WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION, INC.

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2020 Year In Review, WINGA, Inc.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on Association business and activities in 2020. Fortunately, the Association and Insurance Offices are setup to work remotely from home to enable us to continue a high level of service to our members and families.

Sponsored Events and Activities

1. The 70th Annual Conference with the Enlisted Association was cancelled due to the virus. It was planned for April at the Sheraton Hotel in Brookfield, to be hosted by the 128th Air Refueling Wing. The 128th ARW will host the 2021 State Conference at the same location on 23-25 April.

2. The NGAUS Conference in Boston, MA was not conducted in-person. A virtual conference was implemented and attended by 46 WINGA members. Wisconsin had 11 individuals who participated in the NGAUS Virtual 5K. COL (Ret) David Gapinski was the recipient of the WINGA Badger raffle drawing as a NGAUS Conference registrant.

3. The NGAUS Capital Summit was changed to a virtual event due to the virus outbreak. Three officers attended the virtual summit including Capt Katherine Divyak (115th Fighter Wing), CPT Craig Destree (32nd IBCT) and CW2 William Ryan (147th Aviation).

4. WINGA submitted a bid to host the 2024 NGAUS Conference in Milwaukee. Unfortunately, the bid was awarded to Detroit, MI. The Planning Committee intends to bid on the 2025 NGAUS Conference. Mark Michie and Mike Hinman will serve as Conference Co-Chairs.

5. The WINGA President and Executive Director attended the National Guard Executive Directors Association (NGEDA) Annual Conference in Boston in January.

6. The WINGA sponsored Shooting Challenge and Golf Outing were cancelled due to COVID-19.

Funding Support

1. Awarded $500 in MSC/Wing Grants to the 115th FW.

2. WINGA contributed $113.75 to support the WING Warrant Officer Summit.

Awards and Recognition

1. Presented Outstanding Company Grade Officer Awards to Capt Thomas Fry (Air), CPT Craig Destree (Army) and CW2 William Ryan (WO).

2. Presented the WINGA Distinguished Service Award to Brig Gen (Ret) Gary Ebben, past Air Guard Deputy Adjutant General.

3. The WINGA Awards, Gifts and Grants Committee awarded 11 Baccalaureate Educational Grants of $1,000 each or $11,000 total.

4. WINGA sponsored awardee plaques for the Army Hall of Fame in the amount of $1,554.

5. NGAUS individual award presentations: Brig Gen (Ret) Gary Ebben received the Distinguished Service Medal, 2 Lt Shannon Breske (115th FW) received the Valley Forge Cross for Heroism and CPT David Cefalu (CRTC) was the recipient of the NGAUS Theodore Roosevelt Leadership Award for Company Grade Officers.

6. NGAUS unit award presentations: The 128th Air Control Squadron received the Mission Support Trophy. The 115th Fighter Wing received the Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque.

7. The Public Affairs Office (PAO) Section is the recipient of the 2020 WINGA Presidents Award for producing the "Dawn of the Red Arrow" program. MAJ Brian Faltinson (PAO) is the recipient of the 2020 WINGA Distinguished Service Award for his work developing the "Dawn of the Red Arrow" program.

Membership/Program Initiatives

1. New Directors appointed to the WINGA Board of Directors include: LTC Doug Kolb (JFHQ), CPT Justin Hofmann (64th Troop Command), Capt Natalie Huschka (115th Fighter Wing), 2Lt Adam Lichtenberg (CRTC), and Capt Cedar Hamilton (Air CGO). Directors re-appointed to the WINGA Board of Directors include: CPT Emily Yttri (Army CGO) and CW4 (Ret) Tricia Gundlach.

2. WINGA Officers were elected for a two-year term (2020-2022) including: COL Eric Leckel, President; Lt Col Dan Statz, VP Air; CPT Alicia Dorsett, VP Army; LTC David Klauser, Treasurer and LTC Myron Davis, Secretary.

3. WINGA achieved 101% membership in NGAUS. This accomplishment represents 40 consecutive years of +100% membership in NGAUS, which is more consecutive years than any other state.

4. WINGA offered a NGAUS Life Membership Incentive Program providing 50% or $500 grant to Company Grade Officers and a 25% or $250 grant to Field Grade Officers. 24 officers took advantage of this program in 2020; 20 of them were CGOs and 4 were FGOs. The breakdown of those 24 officers was 17 ARNG and 7 ANG.

5. Our WINGA Resolution Chairs, LtCol Dan Statz (Air), LTC Myron Davis (Army) and Lt Col Jeanie Jeanette (Joint) endorsed 5 Air Resolutions, 3 Joint Resolutions and 1 Army Resolutions at the NGAUS Conference.

6. WINGA received $379 from NGAUS for the 5% "Early Bird Rebate" which was redistributed to the following Commands with +100% membership: 173d BSB, 732 CSS Bn, and WI Med Det.

7. WINGA received a 25% rebate from NGAUS of $10,001 which will be used to fund the 2020 NGAUS Life Membership Incentive Program.

8. WINGA sponsored it first "40 or Bust" program whereby five WINGA members would receive a complimentary NGAUS/WINGA Life Membership by random drawing. The life membership recipients are: 1LT Katlyn Steinbrecher (147th Aviation), 1LT Obowu Chukwuemeka (157th MEB), CW3 Matthew Salm (132nd BSB), MAJ Aaron Ammerman (Army JFHQ) and Lt Col Todd Walton (128th ARW).

9. CPT Alicia Dorsett (WINGA Army VP) updated the Association Strategic Plan.

10. The WINGA Board of Directors approved funding to continue the NGAUS Life Membership Incentive Program in 2021.

11. WINGA established a new Venmo Account to simplify annual dues payment and conference registration.

12. WINGA staff participated in all of the Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) event at Camp Williams resulting in 740 actions for the State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) program.

13. The WINGA sponsored Golf Outing and Shooting Challenge were cancelled due to the COVID pandemic.

5 January 2021