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

March 2023

Welcome to the March issue of **Your Communicator**! In this article, I will highlight all the opportunities available to our WINGA/NGAUS members. This list isn't all inclusive, but it highlights the value of being a professional organization member.

State/National Conference: Great places for professional development, industry interaction, and inter-service/cross-service networking. There are also opportunities to attend on orders or be sponsored by WINGA. Discuss with your Chain of Command and look for WINGA application requests.

Board Positions: Opening positions exist at both the state and national level (WINGA CGO Air/Army, NGAUS Area V Director – Air, and NGAUS CGO Director – Air). These positions provide the opportunity to make greater impacts and provide direct input into YOUR organizations.

Scholarships: WINGA and NGAUS both provide scholarship opportunities to members and their families; earning one scholarship pays for your lifetime membership!

NGAUS National Capital Summit: An awesome indoctrination into how NGAUS advocates for YOUR priorities within the federal government process.

NGAUS Legislative Workshop: I attended this workshop in February. We reviewed the NGAUS legislative process and accomplished congressional visits. I visited with both of our senator's and all eight representative's staffs to discuss WINGA issues.

(Congresswoman Gwen Moore, U.S. Representative for Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District since 2005.)

Legislative Issues: We will be reviewing these at WINGA's Conference; come and get involved!

Earned Benefits: There are a long list of earned benefits on the last page of the newsletter. These are the results of WINGA's/NGAUS's efforts and members like you seizing opportunities.

Please reach out to me or the WINGA staff regarding any/all of these opportunities. I look forward to seeing you all at Chula Vista in April!

President Dan Statz

Nominations and Elections

Board of Directors positions up for election:

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

Details:

- Full terms are three-years
- Positions must be vacated when promoted to major

CGO elections will be held Fri. 28 Apr. at the WINGA Conference during the CGO Caucus Leader Session.

National Capitol Summit—UPDATE

July 2023, exact dates TBA

Applications for Army 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.

Call for Volunteers for 2025 NGAUS Committee Chairs

Milwaukee, WI is hosting the 2025 NGAUS Conference & Exhibition. Wisconsin members interested in serving on a committee contact Mike Hinman at mthomas.hinman@gmail.com .

TAPS

COL (Ret) David Easton
Maj (Ret) Alfred E. Obst
MAJ (Ret) Harold E Weiss
CPT (Ret) Willard J. Weiss

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.

2022 Year in Review

- WINGA achieved +102% membership in NGAUS for the 42nd consecutive year, which is more consecutive years than any other state.
- The 71st Annual Conference with the Enlisted Association was conducted at the Radisson Hotel & Convention Center in Green Bay. 64th Troop Command hosted the conference 22-24 April and was attended by 265 guard members, veterans, retirees, spouses, and corporate partners. They participated in business meetings, caucuses, professional development sessions, and social events
- The 144th Annual NGAUS Conference was hosted by the Ohio National Guard in Columbus. The WI delegation of 54 guard members, retirees and spouses.

⇒ 11 officers (6 Army, 5 Air) attended on orders or on a WINGA scholarship, plus two corporate sponsorships thanks to Patriot Taxiway and AMI Health.

⇒ CW5 (Ret) Bill Krueck was elected to the NGAUS Warrant Officer Advisory Committee & 2LT Chad Rihn was elected to the NGAUS Company Grade Officer Advisory Committee for Region V.

- NGAUS hosted two Capital Summits which were attended by Capt. William Reece, 115th FW; CPT Alicia Dorsett, 157th MEB & CPT Michelle Geldernick, 32nd IBCT.
- Representatives from NGAUS and NGEDA visited Milwaukee on several occasions to tour facilities and begin initial planning for their respective conferences in 2025.
- WINGA sponsored a Shooting Challenge at North Bristol Sportsman's Club on 23 Sept. 39 officers, enlisted and their guests participated. $1,030 was raised for Wisconsin National Guard Scholarship funds.
- WINGA sponsored two golf outings. The first was 16 May at Old Hickory Golf Club in Beaver Dam. The second was 19 Sep at Wild Rock Golf Course in WI Dells. Both events netted $980.
- WINGA received 15 scholarship applications and the Awards Committee recommended 10, $1,000 scholarships.
- WINGA received $254.50 from NGAUS for the 5% "Early Bird Rebate" which was redistributed to the WI Med Det. for meeting the following Commands with +100% membership target date.

NGEF SCHOLARSHIPS

Leonardo DRS Guardian Scholarship Fund. College scholarships are provided to the dependent children of a National Guard member who died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation New Dawn. This grant provides up to $25,000 per student over a four-year college education to help cover the cost of tuition, application, room and board, fees, and books. The National Guard Educational Foundation (NGEF) administers the application and selection process. The application period closes **30 June 2023**. Go to the NGEF website https://www.ngef.org/get-involved/apply-for-the-leonardo-drs-guardian-scholarship/ to apply.

Van Hipp Heroes Scholarship Fund. Established in 2015, Van Hipp donates 100% of the proceeds from his book "*The New Terrorism: How to Fight it and Defeat It*" to the Van Hipp Fallen Heroes Scholarship Fund, which awards scholarships to Guardsmen wounded in action in the War on Terror. This initiative is administered by the National Guard Educational Foundation. The application period closes **1 July 2023**. Go to the NGEF website https://www.ngef.org/the-van-hipp-heroes-scholarship-fund/ to apply.

WINGA & NGAUS SCHOLARSHIPS

WINGA Education Grant & President's Scholarship. WINGA will award up to ten $1,000 undergraduate grants and two $1,000 graduate scholarships. One application form works for both the Educational Grant and the President's Scholarship. Applications are due **1 July 2023**. Go to the WINGA website: www.winga.org/html/members/scholarships.html for more information and applications. Send applications to the WINGA Office, 2400 Wright St, Room 151, Madison, WI 53704-2572.

NGAUS AFBA Active Life Member Scholarship. The NGAUS AFBA Active Life Member Scholarship awards two $5,000 scholarships to Active Life/Digital Active Life members of NGAUS or their dependents seeking undergraduate, graduate or post-graduate degrees. Applicants must be a full-time student. The application period is 1 March-**1 June 2023.** Go to the NGAUS website https://www.ngaus.org/membership/member-benefits/scholarships/ to apply.

AUSA SCHOLARSHIPS

Did you know NGAUS and AUSA signed a partnership in 2022? Your active membership in either organization gives you access to membership & scholarships to BOTH associations. For many of the 12+ AUSA scholarships military experience is not a requirement. Go to the AUSA website to research and apply. https://www.ausa.org/scholarships/ Applicants may apply to all programs for which they qualify with a single application. Read the story at: https://www.ngaus.org/newsroom/ngaus-partners-ausa-new-member-benefits

OTHER MILITARY FRIENDLY GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Guarding Our Nation Scholarship. Western Governors University (WGU) recognizes the dedication and sacrifice of our United States Army and Air National Guard members who stand ready to respond in defense of our homeland anytime, anywhere. This scholarship is valued at $4,000 ($1,000 renewable for up to 4 terms) towards a degree with WGU. Before you can apply for this scholarship you must first apply for admission. The scholarship application is due 30 June 2023. https://www.wgu.edu/financial-aid-tuition/scholarships/military-veterans/guarding-nation.html . This is one of six (6) scholarships they have available for service members and/or their dependents on their Military Scholarships page. https://www.wgu.edu/financial-aid-tuition/scholarships.html

Save these WINGA Conference Dates

2023: 28-30 April 2023, Chula Vista Resort, Wisc. Dells, Host Unit: JFHQ

2024: 26-28 April 2024, Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake, Host Unit: 426th Regt & RRB

Save these NGAUS Conference Dates

145th Annual Conf: 18-21 August 2023, Reno, Nevada

146th Annual Conf: 23-26 August 2024, Detroit, Michigan

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 Incentive	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

Did you know you can pay dues on our website?

WINGA WINGA Assn
@WINGA-WINGAAssn

venmo

WINGA Website Dues Payment Options. You can pay your membership dues (annual, DALM, and retired life) directly on the WINGA website using:

- 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 (see above) or search for WINGA or WINGAAssn (if asked, last 4 digits of phone number are 6274)

With the 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: WINGA Membership Flyer, NGAUS Membership Flyers, NGAUS Accomplishments and Priorities, and Why Should I Join WINGA/NGAUS.

DIGITAL ACTIVE LIFE MEMBERSHIP (DALM) - GIFTED

DONOR	RECIPIEINT
CW5 (Ret) Craig Krenz (1/2 membership)	CW3 Joshua Koch
CW5 (Ret) Craig Krenz (1/2 membership)	CW2 Jordan Pitzer
CW5 (Ret) Craig Krenz (1/2 membership)	CW3 Douglas Caldwell
CW5 (Ret) Craig Krenz (1/2 membership)	CW3 Daniel Litscher
CW5 (Ret) Craig Krenz (1/2 membership)	CW3 Jamie Bender
CW5 (Ret) Craig Krenz (1/2 membership)	CW2 Rosemary Leis
CW5 (Ret) Craig Krenz (1/2 membership)	CW3 Gregory Fawver

LIFE MEMBERSHIP DRAWING

Officers who pay their dues by 30 June 2023 will be eligible to receive complimentary WINGA and NGAUS Life Memberships via a random drawing; complimentary memberships will be awarded to two (2) Army, two (2) Air, and one (1) Warrant Officer.

Wisconsin
NATIONAL GUARD
FOUNDATION

The Wisconsin National Guard Foundation, a 501(c)3 charitable foundation, is offering opportunities for soldiers, airmen, and family members to apply for education scholarships and grants for 2023. Eligibility, instructions and application forms are available at www.wi-ngfoundation.org or by scanning the QRC.

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

This information is abbreviated and updated from January's *Your Communicator*. **An * indicates the event rooms and/or time differs from the registration form and/or other content in January's newsletter and are still subject to change.** An updated schedule of events will be provided in your registration packet at check-in, maintained on the WNGEA app, and available on the **WINGA website**.

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.

* The only meal not covered by your conference registration fee is the banquet Saturday evening, all other meals are complimentary: Breakfasts will be available in the Grand Ballroom. **Sat. 7-8 AM** will be hot and **Sun. 8-9 AM** will be a cold grab-n-go, * PD lunch Sat. 12:30-1:45 PM in the Grand Ballroom. There is no charge for professional development, business meetings, etc.

Conference App: On smart phones search "WNGEA" in your app store. Register for the conference & have event rooms & time updates.

* **Hotel Rooms:** Call the Chula Vista Resort & Waterpark, (844) 974-0678, to make room reservations to take advantage of the "**Wisconsin National Guard**" room block, * block code #I243696 (21 April deadline) to receive the reduced rate.

Conference Registration Check-in [Fri. 12:00-7:30 PM & Sat. 7:00-8:45 AM]: Location: Grand Ballroom Lobby.

Icebreaker/Reception/Trade Show/Alumni Reunion [Fri. 6-9 PM]: Location: Lower Atrium. Free food with complimentary beer & wine taste-testing. A cash bar will be available. Theme: tailgate. Wear something 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. New in 2023, also co-located with the icebreaker is the Inaugural **Wisconsin National Guard Alumni Reunion**. Mingle with the past, present, and future of the Wisconsin National Guard.

* **Dress Code:** Business Casual attire is authorized for ***all*** events, for ***all*** attendees *including* those in a military duty status, anyone in a paid duty status for PD, presenters, and the banquet. Those wishing to wear military uniform (ASU/Class A/Mess Dress) are authorized to do so.

Hospitality Room [Fri. & Sat. 9-12 PM, Sat. 4:15-5:30 PM]: Location: Sierra Vista Room. Free snacks and drinks will be available.

PD Speakers List: Biographies of our speakers will be available on the **WINGA website** and our Facebook page. Do you follow and like us? Maj. Gen. Paul Knapp, Wisconsin's Adjutant General; MG John C. Andonie, Deputy Director, Army National Guard; COL (Ret) Scott Halstead, Association of the United States Army (AUSA); and CSM (Ret) Mario Terenas, Association of the United States Army (AUSA). Additional speakers: CPT Justin Hofmann, Sharon Booth, Bridget Esser, Kevin Hollinger, and varying military leadership.

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: ***1:00-4:30 PM,** There will be multiple Leader Sessions. Location: Various rooms. e.g. TAG/DAGs/Chief/CSM Panel Discussion & includes the Company Grade Officer (CGO) Caucus where the Army & Air CGO elections will be held.
- Saturday: 8:00-9:20 AM, Joint WINGA/WNGEA Associations Opening Ceremony and Awards Program. Location: Lower Atrium.
- Saturday: 9:30-10:50 AM, Army/Air Breakouts. Location: Conference Room I / Conference Room ABCD.
- Saturday: 11:00-12:20 PM, WINGA Annual Business Meeting. Location: Conference Room ABCD.
- Saturday: 12:30-1:45 PM, PD Speaker & Lunch Location: Grand Ballroom
- Saturday: 12:30-1:30 PM, Partners in Patriotism Luncheon. (By Invitation Only.) Location: Upper Dells Ballroom.
- Saturday: 2:00-3:00 PM and 3:15-4:15 PM, PD Speakers. Location: Conference Room ABCD
- Saturday: 5:30-9:00 PM. Social, Banquet, and Grog Ceremony. Location: Grand Ballroom

Retiree Caucus: Sat. 7:30-8:00 AM Location: Executive Board Room

* **Golf Outing:** This event is no longer an organized function as part of this year's conference. You are welcome to partake at your leisure.

Resolutions

What is a resolution? A resolution is the first part in suggesting a change or addition to the state or federal law. Each one of you can submit a change to the law through the *resolutions process*. At the federal level, once a suggested change is accepted and approved by WINGA, Inc., then the request will be presented at the NGAUS annual conference. Before you submit a resolution, please check the NGAUS Website at http://www.ngaus.org to see if there is a standing resolution already in place. A tutorial on how to review existing resolutions is posted on our website.

ATTENTION RECENTLY PROMOTED OFFICERS

WINGA recently sent letters to officers who were promoted in 2022 (or late 2021) soliciting donations to support the WINGA/WNGEA State Conference. The letter was sent to O3s & CW3s and above. Suggested donations are listed here. We request that officers who choose to make this donation to please do so by 12 April. Promoted officers can pay via Venmo, check, or can call Lynn's cell at 608-206-7006.

$20 – CPT
$30 – MAJ / CW3
$40 – LTC / CW4
$60 – COL / CW5
$90 – BG
$120 – MG

WINGA WINGA Assn
@WINGA-WINGAAssn

venmo

WINGA/WNGEA 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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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