



THE SOUTHERN DRAWL AREA III

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2006 June

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2006 EANGUS/EANGUS Auxiliary Site Visit



One of the many beautiful sights
in Salt Lake City.



Olympic Park; SLC



Salt Palace Convention Center

The 2006 EANGUS/EANGUS Auxiliary Site Visit was hosted by the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Utah and the Auxiliary; 23-25 June; Salt Lake City.

On Friday afternoon, President Bandy and I along with Past President Debra Campbell and Area IV Director Debbi Mordecai sat in on a preliminary presentation/slide show with the Utah folks.

Included in the “prelim” presentation was Utah Auxiliary members: Conference Chair Karen Evans; President Sandy Morse and Entertainment Chair Connie Smith.

Utah has been and will further be assisted by the Mississippi delegation. It is truly a “**Mountains and Magnolias**” effect.

Utah’s (Enlisted and Auxiliary) accomplishments to-date are imminent of hard work and dedication. They are truly to be commended.

On Saturday morning, presentations began promptly after breakfast. Following the presentations was an interactive Q&A session.

The afternoon was set aside for touring of the Salt Palace Convention Center, hotels, Gallivan Plaza as well as the Grand Hall Union: Station. Some of us were also able to squeeze in a quick tour of the Salt Lake Temple (home of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir) and the LDS Conference Center; Temple Square.

The Choir will host a Military Salute Concert on Saturday, 19 August for ticket-bearing conferees.

Late afternoon brought about time for President Bandy to conduct our Executive Board meeting where several decisions were made in advance so as to utilize conference time more efficiently.

I have included the EANGUS Auxiliary Conference Coordinator’s information/ updates in this issue. Persons who receive *The Signal* will get a repeat (*I thought it was important to include it in the Area newsletter as well*).

You will want to make special note of the contents of the **update** so that you are well-informed (**some changes and or additions may apply**).

“Side by Side We Stand With Pride”



**Mountains and Magnolias
2006 National Conference
Salt Lake City, Utah
20-23 August 2006**



CONFERENCE INFORMATION/UPDATES

Transportation

- ✚ Transportation **will** be provided from Salt Lake City International Airport to hotels beginning Saturday, 19 August, 2006 – 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.; Sunday, 20 August – 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Requests may be made 19-20 August for transportation to the airport on Thursday, 24 August. Request forms will be available at the Registration Desk as well as available at the Operations Center located at the Salt Palace Convention Center (top floor lobby). Hotel Shuttles are also available—you will need to make your own arrangements with the hotel shuttle folks. Shuttle cost is \$7 or \$8 per person; per ride—depending upon the hotel.

- ✚ Handicap accessibilities are available. **If you will need any of these accessibilities, contact the Transportation staff in Operations.**

✚ **Parking**

Parking costs may vary by hotel. Information available to me to-date: \$5 - for 24 hour (overnight parking); \$2 – 16 hour period if only attending for the day.

✚ **Pre-Registrations/Luncheon Tickets**

All pre-registration/Luncheon ticket monies collected by Mississippi have been transferred to Host State, Utah.

✚ **Hotel Rooms**

The deadline for securing a room from the Auxiliary block was **01 July**. Persons needing a room after **15 July** will need to request one directly from Housing: 1.800.217.0002. After 15 July, all requested/ unsecured rooms will enter the general room reservation/waiting list.

✚ **Change/Cancel your Room Reservation**

Room assignments will not be released from Housing to the hotels until **14 August**. If you will need to cancel, make a change to your room preference/s after you have secured your room, your hotel will not have your information until this date. **You will have 72 hours prior to your date of arrival to cancel your room reservation without the penalty of paying for one night's stay.**

Events/Locations

- ✚ **Golf Tournament; Westridge Golf Course**— Saturday 19 August; 11:00 a.m. Shotgun start. Transportation will be available.

- ✚ On Saturday evening, 19 August, ticket-holders will attend a live performance of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir at the **LDS Conference Center**; Temple Square (located within a 5-block radius of most hotels).

- The Choir will perform a Military Salute Concert for attendees.
- Preferred attire for military attendees: Military Blue/Green
Civilian attire: Coat/tie (men); Dress/skirt (females).
- No recording devices allowed during the performance.
- No pictures taken during the performance; only before and after the show.
- The performance will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m.; you are asked to be in your seat by 7:00 p.m.
- **Contact Utah Entertainment Chair, Connie Smith at oreomalt@justrawspeed.com to request tickets**
Tickets will also be available at the Registration desk while **quantities last.**
(you must provide a name for each ticket requested).

- ✚ **Salt Palace Convention Center**, (located within one to a one and one-half block radius of most of the hotels).

- 2006 Registration/Check-in and Pre-registration for 2007 Conference in Oklahoma
- First Timer's Meeting
- Exhibitors' Ribbon Cutting
- Auxiliary Welcome Meeting
- Opening Ceremony
- Silent Auction (co-located with Exhibitors).
- **General Sessions— to include EANGUS Auxiliary General Sessions**
- Credentials and Rules
- Auxiliary Luncheon (**Luncheon tickets may be purchased at the Registration desk— the Host State Conference Chair will need to provide the caterer with a final count on Monday morning, 21 August. You will need to purchase your ticket not later than Sunday evening.**)
- All States Banquet
- Committee Meetings
- Vendor service with water, pop, and or sandwiches will be strategically placed throughout the Salt Palace Convention Center for your purchasing convenience.
- There are restaurants located within your respective hotels.

Grand Hall: Union Pacific Depot

The Sunday Welcome Night Social (20 August; 6:00 pm -11: 00 pm (located within a six-block radius of most hotels; includes a quaint shopping area).

- **Special entertainment featuring** Comedian/impersonator, Jason Hewlett.
- Everyone will be able to enjoy the talents of Jason. However, on a first come/first served basis, 400 tickets will be available for the performance at the Registration desk for seating on the main floor of the **Depot**.
- If you are a ticket-holder for this event, you will need to be prepared to stay in your seat for the one-hour performance. You will not be able to exit and re-enter during the performance.
- All other attendees (no ticket) will have more than ample seating/space available to enjoy the event (no restrictions to exit/re-enter). Heavy snack food/refreshments provided for the event. Trax, Utah's light rail system may be used for some of your travel. You may ride free if you enter and exit the bus within the **free fare zones**. (Trax information/complete details will be provided in your registration packet) and is also available from your hotel.

Monday Night is "Free Night"

- You may get tour, restaurant and other information by visiting www.visitsaltlake.com

Gallivan Plaza

(located within a 4-block radius of most hotels) was the location used for the ceremonies during the Salt Lake Olympics.

All Area Hospitality Night Tuesday, 22 August (6:00 pm until 11:00 pm)

(Special entertainment by "Octappella")

- There is no parking inside the Plaza. If you will be dropping someone or something off, a fifteen (15) minute maximum park time is allowed.
- If your Area Hospitality Night host state will need fryers, cookers; a pavilion, refrigeration and or storage, contact: John Mark at john.mark@us.army.mil - Cell phone number **801.716.9091 not later than 01 August**. Electricity will be available.
- Each Area will be responsible for contacting Utah Foods to obtain any and all foods that will be served at this event.

For more information, visit the Utah website at www.eangut.org

Parks

Salt Lake City boasts 10 National Parks within a 4-hour drive of downtown as well as many other sights to see along with great restaurants/other eateries. Contact Tammy Collins with the Salt Lake City Visitors Bureau by e-mail for information on tours and other points of interest. tammy@saltlake.org

Area/Climate

- **Temple Square**— 5 blocks – 35 acres in downtown Salt Lake City with 15 different facilities that include the Salt Lake Temple, Tabernacle (Home of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir) and the LDS Conference Center.
- Temperatures will be in the 90's but there is little or no humidity.
The Altitude is 4,400 feet above sea level because you have the Rocky Mountains all around the city—so just because sweat isn't running down into your eyes, does not mean your body is not dehydrating.
- You must **HYDRATE!**
- Wear Sunscreen.
- **NO ALCOHOL** is permitted on public sidewalks. You must stay within the enclosed area for EANGUS at outside events where alcohol is being served.
- **NO SMOKING** on the grounds of Temple Square to include the surrounding streets and sidewalks. They are **firm** on alcohol and smoking ordinances.

The Auxiliary Luncheon/Awards Program; Tuesday 22 August—

- To conserve time without compromising recognition, some awards will be presented during the Auxiliary's General Session time as prescribed on the agenda.

Silent Auction Items /Pop tabs/Toiletries

- Remember to bring your donated items for the Silent Auction.
- Bring your Pop Tabs - (for the annual collection for the monetary presentation to the host state's local Ronald McDonald House and also your donated toiletries for the Ronald McDonald House).
You may choose to take your pop tabs (especially large quantities) to **your** local Recycling Center. If you choose this option, submit the pounds/cash value to your local/area Ronald McDonald House—be sure to get the pound/s and cash value amount, state and or individual/s name so noted on letterhead from your Ronald McDonald House to bring with you to conference so that your state and or individual/s may receive credit for participation.

Medical Emergencies

- **There will be medical care for emergencies that may occur on Conference site. If you are off-site, "dial 911."**

Agenda

- **Refer to the EANGUS Auxiliary Agenda for all events/times/locations. If you have any**

questions/concerns, contact me.

✦ **Host State Auxiliary** Conference Chair, **Karen Evans**; President, **Sandy Morse**; Special Entertainment Chair, **Connie Smith**.

Pedestrian Safety

✦ The Salt Lake City pedestrian safety committee has implemented pedestrian countdown timers, overhead and in-pavement crosswalk warning lights, pedestrian activated traffic signals and unique pavement markings. They also have orange Crosswalk flags— available for mid-block, intersection, signalized and non-signalized crossings. The flags benefit pedestrians by making them more visible to drivers and signify a clear desire and intent to cross the street.

EANGUS Auxiliary Conference Coordinator
Dianne Williams

MEMBER RECRUITING

Generic membership forms will be available at the Registration Desk from a Utah Auxiliary member or member/ volunteer from another state.

Look for the “purple” form to use for new member recruiting (annual and or associate) at the conference.

You may submit your completed membership forms with payments to either the designated person at the desk or me.

Forms are tailored to reflect the required dues payments for all states chartered to EANGUS Auxiliary by area.

Note:

The dues amount listed on the form includes state (annual and or associate) and national (annual and or associate).

If you recruit an annual member (dues payment of \$15), \$7 will go to national immediately since this is a national recruiting effort (your state will be credited with the membership); the remaining \$8 will go to the respective state for allocation at the state’s discretion.

If you recruit an associate member, \$5 will go to national; the remaining to state for allocation at the state’s discretion (your state will be credited with the associate membership).

To qualify for national associate membership, an individual must be an associate member of a state chartered to EANGUS Auxiliary.

MEMBERSHIP



Legislative Updates

23 June 2006

Guard Empowerment Action

On Tuesday, Senators Bond and Leahy offered an amendment which included modified language from their Guard Empowerment Act (S. 2658), which was accepted as an amendment to the FY07 Defense Authorization bill during debate on the Senate floor. The amendment was accepted unanimously as part of a package of amendments by the bill managers—Senators Warner and Levin.

The amendment kept language that would: elevate the Chief of the National Guard Bureau (NGB) from position of Lieutenant General to General; direct that the Deputy Commander at NORTHCOM be a member of the Guard; gives NGB the ability to identify and validate equipment needs; and establishes more direct lines of communication between Secretary of Defense, NGB, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and state and federal agencies.

Upon passage of the Authorization bill, the language will have to be reconciled with a provision included within the House version of the bill.

TRICARE and Retirement Included in Authorization Bill

The Senate wrapped up debate on its version of the authorization bill (S. 2507) and completed action on Thursday afternoon.

During the afternoon debate, a Guard and Reserve amendment was offered by Senator Chambliss and cosponsored by Senators Graham and Clinton that would modify TRICARE and retirement for the Guard and Reserve. The combined amendment (Senators Graham and Clinton were expected to introduce their amendment as a free standing amendment) would:

- reduce the cost share for Tier 3 Reserve Component members from 85% to 75% premium;
- allow Guard employees of small businesses with 20 employees or less to participate in Tier 2—which is the 50%/50% premium cost share;
- reduce age in which Guard and Reserve members can access their retirement by 3 months for every 90 day served on active duty since 2001.

House Appropriations Passes

The full House completed work on the Defense Appropriations bill, H.R. 5631.

Among the items include in the bill: restoration of funding for Army Guard end-strength; \$500 million in funding above the President's request for the equipment needs of the Army National Guard, primarily to provide items needed for homeland defense and disaster response; funding for Blackhawk helicopters; procurement of 39 light utility helicopter; funding for AESA radars for the Air National Guard; and funding for the F-22 and C-17.

The House bill is awaiting passage of the Senate's version of the defense appropriations bill before conference can begin to reconcile the differences.

Veterans' Housing Opportunity Act of 2006 (S. 1235)

Help for disabled servicemembers and veterans with their housing and other benefit needs was signed into law by President Bush. One provision of the law authorizes VA to give grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$14,000 to assist with housing adaptations at a family member's home in which a severely disabled servicemember is temporarily residing. Another provision will give disabled servicemembers up to two years from their separation date to apply for premium-free Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage.

Officials Recover Computer in VA Data Theft Case

After weeks of wondering about the fate of more than 26 million veterans' records contained in a Veterans Affairs (VA) employee's computer that was stolen from his home in May, someone turned the stolen laptop and hard drive containing the data to the FBI.

Among the data were records of about 430,000 Guardsmen and nearly 650,000 Reservists. Early reports indicate the veterans' data on the computer was not compromised.

VA Secretary R. James Nicholson told the House Veterans Affairs Committee yesterday that there have been no reports of identity theft or other criminal activity related to the stolen computer and added that the VA would still honor its promise of free credit monitoring for a year.

The FBI offered little information on the return except that an unnamed individual turned over the laptop and hard drive to FBI officials in Baltimore. Officials also said no one was in custody.

State Presidents Semi-Annual Reports Due

State Presidents,

You will need to send your Semi-Annual report not later than 10 July. Send one copy to me and one copy to Director Brabham.

THE SOUTHERN DRAWL
is an

AREA III

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Area III—

Thanks for your time

Dianne