

THE VOICE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON
APRIL 2022

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome! As this is my first write up as your NGAW President, I would like to acknowledge and thank my predecessor, COL Chris Blanco for his enthusiasm and care for our cause, placing us in a position to continue to make this organization an optimal place for advocacy and community building.

People often ask me why I'm an NGAW member and what it's like to be President. NGAW affords me the opportunity to resolve issues that affect Guard members and makes me feel like I'm giving back to the organization that has given me many opportunities to grow as a leader. I've been able to speak at conferences, attend meetings where I help make decisions on Guard policies, and I've met some amazing Soldiers and Airmen who truly care about the Guard legacy.

For instance, NGAW started 2022 with the immediate tasking to advance expanding benefits of the Washington National Guard Education Grant. With the voices of Nancy Bickford, NGAW Legislative Director Charles Barnett, Brig Gen Gent Welsh, and other legislators at the helm, NGAW aided in the passing of SHB 1642 ensuring our Guardswomen and men have access to Washington state bachelor's degrees, graduate programs, and certifications.

NGAW doesn't just lobby for benefits, we also offer unit event support. Recently, we supported the 2022 Washington Air National Guard Awards Banquet, helping to fund the budget for 400 Airmen to celebrate and recognize their top performers. It was thrilling to see everyone in person again and I hope we get many more opportunities in the future.

If you would like NGAW to support your unit event, submit a request at: <https://ngaw.org/unit-support-request/>. This creates the opportunity for us to hear your opinions and raise your voices regarding the issues that matter to you. How can we ensure positive retention rates? How do we take care of our Guard families? What benefits are we overlooking that occur automatically in the Active forces? Please know **your voices matter to us**, and our team is looking for ways to ensure we are deliberate about your concerns. If you would like to talk more about how to become a member or get involved, please contact me. My team and I would like to share why NGAW is such an important part of securing benefits for Guardswomen and men and creating policies for change.

Sincerely,
Naziroh Brockman
NGAW President

NGAW State Conference
Sat. June 25 11am-3:30pm
McChord Club



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2022 VIRTUAL RACE SERIES

This spring, NGAW is sponsoring a virtual 3-race series. Run, walk, bike, or swim. Races are open to anyone and everyone; no military connection needed. Participate with your Unit during drill, with your family at home or on your own. Register on the Gone for a Run website: <https://www.goneforarun.com/ngaw-virtual-race-series/>. Log your time and earn your collectible medal featuring Sasquatch.



Check out the bib and medal designs!

We have three races planned, but you don't need to participate in all three. April will be the Easter Egg Dash, May is the Mother of All Races, and June is the D-Day Dash to honor all the dads. Register for as many as you like.

Proceeds help Washington Guardsmen with financial needs in education, professional development, emergency assistance, and family support.

UPCOMING GOLF TOURNAMENTS

NGAW knows how to host a golf tournament! We had two great scrambles last year, and we're ready for our next hole in one! We have two golf tournaments coming up over the next few months.

Our first tournament will be in Spokane on Friday, May 20 at Downriver Golf Course. We had a great turnout there last June, despite temps over 100 degrees. We're hoping for just as much fun but cooler temps this year. Then on Friday Sept. 23, we'll have our fall tournament at Eagle's Pride Golf Course in DuPont.

Both tournaments will feature prizes for the longest drive, closest to the pin, lowest and highest team scores, as well as a raffle with some great prizes. Registration for the Spokane tournament is open now. Watch our website and social media for updates.



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The NGAW Legislative Committee, led by newly appointed Legislative Chair Charles Barnett, was hard at work during the recent Washington State 2022 legislative session, which ran from January 10 until March 10. The Committee's main focus was SB 5614/HB 1642, which expands access to the National Guard Post-Secondary Grant Program. Barnett and NGAW member BG Gent Welsh testified in the Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee Hearing in support of the bill. The bill passed both houses and was signed into law on March 17!

The broader areas of concern the Committee is now focusing on, even though they may not have a specific proposal yet, include childcare for Drill Weekends, free



Discover Passes and Fishing Licenses for Guardsmen, benefits parity with Active Duty, and State Active Duty benefits and pay. The Legislative Committee has been researching those topics, reaching out to local businesses and lawmakers, as well as other states. Once they have a better understanding of the issues, they can craft resolutions to bring before NGAUS and EANGUS.

If you are interested in these or other legislative topics, and you would like to join the Legislative Committee, contact our office at legislativedirector@ngaw.org.



HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

NGAW is YOUR association. How can we help you and your unit? NGAW would love to support your unit event. Do you need coffee for your volunteers or do you need some of our members to help by volunteering? Would our campground be a good spot for your warm weather event? Do you need financial assistance for a holiday event? Let us help you!

Contact our office at ngaw@ngaw.org or complete the Unit Event Support Request form on the Contact Us page of our website: <https://ngaw.org/unit-support-request/>. Let us help you!

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CAPITOL SUMMIT

Are you a Company Grade Officer interested in learning more about the impact **you** can have as a member of NGAW? Contact the NGAW office for more information about attending the NGAUS Capitol Summit July 17-19.



The Capitol Summit is a professional development program NGAUS offers to National Guard Company Grade Officers, Second Lieutenant to Captain or Warrant Officer 1 to Chief Warrant Officer 3. The program brings together Guardsmen from each state and territory for a close look at how the government works and the role NGAUS plays in the legislative process. It also includes a congressional component where participants will have the opportunity to meet with congressional offices.

2022 SCHOLARSHIPS

NGAW members and their dependents are eligible to apply for a variety of scholarships offered by NGAW, the NGAW Foundation and USAA (enlisted only). Multiple scholarships are available, starting at \$500.

Applicants must be a current paid or lifetime member of NGAW or the dependent of a current paid or lifetime member (Officer or Enlisted). Applicants may only apply for one scholarship, and must submit an essay and two letters of recommendation. For current Guardsmen, one letter must come from the Unit Commander or the First Sergeant. All applications must be submitted online by the **May 27, 2022 deadline**.



Two of the 2021 recipients: Sameer Puri and Cheri Harrell



UPCOMING NATIONAL CONFERENCES

While the EANGUS and NGAUS annual conferences next August may seem a long way off, the planning has already begun, and NGAW is already looking forward to these important events. Why should you be getting excited about these conferences? They are valuable professional development opportunities. They also provide the best way to get involved at the national level and have an impact not just on your career but also on the future of the National Guard. These events are open to current Guardsmen and retirees. Contact our office if you are interested in attending. Let's get excited for Little Rock and Columbus!

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DO YOU HAVE A LIFETIME MEMEBRSHIP?

Is remembering to renew your NGAW membership each year a struggle? Do you wish there was a set-it-and-forget-it option? There is! NGAW has affordable lifetime membership options for both Enlisted and Officers.

These memberships are offered to both those currently serving in the WA National Guard, as well as retirees, and installment payment options are available. For more information contact ngaw@ngaw.org or visit: ngaw.org/membership-account/membershiplevels/.

Lifetime Member Benefits Include:

- Dedicated advocates in Olympia and on Capitol Hill fighting for your benefits
- Access to exclusive professional development, networking and educational opportunities
- Eligibility for member and dependent scholarships
- Insurance supplements designed for members of the National Guard
- The opportunity to serve on association committees and task forces that help drive the future of Guard advocacy

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 20 Eastside Golf Scramble
- June 25 NGAW State Conference
- July 17-20 Capitol Summit
- Aug 7-10 EANGUS Conference
- Aug 26-29 NAGUS Conference
- Sept. 23 Westside Golf Scramble



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WE NEED YOUR CIVILIAN EMAIL ADDRESS!

Help us connect better with you. Please update your membership account with a **civilian email address** so that you can better view our messages.

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