**WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION**

**2400 WRIGHT STREET, MADISON, WI 53704**

52nd ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake, WI

DATE: 27 April 2024

**1. Call to Order:** The 52nd WNGEA Annual Business Meeting/PD\* Session was called to order by President Sharon Booth at 10:40 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. President Sharon Booth welcomed everyone and recognized and introduced the Head Table and Sgt at Arms. She identified the Professional Development Personnel and the SOY/AOY Awardees that were present. She then recognized WNGEA Past Presidents, Bobbie Coker and Deanna Leudtke; CSM Curtis Patrouille, State Command Sergeant Major; CMSgt Chad Workman, State Command Chief Master Sgt; Stephanie Gelbowitz, Area V Chair; and members of the Executive Council to include herself, Sharon Booth, President; Curtis Leren, Vice President; Rhonda Martinson, Secretary; and Gary Hans, Executive Director/Treasurer.

**Point of Order:** President Sharon Booth encouraged attendees to visit and talk with the Vendors and to please thank them for their support of our State Officer and Enlisted Associations. She also encouraged everyone to please review their Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association Conference Handbook and to pay close attention to the agenda on page 8 for guidance on the Professional Development (PD) Classes.

**Point of Order:** CSM Curtis Patrouille, WI State Command Sergeant Major for Army thanked everyone for coming. He announced his retirement scheduled for 31 July 2024. He encouraged everyone to gather as much information as possible and to spread the word and educate their soldiers and airmen regarding what WNGEA and EANGUS are all about while explaining the importance of what they stand for and are committed to do in helping soldiers and airmen through their journey of their military career include obtaining the GI Bill and Tri-Care for them.

**Point of Order:** CMSgt Chad Workman, WI State Command Chief for Air thanked everyone for coming. He felt that this was the most enlisted he has seen at once at a conference. He encouraged everyone to network and share information regarding WNGEA and EANGUS in hopes to obtain more attendees for next year’s Conference.

**Point of Order:** President Sharon Booth called the Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association Annual Membership Meeting and Educational Seminar to order at 11:53 a.m.

**Point of Order:** CMSgt Bobbie Coker, WNGEA Conference Committee Chair, thanked everyone for attending the conference. She stated that some changes were made to the conference that had been given to them on last year’s surveys. This year the committee focused on making sure that the professional development was an area that everyone wants to hear more about. Another suggestion they received was to have more time with their senior leaders.

This year they have added Childcare, which they plan to continue to do every year but are having a hard time getting volunteers. They feel this is because of the location of the conference. Next year they are going to look into a daycare to assist. They also added spouse activities and would greatly appreciate any additional suggestions.

The Conference Committee started their meetings in October at one meeting a month, then from January to March, they met twice a month, and then in April started meeting every week until the conference. The hotel was selected a couple of years earlier due to having to sign contracts in advance. They will be working on a location for 2027 this year.

**Future State Conferences include:**

* 2025 – 115th Fighter Wing and Volk Field ANGB (Double Tree in Madison)
* 2026 – 157th MEB (Holiday Inn, Rothschild which is connected to the Civic Center)
* 2027 – 128th Air Refueling Wing (Location TBD)

Bobbie asked everyone to please fill out the survey, either hard copy or online. They use all the information to make each year better. Both WNGEA and EANGUS are always looking for more members to take on more responsibilities during the conferences so they can make it better for everyone. If interested, please email Bobbie Coker at [roberta.coker@us.af.mil](mailto:roberta.coker@us.af.mil) or Gary Hans at [WNGEA@yahoo.com](mailto:WNGEA@yahoo.com)

**2. Welcome Professional Development (PD) Personnel:**

Professional Development Personnel will reference WNGEA’s Schedule of Events on p. 8 of the WNGEA Conference Handbook. The PD Luncheon will be held in the Grand Libelle Ballroom from 12:00 to 13:15 p.m.

**3. Previous Annual Minutes:** The 51st Annual Business Meeting minutes for 29 April 2023 were presented and approved.

**MOTION:** By SMSgt Jason Walker to accept the meeting minutes as written.

Seconded: TSgt Libby Schmiedlin

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed by voice

**4. Area V Directors Update:**

Stephanie Gelbowitz, Area V Chair introduced herself and discussed the importance of EANGUS which is to make things better for the enlisted members. Legislative issues they are currently working on include obtaining free TRICARE for members all year round and to obtain TRICARE for Technicians at a less expensive rate in 2025. She also talked about the Richard Star Act Senate Bill which was introduced in Senate on 02/09/2023. This bill allows a veteran with a combat-related disability and fewer than 20 years of creditable service to receive retirement pay, without reduction, concurrent with disability compensation.

The EANGUS Area V Caucus is scheduled for Friday, May 17, 2024 thru Sunday, May 19, 2024 in Huntington Place, Detroit, MI. Detailed information is posted on the WNGEA.ORG website. The meeting will be attended by nine states to include: IN, IL, IA, MI, MN, SD, NE, ND, and WI as well as members of the EANGUS staff. The Caucus representatives review resolutions from Area V that will be submitted to EANGUS to be considered as National Resolutions to be voted on at the EANGUS Conference held 17-21 August at Huntington Place in Detroit, MI.

**5. President’s Report:** Present, written report on file.

The President’s Report can be found on p. 1 of the WNGEA Conference Handbook.

**6. Treasurer’s Report:** Present, written report on file.

Treasurer’s report was accepted by President Sharon Booth and can be found on page 11 of the WNGEA Conference Handbook.

**7. Executive Director Report:** Present, written report on file.

Welcome everyone to the Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association’s (WNGEA) 52nd Annual Conference. This year we are again conducting a joint conference with the Officers Association (WINGA). The Executive Director encourages everyone to experience the benefits of a Joint Conference by understanding that WINGA and WNGEA are working toward the same goals of sustaining the Wisconsin National Guard for the future. We also have some important upcoming events that are available for all members to participate in and learn what WNGEA and EANGUS do for its members. Bottom line is we need and appreciate our active members and above all we hope everyone enjoys the experience. For more information or to apply for a scholarship, please visit our websites at [www.WNGEA.org](http://www.WNGEA.org/) and [www.EANGUS.org.](http://www.EANGUS.org/) The Executive Director’s Report can be found on pp. 12-13 of the WNGEA Conference Handbook.

**8. National Legislative Report:** Present, no written report on file.

Any suggestions for any resolution ideas please email MSgt Jay Brody or SMSgt Jason Walker. All suggestions/ideas are appreciated and welcomed.

**9. State Legislative Report:** Present, no written report on file.

**10. Resolutions Report:** Not Present, no written report on file.

The resolution process is used by an individual or group to submit a formal request, suggestion, desire, or idea to be adopted by the WNGEA. A resolution submission form can be found at [https://WNGEA.org](https://WNGEA.org/). Resolutions submitted are presented at the Area V Caucus. For a resolution to be successfully addressed, it is important for the person submitting the resolution to be present at Area V Caucus to answer any questions the committee may have.

**11. Membership and Marketing Co-Chairs Report (Army & Air Guard):** Present for Army, Air Guard position vacant, no written report on file.

**12. Junior Enlisted Manager:** Present for Air but not Army, no written report on file.

WNGEA has 4 enlisted members, 1-Army and 3-Air who share this position: Kyle Kenowski (Army), Rich Koceja (Air), Alyssa Meyers (Air), and Stephanie Corson (Air).

**13. Corporate Partnership Report:** Position vacant, no written report on file.

**14. Publications Report:** Not present, no written report on file.

If anyone has any items to be published in the next Bucky Book, please email them to Patti Winter-Schmidt, Publications Manager at [daroffa@outlook.com](mailto:daroffa@outlook.com) by September 1, 2024. Also, please send all items in **PDF** format.

**15. Retiree Council Liaison Report:** Present, written report on file.

The Retiree Activity Office (RAO) has been established to help Retired 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 questions before, during, and after you are into your retirement. For more information go to WNGEA.ORG and look for the RAO link under Benefits. This report can be found on pg. 15 of the 52nd WNGEA Conference Handbook.

**16. Leader of Prayer’s Report:** Present, written report on file.

If anyone knows of any members who have passed away, please email their name, rank, unit, and date to Steve Berry at [ssgberry1842@gmail.com](mailto:ssgberry1842@gmail.com). The Leader of Prayer’s Report can be found on pp. 16-17 of the 52nd WNGEA Conference Handbook.

**17. Education Selection Report:** Present, no written report on file.

Unfortunately there were no 2023 applicants for the $1000 USAA Scholarship, the $1000 WNGEA Scholarship, and for the (5) $500.00 WNGEA Scholarships.

**18. Awards Report:** Position vacant, written report on file.

A list of 2024 Air Guard and 2024 Army Guard Award Recipients can be found on p. 14 of the 52nd WNGEA Conference Handbook.

**19. Insurance Program Report:** Present, no written report on file.

The Wisconsin National Guard Association (WINGA) makes affordable group term life insurance (Stated Sponsored Life Insurance – SSLI) for Soldiers and Airmen to include Active Duty (AGR and Technicians), M-Day, Veterans, and Retirees. Go to pg. 22 in the WNGEA Conference Handbook or go to [www.winga.org/insurance.html](http://www.winga.org/insurance.html) to obtain more information.

**20. Bylaws Report:** Not Present, no written report on file.

**21. Historian Report:** Not Present, no written report on file.

**22. Special Projects Report:** Position vacant, no written report on file.

**22. WEB Managers Report:** Present, no written report on file.

Gary Hans continues to update WNGEA’s website (WNGEA.ORG) with lots of valuable information and links to utilize as well.

**24. Old Business**

None at the present time.

**25. New Business**

**2024 EANGUS Area V Caucus (17-18 May 2024 at Huntington Place in Detroit, MI)**

* Hosted by the MI National Guard.
* The Area V Caucus consists of representatives from 9 states to include: IN, IL, IA, MI, MN, SD, NE, ND, and WI.

**2024 EANGUS Conference (17-24 August 2024, Detroit, MI):**

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Annual Conference will be held in Detroit, MI at Huntington Place from 17-21 August 2024, with 16 and 22 August being travel days. Until you take the time to attend the National Conference you will not fully understand the impact the National Association has on issues that affect you. You will be able sit on National Committees, vote on relevant Enlisted issues and meet our EANGUS Legislative Directors that work for our issues on a daily basis. **To register**, go to the [https://**EANGUS.ORG**](https://EANGUS.ORG/)website and register online.

**A. ISSUE:** Election for Vice President

Rhonda Martinson nominated MSgt Curtis Leren for Vice President. No other nominations were made.

**MOTION:** WNGEA Secretary MSgt (Retired) Rhonda Martinson

Second: WNGEA Past President Deanna Leudtke

Discussion: Everyone was in favor of the nomination.

Vote: Passed by voice

**B. ISSUE:** Fill Remaining Executive Council Positions

Vacant positions include:

**Awards Manager:** Gary Hans will fill this position until a volunteer has been obtained.

**Corporate Partnership Manager**

**Membership Marketing – Air**

**Parliamentarian**

For more information regarding the vacant positions please contact WNGEA’s President Sharon Booth, Vice President Curtis Leren, or Executive Director Gary Hans.

**25. GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

**A. NEXT MEETING:** Held on Saturday, July 27, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at Executive Director’s House, N3685 Riverside Lane, Jefferson, WI. If you cannot attend, calling in is an option.

**B. Close of Meeting.**

**MOTION:** By Steve Berry to Adjourn.

Seconded: SMSgt Jason Walker

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed by voice.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 hrs.

Rhonda Martinson

WNGEA Secretary Transcribed 24 May 2024