# 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

**September/October 2023**

Welcome to the October issue of **Your Communicator**! Nevada did it again, hosting another outstanding NGAUS General Conference and Exhibition. The 145th Annual Conference had top-notch speakers with multiple venues and events for collaboration and comradery. As the NGAUS Chairman stated, the conference is "Where the 54 become 1!" You will see throughout Your Communicator, the Wisconsin delegation was well represented, making multiple trips to the stage for individual and group achievement recognition.

A huge thank you goes out to our corporate sponsors for supporting multiple WINGA hosted events and gifting Digital Active Life Memberships (DALM) to four of our CGOs. Like many past attendees, seeing first-hand what NGAUS has to offer has given these first-time attendees a great experience to repeat year after year through conference attendance. If you haven't been to a NGAUS conference yet… mark your calendars and give it a shot; the next three are in the Midwest:

- Detroit, MI 23-26 Aug., 2024
- Milwaukee, WI 22-25 Aug., 2025
- Indianapolis, IN 28-31 Aug., 2026

The WINGA Resolutions Team was very active, submitting over 140 inputs for consideration. This year's focus was to eliminate non-relevant and/or already achieved objectives. Additionally, re-capitalization of weapon systems resolutions were refined to meet current needs. Almost all of Wisconsin's recommendations were adopted, setting the strategic vision for NGAUS' legislative team. If you are interested in fostering enterprise-wide changes, get involved with the resolution process. It is a great way to serve WINGA and your Profession of Arms.

I recently attended a retirement ceremony of an influential and impactful leader with 43 years of service. This officer's remarkable career exemplifies the meaning of service. There are many great organizations to participate in and serve, and I ask you to consider serving in one of the many opportunities WINGA has to offer:

- State Conference Assistance
- Legislative opportunities
- Unit Representative
- Board Member
- Membership Initiatives
- NGAUS 2025 Committees

I'm not asking you to serve 43 years, just jump in and be an active member of Your Association. Email info@winga.org to inquire about an opportunity to serve.

*President, Col Dan Statz*

NGAUS Meritorious Service Award:
COL (Ret) Eric Leckel

The NGAUS Distinguished Service Medal was awarded to COL Eric Leckel, accepted by Maj Gen Paul Knapp and Col Dan Statz, at the NGAUS Conference in Reno, Nevada in August.

**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**

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

**December 2023**

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 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 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

***TAPS***

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.

## THANK YOU's FROM 2023 WINGA PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP & EDUCATION GRANT RECIPIENTS

I would like to thank you and those at WINGA for selecting me as a recipient of the WINGA scholarship for the 2023-2024 academic year. Receiving this grant provides both financial relief for myself and my family family, along with an added sense of motivation to pursue my electrical engineering degree and show why I deserve this award. I am especially proud to receive this from an organization such as the Wisconsin National Guard. I reserve the highest level of respect for anyone who has served and sacrificed in order to better our country.

Once again, thank you for this award, and thank you for your service.

**Sincerely, Ryan Van Ells**

Thank you for choosing me as a recipient of the 2023 Wisconsin National Guard Association Scholarship. This will go to my schooling expenses and will help me achieve my goal of graduating college debt free.

**Erik Mikkelson**

Thank you for selecting me for this scholarship. This will greatly help me pay for school.

**Mason Eakins**

Thank you for selecting me as a 2023 recipient of the Wisconsin National Guard Association Scholarship. This aid will help ease the financial burden as a student athlete. It's difficult to get all the hours of work needed between class and practice. This scholarship will assist me to achieve my goals in life and my degree in Marketing. Thank you again for selecting me as a recipient of this scholarship!

**Brooke Laube**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Scholarship Committee for your work in funding the scholarship I received. I am extremely honored to be one of the recipients of this award. I have just recently started my second year at Bellin College of Nursing in Green Bay where I am majoring in nursing. Receiving this scholarship will support my desire to pursue my lifelong passion of becoming a nurse and lessens my financial burden. Thank you for your financial support towards my educational goals. Thank you,

**Bailey Blader-Lucht**

Broadlands Golf Club

WINGA/ WNGEA Golf Outing Sept. 18, 2023

## WINGA/WNGEA Annual Golf Outing

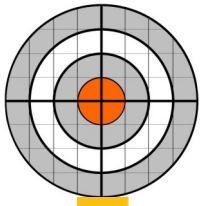
The 4-person scramble golf event had 92 golfers with support from three corporate sponsors. The event had hole prizes, prizes for first and second place and a drawing for WINGA and WNGEA members for a free round of golf at Broadlands. The weather was outstanding and with all the participation from golfers and sponsors the associations raised $2,053.09 for their scholarship funds.

WINGA will host a Spring Golf Outing in Mid-May in 2024. This event will be open to all members and friends and family of WINGA. This event's format will be a 3-person scramble.

A scramble is where all players tee off from the same point, then the team will go to the best drive and proceed by playing their own ball in from that best drive location and the team records their best 2 scores per hole.

## 14th Annual WINGA Sporting Challenge

The annual event was positively received by the nearly 35 participants and raised approximately $404. Attendees tested their skills in one of six competitive events: Pistol Challenge, Trap, Skeet, .22 Bullseye Shooting, Archery, and Archery Longshot. The competitors with the highest scores were recognized and awarded gift cards along with other valuables donated by our event sponsors. Attendees enjoyed a lunch courtesy of the North Bristol Sportsman's Club when the competitive events concluded, during which they had the opportunity to participate in a raffle with amazing prizes such as: firearms, a Matthews compound bow, guided Pheasant Hunts, and Milwaukee Brewers tickets. The annual event was made possible with donations from organizations such as: Walmart, Mathews Bows, Vortex Optics, Cabela's, Geico Insurance, and The North Bristol Sportsman's Club.



North Bristol Sportsmans Club

Sporting Challenge Sept. 22, 2023

Competitive Event Winners

Douglas Caldwell: Archery Longshot
Dillon Gearing: Skeet and .22 LR
Daniel Hanson: Archery
David Rumary: Pistol
John Battista: Trap

# 145th NGAUS GENERAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

**RENO, NEVADA**

**18-21 AUGUST 2023**

THEME – America's National Guard: A Local Force with Global Reach

**Conference Overview**. 61 active & retired delegates & their guests represented Wisconsin. 14 Company Grade Officers (CGO); six (6) CGOs (2 Air and 4 Army) were either on federal travel orders (3) or received a WINGA scholarship (3) to cover their travel expenses (CPT Michael Cuevas, CPT John Jenkins, CPT Cory Roeber, 1LT Peter Murdock, 1st Lt Cory Corson, and 2d Lt Rachel Jones). Nine (9) of our attendees were NGAUS 2025 Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs who paid close attention to details to ensure that the NGAUS 2025 conference in Milwaukee will be a huge success!

WI TAG & WINGA ED received their plaque for achieving 100% membership for the 43d consecutive year.

**Keynote Speakers.** Secretary of the Air Force, Frank Kendall; Chief of the National Guard Bureau, General Daniel Hokanson; and Army Chief of Staff Nominee, General Randy George. In addition, Maj Gen (Ret) Don Dunbar gave a presentation on the legal foundation of the National Guard. Entire speaker presentations are available on the NGAUS YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/user/NGAUS1878.

**NGAUS Business.** NGAUS Business was conducted during three Professional Development (PD) Sessions; CGOs also attended three additional CGO PD sessions. There were Army & Air Breakout Sessions, Resolutions Committee meetings, and Task Force Meetings. Congratulations to Col Jeannie Jeannetta for her selection as the Air Force Area V Representative on the NGAUS BOD. (Center of swearing in photo.)

The CGO, FGO, and WO Mixers were held at the Reno Aces Ballpark, then the Governor's Farewell Reception included a performance by Country Singer Josh Turner. Pictures can be found on the WINGA website. Conference images are available at the NGAUS Flickr site at www.flickr.com/photos/ngaus1878/albums/72177720311039089

**Life Membership Sponsorship.** A huge thank you to Drink MyHy, Patriot Taxiway, and AMI Health for their generous sponsorship of NGAUS & WINGA digital active life memberships (DALM). They were awarded by our corporate partners at the NGAUS conference. Not Pictured: Capt Curtis, he was unable to attend. Capt Bill Reece accepted on his behalf.

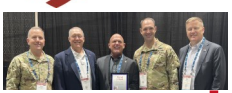
Drink MyHy: 1LT Peter Murdock (132 BSB)

AMI Health: 2d Lt Rachel Jones (128 ARW)

Patriot Taxiway Industries: CPT Michael Cuevas (1-105 Cav) & Capt Jacob Curtis (115 FW).

**Thank you! to our 2023 NGAUS Conference Partners in Patriotism for their generous support of the Wisconsin delegation.**

Additionally, the following supported the Sunday Night Social/Hospitality Night which Wisconsin hosted along with six other states: Armed Forces Benefits Association (AFBA), Airbus, and Recoil Aerospace.



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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