**National Guard Association of South Dakota**

**Mid-Winter Meeting**

**SD National Guard Museum, Pierre, SD**

**1400 hrs, (CST), 5 February 2015**

Call to Order President Siemonsma

Pledge of Allegiance President Siemonsma

Adjutant General’s Comments MG Reisch

* Thanked everyone for their service, attendance, and dedication to our country.
* Discussed the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act which is the budget for the national defense. The FIDEF is the 5 year plan.
* The 2015 National Defense Act established a commission to analyze the Army and determine the right composition in the Army and National Guard. Results of commission will be released in February 2016.
* ARI is the Army’s initiative to take all of the combat helicopters out of the guard. Congress was able to get involved and stop this initiative.
* MG Reisch discussed the house and senate bill currently being discussed and how they affect the National Guard. Two bills he specifically addressed were:
	+ HB 1179: Bill requests a change in the definition of a Veteran in the state of South Dakota.
	+ HB 1035: Bill would fix the definition of a warrant officer.
* “We are serving in interested times and will see changes in the future. Keeping our readiness and strength up is important to maintain. “ MG Reisch

Roll Call Secretary Trygstad

* Thirty nine units throughout the state were present.

Reading and Approval of Minutes Secretary Trygstad

* Minutes were handed out to the association body to review. Notes and agenda were also available on the association webpage.
* Minutes were approved by LTC Orson Ward and seconded by COL Scott Petrik.

Treasurer’s Report Treasurer Miller

* President Siemonsma presented the report in the treasurer absence.
* Budget handout was handed out to the association body with detailed information on each account.
* Received NGAUS rebate in October.
* Executive director account was closed.
* Association has approximately $120,000 between checking, savings, and CD’s.
* Motion was made to approve report by MAJ Martin Yost and 2nd by LTC Deb Bartunek.

Warrant Officer Report Sandra Norris

* Strength within the warrant officer ranks is the committee’s #1 priority.
* Currently have 8 projected warrant officer candidates.
* Warrant Officer and Officer Recruiters will be available at the conference in April.
* Warrant Officer will have a Veterans March Team again this year and requested the approval of $150.00 do pay for registration fee.

Junior Officer Report Cody Eastman

* No report – Cody Eastman was unable to attend at the last minute.

Corporate Sponsorship Report President Siemonsma

* Tiered sponsorship program available to encourage different levels of businesses to become corporate sponsors.
* Currently have 5 corporate sponsors.
* Goal is to have enough corporate sponsors to meet the $10,000 mark. Last year we only received $3,000 in corporate sponsors.
* Almost every community in the state has association member in it. President Siemonsma recommended we go back into our community and look for sponsors to support the corporate sponsorship program. Name and phone numbers for potential candidates can be forwarded to MAJ Quenten Johnson.
* President Siemonsma reminded us of that the purpose of the money is to provide professional development for our junior officers and assist with their attendance at the National Conference if available.

Membership Report Eric Borah

* Need to receive membership dues from 492 of the officers by 31 March 2015 to meet the early bird requirement. Currently at 94% of the early bird requirement, will need to collect dues from 30 more officers to meet the requirement.
* Current collection status is: JFHQ at 47%, 196th MEB at 100%, 196th RTI at 100%, 109th RSG at 87%, and ANG at 76%.
* The association has a chance to receive 25% of our membership dues back from National if we meet the early bird requirements, which is approximately $7,000 to $8,000.

Museum Report Sonja Johnson

* Completed a number of modernization projects this past year to include new LED lighting, overhead door replacement, and modernization of the east gallery.
* The West Gallery will receive modernizations in 2017-2021.
* Facebook page has been established for the museum. Updated photos and program will be posted on the page.
* Discussed visitation statics and explained the decrease in visitations during the remodel.
* Completing a collection assessment in September which will do a 100% inventory of everything the museum has in inventory. This assessment will allow museum to apply for grant money in the future. Assessment will cost $3, 590, but a grant will cover everything except for $97.34.
* Handed out membership applications for individual and unit membership. Will present a certificate to units with 100% membership if application is filled out and submitted.

Legislative Report Steve Harding

* Currently have thirteen bills submitted for the Department of Military.
* MG Reisch discussed each bill in his speech.

Call for Nominations Brian Maschino

* Nominations are due on 18 April 2015 at the state conference.
* Currently received one nomination for 2nd Vice, MAJ Rebecca Trygstad. Open positions are Secretary, Treasurer, and 2nd Vice.

Call for Resolutions Chad Wika

* No resolutions have been submitted at this time.

Executive Director’s Report Stephen E. Sewell III

* Called for a By Law Change: proposal to change the law requiring the association to send out invites via mail to all members. Recommendation would save over $1,400 a year. Recommendation was made to send out information electronically and posting to website or facebook.
* National Conference is 10-14 September in Nashville, TN at the Opryland Hotel. Events are all under one roof.
* Showed cost comparison for flights to Nashville and the overall cost of attendance.
* Upcoming National Conferences: 2016 (138th) in Baltimore, 2017 (139th) in Louisville, 2018 (140th) in New Orleans, 2019 (141st) in Denver, and 2020 (142nd) in Boston.
* Lieutenant of the Year spoke to the association about her experience at the past national conference and how the experience showed her the benefits of getting involved in the association.
* Survey on the website is available on the website. Currently have 53 people that have taken the survey.
* MG (RET) Gus Hargett’s is planning on attending our joint conference next year.
* Registration for National Conference will be available soon. State Conference registration is available and has been distributed.

Report on 62nd State Conference Tom Wilcox

* The 153rd Engineer Battalion is hosting the event in Huron, SD 16-18 April 2015.
* Schedule is as follows:
	+ Thursday: hospitality room
	+ Friday: committee meeting, JOPD, business session, and dueling pianos
	+ Saturday: 5K, business session, sporting event, spouse’s luncheon, and a Dining Out.
* Raffle tickets were handed out to each MACOM. Need to be returned tickets prior to the conference.

Administrative Announcements/Adjourn President Siemonsma

* Reminded the attendees that there are museum membership forms available in the main entrance. Explained the different levels of membership and what comes with each one of those levels.
* CW4 Nelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by COL Terry Ommen.

 Submitted by: Approved by:

 Rebecca Trygstad Steve Siemonsma

 MAJ, SDARNG LTC, SDARNG

 Secretary President