



MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

42nd Annual General Membership Conference
29-30 APRIL 2011
Otsego, MN

Mr. President, Officers, Delegates, Members and Guests of the 42nd MNGEA General Conference

The Resolutions Committee met on 29 April 2011. The following members participated in the committee deliberations.

Deana Wolf, Steven Gerads, Charles Benda and Ray Kennedy (Cmtee Chair)

The committee discussed a number of legislative actions for MNGEA to pursue in support of the membership of our association and the members of the National Guard of our State and the Nation. We discussed seven resolutions, six of which are presented for adoption by the general membership, the other was defeated. We have formatted the resolutions in accordance with our operating instruction and hereby present them for adoption.

11-1 – Relating to State Tuition Reimbursement Program

11-2 – Relating the Federal Tuition Assistance for Air National Guard Members

11-3 – Relating to Immediate and Full Concurrent Receipt of Disability Payments and Military Pay

11-4 – Relating To: Support for Senate File 00392, Military Reserve Pay Income Tax Subtraction Expansion to Include Active Guard/Reserve Income

11-5 – Relating to Support for EANGUS Resolutions and Efforts Affecting Members of the National Guard

11-6 – Relating to Hospitality Efforts by the 34th Combat Aviation Brigade and the Riverwood Inn, Otsego, MN

In addition the committee has renewed support for 2009 resolutions that still require action.

MNGEA/EANGUS members, please take responsibility, stand up and be a politically active constituent. The political winds have changed in this country. Law makers, from both the state house and congress, want to take many of your hard earned pay and benefits away. MNGEA is a grassroots political origination. Be that constituent, the most powerful entity in a grassroots origination. You may ask why? Because, you vote! I urge you to use your power

Step up to the plate and make contact with all the elected officials that represent you and me in the state and in congress. Include both your Senator and Representative in the State Legislature, as well as, your Senator and Representative in the National Congress. Tell these law makers: I am an airman/soldier, in war, civilian in peace. I am the Minnesota National Guard. With your zeal to complete this mission, our pay and benefits will remain, together we'll provide for our future generations of soldiers and airmen

At this time, I would like to thank the Resolutions Committee members for their dedication and to formulating this year's legislative agenda for our Association.

Mr. President, I move for acceptance of this report

Respectfully,



Ray Kennedy
MNGEA Resolution Committee

MNGEA Resolution 11-1

Relating To: State Tuition Reimbursement

Background: In 2010 the Department of Military Affairs made the decision to cap the amount of tuition reimbursement to \$7,500. The reason was two-fold:

1. To preserve money and enable more soldiers and airmen to participate in the program.
2. Soldiers in the ARNG are eligible for Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA). They must use this program prior to applying State Tuition Reimbursement (STR). The amount available from ATS is \$2,500, causing soldiers to only use \$7,500 per year.

ANG airmen do not have a similar program available and are therefore disadvantaged by the reduction in STR.

Proposed action: Request the Department of Military Affairs of Minnesota to increase to maximum amount of STR for MN ANG members to \$10,000, until a benefit similar to FTA can be established of Air Guard members.

Submitted by: Ray Kennedy, Chapter: 1 Area 10

MNGEA Resolution 11-2

Relating To: Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) for Air National Guard

Background : Soldiers in the Army, Army Reserve and National Guard are eligible for tuition assistance under the Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) program. Through this program, soldiers are eligible to receive an annual amount up to \$2,500. Air Force, AFRES and ANG members do not have a program like FTA, thereby creating an inequity between the two components of the National Guard.

Proposed action: Request the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States to urge the Air National Guard and the Air Force to create a program similar for to the U.S. Army's FTA for Air Force members, active and reserve components.

Submitted by: Ray Kennedy, Chapter: 1 Area 10

MNGEA Resolution 11-3

Relating To: Immediate and Full Concurrent Receipt of Disability Payments and Military Pay

Background: In recent years the Congress of the United States, urged by the Enlisted Association of the United States (EANGUS) has introduced annual bills and discussed concurrent receipt of disability payments and retirement pay. To date these bills have not led to legislation and this Association and EANGUS continue to support legislative actions to enact a law affording concurrent receipt of disability and retired pay.

The same inequity exists for current members of the active and reserve components. While members have a partial disability and have been awarded restitution for their affliction by the VA, their military pay is reduced by an equal amount. This action, in fact, eliminates benefits resulting from an injury.

Concurrent receipt for retirees has been a long standing EANGUS goal. However, they have not addressed the same issue for current members.

Proposed action: Request the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States to urge the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to allow for Immediate and Full Concurrent Receipt of Disability and Military Pay.

Submitted by: The Committee for Resolutions

MNGEA Resolution 11-4

Relating To: Support for Senate File 00392, Military Reserve Pay Income Tax Subtraction Expansion to Include Active Guard/Reserve Income

In 2010 Members of military components in Minnesota have become eligible for income tax subtraction. Current legislation excludes Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) members of the National Guard from receiving this benefit.

AGR members of the reserve, and National Guard members serving on ADOS orders, are eligible. The bill introduced by Senator Sieben asks to strike the word "excluding" and add "including" compensation for services performed under the Active Guard Reserve (AGR) program to current legislation.

Proposed action: Urge members of MNGEA to contact their respective State Senators and Representative to support this legislation and eliminate the exclusion for our AGR members. Coordinate with NGAMN and the Department of Military Affairs to voice support for the proposed legislation.

Submitted by: The Committee for Resolutions

MNGEA Resolution 11-5

Relating To: Support of the Personnel Issues Endorsed by the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) and the Adjutants General Association of the United States (AGAUS) that Contribute to the Accomplishment of the Purposes and Goals of the Minnesota National Guard Enlisted Association (MNGEA)

Issue: Multiple personnel, mission and equipment related issues are of interest to our membership. MNGEA is unable to address the multitude of these issues and must focus on “people” issues in support of our enlisted force. A single resolution provides the MNGEA leadership the flexibility to address the multiple personnel issues as the opportunity arises and resources permit.

Background: MNGEA is dedicated to promoting the status, welfare, and professionalism of the men and women of the Army and Air National Guard. Our goal is to provide quality, motivated, professional soldiers, airmen, noncommissioned officers to the National Guard. Our primary focus is to accomplish our purpose and goals in the best interest of the National Guard Enlisted Force.

Proposed action: That the Minnesota National Guard Enlisted Association continues to pledge support to those EANGUS initiatives that contribute to the accomplishment of the MNGEA purpose and goals.

Submitted by: The Committee for Resolutions

MNGEA Resolution 11-6

Relating To: Appreciation for the hospitality and efforts by members of the 34th Combat Aviation Brigade and staff of the Riverwood Inn, Otsego, MN

Background: The 42nd General Conference of the Minnesota National Guard Enlisted Association met in Otsego on 29 and 30 April 2011. The staff and management of the Riverwood Inn and members of the Combat Aviation Brigade acted as gracious hosts and hostesses to their fellow National Guard members, their spouses and guests. This made for a successful Conference.

Recommendation:

That the members and guests of the 42nd Minnesota National Guard Enlisted Association Annual Conference show their sincere appreciation for the efforts displayed by the conference committee, under the guidance of CSM Kelly Fisher and the Riverwood Inn.

Submitted by: The Committee for Resolutions