</b> |                |  |                 |        |
| Catherine  | Berry          | Auxilliary President                               | Aux Life Member |        |
| Shirley  | Spitz          | Past Auxilliary President                          | Aux Life Member |        |
| Roxie  | Barwick        | Auxilliary Secretary/Legislation/Publications      | Aux Life Member |        |
| Marie  | Traxler        | Auxilliary Treasurer/Membership                    | Aux Life Member |        |
| <b>Area V Directors as of 7 August 2019</b>                                |                |  |                 |        |
| Chuck  | Kasin          | EANGUS Area V Director Chair                       | North Dakota    |        |
| Roberta  | Coker          | EANGUS Area V Director                             | Wisconsin       |        |
| Josh   | Wermers        | EANGUS Area V Director                             | South Dakota    |        |

*Life Member\**

# MISSION STATEMENT

## *Taking Care of Our Own*

The Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association is established and organized to promote and support state and national security; to foster and improve the Wisconsin National Guard, and the National Guard of the United States, and to promote the status, welfare and professionalism of the Enlisted members of the Wisconsin National Guard through education, publications, and the exchange of ideas and information.

# Bucky's Bulletin

The official publication of The Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association

Fall 20

*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, 2400 Wright Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53704. Material for Spring and Fall issues will be submitted by 15 January and 15 September respectively. Correspondence for other than Publications should be directed to: WNGEA, c/a 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 **\$1,000.00 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: \_\_\_\_\_

RETIREEES 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



## **THE WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION IS WORKING FOR YOU!**

The Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association (WNGEA), Inc. is a professional membership organization for Enlisted Soldiers and Airmen which is affiliated with the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS). EANGUS is also a member of the Military Coalition which may be the most formidable lobbying force ever to fight on the behalf of service members, retirees, and families representing 5.5 million members serving all seven uniformed services. EANGUS also partners with the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) to pursue common legislation goals.

### **Our Goal/Mission:**

- Promote the status, welfare and professionalism of enlisted members of the National Guard by supporting legislation that provides adequate staffing, pay, benefits, entitlements, equipment and installations for the National Guard.
- Increase the voice of enlisted persons in the National Guard on Capitol Hill for enlisted National Guard issues.
- Offer professional development training and educational opportunities for enlisted soldiers and airmen.
- Recognize Soldiers and Airmen of the year through our Awards Program at our annual conference.

## **EANGUS 2019 Resolutions:**

**NR19-01 Military Skills Credit Impact on Satisfactory Academic Progress**

**NR19-02 Insurance to match Retiree Pay Age**

**NR19-03 Language Change in Post 9/11 GI Bill**

**NR19-04 Tax Credit for Employers who have National Guard Soldiers currently deployed and/or on State Active Duty**

**NR19-06 Increase in FSGLI coverage for dependent children**

**NR19-07 Transfer eligibility of Post GI Bill**

**NR19-08 Tricare Retired Reserve rate re-evaluation for grey area retiree's**

**NR19-09 Tricare for Retirees**

**NR19-11 Safe Haven (ARNG/ANG) Entitlement and Eligibility**

**NR19-12 Retirement Points for State Active Duty (SAD)**

**NR19-13 DSG Maternity Leave**

**NR19-14 Veterans Preference Points**

**Go to [WNGEA.ORG](http://WNGEA.ORG) for a complete listing of all the 2019 EANGUS National Resolutions, a short description, the business case and the recommendations for each resolution.**

## **WNGEA Member Benefits:**

**Sponsors Annual Scholarships worth \$3,500.00**

**Free Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance**

**Funds Wisconsin Delegates to represent Wisconsin membership at the National EANGUS Conference**

**Provides award winning semi-annual publication (Bucky Bulletin) and maintains [WNGEA.ORG](http://WNGEA.ORG) web-site to keep members current on legislative issues and association business**

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



*Roberta Coker,  
WNGEA President*

Dear fellow Airmen and Soldiers,

This has been a different kind of year for all of us. I thought for a long time what I wanted to write about and I knew I had to start about COVID-19. It has been hard on soldiers and airmen, as they continue to support COVID-19 testing and dealing with the civil unrests. This has been a time for the Army and Air Force to come together as a team in the National Guard. I am extremely proud of all the soldiers and airmen supporting Wisconsin right now. We don't just train to deploy overseas, but we train to deploy in our own state. Thank you all for your dedication and service to the Air and Army National Guard.

As you know our 48th Annual WNGEA & 70th WINGA conference was canceled, so our association decided to hold all voting until next year. At that time we will vote for all our positions, so please if you are interested in any of the open positions, let myself or Gary Hans, Executive Director know. The 128 ARW will be hosting the conference for 2021 and it will be located at Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Ho-

tel, April 23 – 25, 2021. We are looking at asking the same speakers we had lined up from last year. More details to follow after our January meeting.

This past month, I was sworn in as the new Area V Director at Large. I am looking forward to working with all the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Executive Council members.

As a reminder our WNGEA annual membership is only \$25.00 and a life time membership is \$220.00. Once a member of WNGEA you automatically become a member of EANGUS. Please consider joining or if you are a current member consider sponsoring a new member this year. To register and become a member our link is [www.wngea.org](http://www.wngea.org). Membership benefits include sponsor annual scholarships worth \$3,500.00, free accidental death and dismemberment insurance, funds Wisconsin delegates to represent Wisconsin membership at the National EANGUS Conference.

Thank you all and I hope you and your family is safe. If there is anything you may need financially, please reach out and we can assist you in reaching out to EANGUS.

Respectfully,

ROBERTA COKER, SMSgt, WI ANG  
WNGEA President

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR by Gary Hans



*Gary Hans,  
Executive Director*

This has been a challenging year for the State Association (WNGEA) and National Association (EANGUS) because of the health restrictions due to COVID 19 and the cancellation of all gatherings. Because of this unprecedented turn of events both the State and National Organizations have extended the current personnel in leadership positions until elections can be held in 2021.

**Mission Statement:** The Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association is established and organized to promote and support state and national security; to foster and improve the Wisconsin National Guard, and the National Guard of the United States, and to promote the status, welfare and professionalism of the enlisted members of the Wisconsin National Guard through education, publications, and the exchange of ideas and information.

**USAA Scholarship:** The Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association awarded the 2020 USAA \$1000.00 Scholar-

ship Grant to Heather A. Kluczykowski for her attendance at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Heather was sponsored by CMSgt Allen G. Kluczykowski of the 128th ARW, Milwaukee. Our congratulations to Heather and special thanks to the 2020 Scholarship committee, CSM (Ret) Mary B. Scullion, CSM (Ret) Lowell M. Koehler and TSgt Rhonda K. Martinson. See related photo.

**2020 WNGEA Awards Presentation:** The 2020 Soldier and Airman of the Year Awards presentation were also placed on hold due to the cancellation of the 2020 Awards Ceremony. Due to the COVID virus, the Army National Guard cancelled its competition while the Air Guard had completed its selection process prior to the COVID restriction. The presentation for the Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association Awards for the Air Guard selectees will take place at a later date to be determined. The Awardees are:

**2020 AIRMAN OF THE YEAR**  
SrA Alex King  
115th Fighter Wing (FW), Madison

**2020 NCO OF THE YEAR**  
TSgt Blake Brandner

115th Fighter Wing (FW), Madison

**2020 SENIOR NCO OF THE YEAR**

MSgt Tyler Ostrowski  
128th Air Refueling Wing (ARW), Milwaukee

**2020 FIRST SERGEANT OF THE YEAR**

MSgt Chontelle Southworth  
115th Fighter Wing (FW), Madison

**EANGUS Legislative Action Center:** Use this link to sign up for and receive notification of legislative issues and to contact your D.C. delegation and to support EANGUS legislative priorities. You can also scroll down the page to find other useful information such as EANGUS Legislation support letters and testimony, previous congressional issues EANGUS has addressed, Drill Weekend Talking Points and other helpful links. <https://eangus.org/legislative-calls-to-action-2/>

**EANGUS Area V Caucus:** The 2020 EANGUS Area V Caucus Teleconference was held on Wednesday night, August 5th at 6:00 PM central time. Due to Area V crossing 3 time zones the Teleconference was limited to 1 hour. Roberta Coker and myself were on the teleconference. Roberta Coker was nominated, elected and accepted the Area V position of At-Large Director. EANGUS Area V consists of representatives from 9 states to include: IN, IL, IA, MI, MN, SD, NE, ND, and WI. As the At-Large Director, SMSgt Coker will be assisting other state associations and performing duties assigned from the National level.

**The 2021 Combined Annual WINGA/WNGEA Conference:** The Combined Annual Conference will be hosted by the 128th ARW on 23-25 April 2021 at the Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel in Brookfield, WI. We are looking forward to a special Combined Association Conference after the cancellations of this year's conference. The Associations will be sponsoring Professional Development Classes for 49 Junior Officer and Enlisted Personnel at the Conference and an Award Ceremony for Soldier and Airman of the year. Further information will be available soon at WNGEA.ORG.

**The 50th Annual EANGUS Anniversary Conference:** The 50th Annual EANGUS Anniversary Conference will be held 8-12 August 2021 in Albuquerque, New Mexico with 8 and 12 August being travel days. Go to EANGUS.ORG <https://eangus.org/> for further details on the 2021 50th EANGUS Anniversary Conference. We hope to have a strong delegation representing Wisconsin to include our Senior Enlisted Leadership. \$150.00 Early Bird Registration (7-15 September 2020) \$175.00 (16 September to 1 July 2021) \$200.00 (2 July 2021 to 7 August 2021) \$225.00 to Register at the Conference The WNGEA does set monies aside to reimburse personnel who attend the EANGUS Conference in a delegate status. Contact the undersigned if you are interested in attending as a conference delegate.

**Future EANGUS Conferences Locations and Dates:** Little Rock, Arkansas was approved as the host of the EANGUS

conference in 2022, with Rochester, Minnesota to follow in 2023.

**Upcoming Association Events:**

**State Presidents Workshop**

(February 2021, Washington DC).

**Legislative Workshop** (February 2021, Washington DC).

**EANGUS Area V Caucus**

(May 2021, Deadwood, South Dakota)

**The Combined Annual Conference** will be hosted by the 128th ARW on 23-25 April 2021 at the Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel in Brookfield, WI.

**The 50th Annual EANGUS Anniversary Conference** will be held 8-12 August 2021 in Albuquerque, New Mexico

**New Look to WNGEA.org and EANGUS.org websites:**

Please visit our websites at [www.WNGEA.org](http://www.WNGEA.org) and [www.EANGUS.org](http://www.EANGUS.org). These sites have a new look and present a wealth of information that will keep you up to date on current legislation and resolutions that affect the enlisted force of the Wisconsin National Guard. Some areas of the WNGEA website are in the process of being updated.

**New Senior Enlisted Advisor:** Chief Master Sgt. Meredith Cristine Conn is the Wisconsin Air National Guard command chief, assigned to Joint Force Headquarters in Madison, Wisconsin. She is the top Air National Guard senior enlisted advisor to the adjutant general on readiness, professional development, training and quality of life issues for Wisconsin's 2,200 Airmen. She has oversight of four geographically separated areas within the state and acts as liaison with the deputy adjutants general for Air and Army, the state command sergeant major, director of staff and other members (See enclosed Bio). We are look forward to working with Chief Master Sergeant Meredith Conn in the future. I also want to thank Chief Master Sergeant Thomas Safer for his continued WNGEA support and friendship while serving as the State Command Chief and wish him the best on his future assignments.

**Farewell my Friend:** It is with great sadness that I share with you the loss of one of the Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association founders, SGM (Ret) Wayne Sedgwick. Wayne was a staunch supporter of the Enlisted Association serving in many positions over his 48 years as a member of the Enlisted Association including President from 1978-1980 and Publications Manager of the Bucky Bulletin for many years. During this time the Bucky Bulletin won numerous Awards from the National Association for Wayne's continued efforts to produce a quality publication that addressed Enlisted issues. Thank you Wayne, we appreciate your unending contributions to the Association and we will miss you as a colleague and as a friend.

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

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association

| Acct Code                                    | Account                      | 2019 Actual Budget      | 2020 Proposed Budget     | Current Budget     | Budget Notes    |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
|  |                              | 1 Jan 19 to 31 Dec 2019 | Approved on : 10/19/2019 | As of: 2 Sep 2020  |                 |
| 4010   | WINGA Insurance Trust        | \$41,000.00             | \$47,000.00              | \$11,000.00        |                 |
| 4020   | Membership Dues              | \$3,819.43              | \$6,000.00               | \$2,266.13         |                 |
| 4040   | Ways & Means Sales           | \$0.00                  | \$200.00                 | \$0.00             |                 |
| 4050   | Interest Income              | \$73.44                 | \$50.00                  | \$0.00             |                 |
| 4060   | Misc Income                  | \$748.00                | \$100.00                 | \$0.00             |                 |
| 4070   | USAA Education Grant         | \$1,000.00              | \$1,000.00               | \$1,000.00         |                 |
| 4075   | State Conference Income      | \$0.00                  | \$0.00                   | \$2,219.40         |                 |
| 4080   | Raffle Income                | \$0.00                  | \$0.00                   | \$0.00             |                 |
| 4085   | Area V Caucus Income         | \$0.00                  | \$0.00                   | \$0.00             |                 |
| 4090   | Donations                    | \$280.00                | \$0.00                   | \$1,913.51         | WNGEAA Donation |
|  | <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>          | <b>46,920.87</b>        | <b>54,350.00</b>         | <b>18,399.04</b>   |                 |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                              |                              |                         |                          |                    |                 |
| 5020   | Raffle Expense               | \$128.58                | \$0.00                   | \$0.00             |                 |
| 6010   | EANGUS Dues                  | \$1,892.00              | \$2,800.00               | \$1,452.00         |                 |
| 6050   | Membership Expense           | \$1,689.31              | \$2,200.00               | \$15.00            |                 |
| 6100   | WNGEA Grants                 | \$1,400.64              | \$3,500.00               | \$1,000.00         |                 |
| 6120   | Awards                       | \$538.05                | \$800.00                 | \$307.85           |                 |
| 6200   | Payroll Expense              | \$11,706.16             | \$12,800.00              | \$7,277.76         |                 |
| 6205   | W.C. Insurance Expense       | \$0.00                  | \$300.00                 | \$0.00             |                 |
| 6210   | Executive Director Expense   | \$1,782.33              | \$2,500.00               | \$0.00             |                 |
| 6300   | Professional Fees            | \$0.00                  | \$800.00                 | \$700.00           |                 |
| 6350   | Bank Service Charges         | \$0.00                  | \$50.00                  | \$0.00             |                 |
| 6400   | Association Office           | \$2,399.41              | \$3,200.00               | \$4,116.97         |                 |
| 6500   | Publications Expense         | \$2,095.12              | \$2,700.00               | \$2,239.31         |                 |
| 6600   | Presidents Fund              | \$1,649.62              | \$3,000.00               | \$0.00             |                 |
| 6650   | State Conference Expense     | \$12,201.26             | \$10,000.00              | \$2,331.88         |                 |
| 6670   | Executive Council Mtg Exp    | \$340.00                | \$500.00                 | \$22.50            |                 |
| 6700   | National Educational Seminar | \$4,229.12              | \$8,000.00               | \$0.00             |                 |
| 6790   | Regional Educational Seminar | \$900.65                | \$500.00                 | \$0.00             |                 |
| 6850   | Committee Expense            | \$157.45                | \$100.00                 | \$59.63            |                 |
| 6950   | Taxes                        | \$513.28                | \$500.00                 | \$401.82           |                 |
| 6980   | Permits, License, Fees       | \$0.00                  | \$50.00                  | \$6.92             |                 |
| 6999   | Misc Expense                 | \$0.00                  | \$0.00                   | \$0.00             |                 |
| 8010   | Donations                    | \$0.00                  | \$0.00                   | \$0.00             |                 |
|  | <b>Total Expenses</b>        | <b>\$43,622.98</b>      | <b>\$54,300.00</b>       | <b>\$19,931.64</b> |                 |
| Submitted By: Gary R. Hans, Treasurer, WNGEA |                              |                         |                          |                    |                 |

## UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

We are asking all of our membership to go into the WNGEA.ORG website and update their profile. Failure to follow these steps will lessen our ability to keep you informed of important Association information. If you have a military email addresses listed on WNGEA.ORG we are asking you to use a civilian email address. The Military address will strip out all attachments we may send you direct our email to SPAM. We also need everyone to verify their correct mailing address in the database. This can be accomplished by logging into WNGEA.ORG.

1. Type in your username or email address
2. Enter your password, or send for lost password
3. Upper right screen, click on Howdy, your name
4. Click on edit my profile
5. Go to Civilian Email and enter new email
6. Screen down and verify that your mailing address is correct

Please contact me if you are having issues logging into WNGEA.ORG or correcting your profile.

Gary R. Hans, Sergeant Major, USA, Retired  
 Executive Director, WNGEA  
 920-723-8098  
 WNGEA@yahoo.com

# WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD

2400 Wright Street • Madison • WI • 53704

## Biography

**CHIEF MASTER SGT.  
MEREDITH C. CONN**

### Wisconsin Air National Guard

Chief Master Sgt. Meredith Cristine Conn is the Wisconsin Air National Guard command chief, assigned to Joint Force Headquarters in Madison, Wisconsin. She is the top Air National Guard senior enlisted advisor to the adjutant general on readiness, professional development, training and quality of life issues for Wisconsin's 2,200 Airmen. She has oversight of four geographically separated areas within the state and acts as liaison with the deputy adjutants general for Air and Army, the state command sergeant major, director of staff and other members.



Chief Conn attended basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas in February 1992. She attended Airman Leadership School at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi in 1996. In 2002 she earned an associates degree in applied science, transportation management, from Community College of the Air Force. In 2003 she earned a bachelors of science degree in elementary and middle level education from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. In 2006 she earned an associates degree in applied science, logistics management, from Community College of the Air Force. The same year she completed the Noncommissioned Officer Academy by correspondence. She received a graduate certificate of instructional design in 2014 from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. In 2015 she completed the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Maxwell Air Force Base, Gunter Annex, Alabama. In 2016 she completed the Human Resource Advisor Orientation Course at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado, and Leadership Challenge Program I-Diversity Leadership at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado. In 2018 she completed the Chief Master Sergeant Orientation Course at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. In 2019 she completed the Senior Enlisted Joint PME I by correspondence, and the Chiefs Leadership Course at Maxwell Air Force Base.

Chief Conn entered the active duty Air Force in February 1992 in the transportation career field. She served in several capacities in that career field at Beale Air Force Base, California, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, and Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. She separated honorably as a staff sergeant to pursue a career in education. While pursuing her bachelor's degree, she transferred to the Air National Guard at Volk Field as a drill status Guardsman in the Supply Career field. Later, in 2003, she transferred to the Air Force Reserves as an individualized mobility augmentee at Ramstein Air Base, Germany and returned to the Wisconsin Air National Guard in 2004. In 2008, as a senior master sergeant, Conn was hired as an Active Guard Reserve operations manager in the Civil Engineering Squadron at Volk Field. Chief Conn has served in multiple leadership capacities, to include program manager for the Wisconsin State Enlisted Development Program and Volk Field's first human resource advisor.

During her time as a drill status Guardsman, Chief Conn worked as a third-grade teacher at Dexheim Army Post in Germany and taught middle school English at Columbus Catholic in Marshfield, Wisconsin. Prior to assuming her current position, Chief Conn was the senior enlisted advisor to the commander at Volk Field Air National Guard Base.

Chief Conn's military awards include the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, and the Air Force Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters.

Chief Conn lives in Holmen, Wisconsin.

25 June 2020





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

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 #162, 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 Armed Forces Benefits Association (AFBA), 909 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.  
Policy #: MAT POL Ed. WINGABROR0119. 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”**

# THAT PAYROLL TAX DEFERRAL IS NOT FREE CASH. SAVE THE MONEY!

The payroll tax deferral [Executive Order](#) you've heard about may sound like a big win (more cash now!), but it's not that simple. What does it mean for your military family?

Employers can now defer a portion of payroll tax withholdings for their employees who make less than \$4,000 bi-weekly from September 1 — December 31, 2020 — which is supposed to provide temporary financial relief to working families during the pandemic. And since Defense Finance and Accounting Service ([DFAS](#)) takes care of all of those payroll issues, you may not think twice about the extra money in your paycheck.

## **But the extra money you'll see in your paycheck? It all comes due in 2021.**

While employers have been given the opportunity to opt out of the program, the federal government is expected to participate. **That means that every service member — from active duty, Guard, and Reserves — will have their payroll taxes deferred.** Service members earning less than \$8,666.66 in monthly basic pay will have their Social Security tax, labeled "FICA-SOC SECURITY" on your Leave and Earnings Statement (LES), deferred. Again — not waved, forgiven, or reimbursed — just deferred.

## **All military pay will be affected, and there's no opportunity to opt out of the program.**

While a payroll tax deferral means more take-home pay in the short-term, the long-term repercussions are still unclear.

While the President's Order can defer the tax, he alone cannot forgive it. President Trump's order directs the Secretary of Treasury to *pursue legislative action to forgive the deferred taxes* — a long Congressional process not likely to happen in remaining months of 2020.

**If Congress does not act to forgive the deferred taxes, you will have to pay them back, and on the government's timeline, meaning the deferred taxes will be taken directly out of service members' paychecks — in addition to the usual amount of payroll taxes.**

Here are a couple things you can do to prepare:

1. Make sure you know exactly how much money is deducted every month from your paycheck for social security. (remember that "FICA-SOC SECURITY" line)
  2. In paychecks received from mid-September through the end of the year, check to see exactly how much \*wasn't\* taken out — and put that money aside if you can.

The more you save now, the less it will hurt when it's time to pay the deferred money back.

**By: Jennifer Davis, Government Relations Deputy Director**

# RESOLUTIONS 101.0

## **Your Suggestion Can Change Laws and Regulations.**

By Bob Serrahn, WNGEA Resolutions Manager

In the National Guard, both on the federal level as well as the state level, there are laws, regulations, policies, procedures, guides, pamphlets, and whatever, that a state or higher headquarters adopts, directs, and enforces on an organization and individuals within the organization.

As with anything else in life, sometimes current directives become obsolete with the times, conflict with other directives, include things, or exclude things that could hurt or affect a unit or group of individuals, that if the directive was changed or updated, it would be better for all concerned. Sometimes there needs to be a new directive if there is nothing available as a proper guide.

Now you can help make things better. Here is where you can become a resolution detective. You may find a problem, or have a great new idea for a suggestion. You need to do some digging to find out certain facts to see what is happening now. Describe how the current directive, if there is one, how it is not doing what it is supposed to do, along with providing some examples. Propose how your new suggestion, or the current directive should be changed, providing benefits if any, with the adoption of the change. This is the resolution process.

To take action, please go to the WNGEA website. The link is: [WWW.WNGEA.ORG](http://WWW.WNGEA.ORG)

Move your mouse over the top of menu item: LEGISLATION, and then click on the bottom item LEGISLATIVE SUGGESTIONS. You will see the Suggestion Inputs Form. Don't worry about submitting your entire suggestion here. All that is needed is: Your Name, and Your Email Address. Upon receipt of your email, We will send an email back with all the details for you to submit your suggestion to the WNGEA. Upon receipt, you are invited to review the Instruction page, and fill in your suggestion details on the form page. When you feel that you have put down what your suggestion is, you can submit it to the WNGEA.

This starts your suggestion process, and establishes communication with you to keep you informed as to what is happening, what is still needed, what the WNGEA has done, and where your suggestion is in the suggestion process.

# How TRICARE For Life Eligibility, Enrollment Works

1/28/2020

Are you wondering what the [TRICARE For Life](#) (TFL) program is and whether you're eligible? TFL is Medicare-wraparound coverage for TRICARE beneficiaries who have Medicare Part A and Part B. This is regardless of your age or where you live. It provides comprehensive health care coverage. With TFL, you also get prescription coverage under the [TRICARE Pharmacy Program](#).

## Am I eligible for TFL?

To be eligible for TFL, you must first show that you're eligible for TRICARE in the [Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System](#) (DEERS). That's why it's important to keep your DEERS information current. "Accurate information in DEERS is key," said Anne Breslin, TRICARE For Life program manager at the Defense Health Agency. "It'll help you get effective and timely delivery of your TFL benefits."

Medicare eligibility is the second piece of being eligible for TFL. Medicare is a federal entitlement health insurance program that provides hospital insurance (Medicare Part A) and medical insurance (Medicare Part B) for people:

- [Age 65 or older](#)
- [Under age 65 with certain disabilities](#)
- Any age with end-stage renal disease

Your birth date determines when you become [eligible for Medicare](#) based on reaching age 65. It also determines when you should sign up for both Medicare Part A and Part B. Signing up on time will help you avoid a break in TRICARE coverage and get your TFL coverage. If your birthday falls on the first day of the month, you become eligible for Medicare on the first day of the month before you turn age 65. If your birthday falls after the first day of the month, you become eligible for Medicare on the first day of the month you turn age 65. Five months before you turn age 65, you'll get a notification from the Defense Manpower Data Center reminding you to sign up for Medicare. Your notice will be sent to your email address on your DEERS record, if you've opted for electronic communication.

To learn more about eligibility and signing up for Medicare, check out the [TRICARE and Medicare Turning Age 65 Brochure](#) or [TRICARE and Medicare Under Age 65 Brochure](#).

## How do I enroll in TFL?

There are no enrollment forms for you to submit or paperwork to complete. If you already show as eligible for TRICARE in DEERS, are entitled to Medicare Part A, and have Medicare Part B, you're covered under TFL. Your TFL coverage starts the first day you have both Medicare Part A and Part B.

There are also no TFL enrollment fees. But you must continue to be eligible for TRICARE and [pay Medicare Part B premiums](#) to remain eligible for TFL benefits. Once you have TFL, you're no longer eligible for [TRICARE Prime](#), unless you're under the age of 65.

Now that you understand TFL eligibility including Medicare enrollment, you may be wondering if other members of your family can have TFL coverage. Each individual must be eligible for Medicare in order to have TFL coverage. This is regardless of whether you're the sponsor or family member.

"TRICARE For Life is an individual entitlement," said Breslin. "That means coverage is only for the Medicare and TRICARE eligible beneficiary, and not for family members who aren't eligible for Medicare." Visit [TRICARE For Life](#) or download the [TRICARE For Life Handbook](#) to learn more about TFL eligibility, enrollment, and key features. Doing so will help you make informed choices and take command of your health.



# TYPE MEMBERSHIP

## CIRCLE YOUR CHOICE

- (NEW ANNUAL)
- (RENEWAL ANNUAL)
- (LIFE MEMBERSHIP)

# WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION

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MADISON, WI 53704-2572

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HOME STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ CITY STATE 5 DIGIT ZIP CODE

PRIMARY CONTACT NO: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ RANK/GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_ / E-\_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: mon: \_\_\_\_\_ day: \_\_\_\_\_ yr: \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CIRCLE CHOICES: (ARMY GUARD) (AIR GUARD) (OTHER) (MALE) (FEMALE)

OFFICIAL UNIT DESIGNATION/NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CIRCLE STATUS: (AGR) (TECHNICIAN) (M-DAY / TRADITIONAL) (RETIREE)

ASSOCIATE STATUS: (COMMISSIONED/WARRANT OFFICER) (CIVILIAN) (OTHER MILITARY SERVICE)

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>MEMBERSHIP DUES - Suggest to join or renew online at <a href="http://WWW.WNGEA.ORG">WWW.WNGEA.ORG</a></b></p> <p><b>E-1 to E-9 ONE YEAR - \$25.00 [ ]</b></p> <p><b>ASSOCIATE ONE YEAR - \$25.00 [ ]</b></p> <p><b>LIFE MEMBERSHIP - \$220.00 [ ]</b></p> <p>Includes both State and National Dues. You will receive notice via email shortly before the date your membership expires for you to renew. At that time, you can establish an automatic renew option that your dues will automatically be taken from your charge card.</p> | <p><b>***LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES- \$220.00</b></p> <p><b><u>This is our new Life Membership price.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>This is a special discounted price that may go up in the future.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States will provide a Life Membership Card by mail.</u></b></p>  |
| <p><b>MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: <u>WNGEA</u></b></p> <p>Total Received: \$ _____</p> <p>Check # _____ Processed by: _____</p> <p>Note: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Do not write in this area.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Suggest to photo copy before mailing.</b></p>   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Questions? Contact me</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Gary R Hans</u></b><br/><b><u>Sergeant Major, Ret</u></b><br/><b><u>Executive Director, WNGEA</u></b><br/><b><u>Email: <a href="mailto:WNGEA@yahoo.com">WNGEA@yahoo.com</a></u></b><br/><b><u>Cell: 920-723-8098</u></b></p> |

Oct 2017

# PAST PRESIDENTS

| WNGEA President's & Years of Service | Name                     | Branch of Service |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1972-1973                            | CSM David Ebert          | Army              |
| 1973-1974                            | SGM Jim Abraham          | Army              |
| 1974-1976                            | SFC Franklin Stoneburner | Army              |
| 1976-1978                            | MSgt William Fitzpatrick | Air               |
| 1978-1980                            | SGM Wayne Sedgwick       | Army              |
| 1980-1982                            | SGM Alan Seidl           | Army              |
| 1982-1984                            | CSM Donald Meister       | Army              |
| 1984-1986                            | CSM Donald Adams         | Air               |
| 1986-1988                            | SGM Neil Thome           | Army              |
| 1988-1990                            | CSM Donald Meister       | Army              |
| 1990-1992                            | SFC Deanna Luedtke       | Army              |
| 1992-1994                            | SGM William Krueck       | Army              |
| 1994-1996                            | MSgt Jeff Rohloff        | Air               |
| 1996-1998                            | CSM Lowell Koehler       | Army              |
| 1998-1999                            | SFC David Conis          | Army              |
| 1999-2000                            | MSG Mark Spitz           | Army              |
| 2000-2002                            | MSG Mark Spitz           | Army              |
| 2002-2004                            | SMSGt Robert Serrahn     | Air               |
| 2004-2006                            | SGM Gary Hans            | Army              |
| 2006-2008                            | CSM John Olson           | Army              |
| 2008-2010                            | SGM Bonnie Moser         | Army              |
| 2010-2012                            | MSgt Jim Cieslewicz      | Air               |
| 2012-2014                            | MSG Thomas Krueck        | Army              |
| 2014-2016                            | MSgt Nathan Nickel       | Air               |
| 2016-2020                            | SMSGt Bobbie Coker       | Air               |

| Auxiliary President's & Years of Service | Name               |
|--|--------------------|
| 1980-1981                                | Jean FitzPatrick   |
| 1981-1984                                | Carol Kolata       |
| 1984-1986                                | Jane Rohloff       |
| 1986-1988                                | Kate Mead          |
| 1988-1990                                | Peg Thome          |
| 1990-1992                                | Karen Maum         |
| 1992-1994                                | Kathy Serrahn      |
| 1994-1996                                | Marlene Williams   |
| 1996-1998                                | Ernestine Iannello |
| 1998-2000                                | Adele Cywinski     |
| 2000-2002                                | Shirley Spitz      |
| 2002-2003                                | Cindy Stansfield   |
| 2003-2005                                | Catherine Berry    |
| 2005-2008                                | Shirley Spitz      |
| 2008-2010                                | Delaine Reis       |
| 2010-2014                                | Shirley Spitz      |
| 2014-2018                                | Catherine Berry    |

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Enlisted Association**

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