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.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES

January 2022

On behalf of the WINGA Board of Directors, I wish everyone in our WINGA family a healthy and safe New Year. This issue of the *Communicator* is loaded with important information about what WINGA is doing to serve our state membership. Of immediate interest is registration information for the 2022 WINGA/WNGEA/RAVA State Conference on 22-24 April in Green Bay hosted by the 64th Troop Command. This will be the second year we are joined by the Red Arrow Veterans Association (RAVA) for our Joint State Conference. The Wisconsin National Guard State Conference is a great venue to hear presentations from our military leaders, participate in Professional Development sessions, and network with fellow Guard members and our corporate partners.

This is the time of year to consider joining or renewing your membership in WINGA and NGAUS. New this year is the Digital Active Life Membership program which is half the cost of a traditional life membership. This is a trial program and only available for the next four years. This new membership program provides all of the regular benefits of life membership except the National Guard magazine and the Communicator newsletter are sent to you digitally rather than a paper copy and the member will not receive a steel membership card. Including the WINGA financial incentive, Company Grade Officers can become life members of WINGA and NGAUS for $330 and Field Grade Officers for $455. You can pay your dues at www.winga.org by clicking the "Join/Renew" tab.

WINGA and NGAUS are your professional associations who lobby for you in Madison and Washington. NGAUS is an "Association of Associations", meaning NGAUS represents all 54 state and territory National Guard Associations. Lobbying involves much more than persuading legislators to support certain bills. It includes researching and analyzing legislation and/or regulatory proposals; monitoring and reporting on developments; and then educating not only government officials, but also employees and corporate officers, as to the implications of new or enhanced legislative action. According to the National Institute on Lobbying and Ethics, "What most lay people regard as lobbying – the actual communication with legislators – represents the smallest portion of a lobbyist's time; a far greater portion is devoted to the other aspects of preparation, information, and communications." Adding your voice with others who desire similar legislative initiatives is the way to get action. Believe it or not, numbers count! Your membership is needed to ensure your voice is heard in Madison and D.C. Both WINGA and NGAUS have been critical in securing the many benefits you currently enjoy. Make sure you are having an influence by keeping your membership current. Your membership is a tremendous value for what you and your family receive in return.

COL (Ret) Mike Williams
WINGA Executive Director

CAPITOL SUMMIT—UPDATES

NGAUS has cancelled the March 2022 Capitol Summit. The next Capitol Summit will be held 17-20 July. Interested CGOs should check the March *Communicator* for application details; details will also be posted on the WINGA website as soon as they are available. The Capitol Summit brings Army and Air National Guard company grade officers to the nation's capital for a close look at how the government works and the role NGAUS plays in the legislative process.

CGO ARMY BOARD VACANCY

In addition to the WINGA Officers who will be elected (re-elected) at the annual WINGA business meeting in Green Bay in April, there will also be an election for the Army Company Grade Officer position. If you are interested and would like additional information, please contact Mike Williams at michael.j.williams@winga.org

WINGA LEGISLATIVE CO-CHAIRS

President Leckel has appointed LTC Doug Kolb and Capt Brad Kelly as WINGA Legislative Co-chairs. They are responsible for coordinating Wisconsin legislative priorities with the WING Legislative Liaison and the WINGA Executive Director. In addition, they keep the WINGA Board of Directors and WINGA membership informed of approved and pending legislative initiatives which benefit Wisconsin National Guard members.

2021 EDUCATION GRANT THANK YOU

1LT Ryan Schnake: Grace and peace to you. Please accept this very warm Thank You. I have graduated from Concordia Seminary, was ordained as a minister, and received my first pastoral call to Pennsylvania. In addition, I was selected for accession as a Chaplain in the USAR so my eight years in the WIARNG will come to an end soon. I am grateful for my time in the Wisconsin National Guard. I pray that the WINGA Scholarships continue to bless students aiming for advanced degrees. My hope is that these investments continue to reap greater rewards than their monetary value.

TAPS

Capt Jay Lamb, 128ARW
Col (Ret) Daniel Torphy
Maj (Ret) Jerome Wichgers

Please notify us if you are aware of a member's death.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION DUES FOR MEMBERSHIP YEAR 2022

Life Membership Dues: NGAUS is offering a new Digital Active Life Membership for only $500; officers must also become WINGA life members at a cost of $80. WINGA is offering an incentive of $250 for company grade officers and $125 incentive for field grade officers. **This new option means that company grade officers can become active life members of NGAUS & WINGA for only $330 while the cost to field grade officers would be $455.** The only differences in the digital life membership vs the traditional life membership is members receive a digital copy of the National Guard Magazine and WINGA newsletter rather than a printed copy and do not receive a steel membership card. Regular NGAUS life membership dues cost $1,000 so this is a 50% savings. Active life members are members forever—even after they retire—so there is no additional payment to become a retired life member.

Pay Grade	NGAUS DALM	WINGA	Total
O-1 thru O-3 WO1 thru CW3	$250	$80	$330
O-4 thru O-8 CW4 thru CW5	$375	$80	$455

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

Pay Grade	NGAUS Dues	WINGA Dues	Total
O-1 thru O-3; W01 thru CW3	$40	$5	**$45**
O-4 thru O-6; CW4 & CW5	$80	$10	**$90**
O-7 & O-8	$130	$20	**$150**

Updated Payment Options on the WINGA Website—www.winga.org. The WINGA website has been updated so that members can pay for annual membership, digital active life membership or retired life membership directly on the WINGA website using PayPal, credit or debit. Drop down menus will display the correct dollar amount for each rank within each type of membership.

Our membership campaign runs from 1 November 2021 to 28 September 2022. Commands achieving 100% membership by the 29 March 2022 deadline will be eligible for the 5% Early Bird rebate. Dues may be paid in any of the following ways:

- Venmo—QR code is on the WINGA website or search for WINGA or WINGAAssn (if asked, last 4 digits of phone number are 6274)
- Credit or debit via the WINGA website
- PayPal via the WINGA website (it is WINGA's PayPal account; no requirement for payee to have a PayPal account.
- Credit or debit by calling Lynn Rasmussen 608-206-7006

Additional membership documents can be found on the WINGA website www.winga.org: WINGA Membership Flyer, NGAUS Membership Flyer, NGAUS FY 21 Accomplishments and 21st Century Priorities, and Why Should I Join WINGA/NGAUS. Membership is not mandatory.

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

Wisconsin National Guard State Conference

22-24 April 2022, Radisson, Green Bay
Host Unit: 64th Trp Cmd

28-30 April 2023, Chula Vista, WI Dells
Host Unit: 157 MEB

NGAUS

144th: 26-30 Aug 2022
Columbus, OH

NGAUS

GIFTED DIGITAL ACTIVE LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS

DONOR	RECIPIEINT
CW4 (Ret) Steve Smith	255S: WO1 Emily Ferries, HHC 157 MEB
MAJ (Ret) Lynn Rasmussen	CW3 Bill Ryan, Medical Co C / Air Ambulance
COL (Ret) Mike Williams	1LT Isaac Geffers, Det 1 Co A 173 BEB
COL (Ret) Leah Moore	AMEDD Officer: CPT Erin Harrington, WI Med Det

GIFTED DIGITAL ACTIVE LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS—PENDING

DONOR	RECIPIEINT
Anonymous—NGAUS Life	115FW—TBD
Anonymous—NGAUS Life	WIARNG—TBD

WINGA OFFICER NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Nominations Committee is seeking individuals interested in running for the WINGA offices of President, Vice President Army, Vice President Air, Secretary, and Treasurer. The term of office is for two years—2022-2024.

The Nominations Committee provides the names of eligible candidates, which are to be included on the official ballot not later than **1 February.** Elections will be conducted at the annual business meeting in Green Bay on Saturday **23 April**. Members in attendance will cast their ballots. Absentee ballots must be requested in writing, via email or letter, NLT **21 February**; absentee ballots must be returned to the WINGA Office NLT **14 April**.

The duties of these officer positions are:

President—presides at all WINGA conferences and all meetings of the Board of Directors. Chairs the Executive Committee and appoints all standing and special committees of WINGA. Exercises all executive powers to carry out WINGA policies and signs all contracts, deeds, or legal obligations in the name of the Assn.

Vice President Army—In the alternate service of the President will be designated as Executive Vice President and performs the duties of the President during the absence of the President and in the event of death, resignation, or removal from office. Serves as the Chair of the Finance Committee and responsible for the budget processes and for coordinating all committee activities.

Vice President Air—In the alternate service of the President will be designated as Executive Vice President and performs the duties of the President during the absence of the President and in the event of death, resignation, or removal from office. Responsible for the administration of the Awards Program.

Secretary—is the recording officer of the organization responsible for WINGA records and a member of the Executive Committee.

Treasurer—receives, collects, and disburses all funds of the Assn. Keeps regular accounts of all sums received and disbursed, and shall notify all members in arrears. Makes an annual report of the financial status.

WINGA/WNGEA / 32d RAVA State Conference
Radisson Hotel & Conference Center Green Bay, 2040 Airport Drive, Green Bay, WI 54313
22-24 April 2022

NGB has 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 / official functions.

Registration: Online conference registration **https://wngea.org/wngea-conf-reg/** Through 1 April, the Early Bird Registration fee is $25 per person and $34 per person for the Saturday evening banquet. Effective 2 April, the registration fee will increase to $35 per person and the Saturday evening banquet charge will increase to $37 per person. There is no charge for the icebreaker nor for any meeting/breakfast/luncheons. If you prefer to mail in your registration, mail the registration form (see insert) and your check to the 64th Troop Command (54th CST), ATTN: CPT Justin Hofmann, 6001 Manufacturers Dr Madison, WI 53704. There is also a link on the WINGA website to the conference registration site.

Hotel Rooms: Radisson Hotel & Conf Center Green Bay, 2040 Airport Drive, Green Bay, WI 54313, 920-494-7300. You can complete your room reservation online at the same time you complete your online conference registration. If you prefer to contact the hotel directly, you must ask for a room in the Wisconsin National Guard Association room block to receive the reduced rate; room block deadline is **15 April**. Room rate is $96 plus state/local taxes of $14.88, for a total of $110.88. Rooms include comp Wi-Fi, fitness center, swimming pool, complimentary parking, casino, mini-fridge., hair dryer. There will also be a link on the WINGA website that will take you directly to the hotel reservation site.

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

Conference Check-in: Hotel Lobby. Friday from 1500-2200 and 0700-0845 Saturday morning. Your registration packet will contain your conference program providing you the location and time for all events, exhibitor information, etc.

Friday Night Icebreaker/Reception: Vendors will be co-located with the icebreaker. Light hors oeuvres and soda will be provided, with a cash bar available. Tailgate-like atmosphere. There will be complimentary beer & wine taste testing tables. Wear your favorite team's jersey.

Professional Development: Professional development sessions may be attended by any conference attendee. See the registration form (insert) for times and dates of meals, meetings, professional development, banquet, worship service.

- Saturday Company Grade PD Session 0800-0830 (includes CGO caucus); separate Retiree Caucus 0800-0830
- Saturday Joint WINGA/WNGEA/RAVA Session 0845-1020
- Saturday WINGA Business Meeting 1030-1200
- Saturday Luncheon & two PD Session 1215-1430
- Saturday Town Hall Senior Leader PD Session 1450-1550
- Saturday SEA Whitehead Meeting with Senior Enlisted 1550-1630
- Saturday Evening Banquet 1830-2100 (social hour 1730-1830)
- Sunday Company Grade/Enlisted PD Session with TAG 0930-1100
- Army & Air Breakout Sessions 0930-1100, led by DAGs/CSM/CMSgt/CCW5

Attire: The Adjutant General has authorized **Business Casual** attire to be worn by all attendees (including those in a military duty status) during **Professional Development/Business sessions as well as the Saturday evening banquet**. Appropriate Business Casual attire is dress pants/skirt, dress collared shirt/blouse, polo shirt, sweater/jacket/tie is optional. Military speakers, including panel speakers, will be in a military uniform. Those wishing to wear military uniform (ASU/Class A/Mess Dress) are authorized to do so.

Joint Hospitality Room: Plaza Club, Open Friday 2100-2359 and Saturday 2100-2359.

Vendor Exhibits: Take time to check out the exhibits on display and visit with the vendors sponsoring the conference.

WINGA/WNGEA/32d RAVA Annual Conference
Registration Form (Hosted by 64th Troop Command)

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center Green Bay, WI (22-24 April 2022)
2040 Airport Drive, Green Bay, WI

Block of rooms under Wisconsin National Guard Association (WINGA)
Call to Book Rooms:(920) 494-7300, Or Book on-line at: Radisson Hotels with Promo Code: WINGA
Deadline 15 April 2022 for Group Rate - Traditional Double or King $96.00/night plus tax.

Hotel Registration

Early Bird Pricing until April 1, 2022

-Conference Register online at https://wngea.org/wngea-conf-reg/
***New APP option: download off website or in App Store, search WINGA WNGEA**
OR
-Submit complete form and checks payable to 64th Troop Command:
64th Troop Command (54th CST), ATTN: CPT Justin Hofmann
6001 Manufacturers Drive, 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	Time	#	Price	Total
Conference Registration Fee Per Person: Early Bird April 2nd and beyond			$25/person $35/person	
Friday, April 22, 2022				
Registration & Lambeau Field Tours Transportation is not provided, meet at Lambuea Field Atrium. List of names will be with Conference POC at event site.	**Lambeau Field Tour** 3:30 PM **Registration** 3 PM - 9 PM		**TOUR** $17/person	
Ice Breaker (Tailgate: Casual/Sports Team Attire) Light Hors d'oeuvres / Bear & Turtle Ballrooms (Host: 641st) Hospitality Room - Plaza Club (Host: 147th)	6 PM – 9 PM 9 PM - 1200 PM		FREE	
Saturday, April 23, 2022 (Business Casual attire is authorized; military uniform is optional)				
Continental Breakfast & Registration	7:00 – 8:30 AM		FREE	
Company Grade Professional Development	8:00 – 8:30 AM		FREE	
Joint Meeting Sessions	8:45 - 10:20 AM		FREE	
Association Business Meetings	10:30 – 12:00 PM		FREE	
Luncheon w/ Professional Development (2 Sessions)	12:15 - 2:30 PM		FREE	
Townhall Senior Leader PD Session **SEA Tony L. Whitehead w/ Enlisted**	2:50 – 3:50 PM 3:50 – 4:30 PM		FREE	
Banquet (Business Attire: Dress pants/slacks, dress collared shirt/blouse, sweater or jacket optional, tie optional. Military Uniform optional (ASUs/ Formal/Mess/Class A) Social hour Dinner w/ Dessert (complete dinner selection) Hospitality Room (Plaza Club Room - Civilian Attire)	 5:30 – 6:30 PM 6:30 – 9 PM 9 PM – 12 AM	**Early**$34/person x # After 2 April $37/person Chicken Parmesan ____ Stuff Pork Loin ____ Pasta Primavera ____		
Sunday, April 24, 2022 (Business Casual attire is authorized; military uniform is optional)				
Worship Service	8:30 - 9:20 AM		FREE	
Military Professional Development - (Includes Breakfast)	8:30 - 9:20 AM		FREE	
Company Grade/Enlisted PD Session w/ TAG	9:30 - 11:00 AM		FREE	
Military Professional Development Army and Air Breakouts	9:30 - 11:00 AM		FREE	
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION (to help cover Conference 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 when you change addresses via e-mail or phone at 608-242-3114

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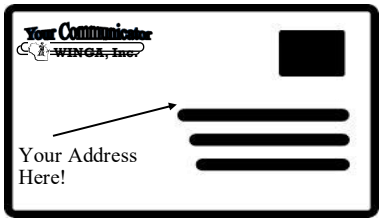

DIRECT BENEFITS OF YOUR WINGA/NGAUS MEMBERSHIP

- Tax-free retired military pay in Wisconsin
- WI State Tuition Assistance Program and post 9-11 GI Bill
- Since 2016, funded $84,750 for NGAUS Life Membership Incentive for 168 officers
- Since 2013, funded over $65,000 Educational Scholarships for 95 members and dependents
- Annual WINGA Conference, including sponsoring of no-cost Professional Development
- 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
- Annual funding for Hall of Honor & Hall of Fame Programs
- Annual grants of $500 to each MSC and Wing Commands
- Funded Officer and Warrant Officer Summits
- VA Home Loans available for Title 32 service
- Three month maternity leave from unit training assemblies with pay & retirement credit for drill-status females
- Reemployment rights for State Active Duty or responding to a national emergency or natural disaster
- Definition of "veteran" now includes NG and reservists with 20 years of service
- Post-deployment mental health care & TRICARE Coverage
- WINGA newsletter (published 6 times per year) & monthly NGAUS magazine
- Benefit parity for the National Guard