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 **September 2022**

It is my pleasure to share my comments with you in this fall issue of the Communicator on behalf of the WINGA President, LtCol Dan Statz. The 144th NGAUS General Conference and Exhibition, hosted by the Ohio National Guard in Columbus, is in the rearview mirror. Wisconsin was well represented with 54 active and retired delegates and their guests. **Wisconsin had 19 Company Grade Officers attend the 2022 NGAUS Conference;** 15 of those 19 CGOs were attending their very first NGAUS Conference. **11 of those Company Grade Officers (5 Air and 6 Army) were either on federal travel orders (4) or received a WINGA scholarship (7) to cover all of their travel expenses.**

Highlights from the conference include:

- BG Robyn Blader, JFHQ, received the Distinguished Service Medal
- Col Bart Van Roo, 115th Fighter Wing Commander, received the Meritorious Service Award
- Volk Field CRTC, represented by the Commander Col Matt Eakins, received the Distinguished Mission Support Plaque
- COL (Ret) Todd Nehls was not able to receive his Meritorious Service Award in person
- 1LT Brittni Swanson was not able to receive her Valley Forge Certificate in person
- 2LT Amanda Lafky received an attendance scholarship and complimentary life membership to NGAUS and WINGA from Patriot Taxiways
- 1LT Mathew Porter received an attendance scholarship and complimentary life membership to NGAUS and WINGA from AMI Health
- CPT Mark Gerasimov received a complimentary life membership to NGAUS and WINGA from Yoste Strategic Partners
- WINGA received our 100% membership plaque for the 42nd consecutive year

Captains Brad and Jessica Kelly did a wonderful job presenting Wisconsin's story during the Roll Call of States. The video and other pictures from the NGAUS Conference have been posted on under the photo gallery tab on the WINGA web page at www.winga.org

The 2023 NGAUS Conference will take place 18-21 August in Reno, NV.

WINGA will now shift gears and start preparation for our 2023 membership campaign and the 2023 WINGA/WNGEA State Conference. Mark your calendars for the 2023 conference which will take place on 23-25 April at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

COL (Ret) Mike Williams
WINGA Executive Director

2023 CONFERENCES

WINGA/WNGEA State Conf
28-30 April 2023
Chula Vista, WI Dells
Host Unit: JFHQ & 426 Regt

145th NGAUS Conf
18-22 August 2023
Reno, Nevada

TAPS

Lt Col (Ret) Charlie Aschenbrenner
Brig Gen (Ret) Jim Dawson
CW4 (Ret) Don Erickson
Col (Ret) Mike Jordan
LTC (Ret) James King
LTC (Ret) Peter Muto
Maj (Ret) Tom Nelson

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.

2022 CAPITOL SUMMIT

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.

CPT Alicia Dorsett, Btry A 1st Bn 121st FA, will attend the second Capitol Summit 2-5 October.

Capt William Reece, 115th Fighter Wing, attended the Capitol Summit 17-20 July. Here are his comments:

> When applying for this opportunity, I stated that I was seeking to better understand NGAUS as an entity and that I was looking for more ways to be able to serve my unit. What I experienced at the Summit met and exceeded my expectations. Not only did I receive an excellent overview of what NGAUS is as an advocacy group, but I also was able to experience first-hand the benefits of membership via connection with other officers who want to engage on issues impacting our units, direct two-way communication with senior National Guard leadership, and opened doors to advocate directly for our states. The staff at NGAUS provided a full agenda that took attendees full circle through basic education and professional development to walk, crawl, run application in real-world scenarios including interacting with other military agencies, business partners, and Congress. As the pièce de résistance, this was all framed within a joint context that promoted cross-talk amongst Army and Air CGOs leading to a better understanding of the big picture that we are a part of. I recommend this Summit for any CGO who is looking solid professional development..

2022 WINGA PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS & EDUCATION GRANTS

These students were awarded a $1,000 education scholarship for their academic excellence during the 2021-2022 academic year from the Wisconsin National Guard Association, Inc (WINGA). The WINGA Awards, Gifts & Grants Committee reviewed 15 applications that were received by the WINGA Office by the 1 July 2022 deadline and selected the top 10 applicants. On behalf of the WINGA Board of Directors and the WINGA Awards, Gifts and Grants Committee, congratulations in your pursuit of a higher education degree.

AWARD	RECIPIENT	SPONSOR / or UNIT
Education Grant	Jordan Adamson	COL Kathleen Adamson, JFHQ
Education Grant	Meredith Cunningham	Maj Phillip Cunningham, 128ARW
Education Grant	Nadia Eakins	Col Matthew Eakins, Volk ANG Base
Education Grant	Gabrielle Gscheidmeier	Maj Josh Gscheidmeier, 128ARW
Education Grant	Kady Hamilton	Col (Ret) Don Hamilton
Education Grant	Alondra Harris	COL (Ret) Rob Harris
Education Grant	Sarah Peterson	Lt Col (Ret) Raymond Peterson
Education Grant	Paige Zuccaro	Col Adria Zuccaro, 128ARW
Presidential Scholarship	1LT Kolt Knutson	229th Engr Co
Presidential Scholarship	CPT Katelyn Voss	WI Medical Detachment

THANK YOU's FROM 2022 WINGA SCHOLARSHIP & GRANT RECIPIENTS

Nadia Eakins: Thank you for being selected for the WINGA scholarship. Your support and contribution to my education is greatly appreciated and will go towards finishing my Music Education degree.
Gabrielle Gscheidmeier: Thank you so much for the WINGA scholarship.
Kady Hamilton: Thank you so much for the WINGA Scholarship. I look forward to pursuing my Masters program in social work and specializing in Special Education. The funds are very helpful and will get put to good use!
Sarah Peterson: Thank you very much for this scholarship. I greatly appreciate it.
Katie Voss: Thank you very much for the WINGA scholarship. It is greatly appreciated.
Page Zuccaro: Thank you so much for the WINGA scholarship. I am incredibly grateful and cannot wait to get back to school and continue working on my degree.

FALL GOLF OUTING AND SPORTING CHALLENGE

Fall Golf Outing. The Fall Golf Outing was held on 19 September at the Wild Rock Golf Course in Wisconsin Dells. 60 golfers—making up 15 teams—participated. One golfer even hit a hole-in-one!! Both individual and team prizes were awarded. A huge thank you to GEICO for their corporate sponsorship. Jeremy Holmes did a great job of organizing this event. Additional pictures can be found on the WINGA website.

Sporting Challenge. The 2022 Sporting Challenge was held on 23 September at North Bristol Sportsman's Club in Sun Prairie and was open to service members, their family & friends, and WINGA sponsors. Participants were able to participate in Trap, Skeet, Archery and open rifle & pistol shooting. Nearly 40 participants chose to test their skills in one of 6 competitive events (Pistol Challenge, Trap, Skeet, .22 Bullseye Shooting, Archery, and Archery Longshot). The competitors with the highest scores were recognized and awarded Cabela's Gift Cards, along with other valuables donated by our event sponsors. Winners are pictured in the far left picture below—left to right: Archery Longshot (Justin Zander); Archery (Bryant Volling); Skeet (Dillon Gearing); Pistol & .22 Bullseye (David Rumary); and Trap (John Battista). A huge shout-out to Tom Bergholz of Tom's Guns in Marshall for giving us a great deal on prizes. Also, a thank you to GEICO for their corporate sponsorship. Additional donations came from Cabela's, Vortex Optics, the North Bristol Sportsman's Club, Matthews Bows, and Walmart. CPT Mark Stoeger did a great job of organizing this event. Additional pictures can be found on the WINGA website under the photo gallery tab.

2022 NGAUS CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS
26-29 August 2022

Conference Overview. 54 active and retired delegates and their guests represented Wisconsin at the 2022 NGAUS Conference in Columbus, OH. **19 Company Grade Officers attended the 2022 NGAUS Conference;** 15 of those 19 CGOs attended their very first NGAUS Conference. **11 of those Company Grade Officers (5 Air and 6 Army) were either on federal travel orders (4) or received a WINGA scholarship (7) to cover all of their travel expenses.** Keynote speakers were: General Daniel Hokanson, Chief of the National Guard Bureau; General CQ Brown Jr, Chief of Staff of the Air Force; LTG Laura Potter, Commander, Deputy Army Chief of Staff for Intelligence; and General James McConville, Army Chief of Staff. Recordings of the speakers are on the NGAUS YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/NGAUS1878. NGAUS business was conducted during three Professional Development Sessions; in addition, Company Grade Officers attended three CGO Professional Development sessions. There were also Army and Air Breakout Sessions, Resolutions Committee meetings, and Task Force Meetings. Award recipients: Volk Field CRTC (Distinguished Mission Support Plaque), BG Robyn Blader (Distinguished Service Medal), Col Bart Van Roo (Meritorious Service Award), COL (Ret) Todd Nehls (Meritorious Service Award) and LT Brittni Swanson (Valley Forge Certificate). 2d Lt Amanda Lafky (115FW) was recognized as 1 of 2 most recently commissioned officers at the conference (they were both commissioned on the same date). Congrats to 1LT Kolt Knutson (229 Engr Co) who finished second in the 5K run. Wisconsin received their 100% membership plaque for achieving 100% membership for the 42d consecutive year. The Wisconsin delegation wore Packers attire to the States Dinner; the TAG challenged those not wearing Packers attire to pushups. The CGO Mixer included kickball and other events. More pictures can be found on the WINGA website.

NGAUS Conf & Life Membership Sponsorship. Patriot Taxiway and AMI Health each sponsored a CGO's attendance at the NGAUS Conference, as well as digital life membership in NGAUS & WINGA . 1LT Matthew Porter (132d BSB) and 2d Lt Amanda Lafky (115 Fighter Wing) were randomly selected as the recipients of the corporate-sponsored NGAUS conference attendance and NGAUS/WINGA life membership. A huge thank you to Patriot Taxiway and AMI Health for their generous contribution! Geoffrey Yoste, of Yoste Strategic Partners, also generously sponsored the NGAUS & WINGA digital life membership of CPT Mark Gerasimov (JFHQ).

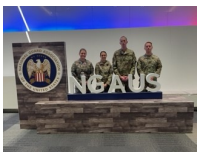
Corporate Sponsors. We would like to thank these corporate partners for their generous support of the Wisconsin delegation at the 2022 NGAUS Conference: Point Blank Enterprises, Armed Forces Benefits Association (AFBA), Mead & Hunt, Robertson Fuel Systems, Patriot Taxiway, and Zumro Shelters. In addition, the following corporate sponsors supported the Sunday Night Social that Wisconsin hosted along with six other states: Armed Forces Benefits Association (AFBA), Point Blank Enterprises, JBT AeroTech Corporation, Recoil Aerospace and Vidmar & LISTA.

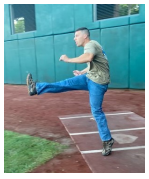
NGAUS 2022 Delegation

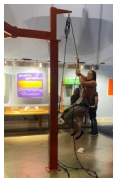
CGO's with TAG

2d Lt Amanda Lafky—newest commissioned officer

Patriot Taxiway and AMI Health Sponsorship







FREE AUSA MEMBERSHIP FOR NGAUS MEMBERS

NGAUS recently partnered with AUSA to provide NGAUS members with the benefit of becoming an AUSA member at no cost. This offers members AUSA membership benefits throughout the duration of their membership with NGAUS. When NGAUS members sign up for the free AUSA membership they have access to all AUSA member benefits: Access to AUSA savings, educational products, member access & pricing to PD and networking opportunities throughout the year, employment assistance, scholarships, legal document preparation system,, etc. Go to: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeoPM-Ae1gqE7KwpOPEb6oY2syXGe_tz935i0igqN7qWCK_2Q/viewform

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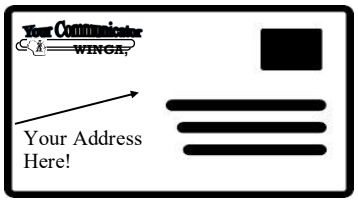

DIRECT BENEFITS OF YOUR WINGA/NGAUS MEMBERSHIP

- Tax-free retired military pay in Wisconsin
- WI State Tuition Assistance Program and post 9-11 GI Bill
- Since 2016, funded $92,000 for NGAUS Life Membership Incentive for 183 officers
- Since 2012, funded over $63,000 Educational Scholarships for 106 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 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
- Post-deployment mental health care & TRICARE Coverage
- WINGA newsletter (published 6 times per year) & monthly NGAUS magazine
- Benefit parity for the National Guard