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

January 2025

Happy New Year, Wisconsin National Guard Association Members!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and are ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges this new year will bring. We are hosting the 147th National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) General Conference & Exhibition in Milwaukee.

The Wisconsin National Guard Association Conference will be held in Madison **25-27 April**. We look forward to seeing many of you there! The State Conference will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton Madison East, 4402 E Washington Ave, Madison. The conference will kick off on Friday evening with an Ice Breaker Social & Corporate Partners Trade Show. On Saturday morning there will be a Company Grade Caucus, a Warrant Officer Caucus, a Retiree Caucus, a Joint Opening Session & Awards Program, WINGA Association Business Meeting, a Luncheon with Corporate Partners, Army & Air breakouts, and a State Leadership Panel. There will also be a spouse listening session on Saturday afternoon. A banquet will be held on Saturday evening. There will be Army and Air Breakout sessions. All meals and social events (with the exception of the Saturday evening banquet) are complimentary and are included in the nominal registration fee. Early bird registration ($30) ends on 11 April; after 11 April the registration fee raises to $40 for each adult. See pages 6 & 7 for details and registration form.

Looking ahead to August, the **147th National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) General Conference & Exhibition** will be hosted in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from **22-25 August**. This is an incredible opportunity to showcase our state. For context, about 4,425 people attended last year's conference in Detroit. Mark your calendars now!

Social Events for the NGAUS Conference will include:

- **Governor's Reception:** Held at Discovery World
- **Company Grade/Warrant Officer Mixer:** Held at MECCA and the Beer Garden in the Deer District
- **Senior Warrant Officer Mixer:** Held at Gather in the Deer District
- **States Dinner:** Held in the Baird Ballroom, inside the Baird Center, the conference convention center

We are currently 65% of the way toward securing sponsors for NGAUS conference events. If you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming a sponsor, please forward their contact info to tnkrdriver@icloud.com or mark@lakelanddoor.com Your support in helping us reach this goal is greatly appreciated.

Are you ready to make a difference and be part of something bigger? Our organization thrives because of dedicated individuals like you, who contribute their time, skills, and passion to advance our mission. We are currently seeking volunteers to join several key committees that shape the future of our organization. This is your chance to get involved, connect with fellow members, and help us continue our impactful work! Use this link to sign up and find the perfect fit for you: https://forms.gle/BmjxEzJuN7vUq2Vg8.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the Wisconsin National Guard Association. Here's to a successful and impactful 2025!

Jeannie Jeanetta
President, WINGA

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
STATE INSURANCE ADMINISTRATOR

Resumes are being accepted for the State Insurance Administrator (SIA). The SIA manages the Department of Military Affairs State Sponsored Life Insurance Program (SSLI) which is administered by the Wisconsin National Guard Association (WINGA). This is a part-time position under the supervision of the WINGA Executive Director. The SIA must be a licensed insurance agent in the State of Wisconsin. Compensation is based on experience and qualifications. The position will remain open until it is filled. To receive a copy of the job announcement, job description, and fringe benefits, contact Michael Williams, WINGA Executive Director at 608-242-3114 or michael.j.williams@winga.org

TAPS

- Brig Gen (Ret) Pete Drahn
- Maj Joshua Gscheidmeier (128ARW)
- Lt Col (Ret) Dave Jensen
- CW5 (Ret) Charles Koranda
- CW3 (Ret) Scott Lundeberg

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.

2024 WINGA EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT THANK YOU

Colton Green: Thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the 2024 WINGA Education Scholarship. I am currently a sophomore at The Citadel - Military College of South Carolina and pursuing my degree in finance with a minor in cyber operations. I am also a student athlete on The Citadel football team.

GIFTED DIGITAL ACTIVE LIFE MEMBERSHIPS (DALM)

RECIPIENT	DONOR
WO1 Elizabeth Taylor-Hart (1/2 DALM)	CW5 (Ret) Troy Bittner
CPT Danielle Lavrenz (1/2 DALM)	Col Jeannie Jeanetta

Please contact WINGA if you are interested in sponsoring annual or life membership for a Wisconsin National Guard officer.

WINGA BOARD MEMBERS

Officers:
President—Col Jeannie Jeanetta
Air VP—Col Tim Guy
Army VP—MAJ Justin Hofmann
Secretary—LTC Myron Davis
Treasurer—Capt Bill Reece
Executive Director: COL (Ret) Mike Williams

Board of Directors:
JFHQ & 426 RTI: MAJ Randy Humphrey and MAJ Blake Wedl
64th TC: CPT Miranda Holmes and **VACANCY**
32d IBCT: LTC Pete Owen, MAJ Trevor Thomas, and CPT Nicholas Mathwig
157 MEB: LTC Matt Mangerson and MAJ Jeremy Bates
128ARW: Maj David Cefalu
115FW: Maj Natalie Huschka
Volk Field ANGB: Capt Matt Stai
Company Grade Officer Reps:
(Army) CPT Mitch Hoh
(Air) 2nd Lt Jordan Kubenik
Warrant Officer: CW4 Michelle Bethke
Retired Officer Reps:
(Army) CW5 (Ret) Troy Bittner
(Air) Col (Ret) Mike Hinman
(At Large) CW4 (Ret) Tricia Gundlach

WINGA 2024 Annual Report. WINGA's annual report for 2024 is available for viewing on the WINGA website www.winga.org

NGAUS 2025

- The Wisconsin National Guard is hosting the 147th NGAUS Conference and Trade Show in Milwaukee on 22-25 August 2025.
- Volunteers are still needed to work on a variety of committees. If you are interested or want additional information, contact Mike Hinman, NGAUS 2025 Conference Co-Chair at 608.287.4566 or mthomas.hinman@gmail.com
- Pam Williams, NGAUS Spouse Luncheon Committee Chair, will be holding a meeting of the NGAUS Spouse Luncheon Committee during the State Conference in the Nekoosa Room at the Double Tree by Hilton Madison East on Friday 25 April 1700-1800 hours. All current committee members—and anyone who would like to join the committee—are invited. If you any questions or would like additional information, contact Pam at 608-751-6273 or via email at pwilliams7678@gmail.com

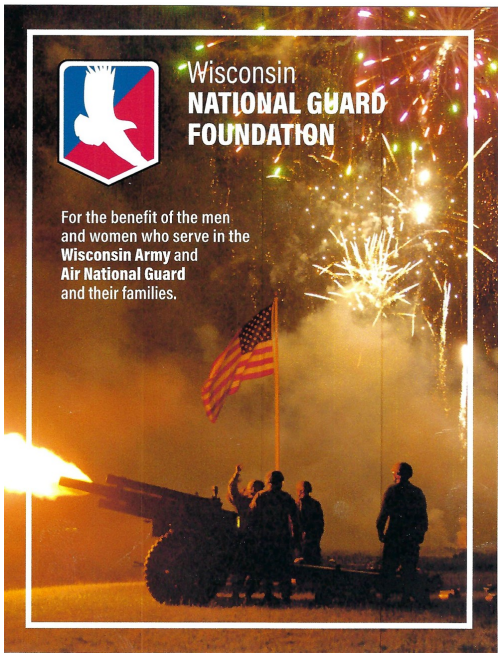
STATE SPONSORED LIFE INSURANCE (SSLI)

If you don't have the DMA term life insurance for you and your family, find more information at **www.winga.org** Key features:

- Payroll deduction premiums as low as $4.16 / month
- Claims paid within 24 hours of notification
- Coverage continues to age 70
- No hazardous duty or civilian occupation restrictions

WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD FOUNDATION

In the coming months, the Wisconsin National Guard Foundation will be publishing a new informational booklet to promote our mission, programs, and services. Please give this new booklet maximum distribution to our soldiers and airmen.



YOUR COMMUNICATOR

Membership Information Changes

Electronic vs Printed Copy

Please notify WINGA if any of the following apply to you:

- If you prefer to receive the WINGA newsletter *Your Communicator* via email. This would reduce paper clutter **and** save WINGA money.
- You do not want to receive a mailed printed newsletter.
- Your HOR has changed.
- Your rank has changed
- Your email address has changed.
- You have been discharged or you have retired from the Wisconsin National Guard.

Please notify us of any of the above changes at lrasmussen@winga.org

COMPANY GRADE OFFICERS/WARRANT OFFICERS CORNER

CPT Mitchell Hoh and 2d Lt Jordan Kubenik are the Company Grade Officer representatives on the WINGA Board.
CPT Mitchell Hoh—represents WIARNG—email mitchellhoh@gmail.com
2d Lt Jordan Kubenik—represents WI ANG—email jkubenik@gmail.com

As we get into the new year, we want to put out a reminder that we have the upcoming CGO Capitol Summit coming up quickly. [See the Capitol Summit column below for full details.] We have the opportunity to send at a minimum of one CGO to each summit, but possibly to send a 2d attendee if other states don't fill their slot. Please submit your application as quickly as possible so we can forward to NGAUS. This will increase Wisconsin's chances to send two officers per summit.

CPT Hoh sent out emails to all CGOs, introducing himself and talking about CGO initiatives, learning opportunities and information about both NGAUS and WINGA. Please click on the link to go to the CGO Slack Page
https://join.slack.com/t/wisconsinnati-pfi6751/shared_invite/zt-2th0bf16d-dtaCp9jvho8

WINGA "CGOx" will kick off on 12 1900 February 2025.
CGOs who are interested in presenting please reach out to CPT Hoh at mitchellhoh@gmail.com, mitchell.d.hoh.mil@army.mil, or (920) 841-3001.

The concept is a spin-off of the popular "TEDx" series. For the last two years, the NGAUS CGOC has done something similar at the NGAUS General Conference; details can be found here.
• This series is voluntary.
• It will provide various types of professional development.
• It offers an opportunity to network with fellow CGOs in the Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard.

For the NGAUS CGO committee go to https://www.ngauscgoc.org/professional-development

Recently, the 128th ARW hosted an officer call that included community partners to promote comradery and awareness of WINGA and NGAUS initiatives. A grant from WINGA made it all possible. WINGA offers a $500 stipend to Wing and MSC Commanders to support WINGA Aims & Objectives such as public understanding, informing members about current developments, and fostering officer comradery. The funds are offered for officers to attend functions that forward these objectives. If a CGO wants to take initiative and host a function at their unit please obtain approval by their appropriate Commander and reach out to Col Mike or Lt Kubenik for follow up instructions. The reimbursement is as simple as filling out a 2 page form.

CGO OPPORTUNITIES: NGAUS Capitol Summit

The next NGAUS Capitol Summit will be held 2-4 March 2025; travel days are 2 and 5 March. Attire is Business Attire. Applicants must be WINGA & NGAUS members. NGAUS pays for transportation and lodging. Applicants are not in a paid status. WINGA provides no financial report. Interested Company Grade Officers should email their completed application to michael.j.williams@winga.org NLT 3 February 2025. The application can be found in the CGO Corner of the WINGA home page (upper left corner on the WINGA homepage https:winga.org/index.html).

The second NGAUS Capitol Summit in 2025 will be held 19-21 October 2025. Interested CGOs should email their completed application to michael.j.williams@winga.org NLT 1 September 2025.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2-5 March—NGAUS Capitol Summit
2 April—WINGA Executive Committee Meeting
9 April—WINGA Board Meeting
19 September—WINGA Sporting Challenge
19-22 October—NGAUS Capitol Summit

WINGA/WNGEA State Conf
Double Tree by Hilton, Madison
25-27 April 2025
Host Units: 115th Fighter Wing & Volk Field ANG Base

147th NGAUS Conf
Milwaukee, WI
22-25 August 2025

2025 Membership in NGAUS & WINGA Professional Associations

Wisconsin has achieved **100% Membership** in the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) for **44 consecutive years,** more years of consecutive 100% membership than any other state or territory. Membership in your state association is the key to a strong organization. Your continued support of your state and national associations is critical to our success in making sure our elected officials understand the importance of the National Guard to our state and nation. Membership, participation, and the payment of WINGA/NGAUS dues are strictly voluntary. Those who pay their 2025 annual or life membership dues by 27 June 2025 will be eligible to be entered into a random drawing to receive complimentary NGAUS & WINGA life membership; complimentary life memberships will be awarded to 2 Army, 2 Air and 1 Warrant Officer. The drawing will be held in July 2025.

Digital Active Life Membership (DALM) for only $330 for Company Grade Officers or $455 for Field Grade Officers. DALM members will receive a digital copy of the Monthly National Guard magazine rather than a printed copy.

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 thru CW5	$500	-$125	$80	**$455**

Annual NGAUS/WINGA Dues:

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**

WINGA WINGA Assn
@WINGA-WINGAAssn

venmo

Dues may be paid in one of the following ways:

- WINGA web site (www.winga.org) to pay via WINGA's PayPal account
- Venmo – scan Venmo QR Code or search for WINGA-WINGAAssn (last 4 of phone: 6274)
- Credit/debit card by calling Lynn Rasmussen at 608-206-7006
- Pay unit rep

NGAUS & WINGA Member Benefits:

- Dedicated advocates on Capitol Hill
- Monthly National Guard Magazine
- Weekly Washington Report
- WINGA newsletter published 5-6 times per year
- Scholarships and networking programs
- Access to professional development opportunities
- Tax-free retired military pay in Wisconsin
- Post-deployment mental health care & TRICARE coverage
- VA Home Loans available for Title 32 service
- WI State Tuition Assistance Program & post 9-11 GI Bill
- 3 month parental leave w/pay & retirement credit for drill-status members

WINGA Website

WINGA/WNGEA Joint Annual State Conference
25-27 April 2025 at The Double Tree by Hilton Madison East, Madison, WI
Host Units: 115th Fighter Wing & Volk Field ANG Base

NGB 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 and official functions.

In addition to those on NGB-approved military orders, WINGA will fund two (2) company grade officers (O1/O2/O3/WO1/CW2) per MSC/Wing to attend the State Conference completely **complimentary**; individuals will **not** be on military orders. Conference registration and banquet meal for member & guest as well as hotel for Friday & Saturday night are included; transportation costs are not included. Membership in WINGA/NGAUS is not required. Applicants cannot previously have attended a WINGA State Conference in the past five (5) years. Selection of scholarship recipients will be made by WINGA. Interested officers must complete a scholarship application (found in the State Conf area on the WINGA website or scan the QRC). Completed application form must be forwarded to Mike Williams michael.j.williams@winga.org NLT 1 March 2025.

Registration: Register online at: **https://wngea.org/conference/** (also linked 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 7) and your check (payable to "2025 Joint WING Conference") to: WNGEA, 2400 Wright Street, Room #158, Madison, WI 53704. Through **11 April**, the **Early Bird Registration** fee is $30 per adult. **Effective 12 April**, the registration fee increases to $40 per adult. No charge for kids (17 & under). The only meal you pay for is the Saturday evening banquet meal at $40 per person, all other meals are complimentary. There is no charge for any professional development, business meetings, training, etc.

Conference App: Use the conference app (search "WNGEA" in the App Store) to register for the conference and obtain the latest info. Once the app is downloaded, click on "event" at the bottom of the page for conference details.

Hotel Rooms: The Double Tree by Hilton Madison East, 4402 E Washington Ave, Madison, WI 53704.. You may call the Double Tree at 608-244-4703 to reserve a hotel room, scan the QRC, or register online using the hotel reservation link on the WINGA website. If you call the hotel, ask for a room in the "**WIN**" room block to receive the reduced rate of $98 per night plus tax. Room types included in the room block are 2 queen beds, king, king studio, and king with sofa bed. The room block deadline is **11 April;** after 11 April, the Double Tree will honor the above rate if there are still rooms available.

Conference Registration Check-in: The registration table will be located to your left as you enter the lobby entrance to the Double Tree. Registration will be available on Friday from 1500-1930 and Saturday morning 0700-0830. When you check-in, you will be provided with an updated schedule of events and your name badge; please wear your name badge at all times as this is your ticket for access to all conference events and our hospitality room. The information will also be distributed on the WINGA website and on our Facebook page (search "Wisconsin National Guard Association - WINGA" or @WisconsinNationalGuardAssociation).

COMPLIMENTARY Childcare: Friday evening from 1800-2100 and Saturday evening 1800-2100.

Icebreaker/Social/Trade Show: Our Friday night icebreaker will include a Hawaiian themed buffet (Taste of Wisconsin, Nacho Bar & veggies). All beverages are complimentary. Wear your favorite Hawaiian attire. 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. Our Corporate Partners attend to meet you, their attendance helps reduce conference costs.

Dress Code: Business Casual attire is authorized for all attendees, including those in a military duty status or anyone in a paid duty status, for Professional Development/Meetings. Attire for Saturday evening dinner is business attire (coat & tie)/semiformal; those wishing to wear military uniform (ASU/Class A/Mess Dress) are authorized to do so. Civilian casual is the attire for the Friday night icebreaker, as well the hospitality room on both nights.

Joint WINGA/WNGEA Hospitality Room: The Hospitality Room will be available Friday after the Ice Breaker ends and Saturday after the Dinner ends. (Casual civilian attire)

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.

- Saturday Joint WINGA/WNGEA Opening Ceremony and Awards Program
- Saturday WINGA Business Meeting
- Saturday Professional Development Luncheon with Corporate Partners
- Saturday Officer Breakout
- Saturday (PM) multiple PD sessions, including State Leadership Panel
- Saturday Social, Evening Meal and entertainment A brief social precedes the banquet; a cash bar will be available.
- Sunday Army & Air Breakouts

Warrant Officer Caucus, Company Grade Officer Caucus, Retiree Caucus: All will be held Saturday morning (Retiree Caucus will include election)

Spouse Listening Session will be held on Saturday 26 April from 1315-1415. No charge.

Spouse/Guest Sip & Paint Session is offered on Saturday 26 April from 1415-1600 on a first-come first-served basis. Max of 20 participants. Cost is $25 per person.

50/50 Raffle. 50/50 raffles will be conducted on both Friday and Saturday nights. Proceeds will fund WINGA/NGAUS and WNGEA/EANGUS life memberships.

WINGA/WNGEA Joint State Conference Registration Form

Hosts: 115th Fighter Wing and Volk Field ANG Base **Dates:** 25-27 April 2025

Location: The Double Tree by Hilton Madison East, 4402 E Washington Ave, Madison, WI 53704

Room Block Deadline: 11 Apr 2025 - $98 (2 queen beds), **$98** (king/king studio/king with sofa bed)/**night plus tax. Room Block Name: "WIN" Call** 608-244-4703, **Scan** the QRC, or go to the **web link** to reserve rooms in the room block.
https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=MSNMADT&arrivalDate=2025-04-25&departureDate=2025-04-27&groupCode=CDTWIN&room1NumAdults=1&cid=OM%2CWW%2CHILTONLINK%2CDirectLink

Event Registration Methods: 1) Online: https://wngea.org/conference/ **2) Phone App**: search (WNGEA) & download from your app store **3) Submit this form** & enclose a check payable to "2025 Joint WING Conference".
Send to: WNGEA, ATTN: SGM (Ret) Gary R. Hans, 2400 Wright Street, Rm #158, Madison, WI 53704

Conference Early Bird Registration Deadline: April 11, 2025	**Rank** (write-in)	**Active/Retire** (Select One)	**WINGA/WNGEA/ Paid Status** (Select One)	**Army/Air** (Select One)
Member Name (Last, First): _____		**Active/Retire**	**WINGA/WNGEA/ Paid Status**	**Army/Air**
Guest Name (Last, First): _____		**Active/Retire**	**WINGA/WNGEA/ Paid Status**	**Army/Air**
Home Address: Street, City, State, Zip Code				
Unit:				
Civilian Email:			**Phone:**	

Event	#	Price	Total
Conference Registration Fee (Early Bird Special)		$30.00 / per adult	
Conference Registration Fee (After 11 April 2025)		$40.00 / per adult	
Conference Registration for Kids (17 & under)		FREE	
Friday, April 25, 2025			
Registration (Koshkonong Hallway)		Prices Listed Above	
Ice Breaker & Trade Show (Crystal Lakes Ballroom) **Theme**: Hawaiian **Attire**: Hawaiian Shirt **Food**: Nacho Bar, Veggies, Taste of Wisconsin		FREE	
FREE Childcare: List names & any special needs: ____ _____	0-11 mo. ____ 1-3 yo. ____ 4-6 yo. ____ 7-12 yo. ____ N/A ____ (Enter qty in ea. range)		
WINGA/WNGEA Hospitality Rm. (Washington Ballroom) Attire: Hawaiian Casual		FREE	
Saturday, April 26, 2025			
Registration (Koshkonong Hallway)		Prices Listed Above	
Continental Breakfast (Washington Ballroom)		FREE	
Joint Opening Session / Awards Program [PD] **Attire: Business Casual (Crystal Lakes Ballroom)**		N/A	
WINGA/WNGEA Association Business Meetings [PD] **(Washington Ballroom/Two Lakes Ballroom)**		N/A	
Luncheon with Corporate Partners [PD] **(Crystal Lakes Ballroom)**		FREE	
Afternoon Sessions [PD] Army/Air & Officer/Enlisted Breakouts, State Leadership Panel		N/A	
Spouse/Guest Listening Session		FREE	
Spouse/Guest Event: Paint and Sip		$25.00/person	
Social, Dinner & Entertainment (Crystal Lakes Ballroom)		$40.00/person	
Attire: Semiformal, Business Attire (Sport Coat & Tie) **Dietary Restrictions**: e.g. Gluten Free (GF), Vegetarian, Vegan, other: _____	Stuffed Pork Chop _____ Tilapia _____ Pasta Primavera _____		
FREE Childcare: List names & any special needs: ____ _____	0-11 mo. ____ 1-3 yo. ____ 4-6 yo. ____ 7-12 yo. ____ N/A ____ (Enter qty in ea. range)		
WINGA/WNGEA Hospitality Rm. (Washington Ballroom) Attire: Casual		FREE	
Sunday, April 27, 2025			
Continental Breakfast (Crystal Lakes Ballroom)		FREE	
Morning Sessions [PD] Army/Air Professional Development **(Washington Ballroom & Two Lakes Ballroom)**		N/A	
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION (to help cover expenses)			
		Grand Total:	

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.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

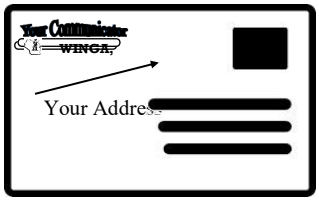
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 1
Madison, WI

2400 WRIGHT STREET, ROOM 151
MADISON, WI 53704-2572

E-mail: michael.j.williams@winga.org or lrasmussen@winga.org
PHONE (608) 242-3114

Address Service Requested

Please inform us of your rank, email and mailing address changes via e-mail or phone at 608-242-3114
lrasmussen@winga.org
or
michael.j.williams@winga.org



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 $129,750 for NGAUS Life Membership Incentive for 418 officers
- Since 20123 funded over $93,000 Educational Scholarships for 123 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 parental leave from unit training assemblies with pay & retirement credit for drill-status members
- 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
- Enhanced mental health care & TRICARE Coverage
- WINGA newsletter (published up to 6 times per year) & monthly NGAUS magazine
- Benefit parity for the National Guard

NGAUS
The National Guard Association of the United States