

# THE DAKOTA MESSENGER

A Publication of the South Dakota National Guard  
Enlisted Association Auxiliary

October 2014

## NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT.....

The EANGUS National Conference was held in Phoenix this year. Phoenix in August is **REALLY** hot!! Despite the heat, the conference was a productive one. South Dakota had four members attending as delegates including Edna Steinberg, Marlys List, Sherry Blackwell and myself. At the conference, the SDNGEA Auxiliary received the Outstanding State Award in the 26-75 member category. This is an award given based on a point system for outstanding contributions, achievements and service. Marlys List was recognized as the Area V recipient of the Legislative award for her "over and above" involvement in legislative efforts. The "Area V is Alive" Newsletter received first place in the newsletter category. EANGUS Auxiliary officers elected for 2014-16 include Judy Wood (AL), President; Connie Myers (MS), Vice President; Vivian Taylor (MS), Secretary; Cora Sower (WI), Treasurer; Jenny Lainhart (KY) Immediate Past President.

The winners of the EANGUS Auxiliary Scholarships were announced at the conference. There were 12 applicants and two of the four winning applications

were submitted from South Dakota. Congratulations to our winners! They are Keisha Voges, daughter of Shannon and Brian Voges, and Nathan List, grandson of Marlys and Don List. Both will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

The Black Hills Veterans' Honor March was a great success with approximately 220 participants. The weather was beautiful for the event. My husband and I were volunteers. We have both participated in the march previously. Either way it's a great experience! Next year's march will be on September 19. Consider getting involved as a participant or volunteer.

Membership dues for 2015 are now being collected through December 31, 2014. If you have family members interested in Auxiliary scholarships, they must have someone who is signed up as a member for both SDNGEA and the SDNGEA Auxiliary for 2015. Eligibility criteria and application forms can be downloaded from the SDNGEA web-site.

The cost of Auxiliary membership is \$15. It is through our grassroots

## SDNGEA AUXILIARY OFFICERS 2014-2015

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involvement that we can impact legislative outcomes. Our membership strength supports our voice on legislative issues that can make a difference for our soldiers, airmen and their families as an active or retired guardsperson. Have your voice be heard by renewing today!

Hope you enjoy the beautiful fall season!

Gayle Funk,  
SDNGEA Auxiliary President

### **SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE.....**

The South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association Auxiliary is offering a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2015 academic year. Unmarried High school seniors and college undergraduate students or vocational students are eligible. The student's father, mother, or grandparents must be a member of the South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association and his/her spouse a member of the Auxiliary and/or retired career National Guard Person who is a member of the Enlisted Association and Auxiliary. Membership dues for 2015 must be paid by December 31, 2014, to be eligible for the scholarships. Applications are currently available and must be postmarked by March 15, 2015. For more information or to request a scholarship packet contact:

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### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR WITH THE FOLLOWING LIST OF EVENTS:**

#### **November 4, 2014: VOTE!!!**

Be sure to exercise your patriotic duty of voting in the general election on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Try to determine which of the candidates will be able to work for the betterment of our Enlisted Association matters.

#### **February 5, 2015:**

Legislative Dining Out –  
Pierre, SD

#### **April 17-18, 2015:**

SDNGEA Conference-  
Watertown, SD

**May 2015:** Area V Caucus-  
date to be determined,  
Indianapolis, Indiana

#### **August 9-13, 2014:** 44<sup>th</sup>

EANGUS National  
Conference, Indianapolis,  
Indiana

**September 19, 2015:** Black  
Hills Veteran's Honor March  
Deadwood, SD

**This is a good time of year to  
get your flu shot!!**

## **2014 VETERAN'S TREE**

This year marks 25 years that volunteers from Camp Rapid have provided gifts for the residents at the State Veteran's Home in Hot Springs. Last year 120 gifts were gathered, shopped for and were delivered to our veterans! This year we will be delivering our gifts on December 20, and share in an evening of food, fun and festivities. Gifts are personally delivered to veterans who are confined to their rooms and cannot join the festivities.

A "Veteran's Tree" will be placed on the drill floor of Joint Forces Headquarters the first week in November. The tree will have the names of veterans and their spouses, if any, along with their gift wishes. We would encourage everyone to pick up a name tag or if you are unable to do so, a monetary donation can be made to the "Veteran's Tree" and a gift can be purchased for you. Donations can be sent to the Minuteman Community Federal Credit Union on Camp Rapid, at 2823 W. Main, Rapid City, SD 57702.

Our veterans have given so much, and this is a wonderful opportunity for us to give back to them.

Remember that this is the only gift many of the veterans will receive at Christmas.

## VETERAN'S DAY, NOVEMBER 11.....



Veteran's Day was originally set as a US legal holiday to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918. Legislation passed in 1938, dedicated this day to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day".

After having been through both World War II and the Korean War, Congress amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans", to honor American veterans of all wars.

Veteran's Day gives us as Americans the opportunity to celebrate the bravery and sacrifice of all US veterans. Not to be confused with Memorial Day which honors service members who died in service to the country, Veteran's Day is set aside to thank not only deceased veterans, but to thank and honor living veterans who served honorably in the military in wartime and peacetime.

Please be certain to thank veterans on this day.

## UNACCOMPANIED VETERAN'S MEMORIAL SERVICES .....

It was brought to our attention at the SDNGEA Conference this past April, of the memorial services held quarterly for veterans who die without family or friends to commemorate their passing.

Gordon Kotab, provided the following information on the services. On the first Monday of each quarter at 9:00 AM, an Unaccompanied Veteran's Memorial Service is held for those unaccompanied veteran's remains received the previous three months. The service is conducted in the Committal Shelter at the Black Hills National Cemetery. Area Honor Guard performs the Military Honors and a chaplain gives a memorial prayer service with the reading of the names of unaccompanied veterans. The Military Honors include the firing of volley shots, the playing of Taps, unfolding and folding of the burial flag, and presentation of the flag to a designated recipient. Gordon indicated that there are usually 10-20 unaccompanied veterans interred each quarter. There are no remains at the service as they are interred as they arrive.

## COFFIN CRAFTSMEN

Continuing on a similar note, KELO TV aired a news program this past March, on the Sioux Falls VFW Post 628. Volunteers build wooden coffins from scratch. It is a part of the Veterans Honored Interment, a program which started at the

Veterans Home in Hot Springs and has since expanded to Eastern South Dakota. The coffins are made for those veterans who have no family or friends. The volunteers gather once a week and can build a complete coffin in 20 hours.

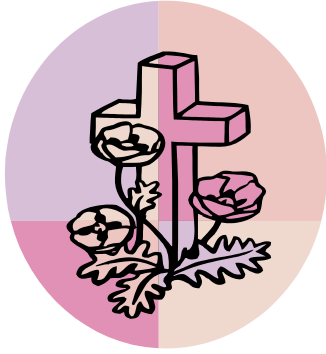
The volunteers use their own tools and most of the materials are purchased locally. They follow a building pattern borrowed from the monks at the old Blue Cloud Abbey. Each coffin is unique with its own distinct wood grain. Leftover wood goes into making cremation urns. At the time this program was televised, there was a waiting list for 22 coffins. They indicated that they could not build without donations from the public and welcomed any financial help. The simplicity of the wooden coffins honors the sacrifices of South Dakotans who've fallen and are not forgotten.

Call the Sioux Falls VFW at 605-338-0869 if you would like to make a donation to the Veteran's Honored Interment.

A portion of the monies collected at the SDNGEA Auxiliary Brunch in April, was donated to the Coffin Craftsman.



## MEMBER UPDATES...



We lost two of our life members this past summer. Rose Schneider of Mitchell, SD died June 3, 2014 and Myrtle Stotz also of Mitchell, SD died July 17, 2014.

Most recently, Rita Stewart's husband Don, died September 18, 2014.

We wish to express our heartfelt sympathy to the families.

I apologize if I have omitted anyone. If you learn of one of our member's passing, please contact me at [daraldw@live.com](mailto:daraldw@live.com).

### GETTING TO KNOW YOUR OFFICERS:

**...President, Gayle Funk**, was born in South Dakota and has lived here all her life. She and her husband, Bob reside in Brandon, SD and have two daughters, one in Los Angeles and one in Brandon. They have two grandchildren who live in Brandon.

Gayle's career life has consisted of working in non-profits to build education, health care, and job training programs and services in South Dakota, creating and

operating a non-medical home care business, and working for a number of years as a nursing home administrator.

Gayle has been a member of the SDNGEA Auxiliary for many years and we are fortunate to have her as our President since April 2012.

**...Vice-President/Scholarship Chairman, Marlene Kotab** was invited to join the SDNGEA Auxiliary almost 40 years ago by one of the founding members, Myrtle Hollmann of Wagner. She has held the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Parliamentarian.

Marlene is married to retired guardsman, Gordon, and they have one son, Christian.

She has been a music teacher for 35 years, teaching at Delmont, Wagner, Rapid City and presently for the Meade School District. She also teaches in her private music studio in Sturgis.

Marlene states that because of women like Myrtle Hollmann, Marlys List, Mick Scholten and Rita Stewart, she continued to remain active in the Auxiliary and supportive of the Enlisted Association.

**...Secretary Jill Siedschlaw** has been a member of the Auxiliary since 2004.

She and her husband Bob, live in Boulder Canyon, Sturgis, SD. Jill has been retired since 2008 from Ft. Meade VA

where she worked as a Psychiatric RN for 30 years. Her husband, Bob is a retired guardsman.

Jill and Bob have two children; a son Jay who lives in Minneapolis and a daughter who lives in Sheridan, Wyoming. They have 5 grandchildren including twins.

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THESE MEMBERS FOR HOLDING THE RESPECTIVE OFFICER POSITIONS.** More information on our other officers will come in future newsletters.

