Area V Caucus Meeting – 17 May 2024

Called to Order 0810 by Stephanie Gelbowitz Area V Chair

1. Attendance:
   1. Present in Person: Area V Chair Stephanie Gelbowitz (IA), Tabby Carr (SD), Courtney Tyrell (SD), Bruce Anderson (SD), Cathy Anderson (SD), Charles Kasin (ND), Jay Brody (WI), Richard Gelbowitz (IA), Bobbie Coker (IA), Derek Whisenhunt (NE), Katrina Golab (MI), Shelley Reeder (SD), Gary Hans (WI)
   2. Via Teams: Mark Wasserbauer (MN)
   3. Guests: Rogers Hamilton (MI) Mack Defense
2. Roll Call By State for Voting:

IA – Army Only

IL – Air Only

IN – Not Present

MN – Army and Air

NE – Army Only

MI – Army Only

ND – Army and Air

SD – Army and Air

WI – Army Only

1. Webmaster Report – John Harris
   1. Google Workspace account – EANGUS / WCFA got an account and can pass the benefits down to the state level. This will provide google meets and such for free as well as domain name email addresses that will hopefully not get kicked back as much as other email addressed.
   2. ODOO – free apps that we can be taking advantage of. Lots of apps but you get one for free and they can help track sponsors and stuff.
   3. Wave Accounting – a free alternative to quickbooks.
   4. Mass emails and text messages – not free but it is cheap and once a state signs up it is easily managed through the website.
   5. ASAP Utilities – free version that adds functionality to excel.
   6. Year of Free membership: understands that the management was rough but John can get you a discount code to make this easier.
2. Auxiliary Report
   1. No report but Steph talked about the route that Iowa went with their Auxiliary. They pay their national auxiliary dues but do not have a board in Iowa, they sit as a committee within the Iowa Enlisted Association.
3. National Office Update:
   1. New staff and working on website.
4. Area V Treasure Report – Dianne Metcalf
   1. Current Balance Bank Account: $ 7,552.96
   2. Check for USAA to Area Hospitality Room for Area V Caucus $500.00
   3. Additional Bill coming from Minnesota from 2023 National Conference
      1. Bill Amount: $1903.13
      2. Bill for Hospitality Rooms, Bar Service and Mandatory State Taxes
   4. Treasurer Report attached
   5. Dianne Metcalf would like retire from being Treasurer for Area V d
      1. No volunteers at this time
      2. John Harris volunteered to look into EIN and tax documents required to have a legal business bank account and he will present options and a plan at EANGUS Conf Area V Caucus, with hopes of getting a volunteer for the position if he does some of the leg work to ensure we are working legally.
   6. Also discussed the low interest rate that this checking account is making but this will stay until new treasure is identified.
5. Presidents Reports
   1. Illinois Presidents Report – John Harris
      1. Working on membership and the headache with transferring data between systems, also taking advantage of free membership. Illinois may be in the top 5 for membership next year.
      2. New TAG and president and the whole state is very EANGUS friendly right now.
   2. Indiana – No presidents report
   3. Iowa President Report – Steph Gelbowitz
      1. Hoping that membership will trend upward. New SEL that is more involved with the association. Pushing from the top down. Area V hosted best warrior last week, promotional material was displayed.
   4. Michigan President Report – Katrina Golab
      1. Combined association and has been talking at formations. Taking advantage of free membership. Made a payment plan for life membership in the state.
      2. Will be submitting by-laws change about the membership cut-off date to 31 May or 60 days before EANGUS Conf.
      3. Hasn’t been a top down association but moving toward a better climate for the association.
      4. Bringing a ton to the National Conference to hopefully show how important the association is.
      5. Michigan also moved to a flat fee instead of a tiered payment by rank. Consolidating data between membership databases.
   5. Minnesota President Report – Mark Wasserbauer
      1. State scholarship program is in the process as their closing date just passed.
      2. Trying to fill some key leadership positions in the association.
      3. Had to postpone state conf but tentative be in June – abbreviated conf with mandatory pieces only.
      4. Excited to have representation in Detroit for EANGUS Conf.
   6. Nebraska President Report – Derek Weisenhunt
      1. 533 members but working on SEL to start top down.
      2. New bill in NE to eliminate state income tax for military.
      3. Soldier and NCO of the year were both runner ups at Regional and they will get a life membership.
      4. Traveled to SD state conf.
   7. North Dakota President Report – Chuck Kasin
      1. New State President – Shane Aumenson.
      2. Starting to do in person meetings again and get away from virtual.
      3. Membership is up enough to get an additional delegate.
   8. South Dakota President Report – Tabby Carr
      1. 1252 members and going to start using state membership budget to incentives membership – raffle for new memberships.
      2. State SEL is supportive and pushing from top down.
      3. Submitted 5 resolutions.
      4. Sponsorship program has traditionally sponsored lower enlisted to come to last state conference but this year we sponsored AGR’s with hopes of them spreading the word and getting more buy in.
   9. Wisconsin President Report – On behalf of Sharon Booth
      1. Just had 230 people (joint conf) at state conference
      2. Has top down support in the state.
      3. Had the awards ceremony during the conference.
      4. Focused on spouse support and spouse listening session and cooking class ect. Had about 25 attendees as PD and they met with senior state leadership.
      5. Introduced Jay Brody as new legislative director for Wisconsin who was able to attend the last legislative workshop and is excited to learn more.
      6. NGB sends funding for man days professional development, the same pot that is used for EANGUS PD. PD at the state conference was on orders and DTS.
6. Resolutions
   1. SD – Retention of 10% Tinnitus Disability.
   2. SD – Retention of Incentives when accepting T32 AGR or Tech. Discussion about ‘urges congress vs NGB’ and will discuss more at committee at EANGUS.
   3. SD – retiree continued contribution to TSP.
   4. SD - Military Occupation compatibility with civilian skills.
   5. SD – Automatic re-enrollment back into TRS from prime.
   6. NE – Transfer GI Bill after Retirement.
   7. Motion made by Chuck Kasin Caucus body voted on resolutions as a block and all were approved and will move to EANGUS Resolutions Committees. Seconded by Shelley Reeder. Motion Carried.
7. By-Laws Change proposals:
   1. Move the 31 December membership deadline to determine delegates for EANGUS Annual Conference to 31 May to capture the membership numbers closer to the actual conference – Submitted by Michigan.
   2. Creation of standing committee for Women’s Affairs, currently a special committee – Submitted by NGB T10. First virtual meeting was held on 22 Feb 2024. Discussion with the Caucus body was about the actual purpose of this committee.
8. National Conference Update
   1. No registration fee, $100 deposit towards hotel room or reimbursed – Jeff Frisbee lined this up, free registration ends 1 July and then it will be $198 and no hotel or reimbursement. Hotel rate for the conference is $145. No registration fee for PD registrations.
   2. Transportation – Detroit People Mover Tramway (free) available or a 10 min walk from farthest hotel to Huntington Place conference center. There will be other transportation for elderly / special needs. Welcome night and other events will have mass transportation to and from the event. Airport Transportation provided with a reduced rate or DAX (Detroit Airport Express) has a schedule as well for $6-8.
   3. Reviewed schedule of events.
9. Area V Hospitality Room Options
   1. Donor possibly available for all hospitality rooms – Breakfast, Lunch, beverage, alcohol and snacks.
   2. Discussed hospitality room spaces – either all areas in one place or separate rooms adjacent to each other.
   3. All areas night food: Wisconsin Cheese and Coney Island Dogs and drinks. And maybe Renner Meats for hospitality room.
10. Area V Director and EC Openings
    1. Area V Director At Large Position to be elected at National Conference
       1. Steph Gelbowitz plans on running again for at-large.
11. Future Area V Caucus
    1. 2025 - Omaha, NE – 16-18 May– Maybe Warner Ball Park
    2. 2026 – Fargo, ND
12. Future EANGUS National Conferences:
    1. 2025: Aug 11-14 2025 Reno, NV
       1. Travel Days Aug 10 and 15
       2. EANGUS Financial Responsibility, possibly no welcome night event.
    2. 2026: Daytona, FL – Request for Bid Submitted – dates TBD
    3. Denver, CO has submitted packet to host in 2027 or 2028 – working with Lamont Associates
    4. Chicago, IL has submitted packet to host in 2027 – working with Lamon Associates3
13. New Business
    1. Derek Whisenhunt –
       1. Would like a debit card to the bank account for the hospitality room. Will work this out with the new treasurer.
       2. Chuck Kasin made a motion to allow up to $500 for a gas griddle purchase for the hospitality room. Seconded by Gary Hans.
       3. Discussion about the size of our trailer and possibly getting an upgrade.
          1. Per Derek don’t need larger trailer. He will be throwing aways some items that we don’t need anymore (toasters).
    2. Dinner plans for tonight as a group? Pizza in the hospitality room? Papalis Pizza by Hollywood casino. Will meet later in hospitality room to decide.
    3. President of Michigan Association, Richie Sands, addressed body. Thanked us for the support and asked for that to continue.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20

Minutes submitted by Courtney Tyrrell – SD.