

**HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 8934434  
MILILANI, HAWAII 96789**

4 May 2020

FROM: Maui Quizon, HNGEA President

SUBJECT: HNGEA Presidents Update

TO: HNGEA Council

The following update is provided for the Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association.

Latest HNGEA Podcast

- Legislation first membership always
- Current membership: **1,098**
- Challenge goal: Add new members 100 Air 100 Army
- Bank account balances (BoH, HNGFCU): treasury/finances/tax filing/DCAA in good status
- EANGUS and Area VII dues: to date for National and Area dues
- EANGUS Patriot <http://fliphtml5.com/bookcase/ehun>
- EANGUS Minuteman Update <http://www.multibriefs.com/briefs/eangus/>
- EANGUS We Care for America Foundation:

**The WCFA COVID Emergency Relief Fund will open for applications at 6:00 pm Eastern Time on Monday, 4 May 2020**

State Association Presidents and Area Directors

**FOR IMMEDIATE DISSEMINATION**

Please share this message with your State Leadership, Unit/Wing Leaders, and Family Programs Offices

Through a generous donation from the USAA Foundation, the Enlisted Association National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) and the We Care for America Foundation (WCFA), Inc. are pleased to announce that we have established a special fund to offer monetary grants to National Guard members (Enlisted, Officer or Warrant Officer) who are experiencing a financial hardship related specifically to the COVID-19 national pandemic. The **WCFA COVID Emergency Relief Fund** has been established to provide financial assistance to current and former National Guard members who are experiencing a financial hardship due to having lost their primary income, or who have an increased financial burden as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Grant funds should be utilized for basic household needs such as food, housing, utilities, medical services, childcare, and other essential family support items which have become difficult to afford as a result of the national pandemic. Membership in EANGUS is not required to apply.

Applicants are asked to complete an online application using the link below.

**Applications must be accompanied by specific documentation to prove a COVID-related hardship exist:**

- A letter from your employer, doctor, creditor, etc. that documents that the financial need is related to COVID-19, **AND** a document confirming National Guard membership
- **OR** a letter of endorsement from your Commander, Senior Enlisted Leader/Advisors confirming National Guard membership along with the details of your COVID-related financial emergency
- **OR** a letter from the State Family Program Office confirming National Guard membership along with details to show your financial emergency is related to the COVID-19 pandemic

**The Fund can only support one emergency financial request per household. Because of the projected widespread need for assistance, grants will be capped at \$500. At this time, we have funding to support the award of 500 grants. Therefore, our window to apply will only be open for 48 hours or until we receive 1,500 applications, whichever comes first.** Applications will be reviewed and approved based on the greatest need. We ask that applications be submitted by National Guard members who absolutely need assistance as a result of a COVID-19 related financial hardship. It's important to note that not all applicants will qualify for assistance and others who do qualify, will not receive a grant once our funding is exhausted. It is our goal to process applications within five days of receipt and to get the funds to those approved as quickly as possible.

If you have any questions regarding eligibility for a WCFA COVID Emergency Relief Fund grant or the application process, please review the WCFA website at [www.eangus-wcfa.org](http://www.eangus-wcfa.org) or contact our office via email at [wafa@eangus.org](mailto:wafa@eangus.org) No phone calls at this time, please.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the USAA Foundation for their \$250,000 donation and their continued support of our National Guard members. While many of our members continue to respond to the call to serve their communities at home, and to serve our nation abroad, we understand the significant impact that the coronavirus pandemic can and will have on many of our members and their families, and we are seeking additional funds to support this program.

If you would like to make a donation to help others, or know corporations or individuals that would support this program, please refer them to our website at <https://eangus-wcfa.org/donation/>. As more funds become available, additional applications will be approved for qualified members based on the requests taken during this initial application period. Please know that we remain committed to supporting the Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard and hope that you remain safe and healthy.

Sincerely,  
John Harris, CMSgt (Ret)  
Chairman of the Board  
We Care for America Foundation, Inc.

#### Membership Initiatives

- HNGEA 300 E5/E6 1-year sponsored membership
- HNGEA corporate membership: great opportunity for local business support  
EANGUS 2020 Membership Challenge: "The EANGUS "Vision for 2020" is to increase State Association and EANGUS membership and we are here to challenge and motivate you! The **EANGUS 20% Challenge** is well underway and will continue through 31 July 2020. EANGUS President Karen Craig ... "Please join me in sending a big shout out to the TOP PERFORMERS as of 29 Feb 2020 -- Since August 2019, these three have increased their State's membership by the following percentage. Great Job!!"  
<https://eangus.org/eangus-2020-membership-challenge/>

**Hawaii -- 33%**

Tennessee -- 30%

Colorado -- 25%

- Website update/training: Mahalo SSgt Marco Mendez for making some updates, and EANGUS Past President John Harris for assistance, improvements to website continue
- HNGEA App launch: Thanks again to EANGUS Past President John Harris for assisting in creating & designing new HNGEA phone app, final launch coming soon
- Collaborating for members: HING Family Readiness HING Family Readiness and EANGUS resources for enlisted

#### Membership Support

1. 29th IBCT Sweethearts Ball 14 Feb 2020

## HNGEA Briefings

1. 154 MDG January 2020 (Congrats MDG 2019 HNGEA Membership Unit of the Year!)
2. 154 FSS January 2020
3. HIANG Newcomers Brief April 2020 (postponed)

## Legislation

- State Legislative Session 2020:
  - Legislative session was emergency recessed in March due to COVID-19, and is scheduled to adjourn as originally scheduled May 7th, the following are two bills HNGEA promoted and will follow-up on its future status:
  - SB 974: SB 974, Relating to Vehicle Weight Tax Exemption. This legislation would add additional vehicle weight tax exemption for HING spouse.
  - HB 2485: Relating to Hawaii National Guard Retirement Benefits. This legislation relates to state retirement benefits for Hawaii national guard members who are activated under state active duty orders.
- EANGUS Legislative Action Center <https://eangus.org/legislative-calls-to-action-2/>
  - 116th Congress
  - Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Letters:
  - [House Armed Services Committee Letter](#)
  - [Senate Armed Services Committee Letter](#)
  - [Conference Committee Letter](#)
  - Previous Congresses
  - [H.R. 6157, Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act of 2019](#)
  - [S. 673, The Savings for Servicemembers Act](#)
  - [H.R. 3218, the the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017](#) | [Section by Section Analysis](#)
  - [Senate Veterans Affairs Committee: Hearing Testimony](#)
  - G-RAP Investigation: [House Guard & Reserve Components](#), [Senate Guard Caucus](#)
  - [GI Bill Modernization](#)
  - [S. 1086](#)
  - [RC-Focus Tax Relief Legislation](#)
  - [Domestic Operations \(DOMOPS\)](#)
  - Continuing Resolution: [House Budget](#); [House Approps](#); [Senate Budget](#); [Senate Approps](#)
  - [Counterdrug Funding](#)
  - [The Reserve Component Benefits Parity Act](#)
  - [H.R. 1379](#)
  - [The Tax Relief for Guard and Reserve Training Act](#)
  - [The VA Accountability Act of 2017](#)
  - [MILTECH Conversation Language included in HASC-passed H.R. 5515](#)
- HNGEA Supports EANGUS Priorities:
  - 20 year retirement pension parity with Active services
  - Strong consideration for maintaining National Guard personnel, equipment and resources as a vital and cost effective part of Army and Air Force plans for the future

--- Continued Congressional funding for MILCON and the National Guard and Reserve Equipment

--- Increased National Guard representation in Congressional hearings and forums traditionally reserved for Active Duty participation and applicable to a membership on the Joint Chiefs of Staff

--- National Guard access to new technology and equipment equal and proportional to that purchased for Active Duty forces

- HNGEA Initiatives State Legislation

- Benefits to HING retirees

- Vehicle weight tax exemption

- Property tax relief

#### EANGUS Drill Weekend Talking Points:

Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act

On April 28, the "House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith (D-Wash.) and Ranking Member Mac Thornberry (R-TX) today issued the following statement on the FY21 NDAA process:

'This year, Congress will pass the 60th National Defense Authorization Act. This milestone has been made possible by decades of bipartisanship, regular order, and transparency.'

The COVID-19 pandemic will certainly affect how the Committee marks up the FY21 NDAA and how the House considers it on the floor. We are discussing those details and consulting with the Leadership of both parties. At the same time we remain committed to the principles that have guided the bill in the past — regular order through the committee, transparency, and bipartisanship.'

The EANGUS National Office staff are monitoring Congressional efforts and advocating on behalf of the membership. The COVID pandemic created an atypical environment on Capitol Hill, but Congressional Defense Committee staff are working toward a defense bill. Of note, the EANGUS National Office is working to incorporate H.R. 5169, The TRICARE Fairness for National Guard and Reserve Retirees Act. H.R. 5169 would wed early retirement pay and affordable TRICARE coverage for members under the age of 60.

#### COVID

The National Office staff are working hard to ensure members have health care coverage when responding to the pandemic. In fact, President Trump issued a memorandum to SECDEF Esper on April 20 to ensure Reserve Component Servicemembers are covered by 502(f) orders and have access to healthcare during the national emergency. EANGUS, and its partner military service organizations, are advocating for health care coverage in similar, future emergency responses. Finally, EANGUS signed onto a coalition letter conveying the need for federal survivors benefits to those that served on State Active Duty orders and lost their life due as a result of their service.

#### Mobilization Policy

On April 28, the National Guard Bureau issued mobilization guidance. For those awaiting IET, DOD is authorizing 31 day ADOS orders (full benefits including TRICARE) in the pay grade in which they were recruited, E1 to E4. There are about 100 Servicemembers currently on orders, and about twenty-five hundred eligible. Initial entry training is at half capacity due to social distancing. Recruits are quarantined for fourteen days initially. The two weeks do not count toward training, but those days count toward service time.

#### Retirees

Thank you for your service! Click here for retirees membership program [https://eangus.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/EANGUS\\_Retiree\\_Brochure\\_2010.pdf](https://eangus.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/EANGUS_Retiree_Brochure_2010.pdf)

### Junior Enlisted

The largest demographic we need your membership! <https://eangus.org/junior-enlisted-committee/>

### Scholarship

- 2020 EANGUS Scholarships <https://eangus.org/we-care-for-america/scholarship-information/> act now applications due 15 May
- HNGEA Scholarship Award coming soon applications open in July (congratulations to last year's award winner Mason Miyashiro dependent SSG Wayne Miyashiro HIARNG!)

### Area VII

- Alaska, California, Guam, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington
- Midwinter Conference reports/updates

### NGA-HI Insurance Inc

- Next meeting was in scheduled for April but now TBD due to COVID19, unfinished business to include HNGEA disbursement recommendation results, FRA property investment update
- SSLIGPS Newsletter updates
- AFBA update: guardsmen enrolled in SSLI coverage continues, staff available for assistance/questions

### CANCELLED: EANGUS 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference 9-12 August 2020 Little Rock AR

- Conference cancelled per President Harris ...

### EANGUS 2020 CONFERENCE: CANCELED

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) announces that it has accepted the host state's recommendation to cancel the 49<sup>th</sup> EANGUS National Conference scheduled to be held in Little Rock, Arkansas, 9-12 August 2020. This decision is based on continued public health concerns, ongoing restrictions, and the uncertainties related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

EANGUS appreciates the hard work and preparation of the Arkansas Enlisted Association and respects their recommendation which takes into consideration the health and safety of our members, exhibitors, and guests. As a result, the EANGUS Executive Council voted to cancel the annual conference for the first time in our history. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference will be held 8-11 August 2021 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Little Rock, Arkansas was approved as the host of the conference in 2022, with Rochester, Minnesota to follow in 2023.

Additional information regarding refunds, cancellation of hotel reservations, and other conference-related programs will be announced by 1 June 2020. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

### FYI

- HNGEA AGMM: Amid the ongoing COVID19 response/conditions, we will continue to plan, coordinate, and track our annual general membership meeting scheduled for 24 October 2020

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R.MAUI QUIZON, SMSgt, HIANG  
President, Hawaii National Guard Enlisted