



# Area V Is Alive!

Newsletter of the Area V Auxiliary of the Enlisted Association of the  
National Guard of the United States

Volume 2, Issue 17

Area V Auxiliary Directors  
Margaret Greenfield & Karen Vicente

May 2013

The snow is finally gone in Minnesota, but some of our lakes still have ice. Not sure how things will be for the opening of fishing next weekend. I think it is safe to say Spring has finally sprung.

I hope everyone will have a wonderful Mother's Day. I plan to spend the time with all my family. Mothers are the soul of a family, they keep us all together and give us unconditional love.

Area V caucus is right around the corner. If you haven't registered yet, Please do so now. We would like to see as many Auxiliary members as possible. We will have many things to discuss pertaining to the National Conference. I would like each State to give a summary of their activities of the past year.

So far Minnesota has 5 delegates going to National Conference. That's a record for us. It is important to get new people involved. Get your registrations in before the price goes up. I know South Dakota has a great time planned for all of us.



Just a reminder, I am resigning at the caucus so a new Area V Director will have to be chosen at National Conference. Think about who should run and if maybe you would make a good candidate.

Hope to see you at Caucus!

Karen Vicente  
Area V Director

*Join Us for the Area V Caucus in Sioux Falls, South Dakota!*

**REGISTER FOR THE 2013 AREA V CAUCUS - Not too Late to Register!**

**Area V Caucus Meetings Saturday, May 18, 2013**

0800-1600 with lunch provided

## 2013 Area V Caucus

17-18 May 2013

Downtown Holiday Inn City Centre  
Sioux Falls, SD

1-605-339-2000 Registration Fee is  
\$35.00 per person  
(includes lunch, snacks and  
hospitality room)



Room Rates \$77.00 per  
night plus tax (also  
available the day before  
and day after)

May 17th from 1630 to 2000 the  
South Dakota conference com-  
mittee will host a reception for the  
site visit and any Area V Caucus  
attendees at J & L Harley  
Reception Center at 2101 West  
Burnside Sioux Falls, SD.

**Register no later than 14 May 2013** - Registration form is available on <http://sdngea.com/>

SMSGT Robert Funk, 1201 W Algonquin St, Bldg 13  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104 - [robert.funk@ang.af.mil](mailto:robert.funk@ang.af.mil)

### South Dakota

The SDNGEA Auxiliary is sponsoring a Raffle to support scholarships and other Auxiliary activities. The raffle has three prizes.

**1st** prize is a beautiful queen sized hand-made red, white and blue quilt.

**2nd** prize a \$100 Visa Gift Card and

**3rd** prize a \$75 Visa gift card.

It will be drawn for at the EANGUS National Conference in Sioux Falls on August 21, 2013. You need not be present to win. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. The quilt (simply beautiful) is being made by SDNGEA President Bob Funk's mom Bonnie.

### Area V State Conferences

#### SOUTH DAKOTA



April 18-20, 2013: South Dakota had a very productive and fun SDNGEA State Conference. Plans for the National Conference were made, their fund-raising efforts were amazing! This will support their scholarship program and other good causes the Auxiliary makes contributions.

South Dakota U.S. Representative Krisi Noem was the keynote speaker. She made a special effort to meet with the National Guard spouses and listened to their stories and concerns. She reached out for ideas on how to better support the spouses and families of National Guard members. Spouses had a great discussion with Rep. Noem.



South Dakota Auxiliary worked hard to increase their membership. The Ways and Means Committee lead by Edna Steinberg and supported by Jennifer Kranz along with other members sold tickets for two 50/50 drawings and operated a Silent Auction. These efforts yielded approximately \$1,300. They are now raffling a beautiful home-made quilt, a \$100 visa card, and a \$75 Visa card which will be given drawn for at the EANGUS National Conference.



21 September 2013: For those of you interested in attending the Black Hills Veteran Honor March you can now register or volunteer on the website. It is a great time to exercise your patriotism and test your endurance. We are looking for people to participate as well as volunteer. *If you happen to be in South Dakota during this time, join up in the March.* Please use the link to sign up!!  
<http://blackhillsveteranmarch.com/>

## WISCONSIN

WNGEA State Conference at Ho Chunk, Wisconsin Dells/Baraboo April 26-27, 2013. Auxiliary conducted business in the Lower Dells Board Room. Area V Director Dianna Raymond attended.

Silent Auction was very successful - \$1,183.00! Thank you to all who donated items and also those bidding! Robert "Bobbie" Rude will take toiletries to the new Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls.

More toiletries and household items will be delivered to Vet's Place in Union Grove.



AREA V STATES – SEND YOUR PICTURES/ARTICLES TO BE INCLUDED IN AREA V NEWSLETTER  
drbar@execpc.com

Additional Legislative Information - New bill introduced  
SBP – Contact Your Representative to Cosponsor this Bill

**H.R.1770** - To amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate the different treatment under the Survivor Benefit Plan accorded members of the reserve components who die from an injury or illness incurred or aggravated in the line of duty during **inactive-duty training** compared to members of the Armed Forces who die in the line of duty while on active duty. At present there are different entitlements for national guard members.

Example: Helo crash where one pilot is AGR and the other is on IDT status and the flight is during IDT--the surviving spouse of the AGR pilot will receive a higher level of compensation than the surviving spouse of the IDT pilot even though the accident took both lives at the same time.



**MINNESOTA**

GREAT CONFERENCE!

**NEW MNGEA AUXILIARY OFFICERS:**

Liz Ludwig President

Carol Benda Treasurer

Kallie Briggs Secretary

Leslie Bucar Vice President



Members in attendance



MNGEA President Mark Wasserbauer presented Karen Vicente the President's Award for serving as Auxiliary President for 12 years

**NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH IS MAY**

Loyalty Day (1st)

VE Day (8th)

Military Spouse Appreciation Day (10th)

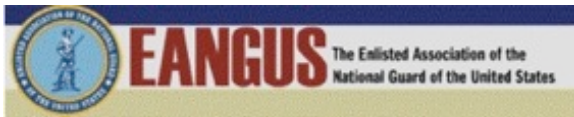
Armed Forces Day (18th)

Memorial Day (30th)

This very important month honors, remembers, recognizes and appreciates all military personnel; those men and women who have served throughout our history and all who now serve in uniform and their families as well as those Americans who have given their lives in defense of our freedoms we all enjoy today.

It recognizes those on active duty in all branches of the services, the National Guard and Reserves plus retirees, veterans, and all of their families.

Check out events at <http://www.nmam.org/>  
Visit <http://www.amillionthanks.org/> There is information on sending letters and cards.  
You can also send E- cards!



## Legislative Matters The National Guard Needs Your Support

To view all The Calls use this link

<http://capwiz.com/eangus>



Your VOICE Counts! Use Capwiz!

### Bills of Interest:

**H.R. 574 – Medicare Physician Payment Innovation Act.** Bill would avoid a 27-percent cut in Medicare/ TRICARE payments to physicians by repealing the flawed formula driving the annual cuts and requiring a pilot program to find a replacement formula.

**H.R. 679 and S. 629 – Honor America's Guard and Reserve Retiree Act.** Bills would extend recognition as veterans to Guard and Reserve retirees who complete military careers without being activated under federal orders.

**H.R. 1333 – Military Family Medical Leave Act.** Bill would provide two weeks of unpaid leave for eligible family members of service personnel who have been called to active duty in support of a contingency operation.

**S. 210 – Stolen Valor Act.** Bill would make it a crime for a person to profit by misrepresenting his or her military service or eligibility for military awards or decorations.

**S. 234 – The Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2013.** Bill would authorize the full concurrent receipt of retired pay and veterans' disability compensation for military retirees regardless of disability rating, including those with Chapter 61 medical retirements.

**S. 240 - Reserve Retirement Deployment Credit Correction Act.** Bill would ease the current requirement that any 90-day period of active service creditable toward early reserve retirement eligibility must be completed within the same fiscal year.

### FY2014 Proposed Budget

#### The President's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget of the U.S. Government

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2014/assets/budget.pdf>

Let your elected officials know how you feel about the proposed 2014 budget!

Remember, the President's budget is only proposed and it is your Congressional Representative and Senators who will create the budget.

**Let your Voice be heard!**

Congress in recess April 26 to May 6. What is going to happen to the gridlock?  
There are three budgets on the table. The American people want both parties to work together and compromise. Congress will be on another 9-day recess beginning May 24th!  
When they recess and in home district – keep making contacts!

### The Call: 13-04 – Maintaining the National Guard's Overseas Missions (Issued April 24)

**The Issue:** The Department of the Army has proposed plans to cancel the National Guard's overseas missions.

**Background:** It has come to EANGUS's attention that the Department of the Army has recently distributed a memo to Members of Congress that proposes to end the National Guard and Reserves overseas missions. The memo states that in Fiscal Year 2014 "the Army will substitute Active Component units for Reserve Component formations where the cost savings are possible." This change they claim an attempt to save money due to the Budget Control Act of 2011.

As you may know, the Army did not deploy nearly 1,000 National Guard soldiers to Afghanistan where they cited budgetary concerns as the reason for the change of deployment. This trend of removing the National Guard from OCONUS missions could potentially expand to the National Guard losing the missions in Kosovo, the Horn of Africa, and the Sinai. This proposal comes even as Department of the Army leaders testified on Capitol Hill this week about ensuring the National Guard and Reserve continues to be fully integrated into the Total Force.

The Army National Guard is now the most capable and experienced force in recent history with more than 50% of the force seasoned combat veterans and has deployed over 750,000 individuals. Today's Army National Guard is also the best trained and equipped force in its history. If the Department of the Army is serious about saving money, they only need to look at the National Guard whose members cost 1/3 of their Active Duty counterparts.

Congress and the Department of Defense have spent billions of dollars over the past decade to build the National Guard into a fully ready and equipped Operational Reserve. By removing the National Guard's overseas missions the Department of the Army is allowing the investments made over the past 11 years to go to waste.

**CONGRESS IS IN RECESS UNTIL MAY 6—they are in home districts, now is the time to make a contact!**

**TRICARE FY2014 INCREASE PROPOSALS**

In the Administration's proposed FY2014 budget there are TRICARE increase proposals. Again, the budget calls for new enrollment fee increases for TRICARE for Life, TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Prime health programs. Deductibles and co-pays for prescription drugs are increased. These changes fall most heavily on working-age retirees under 65 and their families.

**TRICARE Prime for Working Age Retirees (under Age 65)**

As part of the FY 2014 President's Budget, the Department will seek additional increases in the **TRICARE Prime** (Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) type plan) enrollment fees in order to bring the beneficiary cost share closer to the original levels mandated by Congress when the program was established. These increases will be phased-in over a 4-year period and will be based on a percentage of the beneficiary's gross military retirement pay subject to an annual minimum (floor) and maximum (ceiling) fee. There will be a separate fee ceiling specifically for General/Flag Officers. Table 1 displays the proposed fee structure by fiscal year. After FY 2017, the enrollment fees will be indexed annual retiree cost-of-living (COLA) increases.

**Table 1 – TRICARE Prime Annual Family Enrollment Fees (Individual Fees = 50%)**

Retired Pay	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017*	FY 2018
Floor – Current Fee						
Inflated by COLA	\$539	\$548	\$558	\$569	\$581	\$594
Percentage of Gross						
Retired Pay	N/A	2.95%	3.30%	3.65%	4.00%	4.00%
Ceiling	\$539	\$750	\$900	\$1,050	\$1,200	\$1,226
Flag Officer Ceiling	\$539	\$900	\$1,200	\$1,500	\$1,800	\$1,840

**TRICARE-for-Life Benefit (TFL) Benefit Program for Retirees age 65 and Older**

Like almost all Americans, upon reaching age 65, TRICARE beneficiaries must enroll in Medicare and begin paying Medicare Part B (outpatient care coverage) premiums. With Part B coverage, Medicare typically covers only 80 percent of normal health care costs and most people choose to be covered by "Medigap" or employer- sponsored retiree health insurance to cover the additional costs as well as providing some prescription drug coverage. Enacted in 2001, the TFL program acts as a second payer plan for TRICARE beneficiaries covering the costs not paid by Medicare. While the average "Medigap" plan with comparable coverage carried premiums \$2,100 per individual in 2009, there are currently no annual fees for TFL coverage. As part of the FY 2014 President's Budget, the Department is again proposing to implement modest annual fees for TFL coverage, but the proposal will grandfather TFL beneficiaries in the program prior to enactment. Like the proposed Prime fees, the TFL enrollment fees will be phased in over a 4-year period and will be based on a percentage of the beneficiary's military gross retired pay up to an annual fee ceiling with indexing to retiree COLA after FY 2017. Again, there will be a separate fee ceiling specifically for General/Flag Officers. Table 3 displays the proposed TFL fee structure by fiscal year.

**Table 3 – TRICARE-for-Life Annual Family (Two Individuals) Enrollment Fees\***

Retired Pay	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017*	FY 2018
Percentage of Gross						
Retired Pay	N/A	0.50%	1.00%	1.50%	2.00%	2.00%
Ceiling	\$0	\$150	\$300	\$450	\$600	\$613
Flag Officer Ceiling	\$0	\$200	\$400	\$600	\$800	\$818

\*Individual fees are 50% of family fees (e.g., 1% of GRP in FY 2017 and after). Ceilings indexed to retiree COLA after FY 2017.

**Military Treatment Facilities**

No Change – Still \$0 Co-Pay

**TRICARE Pharmacy Benefit Program All Retirees and Active Duty Family Members**

While the FY 2013 National Defense Authorization Act did include some adjustments to the TRICARE pharmacy co-pay structure and initiated a pilot program requiring the use of mail order to refill maintenance medications for TFL beneficiaries, the Department believes additional adjustments are necessary to fully incentivize the use of mail order and generic drugs. The proposed pharmacy changes in the FY 2014 budget are phased-in over a 10-year period, and prescriptions will continue to be filled at no cost to beneficiaries at Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs). In addition, the proposal requires that all prescriptions for long-term maintenance medications (e.g., blood pressure, cholesterol) be filled through the MTFs or the TRICARE mail order pharmacy. Table 4 displays the proposed co- pays for prescriptions filled through the TRICARE retail and mail order pharmacy programs.

**Table 4 – Pharmacy Co-Pays**

Retail – 1 month fill	FY 2013*	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Generic	\$5	\$5	\$6	\$7	\$8	\$9
Brand	\$17	\$26	\$28	\$30	\$32	\$34
Non-Formulary**	\$44	Available only on a limited basis				
<b>Mail-Order – 3 month fill</b>						
Generic	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9
Brand	\$13	\$26	\$28	\$30	\$32	\$34
Non-Formulary	\$43	\$51	\$54	\$58	\$62	\$66

\* Reflects pharmacy co-pays as adjusted by the FY 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 112-239)

\*\* Non-Formulary pharmaceuticals will have limited availability in retail pharmacies

**Catastrophic Cap** - Under the FY 2014 proposal, the annual catastrophic cap \$3,000 per family will also be indexed to increases in retiree COLA and exclude enrollment fees.

**Finally, to protect the most vulnerable, these proposals exempt survivors of members who die on active duty and medically retired and their family members from these increases.**

## Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S.

State Conference Outline of PowerPoint Distributed to State Presidents

### Successes: Jan 2011 - Present

- 10% member gain in past 26 months
- Revenue: \$1.6M; \$1.9M; \$2.3M
- Staff increase from 4 to 8 + interns.
- Won Empowerment and Air Guard fight on Hill
- Scholarships up 300% from \$47K to \$204K
- Members love New Patriot, retention up
- New Patriot won APEX Award of Excellence

### EANGUS MEMBERSHIP

	Members	Increase
• Current	48,355	
• 2013	60,000	+25%
• 2014	75,000	+25%
• 2015	100,000	+33%

### How to Double in 3 Years

- Development of new recruitment tools
  - Military Technicians
  - New membership database by 30 June
  - CCAF degree initiative
  - E-brochure
  - NASCAR/USAA drives
- Legislative push for QRMC (early retirement)
- Ever-increasing list of benefits

### Membership Benefits (\$24)

- New Patriot (professional journal)
- Bullet statements for EPRS, Award, and Decs
- Lobbying at State/Federal level
- More than \$200K in scholarships available
- Keep \$1,000 in pocket with University of Phoenix
- EANGUS Rewards Credit Card + starter card
- Insurance and banking savings through USAA
- EANGUS WCFA emergency relief grants
- USERRA cases evaluated by major law firm

### Promotion Stats (3 Year Average)

	E-4>E-5	E-5>E-6	Total
• Army NG	13,922	7,942	21,864
• Air NG	2,760	3,047	5,807
• TOTAL	16,682	10,989	27,671

### Ramp-up projections

• 2013	8,000
• 2014	10,000
• 2015	12,000
• 2016	14,000
• 2017	16,000

### EANGUS MEMBERSHIP

	Members	Increase
• Current	48,000	
• 2013	60,000	+25%
• 2014	75,000	+25%
• 2015	100,000	+33%

Enlisted Association of the National Guard  
of the United States

## Some Misconceptions Still Circulating on the Internet!

**With all the dissatisfaction with Congress people should be aware some of those emails about them are not correct.**

Staffers and family of congressional members are NOT exempt from paying back their student loans. They must pay back their loans like everyone else.

Members of congress CANNOT retire with the same pay after only one term. No member of Congress is eligible for any pension unless he or she has served in Congress for at least five years. (Senators serve six-year terms; House members must seek reelection every two years.)

### How much are members of Congress paid and what are their retirement benefits?

The current salary for all senators and members is \$174,000. The salary for the speaker is \$223,500 and the salary for the majority and minority leaders is \$193,400.

Members of Congress are covered by the same retirement plans as other federal employees, the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) for those hired, or elected, before 1984, and the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) for those whose service began in 1984 or later. There are some differences in retirement age eligibility, years of service required, and contributions. Members elected after 1984 also participate in Social Security.

As of October 1, 2007, the average annual pension for former members under the CSRS plan was \$63,696; for those under the FERS plan, \$36,732.

To collect, a congressman or senator must be age 62, or be at least age 50 with 20 years of service, or be any age with 25 years of service. Under the most recent pension program, adopted in 1984, the size of a pension is based on the highest three years of a member's salary, the number of years of service and a multiplier, which is 1.7 percent for the first 20 years of service and 1.0 percent for subsequent years.



**EANGUS 42nd Annual Conference****"Fun at the Falls"**

**Sioux Falls, South Dakota**  
**The Heart of America**

**August 18-21, 2013**

Conference Registration Online at  
<http://eangus.org/>

**AREA V Assigned Hotel – Best Western  
 Ramkota**

The assigned hotel for Area Five at the  
 EANGUS National Conference is the Ramkota Best  
 Western in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



This year attendees will  
 not be allowed to make  
 their own EANGUS room  
 reservations directly with  
 the hotel.

All room reservations go through Area Five Director  
 Dianna Raymond. Room Rate is **\$89.99** plus tax.

**Dianna Raymond**, Area V Director for SD, IA, WI  
**Area V Hotel Room Reservation POC**  
 email: [soldiergirl50@gmail.com](mailto:soldiergirl50@gmail.com)  
 cell: (515) 360-7310

Dianne will put your name against the room of your  
 choice (she will mail a confirmation number back to you  
 and then you make reservation at the Ramkota with that  
 confirmation number). There are just so many rooms  
 blocked under each state, so let her know EARLY!

*If you make your reservation directly with the hotel, you  
 will not get the EANGUS discount rate*

If you are not already a Best Western rewards member,  
 sign up at <http://www.bestwestern.com/rewards/>  
 and earn hotel points with the  
 Best Western Rewards® program.

**AREA V AUXILIARY**

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Current and past copies of **THE SIGNAL** are on the EANGUS  
 website: [www.eangus.org](http://www.eangus.org) > About Auxiliary > Publications.

Also, EANGUS & EANGUS Auxiliary and SDNGEA Auxiliary are  
 on Facebook, SDNGEA posts copies of Area V Newsletters