

# The Desert Chronicle

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA ENLISTED ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2017 VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

## ~President's Message~

It's been a busy last several months for your Arizona Enlisted Association. Of note, our Annual Conference, conducted jointly with the Officer's Association and the AZNG Professional Development Program on Saturday, April 22nd, was a success. It was good to visit with many of you who stopped by the EANGA booth, and I want to thank those of you who stayed the extra couple of hours to attend our business session.

We are particularly appreciative of Major General McGuire's attendance and his comments, as well as those of our Senior Enlisted Leaders, CMSgt Shane Clark and CSM Patrick Powers. Major General McGuire spoke about the AZNG's accomplishments and missions, the importance of every Soldier and Airmen being a Recruiter or Retention NCO working to keep the AZNG strong, as well as the role that NCOs play in mentoring the Officer Corp.

The conference was followed that evening by the 2017 Outstanding Civilians, Airmen and Soldiers of the Year (CASY) Awards Banquet. "Congratulations" to all the winners; you can see their names and some photos on page 3 of this newsletter. It has

been an honor for EANGA to be involved with the AZNG PD program as well as a sponsor of the CASY Awards Banquet and we want to thank CMSgt Daniel Gutierrez for his support in these endeavors. Stay tuned for more information as we are already working on plans for next year!

I would also like to welcome the new members of our EANGA Board who were elected during the State Conference: SFC Monette Wesolek was elected as the Army Vice-President and SGT Erika Powell is our new Treasurer. On behalf of the EANGA board, I also want to thank CSM (Ret) April Schneider, previous Army VP and SMSgt (Ret) Marta Dominguez, previous Treasurer for their years of service on the board.

In early May, I attended the EANGUS Area VI Mid-Year Workshop in Reno, NV. We received some good briefings from the EANGUS leadership, had time for networking with other State Association members, and saw all the great facilities at the Silver Legacy, which is the site of the EANGUS National Conference coming up in August.

Finally, I just want to say that just as the AZNG needs Soldiers/Airmen to be strong, our Association also needs members so that we can be successful as we work on your behalf. I hope you will renew your membership when it comes due and would suggest that you sponsor another enlisted member to join, or pass on this newsletter to other enlisted personnel and educate them on what we do. If you have questions, contact me; I look forward to hearing from you!

Tom Matthew, CSM (Ret)  
EANGA President



State Conference photos: EANGA board at our booth (left); EANGA officers at the banquet (above), and Professional Development session (below).

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## ~Legislative Update~



EANGA is seeking comments from those of you who utilized the Arizona National Guard Tuition Reimbursement Program in the past. We want to hear from you regarding your experience with it and how it was a benefit for you. Please go to the EANGA Facebook page and post your comments or contact Legislative Chair Dean Miller.

Thank you!

**SINE DIE!** The Arizona 53<sup>rd</sup> Legislature has adjourned for 2017. However, your EANGA Legislative Committee has not. Committee Chair Dean Miller is in contact with legislative offices to find out why the bills EANGA was supporting failed. As of May 26th, here is an update on the following bills:

**HB 2297, National Guard; Readiness Center; Appropriation:** This bill would have appropriated monies to build a new readiness center at the Valencia Armory in Tucson. It had passed the House, but failed in Senate Appropriations, 5-5-0. According to the Arizona Legislature RTS, this bill met heavy resistance from many people who were tied to the Arizona Charter Schools Association and the Arizona Association of Counties.

**HB 2352, National Guard; Reduced Tuition Rate:** This bill would have allowed eligible Arizona National Guard members to attend any public state institution at the same tuition rate as an employee of that institution. It passed easily in committee, but failed on the House floor, 23-35-2. According to the Arizona Legislature RTS, this bill met resistance from the Board of Regents and the three largest state universities.

**HB 2433, Income Tax Subtraction: Veterans' Pensions:** EANGA submitted a resolution for this bill through Representative Todd Clodfelter. If passed, this bill would have increased the military pension state tax exemption from the current \$2500 to \$5000. It

passed the House easily; however, the Senate President asked that it be heard first in the Finance Committee. Unfortunately, that committee chair did not allow it to be heard. There was absolutely no resistance to this bill from outside sources.

Though these bills are done, your EANGA Legislative Committee is not and we will be discussing ways to submit these resolutions again for the next Arizona legislative session. Your EANGA Legislative Committee continues to work hard on issues that effect our Arizona National Guard Soldiers, Airmen, Retirees and their families, but we cannot do this alone. We need your help to make our mission a success. Protect your jobs, protect your benefits, and protect yourselves by joining us to ensure our Army remains strong and that our Air Force continues to fly in the Arizona National Guard.

Interested in getting involved? Contact the EANGA Legislative Committee Chair, CMSgt Dean Miller at [dinogmiller1359@gmail.com](mailto:dinogmiller1359@gmail.com). Be a voice and join the Enlisted Association National Guard of Arizona. Join now, be heard! More than ever, the Guard belongs... ALWAYS READY, ALWAYS THERE! HOOAH!!!



## ~Outstanding Civilians, Airmen and Soldiers Honored~

The 2017 Civilians, Airmen & Soldiers of the Year Awards Banquet was held on Saturday, April 22nd at the Arizona Grand Resort & Spa. The evening was full of ceremony, honors, prize drawings, and camaraderie, as the "best of the best" from the Arizona National Guard were recognized. The Arizona Enlisted Association extends our congratulations to all the candidates and the winners!

Enlisted award recipients were:

Soldier of the Year: SPC Stephen Munoz, HHC 158th Infantry

ARNG NCO of the Year: SGT Ian Brown, A Co 158th Infantry

ARNG 1SG of the Year: 1SG Michael List, HHC 2-285th AHB

ARNG Instructor of the Year: SFC Mark Faust, 215th RTI

Airman of the Year: AIC Jon Sheaffer, 161st ARW

ANG NCO of the Year: TSgt Jason Selberg, 162nd Wing

ANG Sr NCO of the Year: MSgt Deanna Meyer, 161st ARW

ANG First Sergeant of the Year: SMSgt Jason Handa, 162nd Wing

State CCMSgt Award: TSgt Aindrea Tait, 161st ARW

Honor Guard Member of the Year: MSgt Warren Edwards, 161st ARW



## ~AZ Scholarship Winner~

EANGA is proud to announce our 2017 USAA Scholarship recipient, Ms. Shannen Donnelly, daughter of MSgt Keith Donnelly (Retired), AZ Air National Guard. Ms. Donnelly has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to assist in her pursuit of a Nursing degree at Dickinson State University. EANGA appreciates the support of USAA who sponsors a \$1,000 scholarship annually. We extend our congratulations to Ms. Donnelly and wish her the best in her future educational endeavors.

**~Firearms Raffle Update~**

Tickets are still available for the EANGA monthly firearms raffle which continues through September 2017. There will be three additional drawings; one each in July (S&W 22A), August (Taurus PT709, 9mm), and September (it's a mystery!). Each of the numbered tickets will remain in the raffle for the entire period giving you three more chances to win, even if you've won in a previous month! Tickets are \$50, and can be obtained by contacting MSG Bernardo Acosta at [bernardo.m.acosta@gmail.com](mailto:bernardo.m.acosta@gmail.com), or CSM (Ret) April Schneider at [aschneider12@cox.net](mailto:aschneider12@cox.net).

EANGA congratulates each of our winners thus far. Some photos of the winners are shown on the right and a complete list of winners follows:

- Oct 2016 - Hannah Whitney
- Nov 2016 - Douglas LaRussa
- Dec 2016 - Nathan Kessler
- Jan 2017 - Gregor Schneider
- Feb 2017 - Sal Garcia
- Mar 2017 - Keith Tagg (pictured on the lower right)
- Apr 2017 - Grace Ogesen (pictured on the upper right)
- May 2017 - Gary Haro
- Jun 2017 - Ray Tapia



**~2017 EANGUS National Conference~**

The 2017 EANGUS National Conference will be held in the "biggest little city in the world", Reno, NV from August 27-30, 2017.

In addition to the EANGUS business sessions, NGB has once again approved a Professional Development program for Soldiers and Airmen E6 and below; the State CSM and CCM will select those attendees who get to attend the conference on paid military orders.

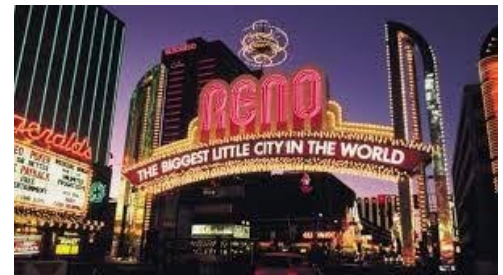
EANGA President CSM (Ret) Tom Matthew will also be in attendance along with Arizona's delegates who will vote on any resolutions or other matters that come to the floor. We are looking forward to having other enlisted members attend. If you are interested in attending the conference in Reno, please contact President Matthew for more info.

Conference meetings will be held at the Reno Event Center which is adjacent to the Silver Legacy Resort, our designated conference hotel. Lodging rates for single or double occupancy are \$97 a night plus a \$12 resort fee and taxes. There is also a conference registration fee which gets you into the business session, exhibitor expo, all evening events, and the formal banquet dinner to close the conference on Wednesday evening. The current registration price is \$150, however, this price will be rising to \$200 on July 1st.

The Welcome Night event will be held at the National Bowling Stadium, and the All State Hospitality Night is at Rancho San Rafael Park. Other conference activities include a golf outing on August 25th, which is an additional cost.

All information about the conference, as well as links to register and reserve a hotel room, can be found at this website:

<https://eangusconference.org/>



**EANGUS NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE  
AUGUST 27-30, 2017  
SILVER LEGACY RESORT  
& CASINO  
RENO, NEVADA**



**EANGA**  
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**WEBSITE: WWW.EANGA.ORG**



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**Join or Renew at:**  
**WWW.EANGA.ORG**



**~ New EANGA Board Elected ~**

EANGA is proud to announce the selection of several new members of our Board of Directors based on elections held at the State Conference on April 22nd. The following personnel make up the EANGA Board:

President CSM (Ret) Tom Matthew  
 tandmmatthew@cox.net

VP Air Mary Thompson, mkt1266@yahoo.com

VP Army SFC Monette Wesolek, loislane.iraq@gmail.com

VP Jr Enlisted SSG Lance Spencer,  
 lance.r.spencer@gmail.com

Treasurer SGT Erika Powell, graywolf2736@cox.net

Secretary CMSgt Dean Miller, dinogmiller1359@gmail.com

Dir Army SFC Shannon Bishop, shannonb880@gmail.com

Dir Air TSgt Andrea Romo, andrea.l.romo@gmail.com

Dir At Large SFC Rigoberto Andrade,  
 Rigoberto.s.andrade.mil@mail.mil

Dir Retiree CSM (Ret) David Austin,  
 csm.austin.ret@gmail.com

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact your EANGA leadership above.

**~EANGA MEETING DATES~**

July 20, 2017

August 17, 2017

September 21, 2017

Meetings are generally held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 1730hrs, at the USP&FO Conference Room; dial-in is available.

If interested in attending a meeting, please contact President Matthew to confirm date/time/location.

**The Enlisted Association National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) and the Enlisted Association National Guard of Arizona (EANGA), exist to “promote the status, welfare, and professionalism of the enlisted members of the National Guard” and to “promote adequate National Security”. The Association lobbies to provide adequate full-time staffing, adequate pay and allowances, adequate health, medical, family and death entitlements, incentive benefits, first line equipment, resources, and weapons systems, and military construction.**

**~Scholarship Opportunities~**

One of the benefits of your membership in EANGUS is the large number of scholarships that you, your spouse, and your dependent children can apply for. We are approaching the end of our scholarship season, but there are two more scholarship deadlines that remain open. Details for each scholarship are as follows:



**American Public University System** will provide one full-academic undergraduate scholarship and one full-academic graduate scholarship (both cover tuition only). An application and essay demonstrating your need for education support is required. Deadline to apply is 30 June 2017. Apply at: <https://eangus.org/2017-apusama-scholarship/>



**WyoTech** offers technical degrees in Automotive and Diesel Technology, Collision repair, Marine Specialist, and Motorcycle Technology. WyoTech has campuses located in Laramie, WY and Daytona Beach, FL. They are offering 35 partial (\$5,000) scholarships, and one full scholarship. Deadline to apply is 30 June 2017. Get more information and apply at: <https://eangus.org/2017-wyotech-scholarship/>

Membership in EANGUS/EANGA is required in order to apply for these scholarships. If you're not a current paid member, go to [www.eanga.org](http://www.eanga.org), use the Membership tab, and follow the prompts to become an EANGUS member in AZ — an annual membership is just \$20.

All 2017 EANGUS Scholarship winners will be announced in August at the National Conference In Reno, NV.