

THE VOICE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON
APRIL 2023

2023 STATE CONFERENCE

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, hear from state leadership about the future of the Guard, and learn the results of the Board election. The conference opens at 11am, and the attire is casual.

Our various committees, including Legislative, Finance, and Membership, 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.



Check our website for the agenda and schedule of events. We have details from the Olympia Hotel, including a coupon code to receive a discount if you choose to stay at the hotel. And because it's Mother's Day Weekend, we've also listed activity and restaurant suggestions for you and your family.

<https://ngaw.org/state-conference/>

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

**BRING YOUR
VOICE
TO THE CAPITOL!**




olympia | capitol
HOTEL | lake

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2023 SCHOLARSHIPS

The application window for our 2023 scholarships is open! NGAW members and their immediate 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, Enlisted, or Retiree). 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, 2023 deadline.** Recipients will be announced at the State Conference on May 13. Those not present at the conference will be notified the following week.

Check out our Scholarships page for application details, as well as links to a variety of other scholarships offered by EANGUS, NGAUS, Folds of Honor, AUSA, and the National Guard Educational Foundation: <https://ngaw.org/scholarships/>.



JOIN THE QUARTERLY NGAW MEETING

[Click here to join the meeting on Teams](#) on Wed. April 19, 2023 5:30pm Pacific

Meeting ID: 228 930 547 377

Passcode: AF8me4

2023 BOARD ELECTION

A new Board term is almost upon us! The nominations are in, and **VOTING HAS BEGUN** for our new NGAW President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The individuals selected to fill these positions will serve for the 2023-25 term. Each term, the President and VP positions alternate between Officer and Enlisted members--this time around, the President will be an Officer and the VP will be Enlisted.

As with our last election, voting will be conducted via Google Forms. A link was emailed to all current members, but if you didn't receive it you can access it here: <https://forms.gle/VF8FuFQDNibqVYdN7>

For more information about the election, including position descriptions and candidate statements, visit our website at <https://ngaw.org/2023-board-election/>.

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MARCH 2023 CAPITOL SUMMIT

Written by NGAW Member 1LT Samuel Haffley



Last month, NGAW selected me to represent Washington State at the March 2023 NGAUS Capitol Summit in DC. The Summit is a professional development opportunity for Army and Air National Guard company-grade officers and warrant officers (CGOs). It is a very fast paced weekend with a lot of information and briefings fit in—a firehose of information delivered by the best of lecturers. Events ranged from history lessons on the National Guard, to bus tours, to speaking directly with Congressional Staff about the challenges facing our Soldiers. All while surrounded by highly motivated CGOs from all the States and Territories of the USA.

I was there to represent, and I was hungry to see how the system works. I imagined the Summit would be a rundown of the National Guard Bureau and how we, as SMs, fit into the DoD and the Federal Government. It was so much more.

My highlights from the Summit include:

1. The focus on, and exposure to, the history and legacy of the National Guard. MG (ret.) Dunbar gave a complete history on the Guard in a little over an hour and filled in many holes I did not realize I missed.
2. The awareness of where the modern Guard, and the DoD, sit in the world. The Deputy Director of the ANG, Maj Gen Pirak, briefed us on the Guard's expanding role in the developing tensions in the world and the problems we are uniquely equipped to deal with.
3. The extent to which DC runs on relationships and reputation. I knew that mattered, but I was blown away by how important it is to have motivated team players working through the system.
4. ARNG is THE Combat Reserve of the Regular Army. The Deputy Director of the ARNG, MG Andonie, emphasized the continuing need for a fully functional, interoperable, and modernized ARNG to effectively serve as the combat reserve for the RA.



I love being a member of the Guard and have spent time educating myself about the history and different aspects of it. But this experience, participating in this conference, having the opportunity to hear directly from senior leaders on where the organization is headed, meeting so many amazing peers from around the country, and advocating for our SMs realigned my perspective on the Guard and my place in it.

Our world really is small enough for everyone to make a significant difference, and groups such as NGAW and NGAUS are amazing opportunities to stay invested, involved, and participate in the evolution of our organization.

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2023 FALL GOLF SCRAMBLE

Fore! Look out ahead for 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 at 9am. Registration will open soon. Watch our website and social media for information. Will you be one of the lucky few to take home one of the coveted trophies for top (and bottom) teams, longest drive, or closest to the pin?



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? Fill out the Sponsor Registration form here: <https://ngaw.org/2023-fall-golf-sponsorship/>.

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.

These conferences provide valuable professional development opportunities, especially for junior Officers and Enlisted members. Attending national conferences is a fantastic 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 and include social events for guests and spouses. **Interested in attending?** Contact our office today!



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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
- A super cool commemorative NGAW insulated mug!

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 13 State Conference

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



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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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