



Enlisted Express

The United Voice

September 2016

Contact us:

MNGEA Website

www.MNGEA.com

Director@mngea.com

MNGEA is the ONLY professional organization that specifically works on behalf of the enlisted Guard members in the State of Minnesota

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The official publication of the Minnesota National Guard Enlisted Association (MNGEA)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings! This is my first column as your President. I am super excited to serve you as the 26th President of the Minnesota National Guard Enlisted Association.

MNGEA is the enlisted voice of the premier National Guard in the Country. Our association pre-dates the formation of EANGUS and I have the honor of following in the foot-steps of some of the greatest enlisted Soldiers and Airmen who have served Minnesota. It has been our privilege to serve you and work to improve the lives of our Minnesota National Guard Family.

It has been a busy few months. I took office on June 1st, leaving the Legislative Vice Presidency behind. June 1st happens to be the date that Governor Dayton signed the tax exemption for retired military personnel into law. Yes, it is time to celebrate! When the Governor signed the "Omnibus Supplemental Appropriations Bill" into law, it meant that you will be covered with some type of tax exemption for your entire military career, no matter in what status you serve. That is AMAZING!

AGR, Dual Status Technician and Traditional (Drill Status) National Guard personnel already enjoyed a State Tax Exemption. Now, once you retire and start drawing your annuity, your tax exemption will continue forever. Surprisingly, in a year of disagreement, our state legislature agreed to support those who have served. Our association has worked tirelessly for many years to get this accomplished!

All-in-all we have been rock stars on the legislative front the past year. Of the 19 resolutions passed at the 2015 EANGUS conference in Indianapolis, I'm proud to say that I had the pleasure of drafting twelve. Of those twelve, six have since been enacted into to federal law by Congress. We often lament that the wheels of government are in slow motion, but we went from 0 to 60 in under 3 seconds... well, twelve months.

Enough about legislation. I would like to talk to you, our members, about what you need. I need to hear from you! Please take the time and let me know what you are thinking. Write me at president@mngea.com. I am really interested in what we can do to improve your career and the well-being of your family.

As I write this column, we are preparing to travel to the 45th National EANGUS conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. We have a full agenda in preparation for the 2017 Congressional year. Count on many changes. We will have fifteen Minnesota members representing you, discussing matters from junior enlisted affairs, auxiliary, technical personnel, to retiree affairs and everything else in between. Check out the summer edition of the "New Patriot" for more details and let EANGUS know if you want to save a tree, or two, and receive the magazine electronically.

Lastly, I want to share some of my goals for the next two years. For starters, I hope to make MNGEA the biggest enlisted association in EANGUS. We have been close in the past and it's time to step it up. I need you and every member, every retiree to help me reach this goal. Tell your fellow Guard member, enlisted, warrant officer and officer. Let them know what we have accomplished, not only the last year or so, but for many years and tell retired friends too. I want to get you as excited as I am! The bigger we are the stronger our voice, together we can move mountains.

Just think about what we have accomplished... we have had enormous success. Constituent votes count on Capitol Hill. Let our voices be heard!

Ray
Ray Kennedy
MNGEA President

**Support
the
MNGEA
Auxiliary**

The Auxiliary
Minuteman
Scholarship
deadline is
Feb 1, 2016



MNGEA AUXILIARY



The Auxiliary has many activities and programs during Conference.

Start collecting your non-perishable food items for this year's food drive to benefit a local conference food shelf.

Keep collecting toiletries/hotel travel items to be donated to an area homeless shelter. Keep collecting your pop tabs too!

Minuteman Scholarship:
Deadline 1 Feb 16

Scholarship forms can be found online at www.mngea.org. Please make sure to fill forms completely and acquire all needed signatures to be considered for a scholarship. Applications can be mailed to Carol Benda. Her address is on the application form.



CONFERENCE DAYCARE:

MNGEA & the Auxiliary will be offering free daycare services to members attending the 2016 conference. Daycare providers are from the local area and vetted through the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Program. Light snacks and juices will be provided on Saturday with games and movies.

Hours of Operation:

Saturday: 5:30 pm – 10:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am – 10:00 pm

To take advantage of this service and reserve your child's place you must coordinate in advance with the Auxiliary President, Leslie Bucar at: lesliebucar@yahoo.com

Be prepared to provide Leslie the following:

- *Name of Child*
- *Age of Child*
- *Drop-off & Pickup Dates & Times*

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Dear MNGEA Members,

I am honored to serve you as the Legislative Vice President and Resolutions Chairman. I have served 8 years in the Minnesota National Guard and 3 years as an active member of MNGEA. This is a new and daunting responsibility; however, I believe I am capable of meeting the challenge. I look forward to the work ahead.

Ashley

Ashley Watson
MNGEA Vice President
Email: Legislative@mngea.com

Legislative Report

H.F. No.2749 and S.F. No.2356 was passed by the Minnesota Senate and House as of May 22, 2016, which converted H.F. No.2749 and S.F. No.2356 into one larger bill, H2749-3 Omnibus supplemental appropriations bill. H2749-3 provides **an income tax subtraction for military retirement pay** to extent included in federal taxable income, compensation received from a pension or other retirement pay from the federal government for service in the military, as computed under United States Code, title 10, sections 1401 to 1414, 1447 to 1455, and 12733. The subtraction does not include any amount used to claim the credit allowed under section 290.0677. The new subtraction for pension or other military retirement pay is **effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015.**

State Sponsored Life Insurance resolution was passed by State Legislation. This resolution urged Minnesota Congress to enact a State Law compelling compliance with 37 USC 707 and the Joint Ethics Regulation, Ch 3, para 209. This change was in effort to clarify the applicability of this program and ensure that it is being applied as a Federal Entity.

Veterans Preference resolution was passed by State Legislation. This resolution urged Minnesota Congress to enact Legislation to redefine the qualifications for veteran's status to include RC members who have successfully served twenty years or more in service. The qualifications proposed was to also provide Veterans Preference when applying for jobs and eligibility for State benefits.

Resolutions Submitted to EANGUS

Space-A Travel resolution urges the Department of Defense to amend policies and regulations to afford Reserve Component member's access to Space-A travel at the same levels as their Active Component counterparts.

Toxic Exposure/Toxic Wounds resolution urges the Congress of the United States to enact legislation supporting medical care for service members who have become ill due to effects of toxic exposure from burn pits and other chemical agents used in combat area.

TRICARE Enrollment Fees resolution urges the members of the HASC, SASC and the entire Congress of the United States to reject the DoD proposals to start charging enrollment fees for TRICARE.

Business to be Enabled to Direct Pay for TRICARE Reserve Select resolution urges the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to authorize business to direct pay for Tricare Reserve Select premium for Reserve Component (RC) members, or other applicable health care should Tricare be replaced.

Amending 10 USC 1209, section 12304b resolution urges the Congress of the United States to amend United States Code, title 10, chapter 1209, section 12304b, to become qualifying service for Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits under United States Code, title 38, chapter 33, Pre- and post-deployment health care, Reduction of mandatory retirement below age 60.

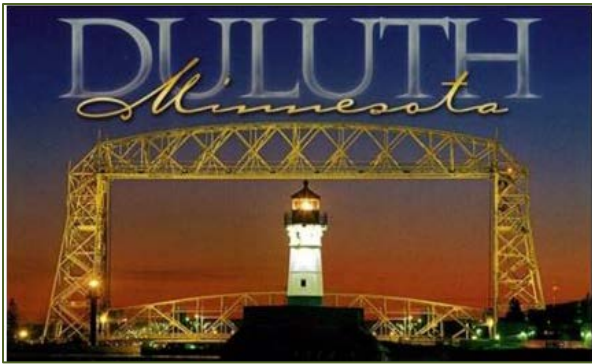
Answer the CALL!!!

Visit the EANGUS Legislative Action Center on: www.MNGEA.com/Legislative

MNGEA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Ray Kennedy (ANG-Ret) – President@mngea.com
Executive VP: Angela Bedessem (ARNG) – Membership@mngea.com
Vice President: Robert Klinkner (ARNG) – Membership@mngea.com
Vice President: Ashley Watson (ARNG) – Legislative@mngea.com
Treasurer: Stonewall (Chris) Keim – Treasurer@mngea.com
Past President: Mark Wasserbauer (ANG) – pastpres@mngea.com

2017 MNGEA Conference: 18-19 February, 2017



The 48th Annual MNGEA State Conference

To be held Sat-Sun of Presidents Day Weekend. A number of Senior Enlisted Leaders requested this date change from the traditional dates in April. It is our hope that this change will result in increased participation.

Please register online TODAY!!!

(<https://mngesa.com/state-conference/>)

Conference Details:

When: February 18-19, 2017

Where: Holiday Inn & Suites, Downtown Duluth, 200 West First Street, Duluth, MN 55802

Registration Fee: \$45 per registered person (\$10 for business Meetings ONLY)

Meal Choices: Beef, Chicken, Walleye, Vegetarian, Gluten-Free

FREE Daycare Room available during conference (reference this newsletter for details)

Hotel Reservations:

* Call 218-722-1202 & let them know you are with the: "MN Nat'l Guard Enlisted Association" or "MNGEA Conference"

-OR-

* Online – visit www.hiduluth.com and enter group code "MNG"

Rates: \$109/night (Standard Room) – Available Fri-Sat-Sun-Mon night

If you would like to upgrade ...

King Suites available @ \$139.00

Double Suites available @ \$169.00

Holiday Inn Duluth has a parking garage so covered parking (except on rooftop parking). Parking will be free for all conference attendees with room reservations.

Agenda / Events:

Saturday: 1st Business Session convenes (Time: TBD)

- * Committee Breakouts to follow
- * Full Buffet & State Hosted Social: 1900 hrs
- * Auxiliary Blind Poker & Entertainment
- * "Superheroes" theme – Costume contest
- * Games
- * Cash bar
- * DJ & Dancing
- * Hospitality Room

Sunday: 2nd Session Convenes: 0900 hrs

- * Formal Awards Banquet: 1830 hrs
- * Cash bar
- * Hospitality Room

