

EANGUS National Conference 2016

Legislative Committee Notes

*Facilitated by Committee Chairman Jeff Frisby.

*EANGUS Legislative Directors: Daniel Elkins and Scott Bousum

-This is the first time the Legislative Committee was convened prior to the Resolutions Committee at the National Conference. In the past, this committee took the resolutions that had been adopted by the Resolutions Committee and “racked and stacked” them. Last year, at the advisement of the Legislative Director, the resolutions were not prioritized. Rather, the Legislative Director was allowed the latitude to advocate for each approved resolution when he deemed it most advantageous to do so based on the legislative climate.

Holding the Legislative Committee first allowed the Legislative Directors the opportunity to discuss the current legislative landscape and it’s nuances which made for a more informed and effective decision making process for the Resolutions Committee.

-Here are some of the topics briefed by the Legislative Directors:

Legislative v. Policy: Noted the importance of distinguishing between the two in order to properly focus efforts. Also noted that State Legislative changes are much easier to make than National Legislative changes.

Continuing Resolution: This is inevitable. The questions is will it last for three months, or six months.

Readiness shortfalls: This is the primary focus of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees. Keep this in mind and how it can be tied to the resolutions we are pushing.

Congress in stand-by: Congress is basically in a holding pattern as they wait for the upcoming elections and the knowledge that they will be dealing with a new administration soon.

Retirement and Healthcare Reforms: This is another hot topic for the Armed Services Committees.

Post 9/11 GI Bill: Protection of this is a focus of congress. However, they want to know the utilization rates and the return on investment.

Cyber: This is rapidly becoming a focus. This is a great opportunity for the National Guard to latch onto. Money is being made available with less emphasis on offsets.

*Overall this was a great session. There was lots of great discussion, and the insights provided by the Legislative Directors was invaluable!