



# The Desert Chronicle

NEWSLETTER OF THE ENLISTED  
ASSOCIATION NATIONAL GUARD OF ARIZONA

SPRING 2017

## Announcing the 2017 EANGA State Conference

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CSM (Ret) Tom Matthew, EANGA President announces and invites all EANGA members and AZNG enlisted personnel to attend the Annual State Conference on April 21-22, 2017. This year's conference will be held jointly with the National Guard Association of Arizona at the Arizona Grand Resort, 8000 S. Arizona Grand Parkway, Phoenix.

The conference fun begins on Friday with a Golf Tournament at the resort starting with check-in at 11 am. Paid conference attendees are welcome to attend the opening reception and buffet dinner that evening.

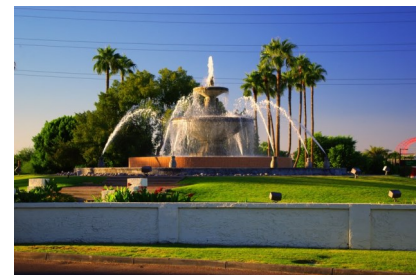
The conference will continue on Saturday morning, April 22nd at 8:00 am with a Professional Development (PD) program for all attendees. Units of the AZ Army and Air NG have been given a specific number of slots for military members who will be able to attend the PD program on a paid status; if you're interested in attending, contact your Unit First Sergeant or Commander.

Information regarding fees for the golf tournament as well as other conference

events can be found on the EANGA website at <https://eanga.org/announcing-the-2016-ngaaz-eanga-state-conference/> If you plan to attend, please print and complete the Registration Form and submit it to NGA AZ NLT April 8th. The Arizona Grand Resort is offering a special lodging rate of \$119.00 per night. If you would like to bring the family and stay, call 1-877-800-4888 and ask for the "2017 CASY" room block to get the special rate; room reservations should be made NLT March 24th.

On Saturday afternoon, the Officer and Enlisted Associations will each have separate break out sessions to conduct their business meetings. The EANGA business meeting, which includes a free lunch, will start at 1230 pm. This meeting will include an EANGA legislative update, reports, and election of officers to serve on the EANGA Board of Directors. If you're interested in running for office, review the information on page 5 or contact President Tom Matthew at [tandmmatthew@cox.net](mailto:tandmmatthew@cox.net)

Attendance at the afternoon EANGA business meeting is completely FREE; but we do ask that you RSVP to CSM-R



April Schneider at [april.y.schneider.civ@mail.mil](mailto:april.y.schneider.civ@mail.mil) and MSgt Mary Thompson [mary.k.thompson63.mil@mail.mil](mailto:mary.k.thompson63.mil@mail.mil) by April 15th for meal planning purposes.

The day will conclude with the 2017 Outstanding Civilians, Airman, and Soldiers of the Year (CASY) Banquet which kicks off with a Social Hour at 1800 hours. More information and the cost for the banquet can be found at this link: <https://einventions.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=322462&k=0163400D7D55> If you plan to attend the CASY Banquet, please RSVP using this link by April 3rd.

We look forward to seeing you at the Professional Development program, our EANGA State Conference business meeting, and/or the CASY banquet — it should be an informative and fun-filled weekend! Please review the Conference Brochure posted on our website and register or RSVP now!



# EANGUS LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP



Three members of EANGA attended the EANGUS Legislative Workshop in Washington, DC from Feb 5-7, 2017. CMSgt (Ret) Dean Miller, CSM(Ret) Karen Craig and MSgt Celia Alosi joined other EANGUS members from across the nation at the annual event. The workshop included a review of EANGUS Resolutions and Legislative Committee activities, a presentation by the NGB Legislative Liaisons, Policy Discussions, and a great panel discussion by our Senior Enlisted Leaders to include CMSgt Mitchell Brush, SEA to the Chief, NGB,

As part of the trip, our Legislative Chair, CMSgt Miller scheduled appointments with each of our elected Arizona Congressional and Senate members or their staffers. EANGUS Point Papers and other issues of concern to National Guard members were discussed at each appointment.

On Tuesday evening, February 7th, members also attended the EANGUS Legislative Reception which recognizes Congressional members and staffers who have supported bills affecting National Guard/Reserve members over the last year. The photos on the left show the reception and award ceremony. The 2017 recipients of the G.V. Sonny Montgomery Eagle Award are Senator Kristen Gillibrand from New York, and Congressman Bruce Poliquin, from Maine. Recipients of the Militia Award were: Jonathan Clark (Staffer for the Senate Armed Services Committee), David Giachetti, (Staffer for the House Armed Services Committee), and Charles Ziegler (Legislative Assistant to Senator Barasso, Wyoming).

See more national and local legislative news from Chair Miller on page 4.



## University of Phoenix®

The University of Phoenix is offering three full-ride scholarships. Deadline to apply is 7 March 2017:

Use this link to get more information and

apply: [http://](http://www.phoenix.edu/tuition_and_financial_options/scholarships/institutional-scholarships/prospective-students/eangus-future-phoenix-scholarship.html)

[www.phoenix.edu/tuition\\_and\\_financial\\_options/scholarships/institutional-scholarships/prospective-students/eangus-future-phoenix-scholarship.html](http://www.phoenix.edu/tuition_and_financial_options/scholarships/institutional-scholarships/prospective-students/eangus-future-phoenix-scholarship.html)

## SCHOLARSHIPS!

The Arizona Enlisted Association is pleased to announce our 2017 annual scholarship program which is just one of the many benefits of your membership in the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS). Our scholarship program is open to AZ National Guard enlisted personnel and their spouse or dependent children who are or will be attending college.

The 2017 Scholarship program includes:

- The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States offers the CSM Virgil R. Williams Memorial Scholarship which generally awards at least two, but up to ten - \$2,000 scholarships annually. This is the National Scholarship Program and winners will be announced during the EANGUS Conference in Reno, NV, in Aug 2017.

- The Enlisted Association National Guard of Arizona will offer two scholarship in 2017. The CMSgt Gerald R. Guild Memorial Scholarship will provide one - \$1,000 scholarship. Additionally, through our Arizona association, USAA has funded and is offering one - \$1,000 scholarship this year. This scholarship is titled the Harry & Mary Hensell Scholarship. Both of these Arizona scholarships will be awarded and presented during an appropriate ceremony on/after April 22, 2017.

We encourage participation in these scholarship programs. Eligibility criteria and requirements to apply are described on our website or can be provided by mail, upon request.

The deadline for submission of applications for the National and State programs listed above is 8 April 2017. For more information, go to our EANGA website at: [www.eanga.org](http://www.eanga.org)

[scholarship-information/](#)

NOTE: AZ applicants can submit your application and documents electronically via our website! Completed applications must be submitted on line or mailed with a post-mark of NLT 8 April 2017.

In addition to these cash scholarships, our members are eligible for a number of full-ride and partial scholarships sponsored by University of Phoenix, Grand Canyon University, Grantham University and others. More information will be posted on our website as their programs and deadlines are announced.

If you are looking for financial assistance for college, check us out! Questions may be referred to our webmaster, CSM-R Karen Craig at [kcraig1955@cox.net](mailto:kcraig1955@cox.net)



# EANGUS HISTORY: Pioneers & Founders

## Membership Appreciation Night January 19, 2017

On Thursday evening, January 19, 2017, the EANGA Board of Directors hosted the annual Membership Appreciation Night, which included some special presentations this year.

Our guests included 2016 AZ Air NG NCO of the Year, TSgt (now MSgt) Peter Sulista and the 2015 AZ Army NG Soldier of the Year, SPC (now SGT) Aaron Hoyt. They were each recognized with a trophy and an EANGA Certificate. Additionally, everyone enjoyed a potluck dinner and the many door prizes. We are particularly appreciative that CMSgt Daniel Gutierrez, AZANG Command Chief Master Sergeant was able to join us for the evening.

We also conducted a ceremony for some very special people from Arizona who were identified by the EANGUS Committee on History as “EANGUS Founders and Pioneers”.

As you know, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) was formed in 1972 in Mississippi. At that time, a group of NCOs came forward and recognizing the need for the Enlisted men and women of the Army and Air National Guard to have a voice on Capitol Hill, put together the original Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation for EANGUS. Consequently, State Chapters were formed in every State and Territory across the U.S.

Like the initial group of NCOs who formed EANGUS at the national level, we had our own group of NCOs here in Arizona who are credited with initiating our State chapter, called EANGA. Some facts from our EANGA history include: the first ever

EANGA meeting was held on 17 November 1971, the first By-Laws and Constitution were adopted on 18 March 1972, the first State Conference was held on 4 August 1973, EANGA was first incorporated on 4 May 1974, and the EANGA Auxiliary was established on 26 April 1975.

The Founders and Pioneers—both at the national and state level—had a vision and through their dedication, determination, and countless hours of work, EANGUS was born. EANGUS has grown over the last 45 years and is now known as the “go to” association for Congress to call on when they need information regarding issues affecting the National Guard and Reserve. Over the years, EANGUS has been responsible for the passage of many pieces of legislation which have greatly improved the status, welfare, and professionalism of the enlisted members of the National Guard. For example, without EANGUS, our National Guard members would not have had the Montgomery GI Bill; full, unlimited commissary and base exchange access, and the reserve component retirement system that many of us enjoy. All of this, and more, would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our original EANGUS Founders and Pioneers.

EANGA President CSM Tom Matthew presented a framed Certificate of Appreciation and engraved medallion to the Pioneers and Founders from Arizona, shown above:

On January 19, 2017, President Tom Matthew presents EANGA awards to SGT Aaron Hoyt (left) and MSgt Peter Sulista (right).

## EANGUS Pioneers and Founders from Arizona:

**CSM Harry Hensell** (Pioneer); shown below accepting award with his spouse, Mary Hensell, (EANGA Auxiliary President) and sons, Harry Jr and Michael

**CMSgt Bobby White** (Pioneer) Deceased; accepting award below are his daughter, Sandra McArthur and her son, Ryan VanHook.

**CMSgt Jon Dytrt** (Founder)

**1SG Conrad Ericson** (Founder) Deceased

**MSgt Paul Fuetterer** (Pioneer)

**CMSgt Fred Spears** (Pioneer) (Deceased)



President Tom Matthew presents Pioneers/Founders awards to CSM Harry Hensell and family (above), and Sandra McArthur and Ryan VanHook, family of CMSgt Bobby White (below)





**CMSgt (Ret)  
Dean Miller, EANGA  
Legislative Chair**

# Legislative Update

The 2017 legislative season has kept your EANGA Legislative Committee busy. EANGA representatives attended the 2017 EANGUS Legislative Workshop in Washington D. C. During the workshop, your representatives visited the offices of all nine Arizona Congress members as well as both Senators. Three point papers were presented during each visit. These point papers can be reviewed at <https://eanga.org/legislative/> Face to face meetings were conducted with Congressmen Andy Biggs and Tom O'Halleran.

On a local basis, EANGA is supporting bills introduced in the Arizona Legislature. As of February 27, the status of each bill is as follows:

**HB 2297, National Guard; Readiness Center; Appropriation.** This bill would appropriate monies to build a new readiness center in Tucson. It has passed the House and is waiting to be heard by the Senate Appropriations and Rules committees.

**HB 2352, National Guard; Reduced Tuition Rate.** This

bill will allow eligible Arizona National Guard members to attend any public state institution at the same tuition rate as an employee of that institution. It failed in the Committee of the Whole. This bill is meeting some resistance and Representative Kern moved that the House reconsider it within the next 14 days.

**HB 2433, Income Tax Subtraction; Veterans' Pensions.** If passed, this bill would increase the military pension state tax exemption from the current \$2500. up to \$5000. It has passed the House and is waiting to be heard in Senate committees.

**SB 1443, Veterans' Donations Fund; Tax Credit.** This bill is to extend the tax credit allowed from cash donations made to the Veteran's Donations Fund for taxable years beginning from and after December 31, 2017 through December 31, 2025. It is waiting for the Senate Third Reading.

**SB 1444, Income Tax Subtraction; Military Retire-**

ment. This bill would increase the military pension state tax exemption of \$12,500 starting in tax year 2018, with increases each year up to the point where 100% of military pension would be exempt by tax year 2021. It passed the Senate Finance committee, but is meeting some resistance and has been held in committee.

Additionally, EANGA will be submitting a resolution to EANGUS this year regarding the provision of federal health, education, and retirement benefits currently denied to National Guard soldiers serving on pre-planned active duty missions under 12304(b). Join us at the State Conference, on April 22 at the Arizona Grand Resort, to review and vote on this resolution.

Are you well versed in legislative issues or have a deep desire to get involved? Then step up and contact the Legislative Committee Chair at deanmiller1@cox.net. Do you want your job and benefits protected? Then be a voice and join the Enlisted Association National Guard of Arizona. Join now, be heard!

**Legislative Chair Dean Miller on Capitol Hill during his visit with Congressman Tom O'Hallaren (Feb 2017)**



# TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR HOME'S INCREASED VALUE



## WITH A VA 100% CASH OUT REFINANCE

If your home is worth more now than it was when you originally purchased it, you can take cash out of the increased value in your home. You can use the equity in your home to consolidate other debt or to fund other expenses.

### Cash Out Refinance Benefits—



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By paying off those credit card bills you aren't just turning multiple payments into one. You can also significantly reduce the interest rate you pay on that debt



#### Fund Home Improvements

Do those gutters need replacing for monsoon season? Maybe the master bath is ready for an update. Cash out refinances are a very affordable way to fund those home improvement projects.



#### Lower Your Interest Rate

Receive the traditional benefits of refinancing, such as lower interest rates and potentially removing monthly mortgage insurance.

### Funds can be used for any purpose:

- Home improvement
- Education costs
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- Consolidating credit card balances
- Creating a personal cash cushion or for investing

### VA Cash Out Program Requirements:

- Credit score of 580 or above
- Only owner-occupied residences
- No late mortgage payments in the past 12 months
- Existing loan does not have to be VA



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# EANGA Elections....

The Arizona Enlisted Association is once again seeking current Association members (Active, Retired, or Life) who are interested in running for office. Elections will be held during the business session of our Annual State Conference on Saturday, April 22, 2017. The following information is provided regarding the positions that are up for election; the term of office for each position is two (2) years, unless indicated otherwise.

**President:** Must be an AZ Army or Air NG member (active, former, or retired); must be a current (paid) Association member in good standing for at least six months prior to nomination; must have attended at least two meetings within the last 12 months prior to the election.

**Vice-President Army:** Must be an Army NG member (active, former, or retired); must be a current (paid) Association member in good standing for at least six months prior to nomination; must have attended at least one meeting in the last 6 months.

**Treasurer:** Must be a current (paid) Association member (active, former, or retired) in good standing for at least six months prior to nomination. Must be bondable and have a strong knowledge of accounting principles.

**Director Air:** Must be an Air NG member (active, former, or retired); must be a current (paid) Association member.

**Director Retiree:** Must be a retired Army or Air NG member; must be a current (paid) Association member.

**Conference Delegates:** Must be either an Army or Air NG member (active, former, or retired); must be a current (paid) Association member, and must attend at least one meeting prior to the National Conference. Must will willing and available to attend the EANGUS National Conference in Reno, NV from 27-30 August 2017.

As you can see, there are minimal requirements to be eligible to run for office, and even if you haven't attended an EANGA Board meeting in the last 6 months, our

next two meetings are scheduled for 16 March and 13 April, both meetings are held at 1730 hrs. If interested in attending a meeting, contact President Tom Matthew at [tandmmatthew@cox.net](mailto:tandmmatthew@cox.net) for the location or dial-in conferencing information. All enlisted personnel are always invited and encouraged to attend our board meetings.

If you meet the minimal requirements described above, are interested in serving your fellow enlisted Soldiers and Airmen thru participation on our EANGA Executive Board, and have time to devote (generally this involves monthly meetings - many can be attended by audio conference calls)....we encourage you to submit your nomination! You can nominate another member or nominate yourself by sending an email stating the position you want to be considered for and a brief written summary, not to exceed 200 words, of your qualifications and interest in the Association. Nominations must be submitted NLT April 19th to: VP-Air, MSgt Mary Thompson at [mary.k.thompson63.mil@mail.mil](mailto:mary.k.thompson63.mil@mail.mil) and EANGA Secretary, CMSgt-Ret Dean Miller at [deanmiller1@cox.net](mailto:deanmiller1@cox.net).



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# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Looking for scholarships or financial assistance for you or your dependents? Want to make a difference in the lives of Soldiers and Airmen by supporting legislative actions that affect the National Guard? Ready to get involved? Join EANGUS / EANGA today — an annual membership for AZNG personnel is just \$20; a life membership is just \$185.

There are many reasons to be a member of EANGUS..... most of all, you are answering the call to maintain and gain benefits for all Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard. Your involvement and commitment is vital to our success. As a result of your

membership, you also have many member benefits that you can utilize. In addition to the many scholarships we offer (see page 3), please review the additional benefits and services available for EANGUS members at [www.eangus.org](http://www.eangus.org)

Joining or renewing your membership is simple—go to [www.eanga.org](http://www.eanga.org) and select “Membership” and follow the prompts to pay with a credit card on line. If you have any problems with the online membership process or questions, please contact CSM-R Karen Craig, Membership Chair at [kcraig1955@cox.net](mailto:kcraig1955@cox.net).

## Save the Date - Reno!



The 46th Annual EANGUS National Conference will be held at the Silver Legacy Resort and Conference Center from 27-20 August 2017.

Lodging rooms are \$97.00 per night plus resort fees/taxes for a total of \$120.42. Current conference registration price is \$150.00 thru 1 July 2017. Get more information, register to attend, and reserve your hotel room at [www.eangusconference.org](http://www.eangusconference.org).

We will also be holding elections for delegates to attend the National Conference, during our State Conference coming up on April 22nd —see notes on page 6. If you have any questions about the National Conference, contact President Matthew at [tandmmatthew@cox.net](mailto:tandmmatthew@cox.net) to get more details.

**Enlisted Association  
National Guard of Arizona**

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CSM (Ret) Tom Matthew  
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Website:  
[www.eanga.org](http://www.eanga.org)



**OUR MISSION:**

**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.**

## Firearm Raffle Continues

The EANGA 12-month Firearm Raffle started in October and continues with a new winner drawn each month. Each of the numbered tickets will remain in the raffle for the entire 12 months giving you 12 chances to win, even if you have already won in a previous month. Additionally, no more than 400 tickets will be sold improving your chance to win. There are still tickets remaining and each ticket is \$100.

Get your tickets NOW — Tickets can be obtained from the following EANGA members: PPMR: MSG Ben Acosta, CSM-Ret April Schneider, SFC Haffley, SSG Espinoza; 161st ARW: MSgt Swanson; Tucson: MSgt Mary Thompson and SFC Rigoberto Andrade.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS:**

October 2016: Hannah Whitney – Bersa Thunder.380

November 2016: Douglas LaRussa – Kahr CW9

December 2016: Gregor Schnider – Mossberg 808, 22LR Rifle

January 2017: Nathan Kessler – Glock 23 .40

February 2017: Sal Garcia – choice of Chiappa 1911 22LR or HI Point C9

March 2017 – winner will be drawn on March 16th at the EANGA Board meeting – Beretta PX4 Compact 9mm

Monthly drawings continue thru September 2017!

### EANGUS USAA REWARDS MASTERCARD CREDIT CARD



Through your EANGUS membership, you are eligible to apply for the USAA Affiliate credit card which offers a special 0% introductory APR for 12 months, and an interest rate as low as 11.40% after the first 12 months.

You will earn 2,500 rewards points after your first purchase and can redeem your points for cash, gift cards, or travel discounts. There is no annual or membership fee. Additionally, USAA Bank makes a contribution to EANGUS when you open an account and make eligible purchases.