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

September 2021

Where can you go and hear four 4-star Generals and a US Cabinet Member speak in an 8-hour period? The answer is NGAUS 2021 in Las Vegas. On the first day, we heard speeches from General's Hokanson, Martin, Alvin and Dickinson, plus Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Special thanks to the 65 officers, retirees and guests of the Wisconsin delegation who not only made the journey to Las Vegas, but helped in our hospitality suite, mentored Company Grade Officers attending their first NGAUS and Dan, Myron and Jeannie for their hard work getting numerous NGAUS Resolutions approved. Congratulations to CW5 (Ret) Bill Krueck for being elected to the NGAUS Warrant Officer Advisory Committee and to LT Chad Rihn for being elected to serve on the NGAUS Company Grade Advisory Committee representing Area V. Special thanks to MAJ Ben Gelhaus for his performance during the Roll Call of States. A video of his presentation and numerous memorable photos are posted in the photo gallery on the WINGA web page at www.winga.org.

NGAUS has approved a new Digital Life Membership for $500 beginning in 2022. This reduced rate is offered for those officers wanting a life membership, but would accept a digital copy of the NGAUS monthly magazine rather than a paper copy. The WINGA Board of Directors approved including this new life membership program in our Life Membership Incentive Program for 2022. This means Company Grade Officers would only pay $250 for a NGAUS Life Membership and WINGA would match the other $250. Field Grade Officers would pay $375 and WINGA would cover the $125 balance. In addition, all officers would pay $80 for WINGA Life Membership. This is an excellent opportunity to become a life member of NGAUS and WINGA at a very low rate. This offer is a trial program for only four years, so it is best to take advantage of this membership incentive while it is available.

Special thanks to MAJ Ben Gelhaus and CPT Alicia Dorsett who have agreed to Co-Chair a new Membership Task Force. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, let me know and I will get you in touch with Ben or Alicia.

WINGA Board members, LTC Jeremy Holmes and LTC Orrin Viner, did a superb job planning and executing our first annual WING Golf Outing at University Ridge. Although the weather was not cooperative, everyone had a great time and we had a good mix of officers, enlisted and retirees. We look forward to a repeat performance in 2022.

Now that the NGAUS conference is in the rearview mirror, we will focus our attention on the 2022 WINGA membership campaign and the 2022 State Conference, co-chaired by LTC Brion Alderman and hosted by the 64th Troop Command. Mark your calendars for 24-26 April at the Radisson Hotel and Casino in Green Bay.

On behalf of Lynn Rasmussen and myself, it is our pleasure to serve those who serve.

COL (Ret) Mike Williams
WINGA Executive Director

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by MAJ Brian Faltinson

The recently passed Wisconsin State Budget included a provision that exempts pay received from federal military service from Wisconsin state income tax. This is a significant legislative accomplishment that will benefit all Wisconsin Airmen and Soldiers for years to come. Previously, certain deployments to non-combat zones required a Guard Member to pay state income tax on those earnings; now all federal deployments are exempt from Wisconsin state income tax. The tax exemption does not include drill pay, annual training pay or AGR pay. The exemption also did not include State Active Duty pay; however, a separate bill may be considered by the State Legislature this fall to expand the tax exemption to cover State Active Duty pay.

On the Federal side, Congress is considering the FY22 budget and topics under discussion are zero-cost Tricare and closing several Post-9/11 GI Bill loopholes that prevent Guard personnel from receiving educational benefits for certain types of federal service.

Update—WINGA Golf Outing

The WINGA Golf Outing was held on at University Ridge Golf Course on 13 September. We had an excellent turnout of 104 golfers, thanks to the great leadership and planning of Jeremy Holmes with assistance from Orrin Viner.. It rained on and off all day, but that did not dampen the spirits of the attendees. GEICO and Blue Cross/Blue Shield Insurance Companies were our corporate sponsors.

Update—Sporting Challenge

The WINGA Sporting Challenge was held on 24 September at the North Bristol Sportsman's Club At press time, 30 individuals had registered. Bryant Volling did a great job organizing the event.. Blue Cross/Blue Shield Insurance Company was our corporate sponsor.

TAPS

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

Col (Ret) Phil Brickson
BG (Ret) Charles Scharine

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

144th: 26-30 Aug 2022
Columbus, OH

145th: 30 Aug—2 Sep 2023
Reno, NV

146th: 23-26 Aug 2024
Detroit, MI

147th: 22-25 Aug 2025
Milwaukee, WI

WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD FOUNDATION

The newly created Wisconsin National Guard Foundation, Inc. is up and running. Elected Board Officers include; Gary Ebben, President; Libby Schmiedlin, Vice-President, Alicia Dorsett, Secretary; and DJ Klauser, Treasurer. Additional Board of Directors include; Dan Statz, Bob Klinger, Rafael Conde, Renee Simpson, Peter Fox, Fred McCormick and Terry McArdle. Mike Williams serves as the Executive Director. The WING Foundation is a 501(c) 3 charitable foundation. Visit www.wi-ngfoundation.org for more information.

WINGA 2021 EDUCATION GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

AWARD	RECIPIENT	SPONSOR
Education Grant	Brooke Blader-Lucht	BG Robyn Blader
Education Grant	Nadia Eakins	Col Matthew Eakins
Education Grant	Katherine Klauser	LTC DJ Klauser
Education Grant	Elizabeth Kolb	LTC Doug Kolb
Education Grant	Madelyn Moore	LTC Doug Moore
Education Grant	Emma Murray	CW4 (Ret) Mike Murray
Education Grant	Heather Yenchesky	Brig Gen (Ret) Dan Yenchesky
Presidential Scholarship	2LT Kolt Knutson	self
Presidential Scholarship	1LT Ryan Schnake	self
Presidential Scholarship	2nd Lt Jacob Solomon	self

These students were awarded a $1,000 education scholarship for the 2021-2022 academic year from the Wisconsin National Guard Association, Inc (WINGA). 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.

WINGA 2021 EDUCATION GRANTS THANK YOU'S

2LT Kolt Knutson: Thank you very much for the WINGA scholarship which will assist me in funding my education. I currently am getting ready for a deployment, during which I plan on continuing my education.

Brooke Blader-Lucht: I am one of the fortunate recipients of a WINGA Scholarship—thank you. I am currently enrolled at UW-Stevens Point double-majoring in elementary education & special education. I am looking forward to continuing to give back to the community by continuing to be involved in our local women's auxiliary to support veterans. Thank you for your willingness to help me achieve my educational goals.

Nadia Eakins: I would like to thank you for this scholarship. It helps me get closer to my goal of teaching. I am grateful for your generosity.

Madelyn Moore: I want to thank you for choosing me as a recipient of a WINGA scholarship. I am enrolled at Saint Norbert College majoring in Spanish Education with a minor in Art and English. Thank you for helping me achieve my goals.

Katie Klauser: Thank you for selecting me for an education grant. As a double major in Spanish and Biology, these funds will certainly help relieve some of my educational expenses.

WINGA SSLI Job Announcement

The State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) office is currently accepting applications to fill a part-time position as an **Office Assistant**.

Job Description (includes but not limited to): Position requires learning and understanding the SSLI Insurance program. Answering phones and emails regarding SSLI program. Creating spreadsheets in excel, typing letters and creating labels in Word. Entering information into database, quarterly billing, scanning, and maintaining filing.

Projected Start Date: 1 November 2021

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

Hourly Wage: Starting at $16.50/hour. Merit increase available after 6-month probationary period.

Fringe Benefits: 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); ability to give attention to detail; military knowledge a plus, but not required.

Deadline for Applications: Submit your resume to the SSLI office, attention SIA, by 15 October 2021. Resumes may be mailed or emailed:

WINGA-State Sponsored Life Insurance Office, Joint Force Headquarters, 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.

2021 NGAUS CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS
27-30 August 2021

Conference Overview. Sixty-five (65) Wisconsin National Guard members (actively serving and retired) and their guests attended the NGAUS 2021 in Las Vegas, including 10 Company Grade Officers (CGO) on orders or on a WINGA scholarship. Of our group, 27 (42%) attended their very first NGAUS conference, and hopefully not their last. The Nevada National Guard had only 90 days to plan the conference due to a site change from Charlotte NC to Las Vegas. Keynote speakers were: General Daniel Hokanson, Chief of the National Guard Bureau; General David Alvin, Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force; General James Dickinson, Commander, US Space Command; and General Joseph Martin, Army Vice Chief of Staff. 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.. Congratulations to the 115th Fighter Wing; they were the recipient of the Distinguished Mission Support Plaque. As always, Wisconsin promotes the Wisconsin products of cheese curds and Spotted Cow at NGAUS Conferences. And, you just never know who might show up in Wisconsin's Hospitality Room in search of Spotted Cow former Green Bay Packers Quarterback Matt Flynn (see picture below). Matt Flynn was one of the exhibitors at the NGAUS Conference; his company is called MyHy (www.drinkmyhy.com) . And you can always spot Elvis or Michael Jackson in Vegas!

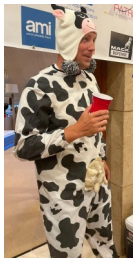
NGAUS Conf & Life Membership Sponsorship. Patriot Taxiway and AMI Health each sponsored a CGO's attendance at the NGAUS Conference, as well as life membership in NGAUS & WINGA . 1LT Jay Hale (732d CSS Bn) and 2LT James "Alex" Griffith (1st Bn 147th Avn) were randomly selected as the recipients of the corporate-sponsored NGAUS conference attendance and NGAUS/WINGA life membership. A huge thank you to Patriot Taxiway and AMI Health for their generous contribution!

Corporate Sponsors. We would like to thank these corporate partners for their generous support of the Wisconsin delegation at the 2021 NGAUS Conference in Las Vegas: AMI Health, Armed Forces Benefits Association (AFBA), EDL Construction, GEICO, JBT Aerotech Corporation, Klement's Sausage, Mack Defense, Oshkosh Defense, Patriot Taxiway, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), and Wiley X.

Corporate Sponsors (left to right): AFBA, AMI Health, Geico, JBT Aerotech, Oshkosh Defense, Patriot Taxiway, SAIC.

Patriot Taxiway & AMI Health CGO sponsorship

Wisconsin's 100% membership plaque



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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

NGAUS
The National Guard Association of the United States