



# THE SOUTHERN DRAWL AREA III

AL; FL; GA; SC; TN; PR; VI

VOL. 11, NO. 8

2006 January

2006 Events Calendar

Shopping

Contest

Cutting Edge

2006 Conference

Leg and other News

## EVENTS REFERENCE CALENDAR

This calendar highlights dates/locations of some key Area III states events and some key National events slated for 2006 for reference when planning your personal calendar.

2006	March	May	June	August
Legislative Workshop	05-08 Hampton Inn Alexandria, VA			
Alabama State Conference	17-19 Wynfrey Hotel Birmingham, AL			
South Carolina State Conference	10-12 Marriott Riverfront Savannah, GA			
Tennessee State Conference	24-26 Maxwell House Nashville, TN			
Georgia State Conference			09-11 Holiday Inn Athens, GA	
Florida State Conference			22-25 Hyatt Regency Jacksonville, FL	
Area III Caucus		19-21 Comfort Suites Athens, GA		
EANGUS/Auxiliary Site Visit			23-25 **Marriott Hotel Salt Lake City, UT	
EANGUS/Auxiliary Conference				20-23 *Hilton Hotel (Aux) Salt Lake City, UT

\* The Auxiliary meetings at the National Conference will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Salt Lake City, UT.

\*\* The Marriott will be the host hotel for EANGUS in Salt Lake City, UT.

“Side by Side We Stand With Pride”

**News from Area III Auxiliary State Presidents**

**Alabama**

Alabama’s State Conference will be on 17-19 March 2006 at the Wynfrey Hotel.

The room rate is \$77.00 per night—when making reservations, ask for the **National Guard Association**. Make reservations now by calling **205.987.1600**.

As you all know we are having another joint conference. In my opinion last year was successful and plans are under was to assure this year to be also.

**Starr Boatright**  
President

**Florida**

The Florida State Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, Jacksonville, Florida 22-25 June 2006. For reservations telephone **904-588-1234**.

The 2006 year brings a big change to the Enlisted National Guard Association for Florida and the National Guard Officers Association of Florida as they will officially become one organization. The two organizations are currently in the process of working out the details of the merge.

Membership has become our first priority this year. We are in the process of planning a membership drive again. Dates have not been determined, but it will be in the very near future.

**Marie Brabham**  
President

**Georgia**

Georgia will host the 2006 EANGUS/EANGUS Auxiliary Area III Caucus 19-21 May at the Comfort Suites, Athens, GA. The room rate is \$72.00 per night; hotel telephone number: **706.995.4000**.  
Registration fee: \$15 per person

**(Registration form on page four (4)).**

Georgia’s State Conference will be held in Athens at the Holiday Inn 09-11 June. The room rate is \$75 per night plus applicable tax. For reservations telephone **706-549-4433**.

Registration fee is \$65 per person before 15 May. After that date, the fee will be \$70.

**More to follow—**

We have redefined our Member Recruiting Campaign to increase participation in 2006. The enhanced campaign program has been extended to include participants from the Enlisted Association as well.

Georgia will also host the Area III Hospitality event on All States Area Hospitality Night at the National Conference in Salt Lake City, UT.

**Dianne C Williams**  
President

**South Carolina**

Our main purpose since the National Conference in August 2005 was to increase membership by 10%. As of today, the auxiliary has met that goal.

Our state conference is scheduled for **March 10-12, 2006 at the Marriott Riverfront in Savannah Georgia**. We will have our cruise on Saturday morning—we are expecting our best yet.

**Stella Cameron**  
President

**Tennessee**

The 2006 State Conference for Tennessee will be held 24-26 March at the Maxwell House in Nashville. The invitation to attend our state meeting is open to all.

The auxiliary has received a donation of \$10,000.00 to our Soldiers’ Fund Program. The monies came from the Boyd’s Bear Country & Restaurant; Dollywood, TN.

**Ann Story**  
President



## LEGISLATIVE

**EANGUS Legislative CALL 06-01 has been issued for action. Please remember to ANSWER.....The CALL.**

### **Congress Reacts to Announced National Guard Cuts**

Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Ben Nelson (D-Neb) introduced SRes 355 which honors the service of the National Guard and requests consultation by the Department of Defense with Congress and the chief executive officers of the states prior to offering proposals to change the National Guard force structure.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) announced that he is planning to bring to SRes 355 to the floor of the Senate. Senator John Warner, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee announced last week that he intends to hold hearings on the matter but wants to give the Army a chance to make its case.

### **Proposed TRICARE Fee Increases**

The proposed premium increases to TRICARE for the retirees under age 65 beneficiary group face a tough uphill battle in Congress. At the TRICARE Conference earlier in the week, Congressional staffers from both the House and Senate Armed Services Committee announced that they would have to examine any DOD proposals closely. A HASC staffer stated that Members of Congress understand the importance of the health care benefit to service members, retirees, and their families.

House Democrats led by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, (D-CA) wrote "It is unconscionable that you would even consider a fee increase on the men and women in uniform who bravely sacrificed for our country, especially during a time of war," in a letter sent to Bush on Jan. 25.

EANGUS signed onto a letter from The Military Coalition (TMC) in opposition to the proposed fee increases early in December.

To view a copy of the TMC letter go to <http://www.themilitarycoalition.org/library/05letters/08Dec05Warner.pdf>

### **Soldier Claims for Protective Reimbursement**

Soldiers may now file claims and receive reimbursement for protective equipment privately purchased between September 11, 2001 and April 1, 2006. The reimbursement is for service members who weren't issued equivalent equipment prior to deployment in Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom. The Army began reimbursing Soldiers Nov. 21, 2005 up to \$1,100 for any single item such as protective body armor, combat helmets, ballistic eye protection, hydration systems, summer weight gloves, and knee and elbow pads. A Soldier may be reimbursed for the purchase of a complete outer tactical vest, or for the separately purchased components of an OTV, to include Small Arms Protective Insert plates, according to the U.S. Army Claims Service.

Under the program, troops must turn in the equipment to get the reimbursement. If an item has been damaged or lost, Soldiers can submit a letter explaining what happened and may be able to receive the repayments. To date, the Pentagon has only processed about 29 requests for reimbursement.

To download a claim form go to <http://www.jagcnet.army.mil> or call (301)677-7009.

### **DOD Announces Implementation of Traumatic Injury Protection Insurance**

The Department of Defense announced recently the implementation of traumatic injury protection insurance under the Service members Group Life Insurance (SGLI) program.

The program will be known as TSGLI and is designed to provide financial assistance to service members during their recovery period from a serious traumatic injury. Effective December 1, 2005 all service members eligible became insured for traumatic injury protection of up to \$100,000 unless they declined SGLI coverage. A flat monthly premium of \$1.00 will be added to the monthly SGLI deduction.

Service members who suffered a qualifying loss between October 7, 2001 and December 1, 2005 will be eligible to receive benefits under the program if the loss was a direct result of injuries incurred in OEF or OIF.



2006 AREA III CAUCUS  
 Dates: **5/19 – 5/21 2006**

**Comfort Suites  
 Athens, GA**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Area I 19 May – 20 May 2006 is \$72.00 Georgia (Home of the GA BULLDOGS) at the Comfort Suites. Room rates for 12 May – 14 May 2006 is \$12.00 per night plus local hotel and state taxes.

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_ Attend Aux Meeting: Yes No

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration: 1300-1700, Friday, 12 May 2006  
 0730-0900, Saturday, 19 May 2006  
 0730-0900, Saturday, 20 May 2006

Registration Fee: \$15.00 per person Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Host Hotel: **Comfort Suites:**  
 255 North Ave.  
 Phone: 706-995-4000 / Toll free: 877-424-6423 / Fax: 706-995-4000, x100

A block of rooms has been reserved for our conference but all reservations have to be made NLT 1 April 2006.

Date of arrival: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of departure: \_\_\_\_\_

Golf Outing: Information to be supplied at a later date

Please have all registration forms in by 1 April 2006.  
 Registration fee can be paid by cash, check, Visa or MasterCard  
 Registration forms can be mailed, faxed or emailed:

EANGGA  
 P. O. Box 602 Fax: 770-719-9975  
 Ellenwood, GA 30294  
 Email: jackie.mckennie@us.army.mil Phone #: 678-569-5354



**Starr Boatright, AL** – mother has been very ill. Starr’s spouse is still serving in Iraq.  
**Director Marie Brabham, FL** and spouse **Danny** have both been ill over the Holidays; they are doing much better.  
 EANGUS Area III Chair **Jim Rains, FL** received good news from his 2005 December med check.  
**CSM James Dennis, GA** – mother passed away 2006 January; our condolences to him, **Judy** and family.  
**Thom McKennie, GA** had a surgical procedure a few days prior to Christmas— has had a successful recovery.  
**Pat Reed, GA** received good news from test results 2005 December.

**February 6, 1862:** A combined Union Army and Naval force capture Fort Henry, Tenn., a Confederate position along the Tennessee River. Illinois Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant is in overall command of the Union attack. After offering brief resistance the rebel commander surrenders the garrison. Grant would continue to find battlefield success ending the war as the first four-star general in American history and becoming the 18th president of the United States in 1869.

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

**Dianne C Williams**  
 2203 Pinewood Drive  
 Brunswick, GA 31520-2743  
 Hm: 912.265.9516  
 fax: 912.264.8398  
 cell: 912.266.6877  
[dvywill@earthlink.net](mailto:dvywill@earthlink.net)

**Marie Brabham**  
 3329 Aspen Forest Drive  
 Middleburg, FL 32068  
 904.291.6778  
[sassvat52@aol.com](mailto:sassvat52@aol.com)

**MOVED.....**

**Lou and Paul Cook** have moved to  
 6124 Lindholm Drive South  
 Mobile, AL 36693  
 Phone: 251.661.0382

They were not on line at the time of this publication but will let us know when they are.



**Everyone, please let us know of any other postal/and or email address change/s.**

**This publication is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and exempt from disclosure. If you have received this publication in error, you are hereby notified that we do not consent to any dissemination or copying of this publication - please notify the sender immediately and destroy the transmitted information.**

**FYI**  
**Tax Filing**

FREE filing, federal and state, is available at Military One Source. Interested persons only need to visit their site at [www.armyonesource.com](http://www.armyonesource.com) for additional information or telephone 1.800.342.9647.

**THANKS FOR YOUR TIME,**  
**AREA III !**

*Dianne*