

# THE VOICE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON  
JULY 2022

## 2022 NGAW STATE CONFERENCE: GUARD YOUR FUTURE



Thank you everyone who attended the 2022 NGAW State Conference! The conference was Saturday June 25 at the McChord Club, and it was our first live, in-person conference in 2 years! We had 40 attendees, with an additional handful who joined in via Zoom.

Our theme this year was Guard Your Future, which was really embraced by everyone who spoke at the conference. TAG MG Daugherty briefed us on the current state and future of our Guard.

Our distinguished guest speaker, Representative Mari Leavitt, challenged all of us to take an active role in shaping what lies ahead for the Washington National Guard, pointing out that readiness is the key to serving not only our local communities, but our nation. NGAW Legislative Director Charles Barnett discussed our current legislative priorities, and Area VII rep for EANGUS Darllene Boydston and Board members Jim Kovell and Dan Wessman presented information about the upcoming national conferences. Overall, attendees heard how they can make an impact simply by being a member.

The conference also allowed us to present \$6,000 in scholarships to deserving Washington National Guard Soldiers, Airmen, and their dependents, including Aren Johnson, Bryna Kelm, Emily Duncan, and Shad Kerr. Congratulations!

This event could not have happened without the support and involvement of our wonderful members. We genuinely appreciate all of you and **invite you to a Thank You BBQ at the Camp Murray Campground on Thursday July 28 from 4-7:30pm.**

## POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION GRANT

The vision of NGAW is to Amplify the Voice of Every Guardsman. We seek to make what you want a reality by lobbying on your behalf. Over the last few years, one piece of legislation we've worked very hard to secure is the Post-Secondary Education Grant. This grant helps pay tuition and fees not covered by traditional financial aid. Last spring we lobbied to expand the coverage of this program to include graduate degrees and certifications, and we succeeded! **Applications for the 2022-23 academic year are now being accepted.** You can apply at: <https://wsac.wa.gov/national-guard>.

# Amplify the Voice of Every Guardsman

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## 2022 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



2022 Scholarship Recipient Jason Oakes

Every year, NGAW members and their dependents are eligible to apply for educational scholarships offered by NGAW. Multiple scholarships are available, starting at \$500, and awards are granted directly to the applicant, rather than to their school. Applicants must be a current paid or lifetime member of NGAW or the dependent of a current paid or lifetime member (Officer or Enlisted).

USAA donates \$1000 annually, which we use for scholarships for 2 Enlisted members. Our other scholarships are funded by

contributions to our 501(c)3 NGAW Foundation, including the money we raise at our golf tournaments and other fundraising events. So keep in mind, every raffle ticket and Mulligan you buy helps a fellow NGAW member pay for their education!

This year, we are excited to grant scholarships to the following Soldiers and Airmen, Officers and Enlisted members, spouse, and dependents.



*Congratulations!*

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Emily Duncan     | \$1000 NGAW Dependent Award                            |
| Elizabeth Ozmer  | \$1000 NGAW Dependent Award                            |
| Vanessa Ponce    | \$500 NGAW Dependent Award                             |
| Berlyn Sandstrom | \$1000 NGAW Spouse Award                               |
| Aren Johnson     | \$500 NGAW Foundation Scholarship (Master's & Above)   |
| Bryna Kelm       | \$500 NGAW Foundation Scholarship (Master's & Above)   |
| Shad Kerr        | \$500 NGAW Foundation Scholarship (Enlisted Air)       |
| Jason Oakes      | \$500 NGAW Foundation Scholarship (USAA/Enlisted Air)  |
| Serafina Paulino | \$500 NGAW Foundation Scholarship (USAA/Enlisted Army) |



2022 Scholarship Recipient Aren Johson



2022 Scholarship Recipient Elizabeth Ozmer

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## YOUR STATE SPONSORED LIFE INSURANCE

We know it's a morbid topic, but have you thought about your life insurance coverage? Did you realize that all actively serving Washington National Guard members, both Army and Air, are automatically enrolled in a State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) program? You are! No application is necessary. Washington is part of a 23 state "association pool" that is currently insured by the Armed Forces Benefits Association (AFBA).

The Basic program provides \$1000 coverage in the event of death. It also provides coverage for your spouse and/or dependents, and additional Enhanced coverage can be added at any time while you are a WANG member. Death benefits are paid directly to the beneficiary on policy within 24 hours.

Benefits Architects from the SSLI organization regularly administer a brief about the program to Washington Soldiers and Airman, trying to get to every unit every 18-24 months. Have they visited your unit recently? Did you realize you had this fantastic coverage?

Visit the AFBA site for more information about their coverage or to purchase additional coverage:  
<https://www.ssli.org/index.html>.



## UPCOMING NATIONAL CONFERENCES

The EANGUS and NGAUS annual conferences are next month! NGAW is really looking forward to these important events. But why should you be excited about these conferences? They provide valuable professional development opportunities. 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 is to attend these conferences. These events are open to current Guard members and retirees. Contact our office if you are interested in attending. We can't wait to see you in Little Rock and Columbus!



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## 2022 VIRTUAL RACE SERIES

This spring, NGAW sponsored a 3-race virtual 5K series with an Easter Egg Dash, the Mother of All Races, and the D-Day Dash. Participants were able to run, walk, bike, or swim, and the races were open to anyone, with no military connection required. Several NGAW members, their spouses, parents, and even kids joined in the fun. Everyone who participated received a personalized race bib and a finishers medal.

Thank you to everyone who joined the races and helped support NGAW and our charitable pursuits!



## SPOKANE GOLF TOURNAMENT

NGAW loves golf tournaments! In May, we hosted our Spring Golf Scramble at Downriver Golf Course in Spokane. The tournament featured prizes for the longest drive, closest to the pin, lowest and highest team scores, as well as a raffle with some fabulous prizes.



We are so thankful for our amazing sponsors No-Li Brewhouse, Square Wheel Brewery, and Newby Ginnings who all donated raffle items.

Registration is now open for our Fall Golf Scramble, which will be Friday Sept. 23 at Eagle's Pride Golf Course in DuPont. This tournament has sold out in the past, and we are limited to 144 golfers, so sign up today! Watch our website and social media for updates.



*Register now for the Fall Scramble!*





# Amplify the Voice of Every Guardsman

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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](mailto:ngaw@ngaw.org) or visit: [ngaw.org/membership-account/membershiplevels/](http://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

July 17-20 Capitol Summit

**July 28 Thank You BBQ at Camp Murray Campground**

Aug 7-10 EANGUS Conference

Aug 26-29 NAGUS Conference

Sept. 23 Westside Golf Scramble

Nov. 10 Industry Day



## CONNECT WITH US!



@NationalGuardAssociationofWashington



@NationalGuardAssociationofWashington



@NGAW

## 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.

## THANK YOU SPONSORS

