

**ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES (EANGUS)
AUXILIARY**

**Minutes of the First General Session
Tuesday, August 20, 2024**

Call to Order

President Margie Holcomb (VA) called the 51st meeting of the EANGUS Auxiliary to order at 9:01 a.m. in the Huntington Place, Suite 142 A-C. Please turn off cell phones and electronic devices or place them on vibrate.

Invocation

The invocation was led by Interim Chaplain Deni Austin (AZ).

Pledge to the Flag

Interim Vice President Liz Bryant (NM) led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Opening Remarks

President Margie Holcomb (VA) welcomed attendees, noted a couple of interims that needed to be appointed and introduced the Past Presidents, the Executive Council, and the Area Directors. President Holcomb (VA) invited First Timers to stand. There were 6 First Timers representing the states of North Carolina, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, and Arkansas

Roll Call

Interim Secretary Cathy Pulver (KS) called the roll of Executive Council, Area Directors, and Committee Chairs printed on page 7 and 21 in the Conference Book.

Credentials & Rules Confirmation of Delegates

Past President & Credential Comm Co-Chair Connie Myers (MS) gave the report from the Committee. Sixty-four (64) Delegates from sixteen (16) states were credentialed. Connie Myers (MS) moved the report on delegates and proxies be accepted as reported; Cathy Hammack (WV) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adoption of Agenda

President Margie Holcomb (VA) explained that the agenda in the book is incorrect. The correct one is the loose stapled copy. And this was the 4th correction. The agenda was filed for record.

Adoption of Standing Rules

President Holcomb (VA) moved that the Standing Rules, as printed in the Conference Book on page 8, be adopted as printed. Sylvia Newby (KS) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes 2023 General Session

The minutes are printed on pages 9-20 in the Conference Book. No corrections were received. Past President Connie Myers (MS) moved that the 2023 General Session minutes as published, be adopted as printed. Gloria Gutierrez (NM) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Past President and Treasurer Debra Campbell (OK) provided a Profit Loss Report for the period January 01, 2024 - August 2024 and a Balance Sheet as of August 2024. Reports were for informational purposes only and required no action.

Financials

Finance Committee Chair Kim White (VA) reported that the Finance Committee met for the annual review of the financial records and review of proposed 2024 Budget. Bank statements, deposits, check register, credit card transactions, and no discrepancies were found. Reports were for informational purposes only and required no action.

2023 Reports

President Margie Holcomb (VA) reported that the 2023 reports could be found in the Conference Book for your reading pleasure. They are located between pages 24 and 43.

Burden Bears

Interim Vice President Liz Bryant (NM) reported on the requirements for Burden Bears and has applications if anyone needs one. She displayed a bear with blanket and read the inscription on the tag.

Philanthropic Report

Philanthropic Committee Chair Suzanne Emerson (VA) reported on the 50/50 Raffle that is being held in the hospitality rooms. The committee decided that the donations will go to the 54 x '24 service dogs. The CEO of Guardian Angels is here, and they will do a presentation later.

Nominations Report

President Margie Holcomb (VA) mentioned that this is an election year. Past President and Nominations Chair Judy Wood (AL) gave the nominations report: President-Margie Holcomb, Vice President-Elizabeth Bryant, Secretary-Cathy Pulver, Treasurer-Debra Campbell. For Area Directions: II-Michelle Johnson, III-Pam Brown, IV-Andrea Holt, VI-Richard Bryant, Deni Austin. Each person who was running for an office had three (3) minutes to talk about themselves.

Constitution Report

Constitution Committee Co-Chair Richard Bryant (NM) reported the Constitution Committee met at 10 am on August 19, 2024, in room 142 Huntington Place. Reference to the minutes of the 20th Auxiliary meeting, Constitution Committee Chair Amanda Bradley (KS), submitted proposed revisions to the Auxiliary Constitution and the Standing Operating Procedures on pages 14 & 15 in the Conference Book. All proposals were approved by the Constitution Committee. This brings us to the next stage of the proposed changes to the Constitution. All proposed changes were published in *The Signal* meeting the requirement to notify and allow the membership to provide input to the President and the Constitution Committee. The requirement was met in accordance with the Constitution. The Constitution Committee is now bringing these proposals to the floor for a 2/3's vote. The Constitution Committee brings these proposed changes. This affects "Annual" only.

- Members – Those persons who are an enlisted member, currently serving, separated, or retired of the National Guard.
- Family Members – Those persons who are related by marriage, birth, or adoption to a member in good standing of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States or a deceased

member in good standing at the time of his/her death, of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States.

- Friends – Any individuals who support the objectives of the Auxiliary and are sponsored by a member in good standing or a deceased member in good standing at the time of his/her death, of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States.
- The individual also must be a member of a state auxiliary chartered with the Auxiliary.

Constitution Committee Co-Chair Richard Bryant (NM) made a motion to accept these changes to the constitution. EANGUS Auxiliary Treasurer Debra Campbell (OK) seconded. After President Holcomb asked for any discussion, there was several members who had questions and issues. It was decided to break into area caucus. The motion was rescinded. Everyone broke into caucus groups between 10:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

President Holcomb remarked that since everyone had the opportunity to caucus, Constitution Committee Co-Chair Richard, would you entertain a motion? Madam President I make a motion to accept the changes as read. Second by Gloria Gutierrez (NM). Motion has been made and seconded. Presented by committee. State Roll Call Voting. Motion carried.

Constitution Co-Chair Richard Bryant (NM) said now that this has passed, it allows us to take the next step. During the process, this may come back. Some of this may need to be amended. That is the process. And through the process after discussion, it might need to be re-worded a little better next time. I don't know. But we can go forward now.

Break at 10:59 a.m.

Reconvene at 11:10 a.m.

President Margie Holcomb (VA) said that we are going to have a guest, Kristen Christy from Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS). It is my understanding they want to do some filming/photo shoots. Kristen Christy is going to do her presentation and address the auxiliary tomorrow morning about BCBS. She is America's Resilience Trainer. She is also the 2018 US Air Force Spouse of the Year. This person was brought to us by EANGUS Executive Director Jeff Frisby.

Conference Update

Past President & Conference Coordinator Sheila Bandy (KY) said Kristen Christy is also a sponsor for us. There will be buses for tonight's event. They will be there at 5:30 p.m. to take you to the Jr. Enlisted Event at the Rocket Mortgage Headquarters. There is no cost.

Silent Auction Update

Past President & Conference Coordinator Sheila Bandy (KY) received information from Michele Johnson (PA), working in the Silent Auction, that there were one hundred forty-three (143) items donated and the monies right now on the sheets are \$2,628.00. The silent auction will close at 1:00. However, we could extend it to 1:30 p.m.

President Holcomb (VA) made a short announcement. John Harris had these tickets delivered. They are tickets for 50/50 from the EANGUS general session. However, you must be present to win the 50/50 because there's no names on the tickets.

Scholarship Report

Interim Vice President and Scholarship Chair Liz Bryant (NM) said the Scholarship Committee met on Sunday August 18th, Huntington Place, Room 142 at 12:00 p.m. They were informed that the Scholarship Committee has \$4,000 for scholarships; \$1,000 from USAA and \$3,000 allocated from the scholarship fund. Five (5) applications were received. The decision of the Scholarship Committee is that the first scholarship will be in the amount of \$1,000 from USAA plus \$500 from the auxiliary. Our auxiliary scholarships will be in the amount of \$1000 and the other three (3) scholarship recipients will receive scholarships in the amount of \$500 from the Auxiliary. Madam President I submit the scholarship committee report for acceptance. This report will be accepted and filed for record.

Legislative Report

President Margie Holcomb (VA) said we have a new EANGUS Legislative Team. I have talked to them both and we're going to try to develop some new initiatives. However, for now we will use the same process that we have been using with responding to the calls. I have no idea what direction they're going to go because the new legislative team has a new approach to addressing the legislative matters regarding the National Guard and I think it's good what they're doing. They've got some new ideas and some new approaches and new initiatives. I have no information to offer with reference to the date of the legislative workshop.

Unfinish Business

President Margie Holcomb (VA) stated there is no unfinish business.

New Business

President Margie Holcomb (VA) addressed Corporate Partners/Sponsors. EANGUS has done a lot to get the needs of spouses and the auxiliary out there. EANGUS has engaged partners/sponsors who are willing to support them as well as the Auxiliary.

- USAA is a long-time sponsor of the EANGUS Auxiliary that includes funded breaks and scholarships. Gary Thompson is currently the POC.
- Jennifer Powell from Walmart is working with the Auxiliary to reach spouses of service members. One initiative is to engage in hiring practices of spouses of service members and spousal support. Employers often believe that if spouses of service members are hired, they are temporary because of service member commitments and will have problems with gaining employment. Additionally, Walmart supports the military through transition, education, and entrepreneurship.
- Regions Bank/Sarah Young and Donna Medina. They offered EANGUS free on-line financial seminars that are 45 minutes in length and presented on the last Friday of every month through December. I'm listed as the POC of this project as directed by EANGUS.
- Blue Cross Blue Shield is another partner/sponsor who wants to help the Auxiliary. There will be additional conversations on what their initiatives will be.

Guest Speaker

Courtney Deady, 2024 National Guard Spouse of the Year, made a brief presentation. She said that everything that we are doing here is wonderful and she is asking that if what we need from her is to help raise your voices and the voices of your families to the DC level regarding and leadership and how to support our initiatives that are near and dear to our hearts. She would love to meet with anyone during lunch.

Administrative Announcements

President Margie Holcomb (VA) said that as soon as we are done with the break, we will do the Memorial Service.

Break for lunch at 11:46 a.m. sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield

Reconvene at 12:20 p.m.

Guest Speakers

Kristen Christy, BCBS is a military spouse. Blue Cross Blue Shield cares about the military. How many times when your spouse was TDY or AT that something happened at home? We called it the TDY Gremlins. BCBS supports over 50 military organizations like this throughout the year to show our support. Many wonder why they are here this week. BCBS has Vision and Dental for retirees and family members. We would like to continue to support EANGUS and the Auxiliary.

Philanthropic Update

Chair Philanthropic Committee Suzanne Emerson (VA) gave an update. The committee decided to set a goal of \$2,000 by the end of the conference. All Area Directors and State Presidents were asked to support the Michigan 54 x '24 Project with a \$100 donation. As of today (20 August), we have already \$1,650 from state donations. We have \$1,000 that was budgeted from the EANGUS Auxiliary and the 50/50 raffles in the hospitality rooms. So far, they have a \$718 profit for us. Carol Borden (CEO-Founder) of Guardian Angels/Medical Service Dogs talked to the Auxiliary members about the project. She thanked us and explained that they are a national nonprofit dedicated to helping our veterans with permanent disabilities. She further explained that these are very special dogs that we train to do very specific tasks based on the issues that a military member is having. So, whether it's PTSD, diabetes, seizures, or different forms of mobility challenges, we train these dogs for that individual to mitigate the challenges of their disability. I'm sure you're all aware we have a terrible statistic in this country of over 22 veterans taking their life every day. We recently learned that the number is much higher. We've been doing this for 15 years; by the end of this year, we have paired close to 450 dogs across the country, and we have had many of our recipients that come through our doors with multiple suicide attempts. And I am so happy to say that our suicide rate is 0. We're so excited to be doing a presentation for Congress right now. What is a life worth? She introduced Deb. Deb was paired with Doc just a few months ago. She talked about her story before she received Doc and how her life had changed afterwards.

Guest Speaker

EANGUS President Dan Riley came in wearing his purple suit to represent the Auxiliary. So, currently you know during these whole 2 years I can't thank Margie enough for everything you do. Yeah, I know no one here in this room signed up for this stuff and it's hard and I made a commitment to Margie. I was thinking about last night on the drive home after the banquet. Sheila, you are a past president. There are a lot of you that held office and that are you still here. You did your time, and you are still here. So, that commitment inspires me more than anything. I last want to tell you I really do I truly love you. You made the last two years fantastic for me. Thank you

EANGUS Past President John Harris. He asked who is the treasurer? Everyone said Debra. He just needs to know who to send the bill to for all the computers he is having to fix for Judy Wood. She is on her 3rd computer. You should have gotten a bunch of raffle tickets. Alright, so good luck, I hope you win. There

Draft – September 6, 2024

was a competition as to who can buy the most tickets. Good luck, I hope you all win. Anything that I can do to support y'all, just ask. Thanks a lot.

All the spouses who were invited to come, would you kindly stand so we can recognize you.

Memorial Service

President Holcomb explained that in the Conference Book there is a report. The Lifetime Report shows the Lifetime Members for the 2023 year. And on the back, there is the listing of all the life members who are no longer with us. This runs from our last conference in 2023 to July 24. There may be a few that are out of order because they did not get to us in time, so they're also listed. Interim Chaplain Deni Austin (AZ) started out saying the report on page 38. That is the total of 22 lifetime memories that we have lost. We will not read the names. I'll give you a devotional and I have a song to honor our lost loved ones. This is the devotion from our Chaplain Sheila Brookins' husband. It's Hebrews 12:2. If you have an individual prayer request or would like someone to pray with you, please reach out to your Auxiliary Chaplain. You can find her contact information in the conference book. May God bless each of you now and always. A song was played.

Recessed at 12:55 p.m.

ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES (EANGUS) AUXILIARY

Minutes of the First General Session Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Call to Order

President Margie Holcomb (VA) reconvened the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Invocation

The invocation was led by Interim Chaplain Deni Austin (AZ).

Guest Speaker

Kristen Christy with Blue Cross Blue Shield gave a very uplifting and motivational speech.

Credentials & Rules Confirmation of Delegates Update

Past President and Credentials Comm. Co-Chair Connie Myers (MS) gave the update that there were 2 changes. New Mexico changed to 2 delegates and 3 proxies. Virginia changed to 3 delegates and 2 proxies. Those were the only changes that were made to Credentials.

Roll Call

Interim Secretary Cathy Pulver (KS) called the roll of Executive Council, Area Directors, and Committee Chairs printed on page 7 and 21 in the Conference Book.

Nominations Update

Past President and Nominations Co-Chair Connie Myers (MS) gave an update for Officers and Area Directors:

President-Margie Holcomb (VA), Vice President-Elizabeth Bryant (NM), Secretary-Cathy Pulver (KS), Treasurer-Debra Campbell (OK), Area II Director-Michele Johnson (PA), Area III Director-Pam Brown, Area IV Director-Andrea Holt (KS), Area VI Director-Richard Bryant (NM), Area VI Director-Deni Austin (AZ)

Unfinished Business

- Approval of the 2025 Budget - Co-Chair of the Finance Committee Kim White (VA) presented us with the 2025 Proposed Budget to approve.
- The Finance Committee did receive the budget ahead of time to publish. Treasurer Debra Campbell (OK) reported on all the changes made and they were all in agreement on those. This is a balanced budget. As it should be, all the changes are reasonable. She reflected some of the income increases with the fund raiser(s) and silent auction.
- The expenses are streamlined to be more in line with what has happened over the past few years.
- The Finance Committee agreed with the proposed changes to the Executive Committee to move forward. Kim White made a motion to accept the 2025 Budget. Syliva Newby (KS) seconded. Motion carried.

Constitution Committee

Constitution Committee Chair Richard Bryant (NM) made a motion to change the fees for Life Membership. It was approved in the Executive Council. To make Life Membership a one-time fee of \$100 moving forward without an age restriction. Connie Myers (MS) seconded the motion. There were several questions asked and answered. Motion carried.

Administrative Announcement

President Holcomb (VA) noted that Ms. Gloria is upstairs in the general session with our red tickets. Since you need to be present to win. She is making sure that if we win, we get the money.

Burden Bears

Interim Vice President Liz Bryant (NM) gave the report for the Burden Bears. She read the note attached to the bear. She had received 5 requests for Bears, and they were awarded to the following individuals:

Debra Campbell (OK), Vivian Taylor (MS), Linda Matthews (MS), Brenda Atkinson (GA), Grethen Gipe (KY)

Membership Awards

Membership Chair Judith Putman (KS) said the membership information is located on page 40 of the Conference Book. But before she got into the awards, Judith said that she spent time talking with one of EANGUS Area Directors and some of the Executive Board. President Holcomb does not even know this. They concluded that we need to work together. Our Executive Council members will coordinate with EANGUS and start passing ideas back and forth. Essentially, we as committee members don't know what they're doing in their committees. They don't know what we are doing in our committees. And maybe if we can start getting that conversation going between EANGUS and us and educate each other. We will work with EANGUS with education and membership. And take that education down to our states, it may help our membership and other processes. President Holcomb will hear more about this. President Holcomb said that she attended the EANGUS Executive Council meeting on Saturday. And she was impressed with the people who had been elected. They are open-minded. I mean those folks are totally different than they were previously. They support the Auxiliary, and I like the idea that a lot of them are stepping out and saying OK this is what I can do for you, and this is what we want to do to help the Auxiliary. Judith finished her presentation of awards.

- Tied for the largest percentage increase the members with 100% we have two new states on board this year the State of Idaho and the State of Arizona.
- The next award is for the largest percentage increase in lifetime members and the largest number increase in lifetime members. With the change in membership. The deadline is the 30th of April and so that extended our timeline on memberships and getting people involved and so for lifetime members it is the State of Kansas.
- We had a state that worked hard on getting their membership up. They are the largest number increase in annual members, the largest number increase in associate members, the largest percentage increase in associate members, and also the largest increase in national associate life members and that is the great State of Kentucky. Sheila worked really hard on doing this. So, we are so proud of you for that.
- We have an award for the Recruiter of the Year. States were supposed to send in their names for the top recruiter in their state that either signed new members and associate members or renewed members and the winner of that award this year is Sheila Brookins from Kentucky. Unfortunately, she can't be here this next week. So, President Holcomb is going to present it to her at their Area II Midwinter.

We would encourage you to go home and educate, teach, whatever you need to do. First of all, these young soldiers and airmen educate them as to what the auxiliary is doing for them and or if you can talk to their spouses together. Encourage them to join and be supportive of EANGUS.

Legislative Awards

President Margie Holcomb (VA) even though she is awarding them differently this year. She thinks that it is fair if those certificates are given out at your Midwinter because at least the Auxiliary and EANGUS associates will know exactly what you are doing. They will be sent to the Area Directors to make their presentations at their Area Caucus. And they will be published in *The Signal*.

*President Holcomb (VA) talked about someone who is behind the scenes for us. Most people have no idea who he is. He is the Conference Coordinator for EANGUS. In addition to taking care of EANGUS, he also takes care of the Auxiliary while helping the Auxiliary Conference Coordinator Sheila Bandy (KY). I am always thanking him for what he does for us. Thank you, Doug Simpson. Thank you so much. President Holcomb presented Doug with a personally engraved bottle of bourbon whiskey.

*Doug Simpson's Award was presented out of order due to his EANGUS scheduled commitment.

Philanthropic Update

Philanthropic Chair Suzanne Emerson (VA) gave her report yesterday and when we closed yesterday for the day, the amount was \$3,699 and right now, we have \$4,199. Suzanne wanted to say Thank You to Tammie Riggs (LA) from Area IV and Dani Austin (AZ) from Area VI. They turned out to be valuable volunteers that helped us with this fundraiser and the gentleman from Arizona who helped in his area also. So, thank you very much. It was a team effort.

Break 10:15 a.m. Cookies and beverages served

The meeting reconvened at 10:39 a.m.

Draft – September 6, 2024

President's Awards

Past President Sheila Bandy (KY) announced the President's Award go to Michele and Michael Johnson (PA). President Margie Holcomb (VA) said that we were in a pickle when it came to silent auction, and I asked Michele if she would take on the responsibility. She was reluctant, however with the help of her husband, Michael and volunteers, the silent auction was a success.

An award will also go to Amanda Wilwert (KS) for all her work on the constitutional changes.

The Sara Hendricks Lifetime Membership Awards goes to Judith Putman (KS).

Installation of New and Relected Officers and Area Directors

Past President and Conference Chair, Sheila Bandy (KY) made a motion to accept the nominations and Tom McKinney (GA) seconded. Motion Carried. Past President and Nominations Committee Co-Chair Connie Myers (MS) installed the Officers & Area Directors.

Philanthropic Update

EANGUS Past President and WCFA Chair Karen Craig came and accepted the \$1,510 donation from the Auxiliary.

Brian DeLong with Guardian Angels came and accepted the \$4,220 donation from the Auxiliary.

Silent Auction Update

Silent Auction Chair Michele Johnson (PA) gave an update on the amount received, \$3,129.11. The drawings held at the silent auction were done. The winner of the 50/50 \$84 goes to Angela Kennebeck (IA) and the winner of the bottle of wine was her husband, Dean Kennebeck.

Administrative Announcements

Secretary Cathy Pulver (KS) said that there were not any administrative announcements.

President Holcomb (VA) said we have an opportunity to make more money. The EANGUS website has a merchandise shop. It is already set up and is active. The only thing you need to do is go in and select. You should see Shopping or Shops. The merchandise already has the logo for the Auxiliary. Anything you purchase that has an auxiliary logo on it, a percentage of the proceeds comes to the auxiliary. And believe it or not, he did not charge anything for this, he's on the executive board. He is very interested in dealing with the auxiliary and wants to help us out.

Conference Update

Past President and Conference Chair, Sheila Bandy (KY) said that tonight's function will have buses. And to dress down. It will take place in an outdoor market. The Area's will be set up. It should be fun. It is our last night. Don't forget state pins. Also, she will be involved in the After-Action Meeting for the Conference. If you have any issues to address, please contact the Auxiliary Conference Coordinator Sheila Bandy.

Draft – September 6, 2024

Next year committees

President Margie Holcomb (VA) had a form passed to each person. If you would like to be on a committee, please fill in the form. If you fill it out now, please turn it in. Otherwise, you can scan it to President Holcomb (VA) later.

Judith Putman (KS) announced that she has membership forms if anyone needs one.

Benediction

Interim Chaplain Deni Austin (AZ) led the benedictory prayer.

Adjournment

President Elect Margie Holcomb (VA) declared the 51st EANGUS Auxiliary Conference was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.