

The Desert Chronicle

Newsletter of the Arizona Enlisted Association

EANGA President's Message:

Once again, it's been a busy several months for EANGA as we continue to work on your behalf. In August, we met at the State Capital with State Representative Richard Andrade and representatives from ASU, NAU and Maricopa County Community College District to discuss possible legislation for tuition assistance for members of the Arizona National Guard. Unfortunately, the colleges and universities are unwilling to support any legislation that would detract from their funding or finances, to include allowing our National Guard members to fill otherwise vacant classroom seats. As a result, we will have to pursue other avenues to provide and fund some form of tuition assistance program. Representative Andrade is very supportive of the Arizona National Guard and has agreed to help EANGA write up a legislative proposal to address this.

The EANGUS National Conference was held in Reno, NV, 27-30 August, 2017. Arizona was well represented with 16 in attendance, and I can report that it was a great success; see the report on page 3 for more information. I would also like to congratulate CSM-R Karen Craig for her work as the editor of our newsletter, *The Desert Chronicle*, which was awarded 1st Place in the non-commercial publications category during the National Conference.

We also have several activities coming up in January and I would encourage your participation. First, on Thursday, January 18th at 5:30pm, we will hold our annual Membership Appreciation Night at the 161st Wing Dining Facility. We invite you to join us for pizza/beverages -- this event is for you, our members, so we hope you will drop by.

Secondly, EANGA will be participating in the Maricopa County StandDown for Homeless Veterans as a community service activity. The StandDown will be conducted at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum at the State Fairgrounds in Phoenix on 25-26 January 2018. This event allows Veterans and their families who are experiencing housing instability and homelessness to get connected to the resources they need. If you are interested in participating with EANGA, please contact me and we'll add you to our volunteer list. More details will be provided to you on both of these events -- stay tuned!

Finally, thank you for your support this year, and... on behalf of the entire EANGA Executive Board, "Happy Holidays"!

Tom Matthew, CSM-R
President, EANGA

EANGA End of Year Membership Special

We are happy to announce our End of Year Membership Special from 1 Oct—31 Dec 2017. You can join the association as a new member or renew your current membership in EANGUS for just \$15.00

Why should you be a member of EANGUS? We are the only professional military organization that works solely for the Enlisted members of the Army & Air National Guard. We lobby Congress to improve your benefits and keep the ones you currently enjoy. Some big issues we're working on now include getting TRICRE for all federal employees, expanding

benefits under 12304b active duty orders to match other forms of Title 10 active duty, and increasing 401K and TSP contribution limits for blended retirement plan participants. We have successfully legislated for other benefits in the past that affect your healthcare, survivor, and education benefits, commissary privileges, and retirement. EANGUS also offers more than \$200,000 each year in full-ride and cash scholarships for our members as well as your spouse and dependent children. If you want more information, you can find us on Facebook under EANGUS or EANGA or go to our website.

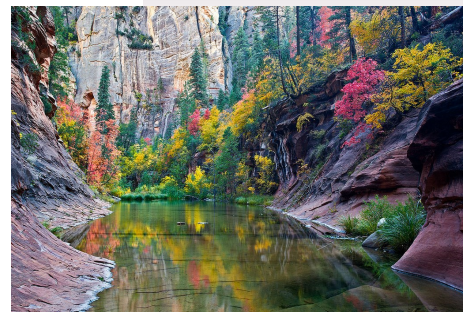


To join now, you can find a copy of our Membership Application on our website and mail it in with a check payable to EANGA, or even easier... go to our website at www.eanga.org. Select the "Membership" tab, and then JOIN/ RENEW and follow the prompts to pay with a credit card. Don't forget to add in the special Discount Code: EOY17 to get the reduced annual membership rate!



Special points of interest:

- > Mark your calendars:
Membership Appreciation Night—January 18, 2018, 5:30pm, 161st Wing DFAC
- > Renew your annual membership before 31 Dec to get a \$5 discount... pass it on to other unit members — Now is the time to JOIN EANGUS!



Inside this issue:

Legislative Update	2
Recognition	2
Conference Report	3
We Care for America	3
EANGUS & AUSA	4
Weapons Raffle	4

Legislative Update



EANGA will be participating in the Annual EANGUS Legislative Workshop, and making visits to our Arizona Congressional representatives 4-7 Feb 2018, Washington, DC. Stay tuned for our after action report!

Your Enlisted Association has begun work on two legislative issues. They are tuition reimbursement and a new Readiness Center in Tucson.

As you may know, the current tuition assistance program that was passed by the Arizona Legislature in 2015 is not working for you. That may change. Recently, EANGA President Tom Matthew and Legislative Committee Chair Dean Miller met with Arizona Representative Richard Andrade and representatives from Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, and several Arizona community colleges to discuss how to provide our Arizona National Guard members some form of tuition assistance or reimbursement without it being a burden on the state's budget and the colleges themselves. After an extensive and productive discussion, a new idea for a resolution was suggested. The resolution would focus on requesting funds from Arizona's "rainy day" fund on a yearly basis in

order to fund the current Arizona National Guard Tuition Reimbursement Program. The resolution is the first step, but if passed, the change would offer educational assistance to many of our Soldiers and Airmen who do not qualify for any type of GI bill benefits.

Last year, the Arizona National Guard Legislative Liaison, with the support of EANGA, tried to get a resolution passed to fund the construction of a new readiness center in Tucson. Unfortunately, the resolution died in committee. Another chance is at hand. Along with the AZNG Legislative Liaison, EANGA will be hosting a State Legislator's tour at the Valencia and Silverbell Armories in Tucson on November 30th and December 14th. During this tour, EANGA will have the opportunity to explain the need and show our State Legislators the crowded and outdated conditions that Arizona National Guard

Soldiers have to work in during drills and pre-deployment phases.

Once the resolutions for these two issues are released, EANGA will be contacting you to join us by calling, emailing, and writing to your legislators asking for his or her support. EANGA will also seek out fellow lobbying groups to get strength behind these very important issues. This is an opportunity for your voice to be heard.

In closing, are you savvy with legislative issues or just have a knack for dealing with legislation? If so, then you may be interested in being the Legislative Committee Chair. EANGA is looking for someone to take the lead on this committee due to Chair Miller's departure occurring after the 2018 State Conference. If you are interested in our Legislative Committee, please contact Dean Miller at dinogmiller1359@gmail.com.

Recognizing 162nd Wing OAY Winners

On November 3, 2017, EANGA President, CSM-Ret Tom Matthew attended the 162nd Wing Standup and recognized two of the recent Outstanding Airmen of the Year. EANGA is proud to recognize each of the OAY winners with a trophy, EANGA Certificate of Appreciation and a free annual EANGUS membership.

Winners recognized were: TSgt Jason Selberg, AZANG NCO of the Year, and SMSgt Jason Handa, AZANG First Sergeant of the Year. In addition to being selected as the "best of the best" in the 2016 Arizona Airmen of the Year competition, both of these NCOs went on to compete and WIN at the National level. TSgt Selberg is the NCOIC of the Weapons & Tactics Shop at the 214th Reconnaissance Squadron, located at Luke AFB. SMSgt Handa is the First Sergeant for the 162nd Wing. Congratulations!



EANGUS National Conference Report

The 2017 National Conference is in the books and it was another great one! Hosted by the Nevada Enlisted Association, it was held at the Reno Event Center from August 27-30, 2017. Arizona was represented by 16 personnel to include delegates, EANGA members, spouses or significant others, and two Soldiers, SGT Joshua Vurro (WAATS) and SPC Stephen Munoz (1/158th Infantry and AZARNG Soldier of the Year) who attended the EANGUS Professional Development Program.

This year's conference and Professional Development Program attendees enjoyed several informative speakers. General Joseph Lengyel, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, (pictured on the right) spoke to over 900 enlisted personnel highlighting the evolution of the National Guard from a strategic reserve to an operational force and recognizing the 850,000 National Guard members who have deployed since 9/11. CSM Christopher Kepner, Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major, also spoke about the Guard's operational force during his remarks.

Attendees were also inspired by the remarks from COL (Retired) Edward Hubbard, former Prisoner of War. Colonel Hubbard shared his story of captivity in North Vietnam, and

spoke of the spirit of his fellow POWs and their belief in and devotion to the United States. If you want to learn more about his story, check out his book "Escape from the Box—The Wonder of Human Potential."

Much of the work of the Association is done during the annual conference and this year was no different as Area Caucus and EANGUS Committee meetings were conducted and reports given. The delegates voted to approve a complete revision to our Bylaws which have been in the works for the last two years, and also approved 17 resolutions. These resolutions will drive our legislative focus for the next year. Copies of the conference reports, Bylaws, and the 2017 Resolutions can be found on the EANGUS website (www.eangus.org); look under the Document Library, in the 2017 Conference folder.

The Nevada Association also showed great hospitality by hosting the Welcome Night activities at the National Bowling Center (free bowling, food/drink for all), and ensured everyone had a great time at the Junior Enlisted Night, the All Area Hospitality Night, and they also closed the conference with an impressive All States Banquet at the Silver Legacy Resort. A big "thanks" to Nevada for a great conference!



Photo above: Arizona attendees at the EANGUS All States Banquet, and Gen Lengyel, Chief, NGB addresses conference attendees. Below: COL (Ret) Ed Hubbard, former Prisoner of War.



Col (Ret) Ed Hubbard's presentation at the National Conference can be viewed on the EANGUS YouTube Channel.



Sponsor Wreaths Across America and Support We Care for America too!

Remember the Fallen... Honor those who serve.... Sponsor a Wreath to be placed at Arlington National Cemetery. Each December, volunteers place wreaths on the graves of individual Veterans in over 1,200 locations across the U.S. For just \$15 you can sponsor one of these wreaths. Additionally, by using the following link at Wreaths Across America, \$5 from each wreath you purchase will be donated to the We Care For America Emergency Relief Fund which provides emergency financial assistance to National Guard Soldiers and Airmen with a catastrophic

financial need. Click here to purchase a wreath: <https://wreaths.fastport.com/donateLocation.html?page=47751&relate=14720>

All donations made to the EANGUS We Care for America Foundation are tax deductible and 100% of the money goes to National Guard members — EANGUS provides all the admin support for the fund. Donations for WCFA can also be made on the EANGUS website at <https://eangus.org/we-care-for-america/>

amazon smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Do you shop at Amazon? If so, why not make a charitable contribution to the EANGUS We Care for America Foundation at the same time? You don't have to pay any more, but when you're ready to shop, log into your Amazon account thru <https://smile.amazon.com/> and then select and save EANGUS We Care for America as your charitable organization. Amazon will donate .5% of the cost of your eligible purchases to WCFA. Shop through Amazon Smile every time and watch your contributions add up!



Check out the EANGUS YouTube Channel for videos from the National Conference and more updates of interest to our members: Go to: <https://www.youtube.com/user/EANGUSNationalOffice>

Announcing our Newest Benefit with AUSA

We are thrilled to announce EANGUS' expanded relationship with the Association of the United States Army (AUSA). EANGUS, as an Association Member in AUSA, is able to extend this partnership to our members in the form of a 1-year membership in AUSA starting December 31, 2017. This new offer gives you additional member benefits, such as a digital subscription to AUSA's professional development publications, like ARMY Magazine and AUSA News. The full range of AUSA member benefits is on their website at www.ausa.org/benefits-services. If you are already a member of AUSA, this membership will be in addition to your current AUSA membership. If you do not wish to participate in this benefit or share your contact information with AUSA, you may opt out by contacting the EANGUS National Office at eangus@eangus.org before December 15th.

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.



Legislative First, Membership Always...

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We're on the web...
www.eanga.org

EANGA Firearms Raffle Wrap-Up and Winners

The EANGA 12-month Firearm Raffle started in October 2016 and has concluded one year later. As promised, a winner was drawn each month, and a complete list of our winners and a few pictures are provided below. We thank all those who participated in the raffle; we appreciate your support of EANGA.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS:

October 2016: Hannah Whitney – Bersa Thunder.380

November 2016: Douglas LaRussa – Kahr CW9

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

January 2017: Nathan Kessler – Glock 23 .40

February 2017: Saul Garcia – Chiappa 1911 22LR

March 2017: Keith Tagg - Beretta PX4 Compact 9mm

April 2017: Grace Ogesen— Taurus 845, 45 ACP



Photos: EANGA President Tom Matthew presenting weapons to MSgt Nathan Kesler, CSM Saul Garcia, and SGT Grace Ogesen.



May 2017: Gary Haro - Hi Point C9

June 2017: Raymond Tapia - Taurus PT22

July 2017: Cristobal Garcia - S&W 22A

August 2017: Gary Ahrens - Taurus PT709, 9mm

September 2017: George Carbajal - European American Armory SAR K2P

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.