

NGAW LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

STRATEGY & ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW



Vision: *Amplify the voice of every member of the Washington National Guard!*

NGAW Values:

1. **Trust:** We are transparent in our efforts in order to inspire confidence while representing our members.
2. **Education & Communication:** We are steadfast in our efforts to increase awareness and understanding.
3. **Action:** We have a bias toward action, and a focus on getting effective results.
4. **Membership:** Strength in numbers equals strength in representation.
5. **Service:** You served. We fight for the benefits you and your family deserve.

Mission: *This committee advocates for members of the Washington National Guard and its community. This community includes actively serving members, retirees, GS Civilians, Technicians, their families, and their civilian employers. This committee maintains awareness of the realities of service for this community. We provide a forum for input on how best to alleviate hardships, increase benefits, and to advocate on behalf of this community. In addition to these objectives oriented towards matters at home, members of the committee may also be asked to advocate at the national level and on behalf of the larger DoD community regarding service in the National Guard.*

The NGAW Legislative Committee's Strategic Approach

Ends: Every action we take must further one or more of these 4 objectives for us to be effective and true to our mission.

1. Incentivize service and support for the WA National Guard among community members and external stakeholders.
2. Secure legislation that effectively enhances operational readiness, and service member resiliency.
3. Be the organization of choice for all who are interested in proposing legislation affecting military matters in WA State.
4. Produce well informed, educated, and experienced committee members who can navigate the political landscape on behalf of service members in an ethical and professional manner.

How we achieve our Ends: These 5 ways are how we pursue the objectives described above. We evaluate ourselves based on Measures of Performance (MOP),

and Measures of Effectiveness (MOE). MOPs evaluate how well we do what we say we will, and MOEs evaluate how effective those efforts are at achieving the desired outcome.

1. Solicit regular input from the Guard Community and external stakeholders to identify issues affecting Guard members, the community, or organizational readiness and resiliency.

MOP: Calls for input are sent out quarterly through the NGAW communications manager.

MOE: Number of responses received that are approved as priorities by the Leg. Committee and NGAW Board.

2. Educate Committee members on the legislative process and political landscape in WA and nationally to inform effective communication.

MOP: Host 1 or more trainings per quarter. Sponsor 1 officer and 1 enlisted member to attend a legislative workshop or similar event every 6 months.

MOE: Committee members are confident in their understanding of the legislative process, and feel they can effectively engage with stakeholders and legislators regarding our priorities.

3. Select and prioritize resolutions into legislative priorities, then assign them to the sub-committees for development.

MOP: Priorities are updated and published monthly.

MOE: Top priorities make meaningful progress each quarter.

4. Engage with potential sponsors/co-sponsors, stakeholders, and interested parties to develop legislative proposals that address our priorities.

MOP: The committee conducts engagements with 3 or more external stakeholders or legislators each quarter.

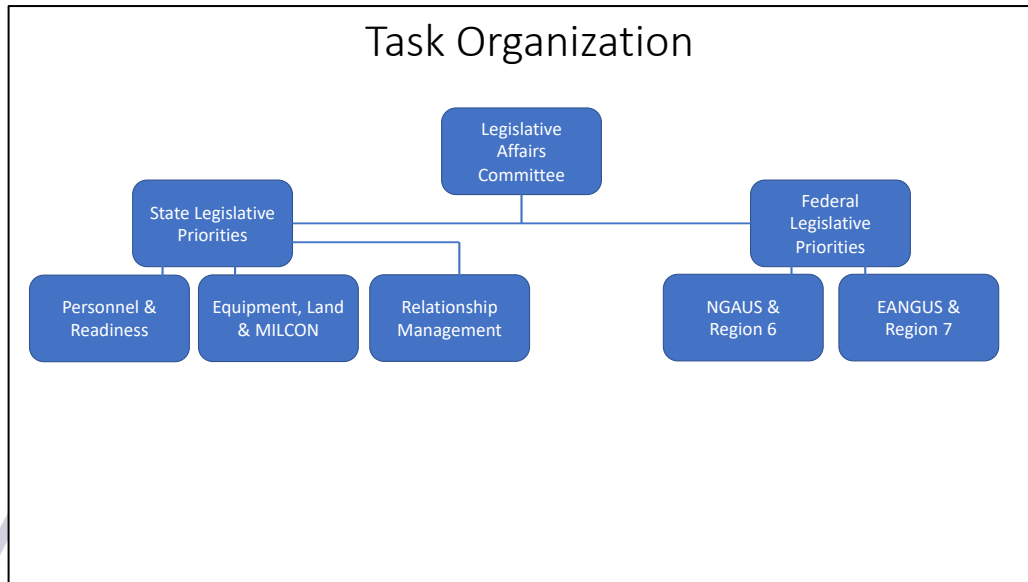
MOE: A sponsor/co-sponsor, partner in a bill draft/proposal, or a VSO bill is secured/identified each quarter.

5. Communicate to NGAW members and the larger Guard community our priorities and publish Calls to Action to support our bills, or those we support.

MOP: Publish Calls to Action Monthly

MOE: Attain a 25% or greater response rate on all calls to action in support of legislative priorities.

Overview of Committee Operations, Roles & Responsibilities



State Legislative Priorities

This sub-committee is responsible for maintaining our relationships with local legislators, veteran service organizations, and stakeholders. They research, develop and propose legislation that affects the Guard within the State of Washington. Below are the focus areas for this committee and some examples of what they work on.

Personnel & Readiness

- Education Benefits
- Healthcare Benefits
- Recreational Benefits (Hunting License)
- Family Benefits
- Employer Incentives
- State Active Duty Policies/Benefits

Equipment, Land & MILCON

- Acquiring new land for armories
- Improvements to land or armories
- New construction of facilities
- Acquisition of equipment that will be used for state response missions

Relationship Management

- Maintain regular communication or develop new relationships with:
- VSOs, VLC, State Legislators, State Agencies
 - Business Advocacy Groups
 - Advocacy groups affecting Personnel & Readiness

Federal Legislative Priorities

This committee monitors federal priorities for NGAUS and EANGUS, provides education on the respective conferences, and communicates on behalf of the NGAW with Region 6 and 7 regarding support for WA resolution proposals. These committee members also respond to federal level Calls to Action (CTA) and put together communications to NGAW members regarding these CTAs.

NGAUS & Region 6

- Monitor NGAUS and Region 6 priorities and active proposals
- Educate members on NGAUS and its events (conference, capitol summit, etc.)
- Coordinate NGAUS training events on NDAA, Legislative Process, Lobbying best practices
- Maintain contact with Region 6 and federal POCs
- Assign 1 Air, 1 Army, and 1 Joint resolution manager

EANGUS & Region 7

- Monitor EANGUS and Region 7 priorities and active proposals
- Educate members on EANGUS and its events (conference, legislative workshops, etc.)
- Coordinate EANGUS training events on the same subject matter
- Maintain contact with Region 7 and federal POCs

Battle Rhythm

This is a quick guide to understanding the work that the committee does internally. This does not indicate one-off events or engagements with stakeholders which are managed on the calendar and change frequently.

Event	Frequency	Who	Input	Output	Feeds Into
Legislative Update (Signal) / CTAs	Monthly / When announced	All committee members & NGAW Membership list	Director consolidates updates from sub-committees and provides guidance.	Updated guidance for sub-committees. NGAW members respond to CTAs	Generates member action, and feeds into sub-committee meetings and working groups.
Committee of the Whole Meeting	Quarterly	All committee members	Director provides updates on upcoming events, legislative priorities at State/Federal level; Deputy Director covers administrative matters; Sub-Committee Chairs provide updates to their programs. Members provide feedback, and questions. Feedback from stakeholders.	Identify any hurdles impeding progress of the committee/sub-committee and either decide on solution or set date for a working group to tackle the issue. Members are informed of project/objective status and what next steps they can take to further these causes. Director may add a priority or area of interest based on stakeholder feedback.	Tasks to be assigned at the sub-committee level. Events to be scheduled by the Director or sub-committee chair.
Sub-Committee Meetings	Monthly	All sub-committee members	Chair provides updates, members report on status of assigned tasks.	Hurdles are identified and action taken to resolve them. Chair provides guidance on priority of work. Chair assigns out new tasks or reallocates tasks/members to a specific item to meet timelines.	Director's status update on committee projects/objectives to the NGAW Board/NGAW Members/NGAUS resolutions priorities.
Working Group Meetings	As Needed	All members of committee or sub-committee as applicable	As Directed.	As Directed.	As Directed.
NGAW Board Meetings	Monthly, with in-depth presentations quarterly	Director/Deputy Director	Director provides updates on upcoming events, legislative priorities at State/Federal level.	NGAW Board provides guidance on priorities, may re-direct efforts, may provide resources or personnel to assist legislative committee. Identify New priorities.	Working Groups or committee of the whole meetings. Tasks to be assigned at committee/sub-committee.
State Conference	Yearly	Open to all NGAW members; Director provides inputs.	Director provides updates on upcoming events, legislative priorities at State/Federal level. Call to action for members to get involved; or for leaders to support.	New members, support from Guard Leaders, engagements with stakeholders. New areas of interest or proposals may be identified.	NGAW Board meetings, Committee of the whole meetings, sub-committee meetings.
NGAUS/EANGUS Conference	Yearly	Open to all NGAW members (Enlisted-EANGUS, Officer-NGAUS)	Dependent on attendee status.	Federal lines of effort/priorities. Feedback from region/other states.	NGAW Board meetings, Committee of the whole meetings, sub-committee meetings.
Legislative Committee Trainings	Quarterly, with emphasis in Q2 & Q3.	All committee members	Director/Deputy Director arrange for SMEs to give presentations, or for a trip to meet with SMEs.	Members better understand how the legislative process works in WA state, and federally. They also take away an improved skillset for advocacy and better understand where they can have an impact.	Engagements, advocacy efforts, planning efforts.

Roles & Responsibilities

Director: The Director of the Legislative Affairs Committee for the NGAW is appointed at the pleasure of the NGAW President.

Key Tasks:

1. Host the committee of the whole meeting and provide updates on priorities.
2. Delegate tasks necessary to maintain awareness of political landscape, current priorities state/federal, and maintain relationships at the state and federal level.
3. Inform the NGAW Board of Directors of the status of the Legislative Committee's projects, priorities, and engagements.
4. Engage with key stakeholders and community leaders to develop the relationship between the Guard and its communities/support network.
5. Attend NGAW events, such as the State Conference and brief all members on the work the committee is doing.
6. Attend NGAUS and serve as a delegate for resolutions and on Task Forces to provide Washington State's perspective and interests to the NGAUS resolution process.
7. Recruit members to the Legislative Committee, and provide incentives for members to volunteer their time.
8. Facilitate drafting and proposal of Resolutions at the NGAUS conference.

Time Commitment: 2-4 hours per **week**. Attendance of various events.

Deputy Director: The Deputy Director is appointed by the Director and serves at the pleasure of the Director until a Deputy is replaced or relieved, or resigns.

Key Tasks:

1. Provide administrative support to the Director as tasked.
2. Act as a stand-in for the Director during all periods of absence.
3. Facilitate all committee of the whole meetings.
4. Coordinate work amongst the sub-committees, and inspire action on the part of the sub-committee chairs.
5. Maintain the Committee calendar.

Time Commitment: 1-2 hours per **week**.

Sub-Committee Chair: Appointed for an indefinite period by the current Director.

Key Tasks:

1. Host meetings of the sub-committee and track the status of the area of interest.

2. Drive action on research/working groups necessary to develop a sufficient understanding of the area of interest and the key stakeholders to allow the Director to successfully advocate in that area.
3. In coordination with the Director, engage with stakeholders and communities to advocate in the area of interest.
4. Train/educate sub-committee members on the area of interest and key stakeholders.
5. Maintain sub-committee task tracker on the shared drive (update after meetings)

Time Commitment: 1-2 hours per **week**.

Sub-Committee Vice Chair: Appointed indefinitely by the current Sub-Committee Chair.

Key Tasks:

1. Provide administrative support to the Sub-Committee chair to enable them to successfully manage the sub-committee's project work.
2. Act as a stand-in during all absences of the Sub-Committee Chair.

Time Commitment: 1-2 hours per **week**.

Committee Members: Members of the NGAW may become members of the Legislative Affairs Committee by invitation only from any current member.

Key Tasks:

1. Attend committee meetings
2. Participate in at least 1 sub-committee
3. Provide advocacy and support on behalf of the committee's objectives either by writing legislators personally, or by sharing our objectives with members of our larger community (Guardsmen, families, employers) and asking them to write their legislators to support our priorities. The committee utilizes a variety of websites and applications that ease this process.

Time Commitment: 1-3 hours per **month**.

2023 Committee Calendar

This calendar will be updated after positions are filled and initial engagements identified for the year ahead.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Events	-Strategy Published -Leg. C'ee positions filled	-Leg. Committee Mtg. -Tour of WA Capitol and Legislative campus	-Call for Input Published	-Federal proposals identified	-State Conference -NGAUS/EANGUS resolutions selected	-Call for Input Published
Engagements	-13JAN23 VLC Legislator Reception					
Trainings	-How to advocate in person and through writing			-The NDAA and the National Guard		

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Events		-NGAUS -EANGUS	-Call for Input Published			-Call for Input Published
Engagements						
Trainings		-The Legislative Process (State) -The Legislative Process (Federal)			-The political landscape of WA	

