



THE CARDINAL



The Cardinal Newsletter is the official publication of the Virginia Army / Air Enlisted Association. As we strive for excellence, send articles or information to Brent Taylor @ btaylor@mbc.edu or at VaAANGEA, P.O. Box 3332, Roanoke, VA

From our NEW President 1SGT Kenneth Smith

As your new State President I feel that I should do everything I can to provide quality support to our Soldiers, Airmen, and the Virginia Army/Air Enlisted Association. I look forward to the upcoming year and I see a couple of things that we can do as members to better the Virginia Army/Air Enlisted Association and the Guard as a whole.

One of the biggest priorities we seem to have every year is membership. If each one of us brings in one new member for the year, we will double our membership. I challenge each of you to talk to your friends, peers and soldiers/airmen to educate them about what the Virginia Army/Air Enlisted Association does for us on a daily basis. Things such as State Tuition Assistance, half price on license plates, reduce rates on county decals, and State reenlistment bonuses.

The 32nd Annual State Conference was a success and fun was had by all. This year's conference saw the election of new Executive Council Members for the 2006 -2008 term. I look forward to working with new council and moving the association forward. The next Executive Council meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on July 29th, 2006 at the Charlottesville Armory.

I'm in hopes that we have a good representation at the National Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah from 20 August 2006 to 24 August 2006. This was a change due to Hurricane Katrina's devastation of the Gulf Coast.

Please feel free to contact me by email at smithk0807@yahoo.com or phone 804-303-7546.

Once again, I look forward to working with each and everyone this year, and hope that there will be many new faces at the 2007 Conference in Richmond.

1Sgt Kenneth W. Smith, President

State Military Reservation Information

1. Go to the Virginia National Guard public information web site located at <http://www.viriniaguard.com/>
2. Click on the red "Links of Interest" button on the left side of the page.
3. Scroll down to "Virginia Military Installations" and you will see the link for the State Military Reservation.

FOR WHAT'S IT WORTH.....

Check out the free site located at

www.military.com

- scholarship/education help
- free email newsletter
- resources for Tricare info
- pay tables
- check out the left column of the site

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NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

WASHINGTON - The 2006 Act, signed into law January 6, provides new or enhanced benefits in addition to a 3.1 percent pay raise for National Guard and Reserve members, a senior defense official said.

President Bush signed the legislation Jan. 6, providing a variety of benefits designed to bring reserve component compensation more on par with what the active component receives, Chuck Witschonke, DOD's deputy director for compensation, said during an interview with the American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel on a range of issues related to the act. The package provides other benefits that affect all forces, both active and reserve, including better overall compensation and improved quality of life, while promoting overall recruiting and retention, he said.

The law also provides a variety of benefits specifically targeting members of the reserve components. These include:

- Full housing allowance payments for reserve members called to active duty for more than 30 days, versus the previous 140-day requirement;
- Income replacement benefits to help offset the pay loss some reservists and guardsmen experience when called to active duty, based on specific guidelines to be established within the next six months;
- Accession and affiliation bonuses of up to \$20,000 for enlistment in the Selected Reserve, and an increase for officers for service in the Selected Reserve, from \$6,000 to \$10,000;
- A bonus of up to \$100,000 for members with a designated critical skill or who volunteer to serve in a designated high-priority unit;
- Extension of eligibility for a prior-service enlistment bonus to include selected Reserve members who previously received one.

Witschonke emphasized the new law does not guarantee that all service members will qualify for these pays and benefits, or that those who are eligible will receive the highest amounts authorized. Rather, he said, the law gives defense and service leaders the flexibility they need to tailor the force to meet operational, recruiting and retention goals.

Another benefit, the critical-skills retention bonus, will be "a very good tool" in helping keep members with important experience and training in the force and in maintaining readiness in high-priority units, Witschonke said.

The 2006 authorization act also increases recruiting bonuses for the Reserve and Guard, Witschonke said. The new law authorizes accession and affiliation bonuses of up to \$20,000, to be offered as needed by the services, he said.

For reserve-component members who experience pay cuts when called to active duty, the new provision for income replacement will help reduce the strain military service places on the family, he said. "It can be difficult for a family that has been living on a certain income to now have less money, particularly at a time when they're stressed by a change in their lifestyle" due to a military deployment, Witschonke said.

The income-replacement program won't be instituted for six months, in accordance with the law. At that time, specific guidelines and qualifications will be issued, he said. This authority will end in December 2008.

These enhancements in reserve-component pay and benefits are particularly critical during the global war on terror, when members of the Guard and Reserve are playing a major role in U.S. national defense, Witschonke said.

Congress Improves Benefits for Military Personnel

Graham/Clinton/DeWine/Leahy Secure TRICARE for National Guard and Reserve

WASHINGTON -- The United States Senate recently approved the Fiscal Year 2006 Defense Authorization bill.

The legislation improves benefits for military personnel including a provision offered by U.S. Senators Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina), Hillary Clinton (D-New York), Mike DeWine (R-Ohio), and Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont) to expand TRICARE to all drilling reservists.

Graham, Clinton, DeWine, and Leahy have worked together and with other Senators to expand access to health care for members of the National Guard and Reserve who are playing an ever-increasing and historic role in the global War on Terror. The Senators noted that Guardsmen and Reservists now make up approximately 40 percent of American forces in Iraq.

“Our work reflects a significant triumph for the Guard, Reserves and their families,” said Graham, chairman of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel. “Now, after years of relative neglect, these soldiers’ health care coverage and benefits are more in line with their service to our nation. This year’s bill provides continuous health care coverage for all drilling reservists, an important improvement over what we were able to accomplish last year.”

“I am pleased that we have made further progress towards our goal of increasing access of health benefits for our National Guard and Reserve and their families in New York and around the country,” Senator Clinton said. “Providing the Guard and Reserves, as well as their families, with adequate support and benefits is the least that a grateful nation can do.”

“We know how important it is that we fund our

military hardware and base installations. At the same time, we can’t ignore our military personnel. We can’t ignore those who volunteer to protect us,” stated Senator Mike DeWine. “It’s the least we can do, particularly as we continue to rely more and more on our Reserve and National Guard.”

“This is a measurable step forward for readiness and for fairness for the Guard and its people,” said Leahy, the co-chair of the Senate’s National Guard Caucus. “Ensuring that every member of the Guard and Reserve has access to affordable health insurance is vital to the well-being of this essential force. At a time when the troops of our Guard and Reserve are contributing so much to the war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as protecting us at home, this package of new health insurance benefits will make a real difference, and it’s the least they deserve.”

Under the expansion of TRICARE championed by the Senators, all members of the Selected Reserve are eligible to enroll in the military health care program for a monthly premium. The premiums are based on categories of eligibility:

- **Category 1:** Members of the Selected Reserve who are called to active duty qualify for TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS). Under this program, established last year, a reservist would accumulate one year of TRS coverage for every 90 days of active duty service. Monthly premiums during the years of accumulated eligibility are only 28 percent of the program cost. The government picks up the remaining 72 percent. As has always been the case, coverage is free of charge while on active duty. This bill now permits accumulation of earned periods of coverage for frequently deployed personnel. In addition, it authorizes 6 months of transitional coverage for family members following the death of the Reserve member, if the member dies while in an inactive status.
- **Category 2:** Members of the Selected Reserve who are not called to active duty, and who otherwise do not qualify for health insurance due to unemployment or lack of

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employer provided coverage, are eligible to enroll in TRICARE for a 50 percent cost-sharing premium. The government will pay the remaining 50 percent.

- **Category 3:** Members of the Selected Reserve who do not fit into either of the above categories but would like to participate in TRICARE are eligible to do so for an 85 percent cost share. Employers are allowed and encouraged to contribute to the reservist's share. The government contributes 15 percent of the costs.

"I will continue to work to improve benefits available to members of the Guard and Reserve," said Graham. "The nation will continue to need their services, in large numbers, in fighting the War on Terror. I am proud of and appreciate the progress we've made this year with the Senate and Bush Administration working together."

"I am pleased a compromise was reached and that the Senate today joined me in honoring the service of our National Guard and Reserve members by giving them and their families the healthcare benefits they need and deserve," Senator Clinton said.

"Recent reports indicate about 40 percent of the junior enlisted lack any civilian health insurance and this TRICARE expansion will help them and their families receive needed coverage. We must ensure greater continuity in health care for our Guardsmen and Reservists, which will enhance overall military medical readiness. This is both a readiness and retention issue. Now more than ever, we need to provide our Reserve and Guard personnel with adequate support. Ensuring our servicemen and women have access to healthcare insurance is the right thing to do," added Senator DeWine.

The defense bill authorized additional benefits for the men and women serving our nation in uniform. Among these important changes were:

- A 3.1 percent pay raise for all military personnel.
- Payment of "matching fund" contributions of up to 5 percent of basic pay for first term enlistees who participate in the Thrift Savings Plan. The TSP is a 401(k) retirement plan available to all federal employees.
- Increases in maximum amounts of assignment incentive pay and hardship duty pay.
- \$60 million increase in child care and family assistance services to active-duty and Reserve military families.
- Critical skills retention bonus of up to \$100,000 over a career for members of the Selected Reserve.
- Increases TRICARE benefits for the surviving children of members who die on active duty.
- Increases to \$100,000 in the death gratuity allowance payable to survivors of all active duty military decedents, including retroactive payment to October 7, 2001, the date of commencement of Operation Enduring Freedom.
- Directs the establishment of a uniform Department policy on casualty assistance to improve the services provided to survivors and next of kin of military members killed on active duty.
- In addition the bill authorizes increases in the active-duty end strength of 10,000 for the Army and 1,000 for the Marine Corps

www.vaaangea.org OR
www.staunton.com/vaaangea

<><><>MILITARY RECORDS <><><>

You can now access your DD-214 on-line. Please pass this information on to retired military personnel you may know.

The National Personnel Records Center has provided the following website for veterans to access their DD-214 online at

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov>.

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. Please see the details below.

The National Personnel Records Center is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180 which can be downloaded from the online web site.

The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center's mailroom processing time. Also, because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized.

Veterans and next of kin may access this application at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>.

We need your email address so we may email the Cardinal and other important information to you! Our goal is to have a majority of the Enlisted Association membership emailing. Help us help you, you save postage and handling costs and we can put your dues to better use.

**www.staunton.com/vaaangea/
Click on 'sign up' at the web page bottom**

Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association Executive Council Meeting 28 April 2006 Minutes

1. President Webb called the meeting to order at 1500 hrs. The meeting was held at the 2006 Conference Center Holiday Inn Tanglewood, Roanoke, VA. The Invocation was conducted by Past President Joe Wade. 1VP Kenny Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Secretary Glasscock conducted the roll call, Pres Webb, 1VP Smith, 2VP Atkinson, 3VP Johnson, Treasurer Bassetti, Sec Glasscock, PP Wade, Sgt at Arms Jeffries, Financial Sec Berryman and Representatives from Area I, VI, VII, XI, XII, XIII, and were present. A quorum was present.

3. The minutes of the 29 Jan 06 Executive Council Meeting at this location were presented by Pres Webb. A motion was made to *"approve the minutes of the 28 Jan 06 Exec Council" as amended (by 2 minor corrections)*. The motion was 2d, Motion carried.

4. Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Bassetti will present the formal report at the Business Session 30 Apr 05. A copy was provided. There was a question about "inflow and outflow" for council meetings. A question concerned the \$1500.00 spent at this facility at the 29 Jan 06 executive council meeting. Tres Bassetti indicated that was \$150.00 rebate for computer, reimbursement for fifteen persons for expenses and that lunch was provided for all attending. Motion to accept report, 2d, carried.

5. Committee Reports:

a. **Membership:** 1VP Smith indicated that current membership is 1222. Pres Webb indicated that the goal was 1300, report to be provided at the business session tomorrow (29 Apr 06).

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E C Meeting Minutes *continued*

b. **Legislative:** No formal report rendered. 2VP Atkinson clarified that tax exemption status mentioned in the last minutes that is in jeopardy are sales tax exemption issues. He added that we would not enjoy the tax exemption status on things like hotel stays. He added that we will have to fill out detailed records. He added that the good news is that we will all benefit by the state hospital next to McQuire VA Center.

c. **Constitution/By-Laws:** No formal report rendered. 2VP Atkinson clarified a change to be brought up tomorrow at the business session with regard to lines 147 to 149. Currently "Any annual or life member may hold office or be a member of the Executive Council".

d. **Resolutions:** No formal report rendered.

e. **Retiree Affairs:** No formal report rendered.

f. **Audit:** Audit Committee Chairman Bob Kuykendall indicated that the 2005 conference audit is winding down pending clarification from the 2005 Conference Committee. He added that the 2005 Association financial records audit is being conducted by an external auditor as directed by the VaAANGEA Exec Council on 28 Jan 06. Some of the issues so far are that 2 signatures are required on checks and a \$200.00 late filing fee. The audit will be delivered when complete.

g. **Ventures, Inc.:** Ventures Committee Rep Bob Kuykendall provided a formal report that will be presented tomorrow at the business session. A formal report was provided containing all details. Discussion included mention of \$30,000.00 distribution approved for Jul 05-Jun 06 for each association.

h. **Cardinal News Letter:** Pres Webb indicated that all input needed to be submitted to Brent Taylor within 30 days. He added that a delay in the Cardinal mailing was due to a delay in getting the postage to the mailer.

i. **2006 Conference Report:** Exec Sec JJ St. Clair presented a verbal report that there were 136 registered at the hotel, 140 for Friday night and 160 for Saturday. He added that there were eight vendors registered, one being a paid exhibit. He mentioned that the hospitality room was #336. Pres Webb thanked him for the job well done.

j. **2007 Conference Report:** 1SG Tim White made a formal presentation with a flyer handout. He mentioned that "T" shirts were on sale at \$7.00 each to support the function. 1SG Billmeyer mentioned that the rooms at the Sheraton West Hotel were \$89.00 per night. Some of the planned events included "Skills USA" - youth activities for those of recruiting age. He added that lots of vendor support is expected. CSM Yancy mentioned that a main event will be the "Friday Casino Night". 1SG Billmeyer mentioned that a goal was to provide free lodging for the NCO and Soldier of the year. He added that they are searching for a quest speaker, considering Former Sec Army John Marsh, our TAG, the SGM of the Army and that Sen. George Allen spoke at the Officer Assn this year. It was emphasized that the main goal was to bring in new members, adding that they are seeking a lot of corporate sponsors which would pay \$5,000 - \$10,000 for each spot in addition to selling raffle tickets. CSM Huffman mentioned that he expects good participation from the Air Guard and is working with Command Chief Master Sergeant John Iorio to gain the maximum emphasis to achieve this. Area II Director Ronnie Emerson asked as to when the hotel would be taking reservations with the reply being 50 weeks out from conference date.

6. Executive Secretary's Report: SFC JJ St. Clair mentioned that 429 new applications for membership came in between last and this year. He added that USAA (sponsored E-4 to E-5 & E-5 to E-6) applications couldn't be counted until all were processed. He added that we needed to cut membership drives one or two weeks before the conference to process those applications.

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E C Meeting Minutes *continued*

A formal membership report was provided. Pres Webb mentioned that SFC JJ St. Clair has done the job for eleven years in an outstanding manner and now will be "passing the baton" to another member, thanking him for his service. He added that the Exec Sec Position was a paid part time position and that SFC Shawn O'Neil (Band) indicated he'd like to have the job. 1SG Motley asked as to when the job announcement came out and that there may be more candidates that might be interested in the position. President Webb indicated that an announcement to that effect would be made at business session.

7. EANGUS Area II: Area II Chairman Wade will provide the written report to be briefed at the business session. He mentioned that the EANGUS Conference will be in Salt Lake City, Utah 19-23 August 2006, registration forms can be pulled from the EANGUS website. 1SG Tim White mentioned that we needed to get more E-5's and E-6's to go to the EANGUS Conference. He mentioned that there was a letter still on LTG Blum's desk at NGB in March concerning a policy that might be continued concerning attendance at the EANGUS conference that affected E-5's and E-6's. PP Wade mentioned that one of the two candidates for EANGUS President was CSM Frank Lever and that he would be a good choice for the position. PP Wade gave a quick preview of how the nomination committee report was shaping up. He mentioned that there were one candidate each for the positions of president and each of the three VP's, Sgt of Arms, and financial secretary. None at this time for the Secretary's position, formal report to be given at the business session. Additionally it was mentioned that there were ten applications for scholarships, with all to appear for presentation. There were 2 applicants for the USAA Scholarship.

8. Old Business. Pres Webb mentioned that we needed a new digital camera. SFC (R) Ray Slayton used the old camera for years and now we need a new one owned by the association, estimated cost between \$300-\$325. He added that we needed to determine what to do with the old one.

SGLI questions ? Other insurance questions ? Need forms ?

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Virginia Insurance web page located @
<http://www.insurance.va.gov>

Some possibilities from the floor were; silent auction, E-bay asking a minimum of \$50.00. Area II Dir Ronnie Emerson mentioned that next year we become 400 years old and need to have a coin to that effect for the officer's and Enlisted Assn's. Estimated cost is .75 each.

9. New Business. Ventures Rep Bob Kuykendall brought up the fact that copies of the Delegate count sheet, (total 52 delegates and 9 exec council) went to each Area Rep, he mentioned that there were no proxy votes yet. He reviewed the delegate count per the sheet for each area. CSM Huffman asked if we had restructured areas to be aligned yet with the new BCT structure. SFC JJ replied that it still needs to be done. Pres Webb mentioned that this task must be accomplished at this time. PP Wade brought up that replacement office equipment for the nominee for SFC JJ's (exec sec position) will be needed. He made a motion that the Association pay for such equipment as a new computer, fax, copier and other office equipment necessary for him to accomplish the job. Motion was 2d, vote, carried.

10. A motion was made at 1700 hrs to adjourn the meeting. It was 2d, carried. The Business Session will open tomorrow at 0800 hrs. No further business was discussed and the meeting was adjourned

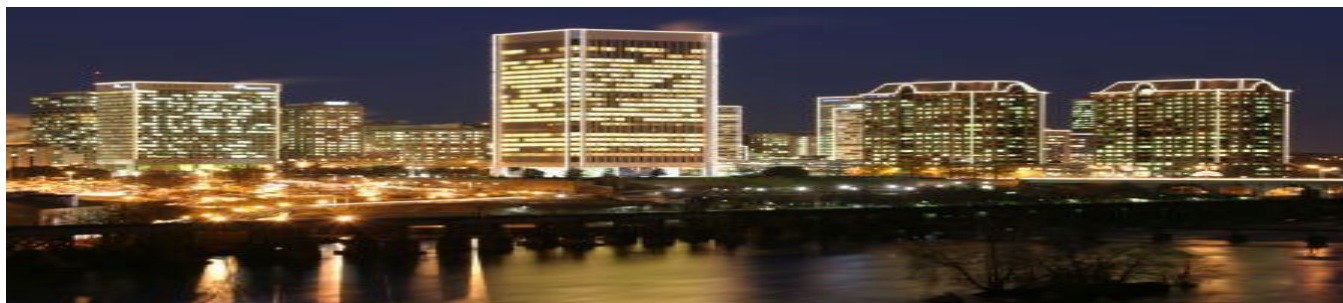
Submitted by, Jim Glasscock
VaA/ANGEA Secretary

Comments, suggestions, news items?

**Your concerns ARE OUR CONCERNS
Let your voice be heard,**

PARTICIPATE, GET INVOLVED !

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“ROAD TO RICHMOND 07” **VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED** **ASSOCIATION**

33rd ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE

27-29 APRIL 2007 – SHERATON WEST HOTEL RICHMOND, VA

For Information contact:

T.D. WHITE

Home: 804-265-0621

E-Mail: vangcon07@yahoo.com

Friday, 27 April 2007 - Events:

- ☞ Golf**
- ☞ 5K Race**
- ☞ Professional Youth Activities**
- ☞ BBQ**
- ☞ CASINO Night**
- ☞ Blue and Green Hospitality Rooms**

Saturday, 28 April 2007 - Events:

- ☞ Association Meetings**
- ☞ Auxiliary Meetings**
- ☞ Monticello Color Guard**
- ☞ 29th Band**
- ☞ Great Guest Speakers**
- ☞ Professional Youth Activities**
- ☞ Ladies Silent Auction**
- ☞ Blue and Green Hospitality Rooms**
- ☞ Banquet**
- ☞ Military Ball**

Sunday, 29 April 2007 - Events:

- ☞ Memorial Service**
- ☞ Farewell Hospitality Room**

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**VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION AND
AUXILIARY**

33RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 27-29 APRIL 2007

SHERATON WEST HOTEL - RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Conference Registration: T.D. WHITE

Phone: 804-265-0621 - E-Mail: vangcon07@yahoo.com

**REGISTRATION: \$35.00 PER PERSON (NO REFUNDS AFTER 01 APRIL
2007)**

Registration Includes:

BLUE and GREEN Hospitality Rooms: Friday and Saturday

Professional Youth Activities: Friday and Saturday (Bring Your Kids)

Friday Night BBQ - "CASINO Night" - Offsite Location

Saturday Night - Virginia National Guard Enlisted Association "MILITARY
BALL" and Banquet Dinner

Great Guest Speakers

Golf and 5k Race for Friday, 27 April 2007 (Separate payment)

**Registration for all E1's through E4's is free! (MUST BE AN ACTIVE
MEMBER OF VaA/ANGEA)**

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME/RANK _____ SPOUSE/GUEST _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE () _____ WORK PHONE () _____

E-Mail _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ ARRIVAL TIME _____

DEPARTURE DATE _____

NUMBER ATTENDING CONFERENCE _____

___ x \$35.00 = _____

\$5.00 off per person if your registration form is received prior to 31 DEC 06

Number Attending Friday Night BBQ and CASINO _____

Number Attending Saturday Night MILITARY BALL _____

Saturday Dinner: select one for each person:

___ Chicken ___ Beef ___ Vegetarian

NUMBER ATTENDING AUXILIARY LUNCHEON _____ x

\$15.00 = _____

TOTAL AMOUNT

\$ _____

GOLFING **Number Golfing:** _____

5k RACE **Number Running:** _____

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Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association

P. O. Box 5175 - Roanoke, Virginia 24012
540-366-5133 Fax: 540-362-4417

Web Site: www.vaaangea.org

LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Please print or type)

NAME: _____ H/PHONE: _____
(Last) (First) (MI)

SSN: _____ DOB: _____ RANK: _____ GRADE: _____
(mm/dd/yyyy)

H/ADDRESS: _____
(Street)

(City) (State) Zip: _____

AREA _____ UNIT _____ UNIT PRN _____

ARMY GUARD _____ AIR GUARD _____ ASSOCIATE _____ RETIRED _____

NAME OF SPOUSE: _____ TODAY'S DATE: _____

Would your spouse be interested in VaA/ANGEA Auxiliary membership? Yes ___ No ___

AMOUNT DUE BY AGE (EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2001)

AGE	AMOUNT	AGE	AMOUNT	AGE	AMOUNT	AGE	AMOUNT
18	\$413.00	26	\$341.00	34	\$269.00	42	\$197.00
19	404.00	27	332.00	35	260.00	43	188.00
20	395.00	28	323.00	36	251.00	44	179.00
21	386.00	29	314.00	37	242.00	45	170.00
22	377.00	30	305.00	38	233.00	46	161.00
23	368.00	31	296.00	39	224.00	47	152.00
24	359.00	32	287.00	40	215.00	48	143.00
25	350.00	33	278.00	41	206.00	49	134.00
						50	125.00

MINIMUM FEE: \$125.00

VIRGINIA ARMY/AIR NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION

The Cardinal

Remember this is your publication and your association

News is always welcomed for publication

Our goal is to serve you the membership, let us know your wishes

Attend the meetings; be active in your membership

We are always striving to serve you, the member, better

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