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 **November 2021**

I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful fall season; it is hard to believe that the Thanksgiving holiday is upon us.

WINGA continues to be engaged with the strategic priorities of our senior leadership, to ensure the National Guard is prepared to respond to the needs of the Nation and State of Wisconsin. The number one priority of our organization is legislative actions and we are always trying to cultivate ways to leverage resources to accomplish this mission.

As Mike Williams discussed in the last newsletter, Wisconsin had a phenomenal NGAUS General Conference in Las Vegas. Once again, this was truly an outstanding officer professional development event for everyone. There are very few events an individual will have an opportunity to hear multiple senior leaders discuss the strategic azimuth of the force. In this issue of the Communicator you can hear from CGO's who attended the conference and the benefit of being involved.

An area where we can shape future actions is the resolutions process, especially during these times of constrained budgets. I would ask each of us to begin thinking of ways we to build readiness and resiliency in the force. If you have any questions/ideas regarding resolutions, please contact LtCol Dan Statz (Air), LTC Myron Davis (Army), or Col Jeannie Jeanetta (Joint). The other opportunity everyone has is to serve on a WINGA committee. Reach out to Mike Williams or myself if you would like to participate.

As a reminder, please plan for the upcoming WINGA conference in April, which will be held in Green Bay.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone what I said back in 2017 about a speech by Senator Lindsey Graham regarding membership in professional associations. He stated, "if you are in the Guard and not a member of the Guard Association you are missing the boat, because you have a voice…...these associations are the closest thing to an advocate you have in the political system."

I want to thank each and every one of you for the engagement of moving WINGA forward.

President Eric Leckel

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
The National Guard Association of the United States

144th: 26-30 Aug 2022
Columbus, OH

DIGITAL ACTIVE LIFE MEMBERSHIP

In 2022, 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 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 difference in the digital life membership vs the traditional life membership is that members would receive a digital copy of the National Guard Magazine and WINGA newsletter rather than a printed copy. Regular NGAUS life membership dues cost $1,000 so this is a 50% savings. Additional membership information can be found on Page 3.

Updated Payment Options on the WINGA Website. We are excited to announce that 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. In addition, the QR code for the Venmo payment option is displayed on the WINGA website: www.winga.org

TAPS

MAJ (Ret) James Brey
Col (Ret) Gary Messner
MAJ (Ret) Albert Starrett

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

WINGA LEGISLATIVE CHAIR VACANCY

WINGA is seeking a new Legislative Committee Chair. This is a volunteer position. The Legislative Chair is responsible for coordinating Wisconsin legislative priorities with the WING Legislative Liaison and the WINGA Executive Director. In addition, the Legislative Chair keeps the WINGA Board of Directors and WINGA membership informed of approved and pending legislative initiatives which benefit Wisconsin National Guard members. Interested individuals should contact Mike Williams at michael.j.williams@winga.org or 608-751-6274.

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—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—performs the duties of the President and Vice President Army during the absence of both. 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.

Those interested in running for these offices should contact the WINGA Office at 608-242-3114 or michael.j.williams@winga.org

2021 WINGA Sporting Challenge Summary

On Friday, 24 September, the WINGA Sporting Challenge Committee hosted our annual event at North Bristol Sportsman's Club. On this beautiful sunny day, we enjoyed camaraderie, some competitive events, and a potluck followed by raffles. Our attendees were approximately 25% officer (current/retired, mostly company grade), 50% NCO (current/retired), and 25% family/friends. We raffled off four firearms (two shotguns and two rifles), a gift certificate to Tom's Guns, several pheasant hunts, and much more.

Many thanks to our committed sponsors: Blue Cross/Blue Shield, North Bristol Sportsman's Club, Tom's Guns, Top Pack Defense, Max Creek Outdoors, Vortex Optics, Magnolia Game Farm, CTR Firearms, Kwik Trip, D&S Bait and Tackle, Exclusive Hunting Club, MacFarlane Pheasants, Mathews Archery, 5 Star Firearms, Berres Brothers, Gerigs and some generous anonymous donors.

We raised over $1500 for Wisconsin National Guard Scholarship funds.

The Sporting Challenge date for 2022 is 23 September.

COMMENTS FROM CGOs WHO ATTENDED THE NGAUS 2021 CONFERENCE

2d Lt Cory Corson, 115FW: LtGen Loh spoke to Air delegates in an Air-only breakout session highlighting his five priorities for success: Ready Forces, Partnerships, People, Policy and Force Structure. The NGAUS Conf surpassed my expectations in terms of personal and professional development. There is no better forum to hear directly from our leadership in the National Guard. Evaluating policy memorandums and letters from NGB delivers the message; however, hearing them from the Director of the National Guard and Director of the Air National Guard puts those documents into perspective. Given my experience at this year's conference, I look forward to attending future NGAUS conferences.

CW2 Dayna Walchak, 132d BSB: Great first NGAUS experience. I appreciated the newsletters beforehand with all the information. It was nice to have a mentor available. Also, all the "non-rookie" NGAUS attendees were a great resource and always willing to answer questions and share insights.

1LT Jay Hale, 732 CSS Bn: General Hokanson, Chief of NGB, made his time with the CGO's very personable through stories and situations. General Berry, NV TAG, gave an impressive and entertaining presentation on leadership. Dr. Elk spoke about PTSD and described how you can unpack a bad memory, repack it so it is organized, thus allowing soldiers to be able to deal with it without the negative mental and physiological responses.

2LT Alex Griffith, 1st Bn 147 Avn: Definitely worthwhile for any Company Grade Officers that are able to attend. General Hokanson's speech and subsequent Q and A session was extremely informative and a good growth opportunity. Dr. Magee also had a great presentation on human development, leadership and personal performance. Having speakers such as General Allvin, Vice COS of the Air Force, and General Dickinson, Commander of US Space Command, was a cool experience. Having that depth of knowledge is a huge benefit for going to the NGAUS conference. LTG Jensen, Army National Guard Director, was very engaging and his Q and A session was a great way to get insight into NGB priorities and response."

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION DUES FOR MEMBERSHIP YEAR 2022

During our 2021 membership campaign, Wisconsin achieved 101% membership in the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) for the 41st consecutive year. Wisconsin has achieved more consecutive 100% membership years than any other state or territory.

Life Membership Dues: In 2022, 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 difference 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. 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 need 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. **CW4 Steve Smith reached out to WINGA to gift a life membership for a newly minted warrant officer in his specialty (255S); WO1 Emily Ferries was the very lucky recipient of a NGAUS & WINGA Active Digital Life Membership.** If you are interested in gifting an annual or life membership, please contact WINGA at: michael.j.williams@winga.org

WINGA SSLI Job Announcement—Office Assistant

Job Description: Position requires learning and understanding the SSLI Insurance program; answering phones and emails regarding SSLI; creating spreadsheets in excel, typing letters and creating labels in Word; entering information into database, quarterly billing, scanning, and filing.

Work Hours: 16 hours/week (Friday, Saturday & Sunday office is closed)

Hourly Wage & Fringe Benefits: Starting at $16.50/hour. Merit increase available after 6-month probationary period. Pro-rated vacation. No health or retirement benefits.

Qualifications: Skilled in Microsoft Office Software Suite (Excel and Word); strong people skills; demonstrated ability to work independently and in a team situation; post-high school education desirable but not required; strong communication skills (written and verbal); attention to detail; military knowledge a plus, but not required.

Projected Start Date: 24 January 2022

Deadline for Applications: Submit your resume to the SSLI office, attention SIA, by 20 December 2021. Resumes may be mailed or emailed:

WINGA-State Sponsored Life Insurance Office, Room #162, 2400 Wright Street, Madison, WI 53704 or to bschultz@winga.org

Questions about the position, responsibilities and compensation can be directed to the Office Manager, Brooke Schultz at (608) 242-3100.

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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

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