31 October 2014

Whew, we made it through another election season, with mudslinging, innuendos and insults between the candidates and parties. Did you go out and cast your ballot? I hope your candidates won their race. More important, I hope you were able to take a moment and talk with your candidates or read up on them, to understand if their platform and intentions as your representative are in alignment with your wants, need and desires.

When a candidate came knocking on your door, did you share your thoughts, wants and needs? Did you attend a rally or caucus to learn more? Did you check out the opinion pages in the paper to see who was the endorsed candidate and why?

If you didn’t do any of these things, and even if your candidate did not win, all is not lost. There is time for you to think about what you and your family need from your elected representatives. Make sure you contact them and voice your opinion. Let them get to know you. You are important to them, and once elected they must represent all their constituents. Now I know, as well as you, that ideology differs. However, we still must move forward, make progress.

Let us at the MNGEA office know what you need to make your family more comfortable in the future. Are there federal, state and or local laws and statutes that disadvantage you as a member of the armed forces? Or, is there simply something that could benefit National Guard and Reserve members and their families? Reach out to our office, send us an email describing your ideas to [legislative@mngea.com](mailto:legislative@mngea.com). If it pertains to a current law or statute, please include a reference. We will turn your requests into resolutions for discussion at the state conference.

The 2015 EANGUS legislative workshop is in Washington DC, 31 January through 2 February. We will, as in the past, make face-to-face contact with as many congressional members as possible. Let your voice be heard.

Respectfully,

Ray Kennedy

Executive Vice President, Legislation