

# THE VOICE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON  
JANUARY 2023

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: A YEAR TO CELEBRATE

*Written by NGAW President Naz Brockman*

I'm so proud of what we accomplished this year and this article is dedicated to the wins of the NGAW Board, our Communication Manager, Missy Wessman, and retired Executive Director, Bob Sweeney.

At the start of the year, the newly elected NGAW Board's Legislative team testified at the Washington State Capitol on a bill that would increase access to higher education degrees. WA Guard members now can apply for the National Guard Postsecondary Education Grant to cover college costs not paid by other financial assistance. This legislative win was a great way to show the Washington Guard the results of advocacy and our dedication to secure benefits for WA servicemembers.

In 2022, NGAW hosted fundraising events towards educational scholarships for Guard members and dependents. Through sheer grit and hours of planning, the Board and full-time staff held two sold-out golf tournaments which increased the scholarship fund and provided awareness of NGAW across the state. The scholarship fund is especially helpful for those not enrolled in Washington State schools. Due to the focus on fundraising, the Board was able to award \$6,000 in scholarships at the state annual conference!

The most recent win for the NGAW team was the Industry Day event held on November 10, 2022. The TAG, State SEL, several Army and Air Command Teams visited with over 25 corporate sponsors. The highlight was the raffle TV giveaway by Forts, USA, with proceeds going towards scholarships. I also got to try on some pretty, cool gear provided by 4t Thermal Products LLC.

As the year winds down, I've had time to reflect on how much this Board and Staff takes caring for people to a whole new level. I'm truly humbled to have spent the last 12 months on this board and I'm looking forward to what the next year brings.

I will close out with: It all started with Bob Sweeney. I'm grateful to have had the mentorship, leadership, and guidance from our recently retired Executive Director. Bob, I hope you recognize the positive impact you made in Washington state (and still are) and on its members. You always put people first and there's no doubt your dedication to enhancing the lives of Soldiers & Airmen is legendary.



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## WELCOME NEW NGAW OFFICE MANAGER



In November, NGAW welcomed on board Morhia Mote as our new Office Manager. Morhia is a military spouse and Gold Star Mother. She and her husband have been stationed at JBLM since 2013 as part of the Ranger battalion. During their time here, Morhia has volunteered with more than a dozen nonprofits within our local community. She and her husband raised three children while stationed here, with their youngest joining the Army in 2018. Sadly, he passed away and went to heaven in May 2021. Morhia is excited to be working with NGAW and looks forward to sharing her experiences with the Association.

## JOIN THE QUARTERLY NGAW MEETING

[Click here to join the meeting on Teams](#) on Wed. Jan. 25, 2023 5:30pm Pacific

Meeting ID: 290 443 089 896

Passcode: 3xXqx3

## 2023 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

It's a new year, with new legislative priorities. Charles Barnett, the NGAW Legislative Director, and his Legislative Committee are dedicated to networking, working the resolution process, and preparing to testify at legislative hearings in order to produce results that benefit you and your family! Our current legislative priorities are:

### Federal

- S.5142/HR3512 - Zero Cost Tricare for All National Guard and Reserves
- S.1859/HR3626 - The National Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act
- Tax Incentives for Guard Members and Employers

### State

- HB1005 - Employer Tax Incentives in Support of Veterans and Military Families
- SB5296/HB1007 - Military Service Credit for State Retirement
- HB1009 - Military Spouse Employment

There are a number of open Legislative Committee positions. An email recently went out to the entire membership with details. If you didn't receive it (check your "Promotions" tab), contact the Legislative Director for more info at [legislativedirector@ngaw.org](mailto:legislativedirector@ngaw.org). Applications for those positions are due Feb. 15.

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## 2023 STATE CONFERENCE

Save the date! The 2023 NGAW State Conference will be held on **Saturday May 13**. Join us at The Olympia Hotel at Capitol Lake (2300 Evergreen Parkway Dr. SW Olympia, WA 98502) to learn what your board has worked on for the last year, vote for your new board and proposals, and hear from state leadership about the future of the Guard.

Our various committees, including Legislative, Finance, and Task Force, will meet the day before and give briefs during the business session of the conference. The Scholarship Committee will also announce the recipients of this year's awards.



As we get closer to the event, we'll post more information on our website and social media regarding the full agenda, keynote speaker, and schedule of events. Additionally, we'll have details from the Olympia Hotel, which is offering discounted rates for attendees who would like to stay on-site.

We know it's Mother's Day Weekend, so if you decide to bring your family, we'll have activity and restaurant suggestions on our website, as well.

This is your chance as a NGAW member to get involved and help shape the future of the association!

  
olympia | capitol  
HOTEL | lake



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## 2022 INDUSTRY DAY RECAP

For the first time since the 2020 Covid Shutdown, we hosted our annual Industry Day Event on Nov. 10. This great event is a vendor exhibition, show-casing some of the organizations that work with and support the Washington National Guard. It provides an opportunity for our state military leaders to connect with the businesses in our community who invest in the mission and goals of our forces.



The partnerships NGAW and our Corporate Sponsors fosters strong bonds with the local and national businesses who provide equipment, education, technology, and benefits for our Army and Air Guard members.

This strengthens our influence on the legislation that affects the Guard, its members, and their families. We are so appreciative for all of our Corporate Partners!



## 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. Interested in attending? Contact our office today.

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## 2023 SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications for our 2023 will open on **April 1!** NGAW members and their dependents are eligible for a variety of scholarships offered by NGAW, the NGAW Foundation and USAA (enlisted only), with awards starting at \$500. Last year we awarded \$6000 in scholarships to our members and their dependents!

Applicants must be a current paid or lifetime member of NGAW or the dependent of a current or lifetime member (Officer or Enlisted). Applicants 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 by the **May 5, 2022 deadline**. Recipients will be announced at the State Conference on May 13.

## 2023 FALL GOLF SCRAMBLE



Exciting news! We've already started planning the 2023 NGAW Fall Golf Scramble. We'll be hitting the links on **Fri. Sept. 8** at **Eagles Pride Golf Course** in DuPont. Shotgun start time to be determined. Watch our website and social media for the announcement when registration opens.



Are you interested in helping at the tournament? Contact our office about volunteering. Would you or your organization like to sponsor a hole or donate to our raffle? Sponsor Registration is open now! Check out: <https://ngaw.org/2023-fall-golf-sponsorship/>.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

It is great to start 2023 with Good News! 2022 was our best membership year in the past five years! Both Enlisted and Officer memberships increased from 2021. Enlisted membership went from 353 to 400, an increase of 47 members. And Officer membership went from 264 (19%) to 279 (20%). Those 15 new members equate to a 1% percent increase. That's fantastic!

We appreciate YOU, all of our members, and we are so thankful for your presence in the Association.

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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
- A super cool commemorative NGAW insulated mug!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### May 13 State Conference

- Aug 13-16 EANGUS Conference
- Aug 18-21 NGAUS Conference
- Sep 8 Westside Golf Scramble



## CONNECT WITH US!



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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

