

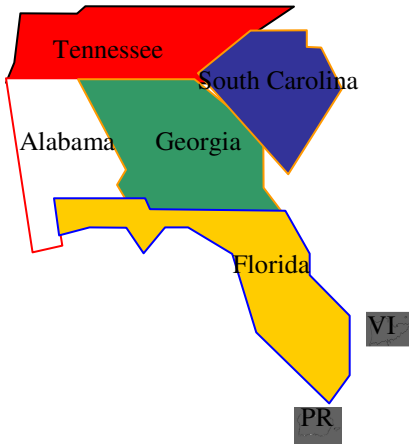


THE SOUTHERN DRAWL

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2007 FEBRUARY

AREA III



AREA III members attend Membership Workshop

There were 41 states represented at the Membership Workshop held 23-25 February at the ANG Combat Readiness Center in Gulfport, Mississippi.

“Our thanks to the state associations of Mississippi and Arkansas and their auxiliaries for their wonderful hospitality and time”.

Area III was well represented—including among the attendees:

Alabama: Steve and Starr Boatright; Don/Judy Wood; Joe/Judy Holland; Sherman/Jackeye Hargrove; Glenn/Peggy Schmidlkofer.

Florida: Jim Rains; Mary Paul; Leigh Dumas; Gretchen Sherwood; Marie Brabham; Deana Hewett; Pam Hall; and Bob/Helen Denton.

Georgia: Joseph Stevens; Dianne Williams; Thom/Jackie McKennie; James Grady and Cherilyn Heyliger.

South Carolina: Frank Owens; Cindy Watson and Danny Cameron.

Tennessee: Don Mapes; Ann Story and Betsy Redmond.

(My apology if I have inadvertently omitted an Area III attendee; please advise).

The interactive workshop, structured to identify what is working, member recruiting obstacles, strategies to overcome challenges and develop tools to increase successful recruiting and retention was a great success. Attendees left with vigor and determination to increase membership. Thanks everyone for your participation while representing Area III.

A special thanks to Area III Chair Jim Rains, FL for serving as leader for a Breakout Group Activity; Peggy Schmidlkofer, AL and Thom McKennie, GA for serving as reporters in separate Plenary Sessions.

Each of the seven (7) areas of association and auxiliary memberships set goals to increase membership in 2007. A final report is being created by the EANGUS office and will soon be accessible from the EANGUS website.

Our Area III state auxiliaries have each set goals to increase membership by but not limited to ten-percent of the goal set by their respective association partner.

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Side by Side We Stand With Pride

2007 EANGUS/EANGUS AUXILIARY Area III CAUCUS INFORMATION



The Area III Caucus slated for 04-05 May 2007 will be held at the newly renovated 356-room Bay Point Resort Marriott; 4200 Marriott Drive; Panama City Beach Florida 32408.

Members of the Florida Association and Auxiliary planned a stopover site visit to the resort before coming o the Membership Workshop. They were very impressed with the property/amenities.

A block of rooms have been reserved for the Caucus. Room reservations must be made **not later than 04 April 2007 to get the group rate of \$106 per night plus applicable taxes.**

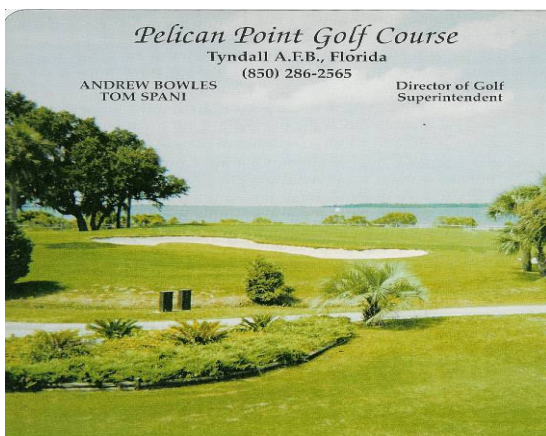
Hotel contact information:

**1.850.236.6000 or
1.800.874.7105
www.marriottbaypoint.com**

Registration for the Caucus is \$15 per person. You may send your completed registration form with check by 01 April 2007 to

**National Guard Associations of Florida (NGAFL)
P O Box 3446
St. Augustine, FL 32085**

If you have any questions/concerns contact Mary Paul at mary.paul@fl.ngb.army.mil



CHOICES FOR GOLFING

A golf outing is being planned for Friday, 04 May.

The location will depend upon the responses from these choices:

Tyndall AFB Golf Course (rank-based and approximately 40 miles from hotel)—\$30-\$45
Bay Point Marriott Golf Course— \$60
Jack Nicolas Golf Course— \$85



TENNESSE TO HOST 30TH ANNUAL EANGTN
CONFERENCE
23-25 MARCH 2007

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Tennessee will host their 30th Annual State Conference at the Crown Plaza Hotel; 401 West Summitt Hill Dr.; Knoxville, Tennessee. The Auxiliary will co-host the conference and have a business meeting on Saturday morning.

The Registration fee is \$35 per person. Mail checks with completed registration form to—
EANGTN
4332 Kennilwood Dr.; Suite B
Nashville, TN 37204-4401

Room cost is \$86 per night plus applicable taxes.
Reservations may be made by calling the Crown Plaza at—

865.523.2300

If you have questions/concerns, contact Betsy Redmond at betty@eangtn.org

Planned events include—
Friday Night Social; Business meetings and Banquet.

FROM THE VOLUNTEER NEWS (EANGTN Auxiliary newsletter-President, Ann Story; Editor, Kathye Jackson).

The 13th Annual Enlisted Association CSM Golf Tournament will be held 22 March 2007 in Knoxville. Cost is \$60 per person or \$220 per team.

Transition Assistance Advisor

The Tennessee National Guard has a Transition Assistance Advisor who is responsible for ensuring that your service member has a smooth transition from warrior to civilian life. The advisor is SGM (Ret'd) Mike Goodrich. Mike works in Nashville at the Joint Force Headquarters. He can be contacted at charles.goodrich@tn.ngb.army.mil

Cares/ prayers to:

Jean Rawls—her mother passed away. Jean also has some personal health issues.



National Guard Association of South Carolina and Auxiliary to hold Annual Conference

The National Guard Association of South Carolina and its auxiliary will hold their annual conference 23-25 March 2007 at the Sheraton Hotel; Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Planned events for the auxiliary members include the meeting/tea which will be held at the Ripley's Aquarium and a Silent Auction. The cost to visit the Aquarium is \$20 in addition to the registration fee.

The morning tea will consist of a variety of teas, coffee, finger sandwiches, fresh scones, fruit and more. Following a brief meeting, attendees will tour the Aquarium.

For additional information, contact Stella Cameron at cameronsm2421@msn.com

FROM THE GEORGIA TOWN CRYER (AEANGGA newsletter publication).



EANGGA/AEANGGA Conference 2007

The countdown to Conference 2007 is underway.

EANGGA President **Joseph "JP" Stevens** has issued the Official Call to the Conference of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard Association of Georgia and Auxiliary slated to be held 20-22 April at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center; Valdosta, GA.

The registration fee is \$65.00 per person. **No refunds after 15 March**
If you need a registration form, contact me at dywill@earthlink.net

Return completed registrations forms and fee to: **EANGGA 2007 Conference, c/o Jackie McKennie, P.O. Box, 480, Fayetteville, GA., 30214.**

Make checks payable to **The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Georgia.**

Call the hotel directly to make your room reservation
Telephone— 1.800.HOLIDAY

Ask for the National Guard Conference



LEGISLATIVE ALERT #07-01
February 21, 2007

The Issue: A DOD PROPOSAL TO INCREASE TRICARE ENROLLMENT FEES, DEDUCTIBLES AND PHARMACEUTICAL CO-PAY FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

Immediate Action Required: Contact your members of Congress and urge them to oppose administration proposals to increase TRICARE deductibles, enrollment fees and pharmaceutical co-pays

During the FY07 defense budget process, the Department of Defense (DOD) proposed to triple TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Standard fees for military retirees under the age of 65. It would also have increased retail pharmacy fees for all TRICARE beneficiaries by almost 70%! Thanks to a full-court press by NGAUS and other veterans associations, Congress prohibited any increases in TRICARE enrollment premiums under TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Reserve Select, and prohibited any increase in co-payments for pharmaceuticals dispensed through the TRICARE retail pharmacy program in FY2007.

The Administration is at it again and has upped the ante by proposing to increase TRICARE fees even more for FY2008. Although the Pentagon hasn't published any "specific" plan for fee increases, claiming they are waiting on the results of the DoD-appointed Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care, the Defense Budget submitted to Congress in early February assumes a \$1.8 billion savings from TRICARE fee increases. NGAUS strongly opposes these TRICARE fee increases that are nothing more than an attempt to free-up funds for other uses on the backs of retired members and families who have earned this health care benefit with their service and sacrifice.

We need your help now to ensure TRICARE costs do not increase. Contact your members of Congress and alert them to this situation and urge them to support legislation (S.604) introduced by Senator's Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Chuck Hagel (R-NB), "The Military Health Care Protection Act." It would place reasonable and affordable caps on enrollment fees, deductibles, and pharmacy co-pays for military retirees. This legislation would also establish that the percentage increase in retiree's health care fees in any given year should not exceed the percentage of increase in their compensation.

Similar legislation (H.R.579) has been introduced in the House by Representative's Chet Edwards (D-TX) and Walter Jones (R-NC) that would not only stop any fee increases, but also remove the authority from DOD, shifting that responsibility to Congress. Act now to ensure military retirees will continue to have access to "affordable" health care!

"Write /e-mail Congress" This is the quickest and most effective method of expressing your views to Congress. Also, contact your friends and family and urge them to "Write to Congress" as well.



From your Area III Chair – James A. Rains, Jr.

I want to publicly thank Director Williams and Director Brabham for the outstanding job they do for the men and women in and out of uniform for Area III. It is hard work planning, preparing and making everything fall in place in order to make the association grow.

Each state must establish their own auxiliary membership goal, which they feel they can reach for 2007. Area III has a challenge to get back to where we were in 2002. This past year Area III made great strides in moving forward. Area III has been tasked to achieve 7800 members for 2007 and I hope the Auxiliary will grow with us. It can be accomplished if we work as a unit and each state leadership becomes involved.

I have asked each state President to not forget our Auxiliary when we seek membership as we need to stand side by side and support each other. We are all shareholders in each other's success or failure, we all need to know how each of us will affect the other -- we all represent the whole.

Thanks again for your support of our Enlisted Association of the National Guard.

THE SOUTHERN DRAWL is an AREA III newsletter publication.—Editors/Publishers: EANGUS AUXILIARY AREA III Directors.

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THANKS FOR YOUR TIME, AREA III !

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dianne". The signature is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.