

THE VOICE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON
OCTOBER 2021

EANGUS 2021: In the Land of Enchantment

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) 50th Anniversary Conference was held 8-11 AUG 2021, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. NGAW had 12 attendees, including the Professional Development delegates: SrA Charles Humbert (ANG), TSgt Derek Holmgren (ANG), SSG Tobias Suhr (ARNG), and SSG Lauren Ogburn (ARNG).

NGAW Legislative Dir. Naz Brockman (ANG), VP Chris Voelker (ARNG), and Darlene Boydston (ANG) attended the Legislative Committee meetings (Naz and Chris as voting members) to support resolution decisions and the NGAW submission of a resolution for Child Care, which was passed and added to EANGUS legislative priorities. A total of 15 new resolutions were passed by the EANGUS Delegation. These resolutions will be used to create the EANGUS Legislative Priorities for the Second Session of the 117th Congress. Some of the resolutions that were approved included Affordable TRICARE for Grey Area Retirees, Military Occupation compatibility for Civilian Certificates, NG Personnel Pay and Benefits Parity, Tricare



Reserve Select eligibility for Dual Status Technicians and Federal Employees before the current 2030 eligibility date.

Our professional Development attendees had a chance to sit in on all of the Business Sessions with guest speakers, including SEA Tony L. Whitehead, SMA(Ret) Daniel A. Dailey, and NGB Chief Lt. Gen Daniel Hokanson and his wife. The PDs also attended training events such as Unconscious Bias, Speed Mentoring, Health and Wellness, Senior Enlisted Panel (headlined by SEA Whitehead and CSM Sampa), and Emotional Intelligence.

NGAW applied for and received renewal of our EANGUS Charter in celebration of the EANGUS 50th Anniversary Celebration. Our association also had 2 of our very own elected into Area 7 positions in EANGUS. Bob Sweeney was voted in as the Area 7 Chair and Darlene Boydston as the Area 7 Air Director.

We now look forward to the Big Damn Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas in 2022 and hope to see even more of our Enlisted representing NGAW at the national level.

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NGAUS 2021: All-In for America's Defense

Viva Las Vegas! Vegas and NGAUS 2021 did not disappoint. The sights, the sounds, and the largest WA delegation to date, with 24 attendees. Four days of informative and engaging speakers touching on a variety of issues from strength, modernization, OPTEMPO, and health care for all Guardsmen.

This year's theme was The National Guard: All in for America's Defense. GEN Daniel R. Hokanson, Chief of NGB, gave a "State of the National Guard" address as part of the conference's first professional development session. "For all of our accomplishments and efforts over the past year," he said, "the future looks even more challenging." The nation is entering a new phase of warfare, with the National Guard having a role in every aspect, from competition to crisis.

That is why this conference was as important as ever! Guardsman from across the 54 states and territories gathered to discuss and learn, to share ideas and build camaraderie. A fantastic example of this was a meeting between Washington Air National Guard BRIG GEN Gent Welsh, NGAW President LTC Chris Blanco, NGAW Executive Director Bob Sweeney and Hawaii



Congressman (and National Guard member) Kaiali'i Kahele. The group discussed the benefits of the State Partnership program and how best to meet the needs of our Guardsmen.

Another highlight was a presentation by the Commander of US Space Command, GEN James H. Dickinson. Throughout his remarks, Dickinson repeatedly stressed the important role the National Guard has in the nation's efforts in space, explaining that the Command has enduring no-fail missions to support the Joint Force, missions that are not new to the Guard and that would not be possible without the Guard's support. "We are a stronger force as a Total Force," he said.

Make plans to join next year's NGAUS Conference, 26-29 August 2022, in Columbus, Ohio. See you all there!



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The recent NGAW Legislative Huddle was a successful introduction to what future steps we need to take to prepare for Resolutions in 2022. Coming off the momentum of the EANGUS & NGAUS conferences, the Legislative Committee energetically discussed present actions and the proposal for more professional development in the areas of current military legislative priorities, potential guest speakers, and updates on bills/proposals. The team is also working on better ways to engage with Washington Guardsmen on resolutions collection and engagement.

We have a group of excited individuals ready to take on the advocacy charge to support Airmen & Soldiers as they serve our state and nation. If you want to join our team to work on Guardsmen benefits, please reach out to nazbrockman@gmail.com to be invited to our next virtual meeting 28 Oct 2021 from 1200-1300.

Oct Drill Weekend Talking Points: <https://eangus.org/eangus-roll-call-drill-weekend-talking-points-sep-2021-2/>

SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to all of our 2021 NGAW Scholarship recipients! Cheri Harrell (181st BSB, Charlie Med Co.) won the Company Grade Award, Kaddijatou Baldeh (181st) won the Foundation/USAA Army Guard Enlisted Award, Sameer Puri (JFHQ) received the Foundation Award at the Master's & Above level, and Winston Hobbs, son of NGAW member Steven Hobbs (122nd TPASE) won the Dependent Award.

Information about our 2022 Scholarships will be release next spring. Check our Scholarships page (<https://ngaw.org/scholarships-2/>) for additional resources offered by NGAUS and EANGUS, which you qualify for as a member of NGAW!



Scholarship recipients Cheri Harrell and Sameer Puri



Current Board members at their 2020 Strategic Planning Weekend.

BOARD ELECTIONS

Would you like to be an advocate for the Guard Family and be a part of a platform for action? Join the NGAW Board of Directors! Nominations are now being accepted for several Board positions for the 2022-24 term, including President (Enlisted only for this term), Vice President (Officer only for this term), Director of Member Relations, Director of Development, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Nominations are due by 12 Nov, and the election will be 15 Dec. For more information about the election, including position descriptions and the nomination form, visit our website at <https://ngaw.org/2021-elections/>.

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NEW DIGITAL LIFETIME MEMEBRSHIP

NGAW is excited to announce the new Digital Life Membership. The Digital Life Membership offers you all of the rights and privileges of the Active Life Membership at **half** the cost. The only difference is you will receive the NATIONAL GUARD magazine digitally.

This membership is offered to all currently serving National Guard officers and warrant officers at \$500 with monthly installment options available at purchase. For more information contact ngaw@ngaw.org or visit: ngaw.org/membership-account/membershiplevels/.

Digital Life Member Benefits:

- Dedicated advocates on Capitol Hill fighting for your benefits
- Access to exclusive professional development, networking and educational opportunities
- Eligibility for member and dependent scholarships including scholarships exclusively for Active Life members and dependents
- Insurance supplements designed for members of the National Guard including \$2,500 AD&D coverage at no cost
- A digital subscription to the NATIONAL GUARD magazine
- Exclusive access to legislative analysis
- The opportunity to serve on association committees and task forces that help drive the future of Guard advocacy

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct. 20 - NGAUS Executive Council Meeting
- Oct. 23 - Seattle Armory Trunk-or-Treat
- Oct. 24-26 - NGAUS Capitol Summit
- Oct. 28 - NGAW Legislative Huddle
- Oct. 30 - Camp Murraray Trunk-or-Treat
- Nov. 10 - JSS Turkey Drop
- Nov. 17 - NGAW Board Meeting
- Dec. 9 - JSS Holiday Magic
- Dec. 15 - NGAW Board Meeting & **Elections**



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