



# 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

May 2021



As the world begins to reopen and we move towards a sense of normalcy, I hope everyone is looking forward to a summer filled with lots of plans. Heidi and I are excited to attend both WINGA and NGAUS this summer. We have reached the point where we can all safely meet again.

As I discussed in the previous Communicator, the annual WINGA Conference will be held 25-27 June 2021. The 128<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing has been working diligently to host a fun, informative, and safe event for all. They have done an outstanding job of securing the downtown Hyatt to provide a phenomenal venue. In addition to their efforts, your association has developed a vast line-up of professional development speakers and activities for all who attend. Each will deliver a message that will enhance your leadership tool-kit to meet the challenges of today. Additional information can be found on the WINGA website.

The state conference will be followed by the 143<sup>rd</sup> NGAUS General Conference. Since my last update, NGAUS decided to

move the event due to COVID-19 uncertainties. The conference will be held 27-30 August 2021 in Las Vegas, Nevada. I have personally grown as a leader every time I have attended these events. At the national level you will be able to engage with senior leadership gaining insight on where the United States Army, United States Air Force, and the National Guard are strategically postured to face the challenges of the twenty-first century global security environment. Today the National Guard is being depended on more often than any other time in recent history. Whether projecting resources to assist with the pandemic or natural disasters in the Homeland or deploying forces to Eastern Europe to deter Russian aggression, the National Guard is a force in action. In addition, the conferences provide a chance for mentoring and networking, which builds professional relationships that will last a lifetime. We look forward to seeing everyone at both events.

As discussed in the last Communicator, Wisconsin's top legislative priorities are TRICARE for all and parity of benefits. NGAUS is working hard to ensure the National Guard is represented on Capitol Hill to enhance our service member's benefits. Currently at the state level your legislative committee is fighting for the State Income Tax Exemption for both Active and State Active Duty. However, these efforts are only possible with robust membership. Please share the benefits of YOUR professional association with every officer.

Let's continue to keep moving WINGA forward.

*President Eric Leckel*



### 2021 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

2021 will mark a historic year as WINGA could achieve 100% membership in NGAUS for the 41st consecutive year, an accomplishment not achieved by any other state. In order to do so, we need your help. If you have not paid your 2021 WINGA/NGAUS dues—and are interested in doing so—please consider paying by 29 June. To get to our goal of 100%, WINGA is offering 5 complimentary NGAUS & WINGA life memberships to all officers who pay their NGAUS & WINGA 2021 membership dues by **29 June 2021**. The five life memberships will be presented to two ANG officers, two ARNG officers, and one warrant officer. Winners will be reimbursed the cost of their 2021 membership dues, up to \$830. The WINGA president will conduct the drawing at a date TBD.

- Pay via Venmo. **@WINGA-WINGAAssn** (The WINGA logo should appear in the app.) The last 4 digits of the phone number associated with the WINGA Venmo account are 6274. The QR code is displayed on the WINGA website [www.winga.org](http://www.winga.org); just hover your phone over it to go to the WINGA Venmo account.
- Pay online at [www.winga.org](http://www.winga.org) and click on the join/renew icon
- Call Lynn's cell - 608-206-7006 and pay via credit card
- Pay via check (made payable to WINGA)

The life membership incentive program is still available. If interested, please call Lynn's cell at 608-206-7006.

Membership, participation, and the payment of dues in and for WINGA & NGAUS are a completely voluntary decision of each officer.

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



### WINGA/WNGEA Conference

There is still time to register for the 2021 WINGA/WNGEA Conference, which will be held at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee Hotel 25-27 June 2021. Registration deadline is 18 June 2021. Online conference registration is available at <https://wngea.org/wngea-conf-reg/>



**NGAUS Applauds Proposed Federal Legislation**

Several House of Representative legislators have introduced H.R. 3512 on Capitol Hill which is called **Health Care for Our Troops Act**. This bill would provide no-cost health care through TRICARE for any state or federal mobilization regardless of the duration. **No-fee or zero cost TRICARE is a top legislative priority for NGAUS.** This bill will provide National Guard members medical coverage on par with their active-duty counterparts. General Daniel Hokanson, Chief of NGB, recently told Congress that this is “one of my most pressing concerns.”

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**  
by MAJ Brian Faltinson

Both Congress and the Wisconsin Legislature are focused on their respective budgets with few separate proposals under consideration at this time. WINGA’s major line of effort this year is a state income tax exemption for all Active Duty and State Active Duty service by Guard members. The bill currently is working its way through the legislature and may get rolled into the state budget or tackled separately this fall. The Wisconsin National Guard rose to many challenges last year and lawmakers are taking notice. Our National Guard members only gain these outstanding benefits because WINGA speaks on these issues.



**NGAUS Resolutions**

WINGA members can recommend resolutions to be presented at the NGAUS Conference. All proposed resolutions must be approved at the WINGA Annual Business meeting which takes place at the State conference on Saturday, 26 June. Any proposed resolutions need to be presented to the respective Resolution Committee members NLT 9 June.

- Air Resolutions should be sent to Lt Col Dan Statz at [dstatz@uwalumni.com](mailto:dstatz@uwalumni.com)
- Army Resolutions to LTC Myron Davis at [myrondavis26@gmail.com](mailto:myrondavis26@gmail.com)
- Joint Resolutions to Lt Col Jeannie Jeanette at [jeannie.western@gmail.com](mailto:jeannie.western@gmail.com)

**REMINDER - WINGA SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE**



**WINGA Education Grant & Scholarship.** WINGA will award up to ten \$1,000 undergraduate grants and two \$1,000 graduate scholarships. The WINGA website has the information. One application form works for both the Educational Grant and the Presidential Scholarship Award. Applications are due at the WINGA Office, 2400 Wright St, Room 151, Madison, WI 53704-2572, **not later than 1 July 2021.** Or, email to [michael.j.williams@winga.org](mailto:michael.j.williams@winga.org)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE COMPANY GRADE OFFICERS OF THE YEAR**

Congratulations to the Company Grade Officers of the Year: They will be recognized at the 2021 WINGA/WNGEA State Conference at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee on Saturday, 26 June.

- Capt Seth Dahlke, 115th Fighter Wing
- CPT Jordan Schultz, 457 Chemical Company
- CW2 Dayna Walchak, 132d Brigade Support Battalion



**WINGA Golf Outing**



The WINGA Golf Outing will take place in late August / early September in the Madison area. Detailed information will be included in the July WINGA newsletter and will be posted on the WINGA website.

**WINGA Sporting Challenge**



The WINGA Sporting Challenge will be held at the North Bristol Sportsman’s Club on Friday 24 September 2021. Detailed information will be included in the July WINGA newsletter and will be posted on the WINGA website.



**TAPS**

LTC (Ret) Suzanne Worby Mousel

If you are aware of the passing of a member, please notify us.



**NGAUS Annual Conf**

143rd: 27-30 August 2021  
Las Vegas, NV

144th: 26-29 Aug 2022  
Columbus, OH



**WINGA/WNGEA Annual Conf**

25-27 June 2021, Milwaukee  
Host unit 128ARW

22-24 April 2022, Green Bay  
Host unit 64TC



**NGAUS Conference**  
**Las Vegas**  
**27-30 August 2021**

The NGAUS 2021 Conference has moved from Charlotte, NC to Las Vegas and will be held 2 weeks earlier than originally planned. Most meetings and industry exhibition will be held at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino. Wisconsin has a block of rooms and a hospitality suite at the Luxor Hotel & Casino, 3900 Las Vegas Blvd S, Las Vegas, NV 89119. (702) 262-4000 Room rates are \$120 per night + \$25 nightly resort fee and free parking. [Luxor.mgmresorts.com](http://Luxor.mgmresorts.com) Registration form is included with this newsletter; a fillable PDF is also available on the WINGA website.

**NGAUS OPD.** NGB has authorized funding for a limited number of company grade/warrant officers to attend the NGAUS Conference in a paid status; commands will select those individuals. WINGA will fund additional CGO/WOs to attend; while those individuals will not be in a paid status, their expenses will be reimbursed by WINGA. The WINGA CGO Committee will select those CGO's/WO's that are WINGA-funded. Applicants must be a NGAUS & WINGA member to attend the NGAUS Conference. The application form is on the WINGA website—[www.winga.org](http://www.winga.org). Applications must be received by the WINGA Office NLT 1 July 2021.

**Friday, 27 August**

Travel Day  
 Meet & Greet in WI Hospitality Room  
 Golf Tournament at Aliante Golf Club  
 TAG Reception at Skyfall Lounge, Delano Hotel (Invite only)  
 CGO / WO (WO1-CW2) Mixer at Mandalay Bay Beach  
 Senior Warrant Officer Mixer (CW3-CW5) at Mandalay Bay Foundation Room

**Saturday, 28 August**

5K Fun Run at location TBD  
 CGO Professional Development—First Session  
 Ribbon Cutting & Exhibit Hall opening with brunch  
 Professional Development—First Session  
 Governor's Reception at Mandalay Bay Exhibit Hall

**Sunday, 29 August**

CGO Professional Development—Second Session  
 Professional Development—Second Session  
 Spouses Luncheon at Mandalay Bay's House of Blues  
 Retired/Separated Luncheon  
 Warrant Officer Luncheon  
 Hospitality Night

**Monday, 30 August**

Professional Development—Third Session  
 CGO Professional Development—Third Session  
 Army and Air Breakouts  
 TAG Spouse Luncheon at Foundation Room, Mandalay Bay  
 States Dinner at Ballroom, Mandalay Bay

**COST:**

\$180 registration fee per person

\$100 hotel room deposit

**KEY DEADLINES:**

Email the fillable PDF to [lrasmussen@winga.org](mailto:lrasmussen@winga.org) or mail the registration form to WINGA, 2400 Wright St, Rm 151, Madison WI 53704

30 July—Registration form is due to WINGA Inc, 2400 Wright St, Room 151, Madison, WI 53704

30 July—Last date to book a room within Wisconsin's room block and last day to cancel a paid registration, less a \$15 administrative fee

1 August—All sales are final; no refunds will be processed

**ATTIRE:**

Professional Development: Class B's / Civilian equivalent  
 TAG Reception: Business Casual  
 Luncheons: Business Casual  
 Social Events: Casual  
 States Dinner: Classic Vegas Casual

**AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION:**

Transportation at a reduced rate (\$7 each way) to & from the airport is available 26-27 August and on 31 August.

**MISC:**

Additional conference & event information can also be found on the NGAUS website—[www.ngaus.org](http://www.ngaus.org)

WINGA will send newsletters with updates to those who register for the conference. Conference app will roll out in early August.



**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**Permit No. 1**  
**Madison, WI**

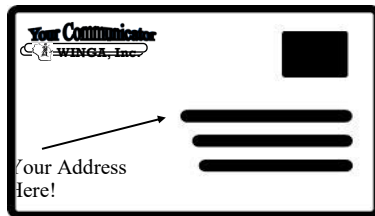
**2400 WRIGHT STREET, ROOM 151  
 MADISON, WI 53704-2572**

**E-mail: [michael.j.williams@winga.org](mailto:michael.j.williams@winga.org) or [lasmussen@winga.org](mailto:lasmussen@winga.org)  
 PHONE (608) 242-3114**

**Address Service Requested**

**Please inform us when you change addresses via e-mail or phone at 608-242-3114**

**[michael.j.williams@winga.org](mailto:michael.j.williams@winga.org)  
 or  
[lasmussen@winga.org](mailto:lasmussen@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 \$84,750 for NGAUS Life Membership Incentive for 168 officers
- Since 2013, funded over \$55,000 Educational Scholarships for 85 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;
- Funding of 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 women
- 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



[www.winga.org](http://www.winga.org)



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