

THE VOICE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON
OCTOBER 2022

2022 EANGUS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Written by NGAW President Naz Brockman

The EANGUS 51st Anniversary BIG DAM conference held in Little Rock, Arkansas this past August demonstrated Southern Hospitality from the start! It was hosted by the amazing Soldiers and Airmen of the Arkansas Enlisted Association. The conference kicked off with EANGUS' first ever 5k Run to support the We Care for America Foundation--a charity providing emergency financial grants to National Guard members and their families.

The days that followed began with Area caucuses, where NGAW met daily with representatives from the other members of Area VII (Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Guam) to discuss summaries of committee meetings and national resolution priorities. It was wonderful to network and learn about their lobbying efforts to promote equity of benefits for their Service Members and improve retention rates for their states. While all resolutions approved were agreed upon by NGAW delegates, some noteworthy resolutions were NDAA support for increasing AGR End Strength, the ANG federal tuition assistance proposal, and of course, Tricare for All.



Our Professional Development Attendees SSG Stormy White, SSgt Adelina Milano, TSgt Derek Holmgren, and SPC Eric Smith performed superbly in developing and briefing a Capstone with their peers. They also had an opportunity to participate in Speed Mentoring and gained valuable knowledge from the leadership panel consisting of SEA Tony Whitehead, CSM John Raines, and CCM Maurice Williams. They were able to witness the voting-in of the new EANGUS Executive Council, to include our very own CSM Retired Bob Sweeney as the new Vice President of EANGUS.

Our PDs had glowing things to say about their experience, including "I learned a lot about the organization and had valuable face to face time with CSMs during Speed Mentoring," and "Speed Mentoring was a very positive experience for me! I wish I was able to watch more of the actual conference."

Well, you will! The PDs have already signed up for the next year's Conference, and you can too! The 2023 Conference will be held in the Land of Lakes: Rochester, Minnesota. Please contact our office to save your seat!

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2022 NGAUS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Written by NGAW Vice President Dan Wessman

At the heart of it all... an appropriate theme for the 2022 NGAUS Conference, held in Columbus, OH last August. The city doubled in size as the Guard Nation descended. It was a great time, complete with opportunities for each member to learn something and develop a larger personal and professional network. The key topics for all speakers centered on strength and readiness. These are DoD-wide issues, and it was clearly expressed, especially by GEN Poppas – the FORSCOM Commanding General – that everyone understands the Guard is expected to do more with less time and fewer resources, and we make it happen.



Our PDs were Heidi Haptonstall and Joel Stude from the Air Guard and Taylor Payne and Matt Peterson on the Army side. They agreed that the conference was truly an eye opener to how Washington State falls into the National Guard's big picture. It provided exposure to senior leadership, opportunities to sharpen their leadership skills, and the chance to network with fellow Guardsmen from around the country. Attending the NGAUS conference is a great way to be an active member of our Association, while taking it a step farther by being a participant in shaping the future legislation and policies that affect our Soldiers and Airmen.

From Roll Call to the States Dinner, our Washington delegation was engaged and recognized (thanks in large part our incredibly bright t-shirts). Each member of the team took something special away from this Conference, and we're all eager for next year. You should join us in Reno in August 2023, where Washington will again be at the heart of it all.



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OCTOBER 2022

OCTOBER CAPITOL SUMMIT

Written by Steve Vuleta

Earlier this month, I attended the Fall NGAUS Capitol Summit. This was an experience that yielded dividends on behalf of NGAW through the relationships built and knowledge gained during three days in our nation's capital.

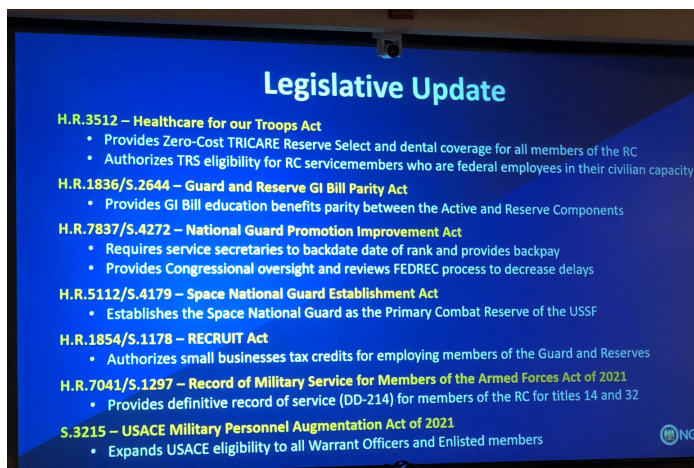
The Capitol Summit commenced with a crash course on the history of the National Guard and the federal legislative process. We learned about the complexity of navigating multiple agencies and bodies on "The Hill" in drafting a legislative proposal, and how NGB prioritizes programs such as the State Partnership Program and healthcare for Service Members in accordance with congressional objectives. Speakers such as MajGen April Vogel (Director, NGB Legislative Liaison), LTG Jon Jensen (Director, Army National Guard), and LtGen Michael Loh (Director, Air National Guard) briefed us on the future of the National Guard, including the Guard's continuously evolving role as an operational reserve in our National Security Strategy, and the implications for our Services considering the uncertainty produced by current world events. Participants were also briefed on several broadening opportunities for officers, such as the Congressional Fellowship and Legislative Liaison programs.



During our short time in Washington, D.C., two events stood out as particularly salient to me: advocating on behalf of our Soldiers and Airmen to Congress and building relationships with participants from other states and territories. I was part of a group of nominees that briefed a senior staffer from Senator Dianne Feinstein's office on the importance of Zero Cost TRICARE for our Soldiers and Airmen, including the profound positive effect such a program would have on medical readiness throughout the force. The conversations I had with other participants bore fruit via identifying common issues faced by associations across different states/territories and identifying

lines of effort where we can partner across state lines to make an impact on behalf of Service Members.

Capitol Summit is an incredible opportunity to learn more about the legislative process at the Federal level and how NGAW can learn from NGAUS, as well as from our sister associations across the 54 states and territories. If you are a CGO or CW2 looking to make an impact on behalf of Soldiers and Airmen, I cannot recommend the Capitol Summit highly enough. You can be a voice at the highest level on our behalf and really make a difference.



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UPCOMING INDUSTRY DAY



For the first time since the infamous 2020 Covid Shutdown, we are excited to host our annual Industry Day Event again! This great event is a vendor exhibition to showcase some of the organizations that work with and support the Washington National Guard. This fall's event will be held on **Thursday Nov. 10** in the Pierce County Readiness Center (Building 80) from 9am-2pm. It is free to attend, and everyone is welcome and invited to join us!

We expect at least 20 different organizations present for the event, including representatives from various universities, medical and tactical equipment companies, beverage companies, financial institutions, and more.

In prior years, we've had up to 500 attendees, and we hope to see that again this year. Put this event on your calendar, bring a friend, bring your Commander, and let's make some important connections.



Do you own a business you'd like us to showcase at our Industry Day event? Do you know of a local or Guard-owned business who should attend? Contact us at ngaw@ngaw.org, and let's make that happen!

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OCTOBER 2022

FALL GOLF SCRAMBLE

Last month we hosted our Fall Golf Scramble at Eagles Pride Golf Course in DuPont. With 30 registered teams, we had nearly 120 golfers tee it up! A fun putting game and the sale of raffle tickets and Mulligans raised almost \$5000 for our NGAW scholarships! That sets the bar pretty high for next year's tournament, where we'd like to surpass that number. By supporting our golf scrambles, you're helping your fellow Guard members and their families who utilize our scholarships!



We are so thankful for our amazing sponsors who donated raffle items and hosted tents at several holes around the course. That includes Nature's Return, the 194th Wing Top 3, the CSM/SGM Association of Washington, Evergreen Direct Credit Union, First Command, the Geico Local Office, Grand Canyon University, Guaranteed Rate, NW Home Experts, and the Warrant Officer Association Northwest Chapter.



We're already looking ahead to plan another tournament next spring (and next fall), so watch our website and social media for dates, registration, and more information.



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OCTOBER 2022

A SEASON FOR GIVING THANKS

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

NGAW runs on the power of volunteers. All of our events are set up and run and cleaned up by our fabulous volunteers. These individuals take time away from their jobs, families, and lives to support the Association and our members. Our volunteers take your voice and opinions to the legislators who need to listen. Our volunteers allow us to host events that raise money for our scholarships and charitable giving. **Our volunteers make it all possible and we are grateful!**

THANK YOU MEMBERS!

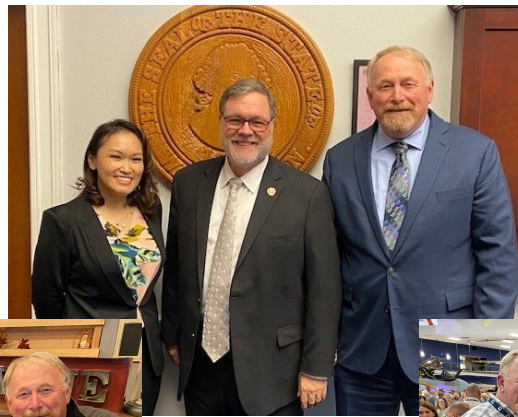
NGAW would not exist without all of our amazing members! As a way to say Thank You for your involvement, we hosted a special bbq *for you* on Thursday July 28 at our very own Camp Murray Campground.

Army and Air battled it out over cornhole and volleyball games, while everyone battled the heat with some iced cold drinks. We hope to make this an annual event!

WE APPRECIATE YOU!

THANK YOU BOB!

This fall, after 8 years as our incredible Executive Director, Bob Sweeney retired from NGAW. Sort of. He'll still be around, at the national conferences and even occasionally in the office. But in truth, he has retired. Bob you will be sorely missed. Thank you for all that you have done for us ! We appreciate you more than we can ever say!



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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

Nov 10 Industry Day

May 13 State Conference

June TBD Eastside Golf Scramble

Aug 13-16 EANGUS Conference

Aug 18-21 NGAUS Conference

Sep TBD 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.

THANK YOU SPONSORS

