**National Guard Association of South Dakota**

**Mid-Winter Meeting**

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

**1400 hrs, (CST), 4 February 2016**

**Call to Order Vice President Johnson**

* President Wolfe unable to attend due to a family emergency.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Adjutant General’s Comments MG Reisch**

* Thanked everyone for their service, attendance, and dedication to our country.
* Discussed how the Department of the Military doesn’t have any ‘big bills’ currently, however the bill for the USS South Dakota (submarine) has a committee to raise awareness and funds that will be routed through the state. The SDNG doesn’t have much to do with this. Legislatures involved in this committee will be attending the dining out. Corey Brown is the lead on this.
* Governor included a NG tuition assistance enhancement package. Current tuition assistance for NG members is at 50% (roughly $70/credit hr), but the board of regents is increasing total credit hour cost from $140 to $234. The NG enhancement package will cover this increase and continue to pay the 50% tuition assistance (roughly $117/credit hr).
  + Starting FY17, the board of regents will control the budget that pays out the tuition assistance rather than the SDNG.
  + Moving forward, any time the board of regents wants to raise the tuition, it will automatically consider the NG 50% tuition assistance program.
  + Votech not included in this. Currently $54.50/credit hour for NG members, $109/cr hr total. MG Reisch recommended pay 100% of Votech (total $141,000). Budget was already printed prior to recognizing this, will look to fix this oversight in the future.
* ‘Big Army’ topics – Commission on the future of the Army released 60+ recommendations for review. MG Reisch has not seen the recommendations, but in general the NG feels good about the recommendations. GEN Milley is supportive of a combat reserve. NG hopes that the budget will not continue to cut strength past 335,000 (TY17). The commission recommends that it does not cut past this amount to the proposed cuts of 315,000 in TY19. Keep in mind that these are only recommendations, and GEN Milley will have the final say.
* ‘Big Air Force’ topics – Air Force took cuts early, and they’re beginning to grow back.
  + New weapon systems (tanker, long-range bomber and F-35)
  + We are taking an active approach to trying to secure the F-35. Air Force is currently in decision cycle to determine the candidates for the F-35 fielding. SDANG was in the top third of the Air Force’s National Guard assessment (Vermont #1), and positions the SDANG well for receiving the F-35. SDNG using the congressional delegation to promote SD in this decision. We expect to get these planes. Two of the next three F-35 fieldings will go to National Guard units
* Thanked everyone for showing up, making it a great year in the SDNG and encouraged everyone to visit with the legislative representatives at the dining out. They’ve paid to come to the event and 100 of 105 legislatures are attending tonight.

**Roll Call Secretary Gilberti**

* Thirty-four units throughout the state were present.

**Report on 61st State Conference Garth Brooks (Joe Jacobson)**

* 109th presented themselves in their favorite musicians to promote the “Rock of Ages theme” Friday night for the state conference.

**Approval of the Agenda and Minutes Vice President Johnson**

* Minutes and Agenda were handed out to the association body to review. Notes and agenda were also available on the association webpage.
* Agenda was approved by John Weber and seconded by Mike Oster.
* Minutes were approved by Bryan Jacobson and seconded by BG Jamison.

**Treasurer’s Report Treasurer Miller**

* Budget handout was handed out to the association body with detailed information on each account.
* Line 101, insurance income increased by $1,500 (planned to be used to assist junior officers attending state conference – will discuss more in executive director report)
* Line 103 will increase as more officer dues collected.
* Line 108 increased by $5308.25 for early bird rebate (also to be used for junior officers at state conference).
* Operational expenses are ‘all good.’
* Online payment fees to pay dues will stay as is.
* Association has approximately $120,000 in accounts.
* Thanked association for keeping him in office for the last 7 years.

**Warrant Officer Report Todd Dressler**

* WOPD – there’s an opportunity for two warrant officers to go to Washington DC for WOPD.
* Will get nominations for Warrant Officer of the year.
* WOPD will meet with CW5s as a break out for the JOPD session at state conference.
* WO hospitality room open after this meeting.

**Junior Officer Report Jodi Gilberti**

* Have had small JOPD meetings outside of the state conference to attempt to get more involvement outside of the state conference. The JOPD session at the state conference will consist of breakouts for the Army warrant officers (topics with state CW5s), Army commissioned officers (“what they didn’t tell you prior to company command”) and Air officers (topic TBD).

**Executive Director Report Steve Sewell**

* Discussed improvements to the national conference:
  + Improved agenda for company grade attendees
  + Specified meetings for delegates
  + Spouse agenda
  + Hospitality suite – different from state conference by offering more ‘customized’ options for guests.
  + Polo shirts given for national conference attendees. Men’s and women’s sizes available.
* NGAUS REBATE: 25% of dues are returned to states by NGAUS, roughly $6,000-7,000 rebate per year. This money will be used to pay state conference fees and one night’s lodging for WOCS/OCS/ROTC/W01/2LT/1LT/Retirees. Also, $2,500 of the rebate will be given to the conference host for conference improvements.
* Baltimore National Conference:
  + Election year means there could be a political guest
  + Defender day activities at the same time
  + Hotel is the “Lord Baltimore”
  + Provided cost analysis for an average family trip alone vs. for the National Conference.
  + $240 allowance for national conference attendees.
  + Future conferences will be printed in state conference booklet
  + National Conferences are over drill weekends, discussion has been brought to NGEDA to change these dates.
* Historically, state conference attendance is 25% of members and national conference at 7%. Hope to see increase in these numbers.

**Membership Report Steve Sewell**

* Currently at 60% paid versus 75% compared to same time last year. Early bird deadline is 15 March, need to collect from 112 officers to meet this deadline and receive rebate.
* Eric Borah is stepping down in position, need someone to take over membership committee. Please contact Eric Borah if interested.
* SDNG has been #1 for the last five years in membership.
* Vice President Johnson emphasized value of membership and thanked Eric and Steve for their efforts.

**Corporate Sponsorship Report Vice President Johnson**

* The corporate sponsorship program is declining. Last year the program produced $4,000. Currently there is only one sponsor at $1,200. The 3-tier program didn’t appear to work. Need a new corporate membership chair or else the program may not sustain.

**Museum Report Sonja** **Johnson**

* #1 goal is to increase numbers of attendees to museum.
* New front doors helped getting people into the museum.
* Thanked the 200th En Co for helping move the helicopter.
* The museum is in the process of making a children’s education room. It is replacing the old library.
* The middle school program facilitated 150 kids in May, 300 in June and 370 in July. These children are the best recruiters for the museum.
* A lot of funding is used on the kids programs.
* This summer’s program will be about bridging. A tactical bridging scenario will be presented to the children. The scenario will be tested at the end of the summer.
* The museum works with the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, the Fort Pierre Gold program and the St. Joe kids program. Not open to public, but hopefully in the next few years.
* 34% increase in visitation this last year. Keep this up by visiting, liking on facebook..etc.
* Goal to showcase SDNG unit’s in their main room display. Please contact Sonja if unit is interested.
* Linage and honor forms for units available at museum. Scan or copy forms to Sonja.
* (NGASD and SDNG units presented donations for museum).

**Insurance Report Dave Burr**

* ‘Cleaned up’ insurance program by reinstating tax status, paying out old policies.
* Need more members. Currently, 399 insured, lost 40 last year and anticipate losing 13 (retirees) in the next year. Will need to gain an additional 15-20 members each year to maintain tax status. This is important because American Equity pays back a refund each year based on membership. Based on projections, the officer and enlisted association could lose $1,000 each if membership continues to decline.
* Needs to recruit more, and SRP booth is not working. Mr. Burr recommends a 15 min brief on the program to the units to increase membership. He also recommended meeting with new recruits at RSP.
* Program information handed out to meeting attendees.
* Reminded attendees that the policy may be carried on past active guard time.

**Call for Nominations Brian Maschino**

* Nominations are due on 23 April 2016 at the state conference.
* 1st Vice President will move to President position, and 2nd Vice will move to 1st Vice President position.
* Will be accepting nominations for 2nd Vice (Shawn Bambas and Kevin Curly currently nominated), treasurer and secretary. Current treasurer and secretary will run again.

**Call for Resolutions Chad Wika**

* No new resolutions brought forward.
* Currently there is a proposal to draft a resolution that would find better dental care for the SDNG. Will bring this up for further discussion in April.

**Administrative Announcements/Adjourn Vice President Johnson**

* Called for any other new business – heard none.
* Vice President adjourned meeting at 1518.

**Submitted by: Approved by:**

**Jodi Gilberti Tracy Wolfe**

**CPT, SDARNG MAJ, SDARNG**

**Secretary President**