# 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** **July/August 2024**

**100% NGAUS Membership**

Wisconsin achieved full membership this year! June 30 was the deadline for membership percentages to count towards a rebate of collected national dues and recognition and seating at the 146th General Conference & Exhibition, held from Aug. 23-26 in Detroit. This marks the Badger State's 44th consecutive year of full membership. Thank you to all who continue to support NGAUS and WINGA!

**2024 WINGA Distinguished Service Award**

This past month, I had the honor of presenting the 2024 WINGA Distinguished Service Award to the Challenge Academy. This year, the Challenge Academy celebrated 25 years of distinguished service to the youth of our state. The Challenge Academy serves as a reset button for high school students who are behind on credits. It helps them finish high school on time, get in shape mentally and physically, and learn the life skills needed to reach their full potential. Over the past 25 years, 4,500 at-risk youth have graduated from the Challenge Academy. Please join me in congratulating BG (Ret) Mathews and her team on this well-deserved award.

**NGAUS Conference Registration**

Approximately 1,150 National Guard officers, spouses, and other guests have registered for the 146th General Conference & Exhibition, taking place from Aug. 23-26 in Detroit. This figure is 300 more than last year at this time. For more information about the conference, visit www.ngaus.org/events/146th-general-conference-exhibition .

The final event, the States Dinner, of the conference will honor the nation's contributions to World War II with era-appropriate attire. The concert will feature two Michigan natives — Sadie Bass, a Nashville country music singer-songwriter, and Jason Cross, a Nashville country rock musician. Sadie Bass was a contestant on Season 22 of "The Voice" (sadiebassmusic.com). Jason Cross draws inspiration from artists such as Garth Brooks, Alice in Chains, and Metallica (jasoncrossmusic.com). Looking forward to seeing you at the 146th NGAUS Conference.

**Save the Date**

The 2025 WINGA State Conference, April 25-27 in Madison, Wisconsin. The 147th NGAUS Conference will take place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from Aug. 22-25, 2025.

**Process Improvement**

At the national level, NGAUS is reviewing various processes, including the resolutions process. Did you know that NGAUS currently has over 800 resolutions? We are examining ways to improve this process. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please send them my way.

**80th Anniversary of D-Day**

Leaders from the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) visited France to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day, honoring the National Guardsmen and other service members who fought on June 6, 1944. Wisconsin was there with thousands of servicemembers in the European Theater. Forty-six Wisconsinites were killed in action on D-Day. NGAUS leadership laid wreaths at the National Guard Monument on Omaha Beach and other significant sites, reflecting on the pivotal role of the invasion in liberating Western Europe from Nazi Germany. Maj. Gen. Francis M. McGinn highlighted the National Guard's essential contributions, noting that the invasion's success changed the course of history.

*Jeannie Jeanetta*
*President, WINGA*

## 2024 Meetings & Events

★ Executive Committee (EXCOM)

● Board of Directors (BOD)

N NGAUS Conference in Detroit

G WINGA Golf Outing

SC WINGA Sporting Challenge

**August '24**

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**September '24**

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★ ● SC G

**October '24**

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**November '24**

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| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

**December '24**

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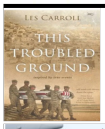
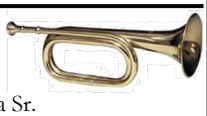


The tarmac at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, is where fallen U.S. service members first come home to their families. The dignified transfer of remains in a flag-draped case are from an aircraft to a waiting vehicle. Lt Col Carroll served in the Air Force and Air National Guard for 28 years, retiring in 2013. He served two tours in Afghanistan. His book, This Troubled Ground was created rom his experiences there while assigned to Mortuary Affairs Operations.

## *TAPS*



LTC (Ret) Leonard David Odea Sr.

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.

## Battlefield Feedback: *Your Letters*

Michael:

As an avid reader of Your Communicator I wish to extend my condolences on the passing of Maj General (Ret) Jerald Slack and Col (Ret) Julian Bates.) I was indeed saddened to read about their passing and wish the Lord's blessing upon both their families.

I am Col Rowan Bronson (Ret), late of the 228th Air Refueling Group (now Wing). Most certainly no current member of the Wisconsin National Guard (Army or Air) has even heard of me. Nevertheless, I was a member of the 228th years ago who went on extended active duty representing that unit. Among my many active duty assignments was Commandant of the Air National Guard's Academy of Military Science at McGhee Tyson, ANG Base, Knoxville, Tennessee. It was in that capacity, most specifically, that I interacted with both airmen. General Slack, I believe on at least two occasions while I was commandant, visited the base to participate in graduation ceremonies for newly commissioned second lieutenants for the Wisconsin Air National Guard. During his visits, General Slack never failed to check up on me as well. For those of us on extended active duty and out to the closer community of WINGA members that meant a great deal. He made me feel like I was still a recognized member of the Wisconsin team.

Col Bates was from my home unit and sometimes flew missions to McGhee Tyson to recover graduating brand new second lieutenants. In those visits, Col Bates would take that extra effort to check up on me and say high. That too was the special touch that means so much to those of us out stationed.

Both men helped make my Guard experience memorable and reinforced my sense of belonging. I am proud to have served alongside them.

Rowan W. Bronson, Col, Ret, USAF

## Legislative

**ISSUE:** As part of an operational reserve fully integrated in ongoing national security missions at home and abroad, National Guard servicemembers continually commit more time to complete military requirements. Additionally, civilian employers provide servicemembers with increased time and flexibility to balance increased military demands and maintain healthy civilian lives with gainful employment.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Provide an annual tax credit to employers who employ Reserve Component servicemembers, plus an additional amount dependent on the number of days of military service each employee performed Reduce the threshold Reserve Component servicemembers are able to deduct military travel-related expenses from 100 miles to 50 miles.

**POINT OF CONTACT**: Julian Plamann, julian.plamann@ngaus.org
Legislative Affairs Manager, Joint & Personnel

**LINK:** Tax Incentives Fact Sheet

Wisconsin's interim adjutant general, Brig. Gen. David May (left) and WINGA President, Col Jeannie Jeanetta (right) present the 2024 WINGA Distinguished Service Award to BG (Ret) Joni Mathews (center) and the Wisconsin Challenge Academy June 19 at their annual graduation ceremony, where they graduated 112 cadets.

## 50/50 Raffle DALM Winners

50/50 raffles were conducted during our Joint State Conference. Enough money was raised to fund 2 NGAUS/WINGA life memberships and 1 EANGUS/WNGEA life membership.

The winning officers are:

2LT Sydney Moore; Btry B, 1-120th FA BN
CW3 Elisha Williams; HHD, 2-426th RTI

**The annual NGAUS CGO survey went out on 9 Jul to all current NGAUS CGOs. The survey intends to capture the current state of CGO and Warrant Officer Quality of Life and Work-Life Balance. Share and encourage your CGOs to complete the survey. These responses will inform the NGAUS CGO Advisory Committee in future reports and recommendations for legislative action regarding key policies around Childcare, and Competitive Compensation, among others.**

Link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1jQfLclZ7et07Wcggmd8iFUHTnqzEbMAwAH4908nNDwo/viewform?edit_requested=true

## CY 2024 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP DRAWING WINNERS

Officers who paid their 2024 WINGA & NGAUS membership dues by 30 June were entered into a drawing for one of five complimentary WINGA & NGAUS Digital Active Life Memberships (DALM).

The five winning officers' names were drawn on 9 July. The $1,080 prize membership value made the $45, CGO, or $90, FGO, annual dues payment a great investment. Congratulations to these lucky winners!

- ◊ CPT Kireeti Reddy, 135 Med Co.
- ◊ MAJ Michael Karnath, HHB 1-121 FA BN
- ◊ CW3 Chad Kohlmann, JFHQ Det.
- ◊ 2d Lt Jordan Kubernik, 128th ARW
- ◊ Maj Toby Coberly, 115th FW

If you have not yet paid your 2024 WINGA & NGAUS dues–and wish to—it can still be arranged by contacting Lynn Rasmussen, lrasmussen@winga.org or 608-206-7006 to pay via credit, debit, PayPal, or Venmo or pay on our website www.winga.org .

**Life Membership Installment Plan**: If you're interested in paying for a life membership on an installment plan, contact Lynn Rasmussen to work out the details.

**PAY-IT-FORWARD:** Are you looking for a way to impact and mentor a commissioned junior Officer or Warrant Officer? If so, consider sponsoring their DALM for $330. If interested contact WINGA at: lrasmussen@winga.org .

**DIGITAL ACTIVE LIFE MEMBERSHIP (DALM) - GIFTED**

| DONOR | RECIPIEINT |
|---|---|
| Col Jeannie Jeannetta (1/2 membership) | CPT Donna Sexson |

Association To Do List:

- ☑ Pay WINGA & NGAUS membership dues: Life or Annual?
- ☐ Sponsor a Junior Officer's dues
- ☑ Register for NGAUS Conference in Detroit
- ☐ What am I forgetting?

The 146th NGAUS Conference will be held in Detroit, MI 23-27 Aug. Email the registration form to lrasmussen@winga.org or mail to WINGA, 2400 Wright St, Rm 151, Madison, WI 53704. WINGA will register all conference attendees & make all room reservations within WI's room block. The registration form is on the WINGA website.

Congratulations! For the ***44th consecutive year***, Wisconsin National Guard Officers achieved **100%** membership in the NGAUS database! We thank everyone for your timely payments. Benefits of this streak include, but are not limited to; your strength in numbers supporting federal military legislative initiatives, increased number of voting delegates at NGAUS events, and priority seating at NGAUS Conventions. Membership is voluntary.

## WINGA/WNGEA Annual Fall Golf Outing

**When:** Mon. Sept. 23
**Time:** 0830- Registration starts
**Event:** 4-Person Scramble

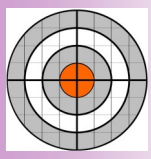
**Who:** Members and Non-Members, including family and friends of WINGA

**Where:** Reedsburg Country Club, 3003 East Main Street, Reedsburg, WI

**Cost:** Early Bird Registration ends 1 Sept. Fees range from $70-$100 depending on WINGA membership status

**Includes:** Golf, Cart, Lunch, Hole Prizes, practice facility, and appetizers after the round

## WINGA/WNGEA Annual Sporting Challenge



**When:** Fri., Sept. 20
**Time:** 0800- Registration starts
**Events:** Trap, Skeet, Archery, Open Rifle & Pistol Shooting.

**Who:** Service Members, sponsors, and family & friends

**Where:** North Bristol Sportsman's Club, 7229 Greenway Road, Sun Prairie, WI 53590

**Cost: $40 Includes** a lunch and door prize. *There is a cost for shooting trap/skeet.

WINGA event flyers with details and payment information are on our website: www.winga.org

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**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