



THE SOUTHERN DRAWL AREA III

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

VOL. 11, NO. 12

2006 May

[Area III Caucus](#)

[Auxiliary Web Link](#)

[Online Shopping](#)

[Legislative](#)

[Deployments](#)

[More](#)



L/R: Stella Cameron (SC); Dianne Williams (GA); Ann Story (TN)
Marie Brabham (FL); Starr Boatright (AL); Kathy Jackson (TN)



EANGUS President/incumbent Presidential Candidate Ed Brown
address Auxiliary Caucus attendees.



EANGUS Presidential candidate Frank Lever address
Auxiliary Caucus attendees.

(Photos courtesy of Kathy Jackson)

Area III 2006 Caucus successful

The 2006 EANGUS/EANGUS Auxiliary Area III Caucus hosted by the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Georgia (EANGGA) and the Auxiliary (AEANGGA) in Athens, GA; 19-21 May was a huge success.

The Friday evening welcome social was held in the Banquet Room of the Comfort Suites Hotel where attendees dined on a lavish buffet donated and catered by EANGGA and AEANGGA members **James and Helen Varnum**.

On Saturday morning, auxiliary attendees assembled in the assigned meeting room at 9:00 a.m. with what proved to be a most well-attended EANGUS Auxiliary Area III Caucus meeting.

Attendees by State—

Alabama

Starr Boatright; Cindy Chance (First Timer); Patsy Kerby Lorene Paschal and Peggy Schmidkofer.

Florida

Marie Brabham, President; Leslie Adams (First Timer); Helen Denton; Deana Hewett and Barbara Rains.

Georgia

Dianne Williams President; Brenda Atkinson; Geri Brown; Thom McKennie; Pat Reed; Helen Tucker and Helen Varnum.

South Carolina—

Stella Cameron, POC; Priss Bryant; Mary Giles; Ellen Lever; Brenda Marlowe; Mary Owens and Nancy Steele.

Tennessee—

Ann Story, President; Kathy Jackson, EANGUS Auxiliary Chaplain and Jo Murray.

The meeting was opened/conducted by Directors Williams and Brabham.

The Fundraising Committee (Brenda Atkinson, GA; Deana Hewett and Leslie Adams both of FL) worked extremely hard to make the fundraising event one to remember. On behalf of Director Brabham and I— **THANK YOU!**

At a time during our meeting, EANGUS President Ed Brown (GA) addressed our folks to share his focus and appreciation of our auxiliaries.

We were also addressed by CSM Frank Lever (SC) who spoke on many issues that included his insight on the future of EANGUS and its auxiliaries.

The Caucus concluded on Saturday evening with buffet dining prepared by a local caterer.

Florida will host the 2007 Area III Caucus at a date/time to be announced.

“Side by Side We Stand With Pride”

AREA III AUXILIARY STATE NEWS—

ALABAMA

President Starr Boatright reports that the Alabama Auxiliary is financially stable due to their quilt raffle ticket efforts. She further reports that they are working on member recruiting as well.

FLORIDA

President Marie Brabham and the Florida membership are preparing for their 2006 State Conference slated to be held in Jacksonville, FL; 23-25 June.

GEORGIA

As this issue goes into publication, Georgia is in the final preparation and production stages of State Conference 2006; Athens, GA.

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina EANGUS Auxiliary POC, Stella Cameron is proud to announce that they have had a ten-percent overall membership increase. South Carolina is a combined association.

TENNESSEE

Ann Story, President and other Tennessee members will be traveling to present plaques in appreciation of two separate \$10,000 donations to their Soldier's Relief Fund.



Armed Forces Appreciation Week
Monday, 26 June 2006

All Army Soldiers (Nat'l Guard, Reserve, Active) with a valid military ID and up to 4 guests are invited to the Six Flags Over Georgia Theme Park at NO CHARGE.

Six Flags Over Georgia is expressing its thanks to the dedication and sacrifice of the soldiers and their families.

The park opens at 10:00AM and closes at 9:00PM

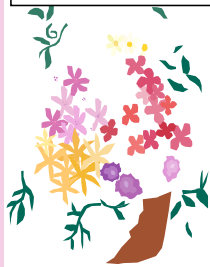
NOTES: No food or beverage can be brought into the park. **Retirees are invited at a discount, but do not qualify for the no charge admission.** Go to www.sixflags.com for detailed directions.

Here's To the Heroes

Budweiser is honored to salute the men and women of our armed forces and their families. Throughout 2006, members of the military and as many as three direct dependents may enter any one of Anheuser-Busch's SeaWorld, Busch Gardens or Sesame Place parks with a single-day complimentary admission.

Complimentary admission is available for active military representing all five service branches, including members of the reserve and National Guard units, and up to three direct dependents.

Our Cares and Concerns



Cecil Monk; Athens, AL—wife Katherine passed away on 23 April.

Jo Murray, TN— husband **Bob** is undergoing extensive medical tests.

Martha Robinson, TN— has been ill.

Steve/Starr Boatwright— Steve's father passed away in the afternoon on Monday, 30 May. Steve is President of the Enlisted Association of Alabama.



Legislative Alert

June 9, 2006

The Issue: National Defense Enhancement and National Guard Empowerment Act of 2006

Immediate Action Required: Contact your Senators and Congressmen and urge them to co-sponsor S.2658 and H.R.5200

Next week, the Senate will debate the FY-07 NDAA in the full Senate Chamber. S.2658 is expected to be offered as an amendment. It is critical at this point that we get as many Senators to co-sponsor this legislation for it to move on to debate with the House of Representatives. This is our last big opportunity in the Senate. We need you now!

What you need to do! It is important that you follow the sequence of actions listed below.

Priority #1: Contact your two Senators and urge them to become a co-sponsor of S.2658. A sample letter is included in our "Write to Congress" feature.

Priority #2: Contact your Congressmen/women and urge them to co-sponsor H.R.5200. You may use the same letter as above if you chose to use "Write to Congress". (H.R.5200 is the same legislation as S.2658 in the House of Representatives)

Priority #3: Call your Senators and Congressman's district office to register your support for S. 2658 and H.R. 5200. You can get the district office number by visiting www.house.gov or www.senate.gov, enter your ZIP Code. This will take you to your member's home page where you will find the number of the district office closest to you.

PLEASE TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTION: By using the "Write to Congress" feature on the NGAUS web page www.ngaus.org you can e-mail your elected officials immediately and send a pre written message or edit it as you desire for the issue described above. This is the quickest and most effective method of expressing your views to the President or members of Congress.

Also, contact your friends and family and urge them to "Write to Congress" as well.

Call, fax or email your Member to voice your opinion today!

President Signs New Tax Legislation for Military Personnel

On May 29, President Bush signed the Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunities (HERO) Act, which amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow service members to still exclude their military compensation from federal income tax, but also contribute to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) while serving in a combat zone tax exclusion area.

Military compensation earned by members of the armed forces while serving in combat zone areas is excluded from federal income tax. Enlisted members and warrant officers exclude all such military compensation. Commissioned officers exclude

up to the maximum enlisted pay plus imminent danger pay for the months they serve in a combat zone tax exclusion area.

The HERO Act is retroactive to tax year 2004. Therefore, members who did not make an IRA contribution during 2004 or 2005, because they were not eligible due to combat zone tax exclusion, have until May 28, 2009 (three years from the date of enactment) to make a contribution to an IRA for those years.

SGLI Rate Increase

The new SGLI premium rate will increase the monthly premium rate for a member with maximum coverage of \$400,000 from \$27.00 to \$29.00. This premium includes an additional \$1.00 per month for Traumatic Injury Protection coverage (TSGLI), which is mandatory and added to any premium rate automatically. In addition the Family SGLI will be reduced. Servicemembers will see a change in the deduction from their pay for the first time in July 2006.



**M
E
M
B
E
R
S
H
I
P**

MEMBER RECRUITING

A steering team formulated by members of the Auxiliary of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Georgia (AEANGGA) announced plans (at the Caucus) to introduce a new member recruiting tool throughout Area III. This will be where “opportunity meets preparation”.

Each state will be sent complete details along with a sample packet that may be tailored to meet any special provisions needed to comply with respective By-Laws, etc.

MEMBERSHIP

Data Theft Included Nearly a Half Million National Guard Records

The situation surrounding the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) records theft in May went from bad to worse this week when the VA announced Tuesday that the records included information on 430,000 National Guardsmen. The records also included information on 1.1 million active component members and more than 600,000 Reservists.

Veterans who have never filed a VA claim are also at risk, since the VA gets information on all who served directly from the Defense Department. This is a practice in place since the 1970s.

More specific, those discharged after 1975 are most at risk, but the VA estimates that the theft also could affect anyone who ever filed a VA claim, since the VA often entered historical records on others who might have discharged before 1975.

VA Secretary James Nicholson first told reporters May 22 that a VA analyst - not authorized to remove the data from the VA took computer files home to work on a project. In early May, burglars broke into the employee's home and stole his laptop computer containing the information.

"There is no indication at this time at all that any use is being made of this data, or even that [the burglars] know they have it," Mr. Nicholson said. "But considering the pros and cons of going public with this ... we've decided to come down on the side of ... making our veterans aware."

VA officials encourage any veteran to visit www.firstgov.gov for detailed information about the theft and for ways to prevent subsequent problems.

The biggest concern is that the information could be used for nefarious acts such as identity theft. But there have been no reports of ill use thus far.

In addition, officials announced this week VA is revamping its data security procedures as a result of the theft.

Also, all VA employees must complete privacy and cyber security training by June 30. The VA assembled a task force of senior leadership to review all aspects of information security and assess which employees need access to certain data, and the agency has suspended the practice of allowing veterans benefits employees from removing claimant files from agency work areas.

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
dyywill@earthlink.net

Marie Brabham
3329 Aspen Forest Drive
Middleburg, FL 32068
904.291.6778
sassyat52@aol.com

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.

Area III—

Thanks for your time

Dianne