YOUR COMMUNICATOR

Wisconsin National Guard Association, Inc.

The Wisconsin National Guard Association exists to promote the readiness, modernization, and relevance of the Wisconsin National Guard family and its members.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

January 2023

Welcome to the January issue of **Your Communicator!** I just returned from the National Guard Executive Directors Association (NGEDA) Conference in Reno, Nevada; the location of this year's NGAUS convention. Mike Williams and I were able to see some of the exciting venues planned for the 145th Annual Conference and secured space/room for the Wisconsin delegation attending. Mike Williams was also awarded a NGEDA Honorary Life Membership for his dedication and service to the organization. It was great to see Mike get recognized for his exceptional work and continued service to his fellow comrades; we are lucky to have him on our WINGA team.

Caption: Mike Williams, right, receives his

NGEDA Honorary Life Membership Award in Reno in January.

I would love to see you in Reno this year but closer on the calendar is our State Conference in Wisconsin Dells. The host unit, Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) and the WINGA/WNGEA Joint Conference Committee have planned an exciting weekend of collaboration, professional development, camaraderie, and fun at a family friendly location. You will also see more "white space" during the weekend to relax as well. As always, this conference provides an opportunity to engage with your fellow Guardsmen and senior leaders while catching up with old friends and forging new relationships. Networking at this annual event has benefited my service/career and I'm sure it will benefit yours as well.

In November's newsletter, I asked for your input to WINGA's state legislative priorities and many of you stepped up to this challenge. Aligning the State of Wisconsin's "Veteran" designation with the Federal definition was a common theme. The WINGA Executive Committee and the Legislative Committee will review all inputs and coordinate with WING leadership on this year's State Legislative priorities. We should have a solid list to brief at April's State conference. Additionally, federal legislative issues will be discussed for NGAUS resolution input. Please visit this link for more information on current NGAUS priorities: https://www.ngaus.org/legislation

While we're moving forward this does not prevent you from continuing to send your ideas. We will consider your recommendations year-round and if they aren't selected as a priority this year maybe they will be chosen in the near future.

Lastly, our membership drive is underway. The Digital Active-Life Membership (DALM) is a great value to you, WINGA and NGAUS. With WINGA subsidizing a portion of this membership option, the financial analysis makes sense to jump on this limited opportunity. Please consider investing in yourself and YOUR organization through this option.

President Dan Statz

Zero-Cost Tricare Call to Action

THE ISSUE: S. 5142/H.R. 3512, the Healthcare for Our Troops Act

ACTION: Immediately contact your Senators and Representatives and ask them to support S. 5142.

DESIRED OUTCOME: Provide National Guard and Reserve Component servicemembers with zero-cost TRICARE Reserve Select. This legislation would also authorize TRICARE Reserve Select eligibility for National Guard and Reserve servicemembers who are federal employees in their civilian capacity.

DETAILS: Ensures servicemembers meet the medical standards required of a deployable force at no cost to them and their families. This change provides the Department of Defense (DoD) with a powerful recruiting and retention tool, as well as a significant employer incentive to retain talented individuals in gainful civilian employment.

Please contact your Member of Congress by filling out the form at the link below and urge them to support S.5142/H.R.3512.

Zero-cost TRICARE | National Guard Association of the United States (ngaus.org)

https://www.ngaus.org/legislation/write-congress/zero-cost-tricare

TAPS

MAJ (Ret) Charles J. Brown
Col (Ret) James C. Bryan
COL (Ret) Louis W Chosy
CW4 (Ret) Nello B. Felton
CW3 (Ret) George D. Forrester
MAJ (Ret) Glenn L. Hickson
COL (Ret) Ronald Lawrence
Col (Ret) Carolyn Newton

Please notify us if you are aware of a member's death. We publish the names of those who pass away as we are notified, which may result in a delay of notifying you, our members.

RETIREMENT SERVICES OFFICER GOALS & MISSION STATEMENT

Per AR 600-8-7, Retirement Services Program, para 1-5, an effective Retirement Services Program ensures retiring and Retired Soldiers remain Soldiers for Life and support the Army wherever they live.

Each proponent must have a designated Retirement Services Office/Officer to provide assistance to Gray Area Retirees upon applying for non-regular retirement pay and benefits upon reaching age 60.

You can also contact the RSO for questions in regards to Survivor Benefit Plan, (SBP), premiums, elections, and annuities for Soldiers and their families.

Eligible members may request assistance from State RPAM administrator or RSO to complete their application. Applications should be received by HRC no less than 9 months before the expected non-regular retirement date.

Utilize the Soldier for Life website for additional guidance and resources regarding military retirements/benefits: https://soldierforlife.army.mil/

National Capitol Summit

July 2023, exact dates TBA

Applications for Company Grade Officers and Warrant Officers are on the **WINGA website**. Send completed forms NLT 26 May 2023 to Michael.j.williams@winga.org .

The National Capitol Summits bring Army and Air National Guard company grade officers to the nation's capital for a close look at how our government works and the role NGAUS plays in the legislative process.

Retiree Info

WI Retiree website: http://dma.wi.gov/retirees

To sign up for email notifications: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDMA/subscriber/new?category_id=WIDMA_C1

Army Echoes website: https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/army-echoes

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

G1 Retirement Services Office
Hours M-F (0900-1200/1300-1600)
Appointments Required

ADDRESS
Attn: WIAR-G1-SR
TAG, DMA Wisconsin
2400 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704-2572

RSO Contact Phone: (608) 242-3454
DSN 724-3454
ng.wi.wiarng.mbx.rso@army.mil

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE

The Adjutant General's Office
2400 Wright Street, Room 160
Madison WI 53704-2572
Tues, Thurs 0730-1130 hrs

(608) 242-3115
(800) 335-5147 ext3115
e-mail: widma.retiree@wisconsin.gov
web site: http://dma.wi.gov/retirees

Nominations and Elections

Board of Directors positions up for election:

- **Army CGO Representative** (on-cycle), 2023-2026
- **Air CGO Representative** (off-cycle), 2023-2024

Details:

- According to our by-laws, both positions hold seats on the WINGA Inc., Board of Directors
- Terms are three-years which typically offset each other.
- Positions must be vacated when promoted to field grade officer.

Both nominations and elections will be held Fri. afternoon 28 April at the WINGA Conference. Both positions co-chair the CGO Advisory Committee, which gives advice and recommendations to the WINGA Board on matters of special interest to CGO's.

The PACT Act and your VA benefits: The Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics) PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. The PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions that we assume (or "presume") are caused by exposure to these substances.

Go to: https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/ for more details, to file a disability claim online, and apply for VA health care.

Additional info at: https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/benefits/PACT_Act.asp

Wisconsin Army National Guard All Saint's Celebration

The 426th RTI command team invites you to the WIARNG All Saint's Celebration.

When: Sat., 18 Feb 2023 at 1700

Where: Three Bears Resort, Warrens, WI

Cost: Tickets for meal and program $32-$58. Lodging at Three Bears Resort: $96.00 or $180 for a Villa (4-8 people).

Why: To promote camaraderie and esprit de corps across the entire WIARNG and honor those who have demonstrated the highest standards of integrity, moral character, and displayed an outstanding degree of professional competence in their career field.

Register at: https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=714770&k=0560460E7C57

Call for Vol for 2025 NGAUS Committee Chairs

Milwaukee, WI is hosting the 2025 NGAUS Conference & Exhibition. Members interested in serving on a committee contact Mike Hinman at michael.hinman.4@us.af.mil

DIGITAL ACTIVE LIFE MEMBERSHIP (DALM) - GIFTED

DONOR	RECIPIEINT
CPT Mitchell Hoh	CW3 Cassidy Hickman
BG (Ret) Robyn Blader	1LT Alicia Ratajcz

146th Annual NGAUS Conference
Detroit, Michigan
23-26 August 2024

WINGA/WNGEA Annual State Conference
Location: Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake
Host Unit: 426th Regt & RRB
26-28 April 2024

Save these 2024 Dates

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION DUES FOR MEMBERSHIP YEAR 2023

Life Membership Dues: In 2023, NGAUS is again offering a Digital Active Life Membership (DALM) for only $500. Officers must also become WINGA life members for $80. WINGA is again offering a $250 incentive for company grade officers and a $125 incentive for field grade officers. **This option means company grade officers can become active life members of NGAUS & WINGA for only $330 while field grade officers is $455.** The only difference in the DALM vs. the traditional life membership is members receive a digital copy of the National Guard Magazine and WINGA newsletter rather than a printed copy. Traditional NGAUS life membership dues are $1,000 making this is a ***50% savings.*** Active life members are members forever—even after they retire—so there is no need to become a retired life member.

Pay Grade	NGAUS DALM	WINGA In-centive	WINGA	Total
O-1 thru O-3 WO1 thru CW3	$500	-$250	$80	**$330**
O-4 thru O-8 CW4 & CW5	$500	-$125	$80	**$455**

Pay Grade	NGAUS Dues	WINGA Dues	Total
O-1 thru O-3 WO1 thru CW3	$40	$5	**$45**
O-4 thru O-6 CW4 & CW5	$80	$10	**$90**
O-7 & O-8	$130	$20	**$150**

Annual Membership Dues: Annual membership dues remain unchanged from previous years.

Scan this QR Code to take you to the WINGA Website **www.winga.org**

Dues Payment Options on the WINGA Website (Go to our page by scanning the above QR Code.). You can pay your membership dues (annual, DALM, and retired life) directly on the WINGA website using:

WINGA WINGA Assn
@WINGA-WINGAAssn

- Credit or debit
- PayPal (It is WINGA's PayPal account; no requirement for payee to have a PayPal account.)

Drop down menus will display the correct dollar amount for each rank within each membership type.

In addition to our Website you can pay dues using the following:

- Credit or debit by calling Lynn Rasmussen 608-206-7006
- Venmo—QR Code (on the right of this page) or search for WINGA or WINGAAssn (if asked, last 4 digits of phone number are 6274)

venmo

With this new lower life membership rate, senior officers could consider sponsoring a life membership for a junior officer. Being a mentor and sponsor for a young officer will bring many personal and professional rewards. This is an excellent way to "pay it forward" and start a junior officer's military career with a "gifted" life membership in WINGA and NGAUS.

If you are interested in gifting an annual or life membership, please contact WINGA at: michael.j.williams@winga.org

Timelines. The NGAUS & WINGA membership year is a calendar year from 1 January-31 December; Wisconsin's membership campaign runs from 1 November 2022 to 27 September 2023. Again for 2023, our goal is for Wisconsin to meet its 100% membership goal no later than 28 June 2023.

Early Bird Rebates. Commands achieving 100% membership by the 28 March 2023 deadline will be eligible for the 5% Early Bird rebate. In doing so they will receive a check which represents 5% of all annual dues paid by Wisconsin for achieving Early Bird status.

Membership. Membership is voluntary. Additional membership documents are available on our WINGA website www.winga.org: WINGA Membership Flyer, NGAUS Membership Flyers, NGAUS Accomplishments and Priorities, and Why Should I Join WINGA/NGAUS.

Save these 2023 Dates

WINGA/WNGEA Annual State Conference
Chula Vista Resort, Wisc. Dells
Host Unit: JFHQ
28-30 April 2023

145th Annual NGAUS Conference
Reno, Nevada
18-22 August 2023

All Saint's Banquet & Recognition
Three Bears Resort,
Warrens, WI
18 February 2023

National Capitol Summits
19-21 March & July 2023
(exact dates TBA)

Sporting Challenge
Bristol Range, Sun Prairie
22 September 2023

WINGA/WNGEA Annual State Conference
Chula Vista Resort & Waterpark, 2501 River Road, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965
28-30 April 2023

NGB approved a limited number of company grade officers/enlisted to attend professional development (PD) in a paid status. Selection of personnel will be determined by the chain of command. Individuals in a paid status **must** attend **all** PD sessions and official functions.

Registration: Register online at: **https://wngea.org/wngea-conf-reg/** There is also a link on the **WINGA website** to the conference registration site. If you prefer to mail in your registration and payment, send the registration form (see page 5) and your check, payable to "2023 Joint WING Conference" to: WNGEA, ATTN: SGM (Ret) Gary R. Hans, 2400 Wright Street, Room #158, Madison, WI 53704.

Through **15 April, the Early Bird** Registration fee is $10 per person. Effective 16 April, the registration fee increases to $20 per person. The only meal you pay for is the banquet Saturday evening at $30 per person, all other meals are complimentary. Also, there is no charge for any professional development, business meetings, training, etc.

Conference App: There is a conference app (search "WNGEA" in the App Store) to register for the conference and obtain the latest info.

Hotel Rooms: Chula Vista Resort & Waterpark, 2501 River Road, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965, (844) 974-0678. You must call the hotel directly to make room reservations if you plan to take advantage of the room block. Ask for a room in the "Wisconsin National Guard Conference" room block to receive the reduced rate on a Traditional Double or King of $104/night plus tax. The room block deadline is **21 April**. Each room includes waterpark passes for each adult and child.

Special Note: Event rooms & times may change from what's depicted on the registration form. An updated schedule of events will be provided in your registration packet at check-in and will be maintained on the WNGEA app. You can anticipate a firmer schedule and speaker's list in the March newsletter. The information will also be distributed on the **WINGA website** and on our Facebook page (search "Wisconsin National Guard Association - WINGA" or @WisconsinNationalGuardAssociation).

Conference Registration Check-in: Friday from 1200-1930 and Saturday morning (exact time TBA).

Icebreaker/Reception/Trade Show/Alumni Reunion: Come experience a tailgate-like atmosphere with a Tailgate Buffet of burgers, hot dogs, brats, baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad, veggies, watermelon, & brownies, plus complimentary beer & wine taste-testing tables. A cash bar will be available. Wear a jersey or other attire to show us who you root for. Our **Trade Show corporate partners & their exhibits** will be co-located with the icebreaker. Enjoy a game of BINGO for a chance to win prizes by engaging with them; they attend to meet you, their attendance helps reduce conference costs. New in 2023, a **Wisconsin National Guard Alumni Reunion**. Mingle with the past, present, and future of the Wisconsin National Guard at this inaugural event.

Dress Code: Business Casual attire is authorized for all attendees *including* those in a military duty status, anyone in a paid duty status for PD, and the Banquet. A slide deck is forthcoming with examples e.g. [collared shirt (incl. polo), blouse, sweater (incl. half-zip sweater), vest, dress slacks, pants, & skirts. Ties and jackets (optional). Military speakers will be in a military uniform. Those wishing to wear military uniform (ASU/Class A/Mess Dress) are authorized to do so.

Joint WINGA/WNGEA Hospitality Room: The Hospitality Room will be available Friday after the Ice Breaker ends and Saturday after the Banquet Dinner ends. (Civilian attire)

Professional Development (PD): Sessions may be attended by any conference attendee and are REQUIRED for those in a paid status. PD comes in many forms e.g. service and organization breakouts and panels, and the speakers come from both the military and civilian sector.

- Friday Leader Sessions (1300-1600) There will be multiple events during this period and includes the Company Grade Officer (CGO) Caucus where the Army & Air CGO elections will be held along with other PD information.
- Saturday Joint WINGA/WNGEA Associations Opening Ceremony and Awards Program
- Saturday WINGA Business Meeting (AM)
- Saturday Military Speaker
- Saturday Luncheon
- Saturday multiple PD sessions (PM)
- Saturday Social, Banquet, and **Grog Ceremony** (Business Casual, military uniform optional) A brief social precedes the banquet. A cash bar will be available.

Retiree Caucus: Saturday morning

Golf: On Sunday enjoy 9-holes of golf at the Cold Water Canyon Golf Course. You register with us but your payment will be separate and not until the day of at the Club House.

Resolutions Legislative

Our new Resolution Committee Co-Chair for the Air Guard is Lt Col Benjamin Gerds, vice Col Dan Statz.

Our newly appointed Legislative Committee Co-Chair for the Army Guard is CPT Darryl Carlson, vice LTC Doug Kolb.

WINGA Scholarship Recipient Seeks Survey Respondents

WIANG Maj David Cefalu seeks your assistance with his masters thesis by completing the Health and Wellness, Retention, and Ethics Survey at: **https://uwwhitewater.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3KMYltYeUIepNsi**

Survey responses will be compiled and assessed in February 2023.

WINGA/WNGEA/RAVA State Conference Registration Form
(Hosted by the Joint Force Headquarters)
Chula Vista Resort and Waterpark
2501 River Road, Wisconsin Dells, WI (28-30 April 2023)

Block of rooms under *Wisconsin National Guard Conference (No Online Hotel Registration Available)*
Call to Book Rooms:(844) 974-0678, each room includes water park passes for each adult and child
Hotel Deadline: 21 April 2023 for Group Rate - Traditional Double or King $104.00/night plus tax.

Conf. Registration Deadline: April 15, 2023

-Register online at https://wngea.org/wngea-conf-reg/

*New APP option: download from App Store, search (WNGEA) OR
-Submit this form and enclose a check payable to 2023 Joint WING Conference:
WNGEA, ATTN: SGM (Ret) Gary R. Hans
2400 Wright Street, Madison, WI 53704

Name (Last, First) Rank:	WINGA WNGEA RAVA PD Status (Circle One)	Active/Retired (Circle One)	Army/Air (Circle One)

Home Address: Street City, State Zip Code

Organization/Unit:

Civilian Email: **Preferred Phone:**

Event	#	Price	Total
Conference Registration Fee Per Person: **Conference Registration Fee After 15 April 2023**		$10.00/person $20.00/person	
Friday, April 28, 2023			
Registration (Grand Ballroom Lobby)			
Leader Sessions [Professional Development] (Grand Ballroom)		FREE	
Ice Breaker/Trade Show/Alumni Reunion (Tailgate: Casual/Sports Team Attire) (Lower Atrium- Wine/Beer Tasting/Heavy hors d'oeuvres **WINGA/WNGEA Hospitality Room – Sierra Vista**		FREE	
Saturday, April 29, 2023			
Continental Breakfast & Registration (Ballroom)		FREE	
Opening Ceremony/Awards Program [Professional Development] (Lower Atrium)		FREE	
Military Speaker [Professional Development]		FREE	
WINGA/WNGEA Association Business Meetings [Professional Development]		FREE	
Luncheon [Professional Development] **Corporate Partner Luncheon (Invitation Only)**		FREE	
Afternoon Sessions [Professional Development]		FREE	
Banquet Social/Registration (Business Casual/Military Uniform optional) **Social Hour** **Banquet Dinner/PD Speaker** **Hospitality Room – Sierra Vista (Civilian Attire)**	$30.00/person x # Roast Sliced Turkey _____ Beef Medallions _____ Cheesey Broccoli Cavatappi ___		
Sunday, April 30, 2023			
Religious Service (Laguna Vista) **Grab and Go Breakfast (Grand Ballroom)** **Optional 9-hole Golf Outing (Cold Water Canyon Golf Course) (Pay at Club House – Golf Rate/Circle one)**	YES / NO # Golfing _____	FREE Pay at Club House	
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION (To cover Expenses)			
		TOTAL:	

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Madison, WI

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E-mail: michael.j.williams@winga.org or lrasmussen@winga.org
PHONE (608) 242-3114

Address Service Requested

Please inform us of your rank and e-mail and mailing address changes via phone or e-mail at:
608-242-3114
lrasmussen@winga.org
or
michael.j.williams@winga.org

DIRECT BENEFITS OF YOUR WINGA AND/OR NGAUS MEMBERSHIP

- Tax-free retired military pay in Wisconsin
- VA Home Loans available for Title 32 service
- Post-deployment mental health care & TRICARE Coverage
- Annual funding for Hall of Honor & Hall of Fame Programs
- Annual grants of $500 to each MSC and Wing Command
- Funded Officer and Warrant Officer Summits
- Definition of "veteran" now includes NG and Reservists with 20 years of service
- Reemployment rights for State Active Duty or responding to a national emergency or natural disaster
- WI State Tuition Assistance (Remission) Program & Federal (Post-9/11) GI Bill Benefits
- No-cost $10,000 life insurance policy to new members of the WI National Guard for 1 year
- No-cost $1,000 life insurance coverage for all actively serving WI National Guard members
- No-cost $2,500 Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) Benefit for NGAUS Members
- Since 2016, funded over $107,000 for NGAUS Life Membership Incentive for 306 officers
- Since 2012, funded over $75,000 in Educational Scholarships for 106 members and dependents
- Three month maternity leave from unit training assemblies with pay & retirement credit for drill-status members
- Annual WINGA Conference, including sponsoring of no-cost Professional Development
- WINGA newsletter (published 6 times per year) & monthly NGAUS magazine
- Benefit parity for the National Guard

NGAUS
The National Guard Association of the United States