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.

AIR VICE PRESIDENT'S NOTES

July 2023

Greetings, Big Conference coming up. The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) is the largest and most influential professional association representing all components of the United States National Guard. NGAUS works to promote the highest levels of relevance, readiness, modernization, and quality of life for the National Guard Family. I recommend attending the 145th NGAUS Conference in Reno, Nevada, from August 18-21, 2023. This four-day event will bring together thousands of National Guard members and their families from across the country to network, learn, and celebrate the National Guard. The theme for the conference will be *America's National Guard: A Local Force with Global Reach.* This year marks the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Guard's State Partnership Program. In addition to the educational programming, the conference will also feature a number of social events, including a golf tournament, a motorcycle ride, a hike, a fun run, and a variety of receptions and dinners. This is a great opportunity to network with other National Guard members from across the country. This can help you with your career, learn new skills and make lifelong friends.

The conference will feature a variety of keynote speakers, panel discussions, and workshops on a wide range of topics, including National security, Homeland defense, Counterterrorism, Military readiness, Veterans' affairs, and State-level issues.

This year Country singer Josh Turner

will perform at the Governor's Farewell. He has been nominated for two Grammy Awards, five CMA Awards, one CMT Award, two ACM Awards and seven ACA Awards.

As a reminder look at the NGAUS website under Write to Congress. This is a useful tool to write your congressman. You can "take action" within a couple minutes. Please look at current issues. https://www.ngaus.org/legislation/write-congress

Mark your calendars for the Wisconsin National Guard Association Conference hosted by the 426th Regiment and Recruiting and Retention Battalion (RRB) at The Osthoff Resort from April 26-28, 2024. The Osthoff Resort is a beautiful resort located on the shores of Lake Michigan. The resort has a variety of amenities, including a golf course, spa, and multiple restaurants.

Wisconsin is hosting the NGAUS Conference in 2025 – we need volunteers to do a variety of tasks. Please talk to Col Dan Statz, MAJ Alicia Dorsett or myself to see what positions need to be filled.

Hope to see you at the conference.

Air Vice President,
Col Jeannie Jeanetta

National Capitol Summit **Cancelled**

It is with regret that we announce the 17 -19 Sept. and final 2023 event was cancelled and will not be rescheduled.

Save these Future Conference Dates

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

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

Next WINGA Meetings

September 2023

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

At the 14 June WINGA Board of Director's (BOD) meeting, President Statz pushed back the quarterly Executive Committee and BOD meeting dates from August to September. The new meeting dates are:

Executive Committee (EXCOM), 6 Sep
Board of Directors (BOD), 13 Sep

TAPS

MAJ (Ret) Glen Denk
Dr (COL) (Ret) Helen Gurkow
Maj (Ret) Irwin Nicholas

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.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES: CY 2023

For the **43rd consecutive year**, WINGA achieved 100% membership! If you have not yet paid your 2023 WINGA & NGAUS membership dues–and wish to—you may still pay through 27 Sept. Details are on the sticky note.

WINGA Website Membership Dues Payment Options. Pay using Credit, debit, or PayPal.

Other Dues Payment Methods.

- Credit or debit, call Lynn Rasmussen 608-206-7006.
- venmo, use this QRC, search for WINGA.

Scan this QRC to pay dues on our website.

Membership is voluntary.

DID YOU KNOW?

COMPLIMENTARY WINGA & NGAUS MEMBERSHIP

ATTENTION NEWLY APPOINTED COMMISSIONED AND WARRANT OFFICERS IN THE WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD:

Newly appointed officers in the Wisconsin National Guard with no prior WINGA and NGAUS membership receive one (1) full membership year of complimentary membership in both WINGA and NGAUS.

New Wisconsin National Guard accessions with prior NGAUS membership but no prior WINGA membership receive one (1) full membership year of complimentary membership in WINGA.

Benefits: will receive the National Guard Magazine and the WINGA newsletter ***Your Communicator***. Additional information is available on the WINGA and NGAUS websites.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP DRAWING-WINNERS

Officers who paid their 2023 WINGA & NGAUS membership dues (either annual or life) by 30 June were entered into a drawing for one of five (5) complimentary WINGA & NGAUS Digital Active Life Memberships (DALM); two (2) Army, two (2) Air, and one (1) Warrant Officer.

On 12 July, President Statz drew the five winning officers' names. The $1,080 prize membership value made the $45, CGO, or $90, FGO, annual dues payment a great investment. Congratulations to these lucky winners!

- Brig Gen Erik Peterson, ANG HQ
- Capt Bradley Johnson, 115 FW
- MAJ Joseph Short, 64th TC
- CPT Keith Peter, JFHQ Det.
- CW5 Joseph Zewiske, WI Flight Det.

2023 WINGA Presidential Scholarships & Education Grants

These eight (8) students were each awarded $1,000 education scholarships from the Wisconsin National Guard Association, Inc. (WINGA) for their academic excellence during the 2022-2023 academic year. On behalf of the WINGA Board of Directors and the WINGA Awards, Gifts and Grants Committee, congratulations in your pursuit of a higher education degree.

- Blader-Lucht, Bailey
- Blader-Lucht, Brooke
- Eakins, Mason
- Laube, Brooke
- Leckel, Andrew
- Mikkelson, Eric
- Van Ells, Ryan
- Yencheskey, Gretchen

PATRIOT TAXIWAY INDUSTRIES

A huge thank you to Patriot Taxiway Industries—a Partner in Patriotism (PIP) who generously donated **two (2)** DALMs to CGOs who paid their 2023 dues by 30 June. That random drawing took place on 12 July and the recipients are listed below.

ANNUAL - GIFTED

DONOR	RECIPIEINT
JFHQ Detachment	CPT Anna Kastelic
CPT Blake Wedl	1LT Samuel Reyes

DIGITAL ACTIVE LIFE MEMBERSHIP (DALM) - GIFTED

DONOR	RECIPIEINT
MAJ (Ret) Lynn Rasmussen	1LT Matt Esser
COL (Ret) Leah Moore	CPT Brittany Taff
BG (Ret) Robyn Blader, (1/2 membership)	2LT Mackenzie White
Drink MyHy	1LT Peter Murdock
Patriot Taxiway Industries	Capt Jacob Curtis
Patriot Taxiway Industries	CPT Michael Cuevas

WINGA BOARD MEMBERS

Officers

President – Col Dan Statz (2024)

Army VP – MAJ Alicia Dorsett (2024)

Air VP – Col Jeannie Jeanetta (2024)

Secretary – LTC Myron Davis (2024)

Treasurer – LTC (R) DJ Klauser (2024)

Executive Director –
COL (R) Michael Williams (2024)

Board of Directors

JFHQ & 426 RTI – MAJ Trevor Thomas (2026) & CPT Blake Wedl (2024)

64th TC – MAJ Leah Baldwin (2024) & CPT Mitchell Hoh (2025)

32nd IBCT – LTC Orrin Viner (2026), MAJ David Kranz (2025) & CPT Nicholas Mathwig (2024)

157th MEB – LTC Paul Cusick (2024) & MAJ Jeremy Bates (2026)

128th ARW – Capt Joshua Ganrude (2024)

115th FW – Capt Natalie Huschka (2025)

Volk Field ANGB – Capt Matt Stai (2026)

Company Grade Officer Reps –
(Army) CPT Justin Hofmann (2026) &
(Air) Capt William Reece (2024)

Warrant Officer – CW3 Lucas Gordon (2026)

Retired Officer Reps –
(Army) BG (R) Joni Mathews (2025),
(Air) Col (R) Mike Hinman (2024), &
(At Large) CW4 (R) Tricia Gundlach (2026)

Senior Officers: Are you actively mentoring a junior officer? Mentoring has many professional and personal advantages for both officers. With the reduced Life Membership rate, consider paying it forward by "gifting" them Life Memberships to WINGA and NGAUS. This is an excellent way to help start a junior officer's military career. If you are interested, contact WINGA at: michael.j.williams@winga.org .

Top 10 Reasons to Join a Professional Organization

Whether you are interested in strengthening your network, furthering your career or maybe just in need of a few more friends, professional networking organizations can be a great option for you. In addition to providing information about your chosen field, professional organizations can enhance your personal and professional development and provide endless networking opportunities. Look around your community—there are bound to be a plethora of organizations (from small local start-ups to national chapters) for you to join. Here are the top 10 reasons for joining a professional networking organization:

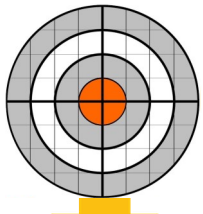
1. **Broaden your knowledge**: Professional organizations sometimes offer courses, seminars and/or lectures to keep themselves and their members up to date on the latest industry innovations, research and trends. Staying informed on your industry's trends will only help you in the long run and will put you one step ahead of the competition!
2. **Take charge of your career**: Take advantage of career resources. Associations often have job listings online or in print available only to their members. This is a great way to find targeted job postings for your area of interest.
3. **Build a better resume**: Many organizations have career resources available such as tips on effective resumes or cover letter writing. Listing your association membership on your resume is impressive to current or future employers as it shows that you are dedicated to staying connected in your profession.
4. **Enhance your network**: We all know that networking is key for the movers and shakers of the community! Making connections is critical, and joining associations give countless opportunities to connect on a local and sometimes even global level. For most people, creating professional relationships is important, and joining a group allows you to have a sense of security and trust. From this, you are able to support and help one another in reaching your professional goals.
5. **Be a Leader**: Professional associations give you an opportunity to develop your skills as a leader, and this is important not only for your personal growth, but for your growth in your firm.
6. **Become a mentor**: Giving back can be the greatest reward and benefit. Participating in forums, chat groups or discussion boards sponsored by an association is also a great way to grow your network. This allows you to use your peers as sounding boards and often make some great friends with the same interests as you.
7. **Make a new friend**: Once we graduate from school, we all know how hard it is to get out and meet new people and make a new friend! Use professional networking groups as an opportunity to escape the norm and meet new people that may give you a reason to come out of your shell a bit more and have fun.
8. **Give back to the community**: There are plenty of organizations that coordinate socially conscious initiatives to support community efforts. Whether it is a nearby animal shelter or a food drive for a local charity, there are sure to be plenty of options for you to choose for if you are looking to give back.
9. **Strength in Numbers**: We live in a day and age where establishing a presence in any given career field often demands working long hours in the office and bringing work home when the doors close. At the end of the day, you may have ideas for cultivating partnerships, yet not feel up to shouldering all the responsibility to organize them. In a community organization, you have access to an established support system of experienced people who are motivated to get things done. The battle is half-won!
10. **Stay Inspired and Stay Motivated**: Learn to love what you do! You may not even know that you love something, but it's important to be proactive about things you discover on the journey. Join a professional organization and discover something new TODAY!

https://4cdesignworks.com/top-10-reasons-to-join-a-professional-organization/

Blog post contributed by former 4CDesignWorks graphic designer Jacqueline McClellan

NGAUS 145TH GENERAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION RENO 2023

WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION, INC. ESTABLISHED 1951



NGAUS 145th Gen Conference	Aug. 18-21, 2023	Board of Directors Meeting	Sept. 13, 2023	WINGA Golf Outing	Sept. 18, 2023	Sporting Challenge	Sept. 22, 2023

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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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