

# THE DAKOTA MESSENGER

A Publication of the South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association Auxiliary

## NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT.....

Happy New Year! Do you know a spouse you could encourage to become an Auxiliary member? Could you encourage their membership by picking up their membership fee for one year? The beginning of the year marks the beginning of our membership drive for 2016. We can all be good stewards and help with the growth of the organization. Membership strength supports our voice on legislative issues that can make a difference for our soldier, airmen and their families as an active or retired guardsperson. Our regular membership numbers were down in 2015 despite our membership chair, Diane Kafka's best effort to encourage sign-up. Other states are successfully growing their membership numbers and we can too!

Do you have a family member who could use some financial assistance for their higher education costs? March 15, is the deadline date for Auxiliary scholarship applications. This year instead of two \$400 scholarships, one \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded. If you have a family member applying for this scholarship, have them consider completing the application for EANGUS Auxiliary scholarships, also.

Four scholarships will be awarded. One for \$1,250 and three for \$1,000. South Dakota had two scholarship winners last year. All of the application materials are available on the SDNGEA web-site.

I encourage you to check out the SDNGEA and EANGUS websites. Both are being kept current and contain information of interest to members. The EANGUS web-site now shows the number of those answering "The Call" online. South Dakota advocacy totals 16. This reflects SDNGEA and SDNGEA Auxiliary members. Answering "The Call" is our chance to have a voice in shaping legislation that affects National Guard members and their families. Please take the time to make your voice heard!

The Legislative Dining Out is quickly approaching and will be held on February 5, in Pierre. I hope many of you are planning to attend. It's time to sign up for our annual state conference which will be held in Watertown in April. The conference theme is Heroes: In and Out of Uniform. The conference provides a great opportunity to come together to identify legislative priorities, conduct

## SDNGEA AUXILIARY OFFICERS 2014-2015

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business and have some fun.  
Sign up today!

Best wishes and thanks for  
staying involved.

Gayle Funk,  
SDNGEA Auxiliary President.

**SCHOLARSHIPS  
AVAILABLE.....**

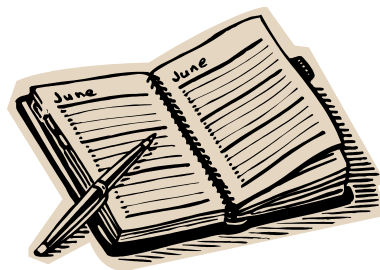
The South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association Auxiliary is offering a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2015 academic year. Unmarried High school seniors and college undergraduate students or vocational students are eligible. The student's Father, Mother, or Grandparents must be a member of the South 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 have been 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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**ESTIMATED COLLEGE  
COSTS.....**

I randomly selected one of our state universities to estimate the 2014-2015 undergraduate costs.

The cost for tuition and fees per credit hour is \$257. If a student takes 15 credits per semester, the cost would be \$3,855. Books were estimated to be \$500 per semester. Cost for living in a residence hall was approximately \$1,607 with an average meal plan costing \$1,512. The total semester cost would be \$7,474 with a total yearly cost of \$14,948. Applying for a scholarship would certainly help with the costs.



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

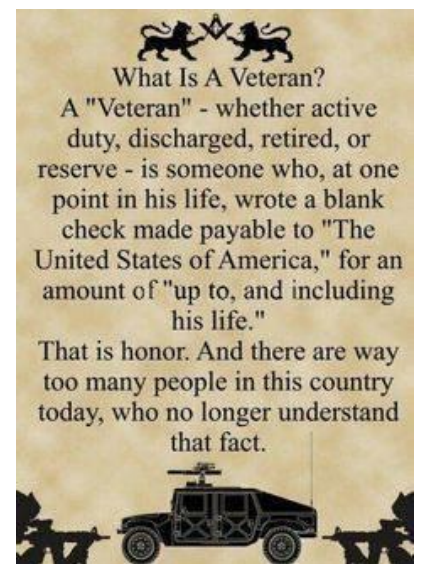
- February 5, 2015: Legislative Dining Out – Pierre, SD**  
(Contact your county legislators who are in Pierre attending the Legislative Session regarding matters concerning the SDNGEA)
- April 17-18, 2015: SDNGEA Conference-**  
Watertown, SD
- May, 2015: Area V Caucus-**  
Date to be determined  
Indianapolis, 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

**2014 VETERAN'S  
TREE**

This year marked 25 years that volunteers from Camp Rapid have provided gifts for the residents at the State Veteran's Home in Hot Springs. Gifts are personally delivered to veterans who are confined to their rooms and cannot join the festivities.

This year 123 gifts were delivered by 35 elves on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

**THANK YOU** to all you donated gifts, monetary gifts and your time to this worthwhile project.





## **BLACK HILLS NATIONAL CEMETARY.....**

Having lived in Rapid City for nearly 26 years, I realized that I knew very little about the Black Hills National Cemetery so in December, I had an opportunity to meet with Srey Austin, Director of the Cemetery. Srey readily took time from her schedule to give me a brief history.

The cemetery which sits on 106 acres was originally the homeland of the Lakota Indians. In 1947, Congressman Francis Case endorsed the concept of a regional national cemetery. With the support of various South Dakota Veterans' organizations, a site just outside of Sturgis on the Fort Meade Military Reservation was selected and was dedicated in 1948 as Fort Meade National Cemetery. The name was changed to Black Hills National Cemetery in 1949 to avoid confusion with the existing active military installation in Maryland.

At the time of my visit, there were 25,701 individuals interred in the cemetery, with 733 in 2014. The cemetery has three burial site options; casket: in-ground only; cremation: in-ground and cremation: above-ground

columbarium. The Black Hills National Cemetery is currently in the process of acquiring 100+ acres of BLM land. Srey stated that 100% of the staff at Black Hills National Cemetery are veterans.

One "Medal of Honor" recipient, Sergeant Charles Windolph is interred at the cemetery as well as Senator Francis H. Case and Brigadier General Richard E. Ellsworth. Ellsworth was the Commander of the Rapid City Air Force Base which was renamed Ellsworth Air Force Base in his honor.

Two Memorial Day ceremonies are held annually the last Monday in May; a Native American program and a traditional Memorial Day Program. This past May, 23,000 paid tribute to those interred at the cemetery.



## **IS MORE WALKING PART OF YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?**

Now's a great time to gear up and get in shape for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Hills Veteran Honor March on September 19. Your Officer at Large, Mary

Williams and I walked the Honor March in 2011 and my husband and I walked in 2012. It's a beautiful walk (I don't run!) and I would encourage everyone to consider participating. Walk at whatever pace is comfortable to you.

## **GETTING TO KNOW YOUR OFFICERS:**

**...Treasurer/Membership Person,** Diane Kafka has been married to her husband, Gary Kafka (retired National Guard) for 36 years. She and Gary have two grown children and four grandchildren. Diane and Gary live in Pierre. Diane has worked for the State of South Dakota for 21 years as an accountant for the South Dakota Retirement System. Some of her hobbies are going to garage sales, baking, geo-caching, quilting and fishing. She loves telling real life stories.

**...Legislative Chairman** Marlys List of Yankton, has served in all offices of the SDNGEA Auxiliary. She has also served as secretary of the EANGUS Auxiliary and has been on the scholarship committee for several years. Marlys was honored to receive the Board of Directors Award and the Sara Hendricks Lifetime Membership Award from the National Auxiliary and has received the "Pen is Mightier than the Musket" legislative award from EANGUS. Marlys was the first woman in South Dakota to receive the Molly Pitcher Award sponsored by the Field Artillery Association of Ft. Sill, Oklahoma.

She has been involved in SDNGEA and EANGUS auxiliaries and has attended all state conferences since 1967.

Marlys and her husband, CSM (Ret) Donavon, are retired but continue to be active in not only matters regarding the SDNGEA and EANGUS, but also VFW, American Legion, and St. John's Lutheran Church.

**...Parliamentarian,** Edna Steinberg has served in all offices of the SDNGEA Auxiliary with the exception of Secretary. She was Area Director for four years and was the 2013 National Auxiliary Conference Coordinator.

Edna moved to Rapid City in 1989 and was hired as a state employee in the Facility Management Office of the Engineering Department. In her career as an architectural draftsman, she has designed flatbed trailers to missiles; hospitals to teepees and drew up the drill heads for a "66 Mustang!

Edna is married to Dean Steinberg who retired from the National Guard after 42 years of service.

**...Officer-at-Large,** Mary Williams has been a member of the SDNGEA for approximately 32 years. She remembers Linda House encouraging and welcoming her to the first auxiliary meeting she attended. She has held the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Sergeant-At-Arms, and Officer-At-Large.

Mary has been a Registered Nurse for 54 years, the majority of those in a hospital. She

continues to work at the hospital on a part-time basis in Sturgis.

Mary has been married to Doug, a retired guardsman, for 54 years. They have two children, six grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

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

*THANK*



Dakota Messenger Editor;  
Joann McElroy