

EANGUS AUXILIARY HISTORY 2017

The 46th EANGUS annual conference and 44th annual EANGUS Auxiliary conference was held August 27-30, 2017 in Reno, Nevada, known as “The Biggest Little City in the World”. The city is named after Jesse L. Reno, a United States Army officer who served in the Mexican-American War, the Utah War, the western frontier, and as a Union General during the American Civil War. Reno sits in a high desert at the foot of the Sierra Nevada and its downtown area (along with Sparks) occupies a valley informally known as the Truckee Meadows.

Those traveling by plane were, in some cases, delayed by the airlines due to the effects of Hurricane Harvey which made landfall on the Central Texas Coast (Corpus Christi/Houston/Rockport area). EANGUS and EANGUS Auxiliary gave and/or pledged several thousand dollars for EANGUS “*We Care for America*” Foundation to provide relief to Texas National Guard members affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Folks who drove in to Reno saw sights such as the Grand Canyon; Yellowstone National Park; the Continental Divide; the Solar Eclipse in Casper, Wyoming; Lake Tahoe; Lake Mead and the Hoover Dam; Hawthorne Army Ammo Depot (World’s Largest Depot); the very blue waters of Walker Lake; Fallon Naval Air Station (the premier tactical air warfare training center where an entire carrier air wing can conduct comprehensive training); Creech and Nellis Air Force Bases; Historic Route 66; mesas, buttes, plateaus; painted desert; Chisholm Train; and so much more. A Faces of Freedom 18-wheel truck was observed several times with faces of servicemen from World War II, Vietnam, Gulf War, and Global War on Terror.

Membership for the 2017 year was 524 annual members, 454 active lifetime members, and 331 associate members.

President Myers continued to ask members to “catch the spark” as they worked on membership in respective states. There were thirty active states, twenty dormant states, and five states/entities not chartered.

Six (6) EANGUS Auxiliary Past Presidents enjoyed a meal together on Saturday, August 26 at Millie’s Café in the Eldorado. Those present were: June O’Dowd (LA); Sara Hendricks (IA); Nancy McDowell (OH); Sheila Bandy (KY); Vivian Taylor (MS); and Judy Wood (AL).

EANGUS Auxiliary President Connie Myers and EANGUS Auxiliary Vice President Angela Kennebeck attended the EANGUS Executive Council (EC) Meeting on Saturday. TEAM Nevada set up the Silent Auction and numbers of excellent items quickly accumulated.

Sunday events were numerous and included: area caucuses; chapel service; First Timers meetings; and ribbon cutting for the exhibit hall. At the EANGUS Auxiliary First Timers Meeting the Auxiliary EC and members welcomed twelve (12) First Timers—Lisa Widener (SC); Sylvia Hill (SC); Barbara Sizemore (VA); Lindsay Thompson (AL); Sharon Oakley (AL); Linda Jackson (SC); Sherry Clark (MS); Jessica Truesdale (OH); Kaylee Guevara (ID); Michele Johnson (PA); Mary E. Gallegos (NM); and Paul Mahuka (HI). [Additional First Timers provided their information during the first general session: Holly C. Rouffy (SC); Veneta Courtney (SC); Karen Neely (GA); and Floyd Parks (KS). The EANGUS/Auxiliary joint session featured introductions of VIPs, roll call by the states, the challenging address delivered to EANGUS and Auxiliary members by EANGUS Auxiliary President Connie Myers, and the President’s report from EANGUS President John Harris. An excellent Welcome Night was held at the National Bowling Stadium where there were lots of lanes, plenty of seating, and an array of delicious food provided by numerous local eateries.

EANGUS Auxiliary committees and the EC met on Monday and the Credentials Committee began credentialing delegates. Joan Gardiner and Cora Sower shared information on Monday afternoon about the eangusauxiliary.org website and how states could better utilize that site as well as other means of communication. Monday evening was a free evening for states to get together, friends to dine in any of the numerous restaurants around Reno or as far away as Lake Tahoe. A reception was held for Exhibitors and SELs to express thanks to those individuals who lend support to EANGUS and the Auxiliary. Jr. Enlisted members and guests enjoyed the DJ and eats at The Freight House; the entry fee of five dollars each was donated to “*We Care for America*” (WCFA).

President Connie Myers called the first general session to order on Tuesday, August 29, 2017. President Myers recognized the six (6) Past Presidents in attendance: June O’Dowd (LA); Sara Hendricks (IA); Nancy McDowell (OH); Sheila Bandy (KY); Vivian Taylor (MS); and Judy Wood (AL). She introduced the EC members who were present: Vice President Angela Kennebeck (IA); Secretary Vivian Taylor (MS); Treasurer Pam Brown (TN); Immediate Past President Judy Wood, aka “The Alabama Firecracker” (AL); District II Directors Margie Holcomb (VA) and Shelia Brookins (KY); Area IV Directors Kim Clay (LA) and Monica Williams (AR); Area V Directors Cathy Berry (WI) and Sharon Henderson (IA); and Area VI Directors Linda Lyon (WY) and Richard Bryant (NM). Area III Directors Dianne Williams and Marie Brabham were excused.

Roll Call indicated there were forty-five (45) delegates, thirty (30) proxies, five (5) officers, eight (8) area directors, three (3) members, fifteen (15) guests, five (5) associate members representing twenty-two states in the first general session. **Credentials and Rules** Chairman Pam Adams (AL) confirmed the Roll Call.

EANGUS Auxiliary Area II Director Margie Holcomb shared with the attendees her journey in the Virginia and Area II Auxiliary. EANGUS staff members dropped in to acknowledge the Auxiliary and Command Chief Master

Sergeant (R) Dick Smith and Josie Quintana, USAA and Donovan Jenks (CA) addressed the members. A **Buffet Brunch**, provided by USAA, was served. **EANGUS Scholarship Chairman Ronald E. “Ronnie” Emerson** noted 176 scholarship applications had been received for the various EANGUS and partner scholarships which was a 54% increase from the previous year. The Virginia Military Institute had ranked the applicants. EANGUS and partner scholarships were presented on Wednesday evening at the Banquet and Awards Program. The **Agenda** and **Standing Rules** were adopted. **Minutes** were approved as printed in the Conference Book. The **Treasurer’s Report** was printed in the Conference Book; it was accepted and filed for the record. A **Balance Sheet** was provided that indicated the ending balance in the EANGUS Auxiliary checking account (only account) on May 31, 2017 was eighty-six thousand five hundred thirty-nine dollars sixty-six cents (\$86,539.66). **Burden Bears** Committee and **Constitution** Committee reports were given. The body approved **one EANGUS Auxiliary Constitution Amendment**: under **Article V Officers, 5.2 Duties and Powers** d **TREASURER** 6. the following was added as the last sentence...The Treasurer be required to have the approval of the Executive Council for expenditures of funds in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). **Continuity** Committee, **Family Affairs** Committee, and **Finance** Committee provided reports. The **Proposed Budget** was adopted as printed—Income, twenty-six thousand nine hundred fifty dollars (\$26,950.00); Expenditures, thirty-five thousand three hundred fifty dollars (\$35,350.00); less Reserve Funds, eight thousand four hundred dollars (\$8,400.00). The actual income for 2016 was twenty-five thousand five hundred seventy-eight dollars thirty-two cents (\$25,578.32). The Finance Committee conducted an **Audit** of the records from Cora Sower, Treasurer – outgoing, and found them to be in order. **History** Committee, **Legislative** Committee, and **Lifetime Membership** Committee reports were presented. History Committee and Lifetime Membership Committee Chairman Vivian D. Taylor referred members to the printed reports in the Conference Book. A copy of the document, **History Highlights from the States**, was provided to each state delegation and was posted on eangusauxiliary.org. **Legislative** Committee Chairman Barbara Rains reported on her activities as Committee Chairperson since 2016 Conference and the contacts made by areas: Area I—none; Area II—five emails, 2 responses; Area III—thirty-one emails, eleven responses; Area IV—one hundred fifty-seven emails, six visits/social, ninety-nine responses; Area V—forty-four letters, one hundred four emails, twenty-five phone calls, one hundred twenty-five visits/social; Area VI—none; Area VII—none. **Lifetime Membership** Committee Chairman Taylor reported 800 lifetime members: 445 active; 210 deceased; 121 not reported; 24 ineligible (divorced, married non-Guard, requested removal). The Chairman also reported deaths of lifetime members. **Deceased Lifetime Members**:

- LTM #176 Mary Ellen “Skeeter” Harbin-Glover, Kentucky, deceased September 11, 2005 (Mary Ellen was listed as ineligible, married non-Guard)
- Charter Member LTM #051 Mary Regina “Gina” Williams, Kentucky, deceased January 14, 2016
- LTM #124 Dolores “Dolly” Martini, Rhode Island, deceased January 22, 2016
- LTM #274 Eula Jacqueline (Hayes) Threadgill, Alabama, deceased July 05, 2016 (Eula Jacqueline was listed as not reported)
- LTM #183 Sandra M. Kranz, Wyoming, deceased August 05, 2016
- LTM #074 Marcie Maxine (Frendle) Sales, Missouri, deceased September 23, 2016 (Marcie Maxine was listed as not reported) (age 97)
- LTM #175 Hilda (Washington) Robinson, Virginia, deceased October 04, 2016 (age 93)
- LTM #356 Sara T. (Grimes) Hassell, Tennessee, deceased November 01, 2016
- LTM #549 Ruby Mae “Meme” (Shaver) Connatser, Virginia, deceased November 12, 2016 (Ruby Mae listed as not reported)
- Charter Member LTM #050 Marion E. (Grady) Cooper, Kentucky, deceased November 23, 2016 (Marion listed as not reported)
- LTM #754 Randy S. Schmidt, Wisconsin, deceased December 05, 2016
- LTM #377 Gretchen M. (Sandven) Bowden, South Dakota, deceased December 06, 2016
- LTM #224 Rosa Lee (Harris) Simmons, Arizona, deceased January 19, 2017
- LTM #350 Nancy Carolynn Richey, Kentucky, deceased February 19, 2017 (Nancy Carolynn listed as not reported)
- LTM #322 Irene D. (Ruckel-shausen) Spencer, South Dakota, deceased February 26, 2017
- LTM #468 Dorothy Lee “Dot” (Hoxie) Dudley, Mississippi, deceased May 09, 2017
- LTM #389 Elizabeth Ann “Betty” Morris, Arkansas, deceased May 15, 2017
- LTM #713 Billie Jane (Jacobs) Mapes, Tennessee, deceased May 21, 2017
- LTM #245 Annette M. (Kulland) Wasfaret, North Dakota, deceased June 01, 2017
- LTM #366 Bonnie J. Wood, Arkansas, deceased June 24, 2017
- LTM #541 Lucretia Ann (Cruze) Barbee, deceased August 29, 2017

Membership Committee Chairman Judith Putman sent membership cards as requested, prepared awards, processed applications and issue five lifetime associate membership cards and welcome letters. States had reported through June 2017 a total of forty-three national life associate members: Alabama, 1; Arizona, 1; California, 2; District of Columbia, 1; Florida, 1; Hawaii, 1; Idaho, 1; Iowa, 1; Kansas, 3; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 1; Massachusetts, 1; Mississippi, 7; Nevada, 1; New Hampshire, 3; Pennsylvania, 1; Tennessee, 1; Texas, 2; Utah, 1; Virginia, 3; Washington, 1; West Virginia, 7;

Wyoming, 1. **Nominations** Committee Chairman Sondra Monastra reported the following Area Directors had been elected in area caucuses to serve a two-year term: Area II—Margie Holcomb (VA); Area III—Marie Brabham (FL); Area IV—Kim Clay (LA); Area V—Cathy Berry (WI); Area VI—Linda Lyon (WY). Area Directors were not elected in Areas 1 and VII. The **Philanthropic** Committee recommended that philanthropic donations for 2017 go to Paws & Effect (Iowa). **Public Relations** Committee report was in the Conference Book and **Resolutions** Committee would be more active for the 2017-18 year. **Scholarship** Committee Co-Chairman Marlys List announced the recipients of the 2017 scholarships: Haley G. Riley (Florida), three thousand dollars, USAA scholarship; Laura Yenchesky (Wisconsin), one thousand two hundred fifty dollars; Ryan M. Barnett (Mississippi), one thousand dollars; Davis A. Johnson (Minnesota), one thousand dollars. Five scholarships would be awarded for 2018 in the following amounts: one at three thousand dollars; one at two thousand dollars; one at one thousand five hundred dollars; and two at one thousand dollars each. **Door prizes** were taken as members exited the ballroom.

On Wednesday the meeting reconvened and members were thanked by Roy Gibson, Military Benefits Association (MBA). MBA provided a continental breakfast. Nine hundred seventy-one dollars (including the three hundred dollars in the Auxiliary budget) was designated for **Paws & Effect**, the philanthropic project for 2017. Twenty-five dollars each was given for **Ronald McDonald House** in Reno and for **Fisher House** in North Las Vegas. Pounds of toiletries were provided for a local shelter for women and children in Reno. **Burden Bears** were presented to: Pat Bishop (MS); Christina Helbert (MA); Don Mapes (TN); Kristi Taylor (AL); Dave J. Williams (DE); and Pauline Wyatt (DE). **Auxiliary Awards** were presented: **Membership—1-25 members**, Alaska for largest percentage increase in life members and total members and Missouri for largest percentage increase in associate members; **26-75 members**, Kentucky for largest increase in life members and Arkansas for largest percentage increase in total members; **76 plus members**, Mississippi for largest increase and percentage increase in annual members, life members, associate members, and total members. **Recruiting Member of the Year**—Secretary Vivian Taylor (MS). **Legislative Awards**—Margie Holcomb (VA), Area II; Wanda Verne (FL), Area III; Andrea Holt (KS), Area IV; and Edna and Dean Steinberg (SD), Area V. **Sara Hendricks Lifetime Membership Award**—Roxanna “Roxie” Barwick (WI). **Outstanding State Awards** (point system)—1-25 members, Alaska; 26-75 members, Georgia; 76 plus members, Mississippi. **Outstanding Area Director Award** (point system)—Margie Holcomb (VA), Area II. **President’s Award** (selected by the President)—Secretary Vivian Taylor (MS). **Torch Award** (selected by the President)—*The Signal* managing editor Roxanna “Roxie” Barwick (WI).

Tuesday evening the All Areas Night was held at the Rancho San Rafael Park and included a parade of EANGUS officers and staff and the EANGUS Auxiliary President in costumes in addition to food and beverages from all the areas and trading state pins. EANGUS Auxiliary President Myers was a Joey in Momma Kangaroo’s Pouch, so was dubbed “President Roo” by Roxie Barwick. One wonders how Bryan Birch can even walk when wearing his “pins vest”.

Ways and Means totals: five thousand one hundred ninety-one dollars (\$5,191.00) from the silent auction; tee shirts, seven hundred seventy-five dollars (\$775.00), a profit of four hundred eighty-five dollars (\$485.00); and 50/50 proceeds, five hundred twenty-one fifty cents (\$521.50) to both the Auxiliary and the winner Judy Holland (AL). **Other contributions:** in addition to the three thousand dollars for the USAA scholarship, USAA provided five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for the EANGUS Auxiliary buffet brunch on Tuesday, August 29, 2017; Military Benefits Association (MBA) provided two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) to provide the buffet continental breakfast on Wednesday, August 30, 2017. Donovan Jenks (CA) donated one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to the EANGUS Auxiliary. Several individuals paid fines for cell phones ringing during EANGUS and/or Auxiliary meetings for a total of ninety-three dollars. Ohio Auxiliary donated one hundred forty dollars (\$140.00) for the EANGUS Auxiliary scholarship fund.

An **EANGUS “We Care for America” Foundation** challenge was issued and the Auxiliary responded with gifts and pledges that totaled over fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00+); the total continued to climb after the Conference.

Nominations Chairman Sondra Monastra **installed** new Area Directors using the motto of Teamwork, Family, and Side by Side We Stand With Pride. She utilized the terms super jackpot winner, sevens and elevens, Royal Flush, and Full House as she challenged Officers, Area Directors, and members to play their cards well and roll the dice for a greater 2018.

Chaplain Sheila Brookins led the **memorial service** for those who had died since the memorial service at Conference in 2016. She read a poem and sang “Christ Is All”.

The President’s Reception was held prior to the Banquet. President Connie Myers presented two awards at the Wednesday evening Banquet and Awards Program: the **EANGUS Auxiliary Spouse of the Year Award** to Leroy Matthews (MS) and the **EANGUS Auxiliary Meritorious Service Award** to EANGUS President John Harris (LA).