

THE VOICE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON
NOVEMBER 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Written by President Dan Wessman

The last quarter has been incredibly busy and productive.

We started with the EANGUS and NGAUS national conferences where our delegates participated in several key sessions with national military and civilian leaders, and professional development delegates were exposed to just how large and complex the Department of Defense truly is... all in a social atmosphere that encouraged great networking opportunities.

Our annual charitable golf tournament this year set a record for funds raised, and the membership will see that back in the spring through our scholarships.

Membership numbers continue to climb both on the officer and enlisted sides.

Last month we closed the quarter with our first "Guard on Tap: Speaker Series," a professional development opportunity in a social atmosphere. This month the topic was the WNG's role in deterrence in the Pacific, and we were fortunate to have the Commanding General of the WAARNG, BG Paul Sellars, as well as the Commander of the 194th Wing, Col Brian Bergren, as keynote speakers. We also heard from two company grade officers, Taylor Payne and Tanya Ulsted, who are veterans of SPP events and were delegates at this year's NGAUS Conference. We'll continue to have these events... the next is slated for March 1st. I want your ideas on what topics interest you.

As we turn the corner and get ready for the state legislative session, I want to focus on improving our communication and transparency with you, the membership. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any ideas, concerns, or comments you have. Our staff is ready to receive your feedback and will engage with you.



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QUARTERLY NGAW MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting Date: 20 Oct 2023

Board Members Present: D. Wessman, Garcia, Vuleta, Dutton, Barnett

Employees Present: Golonka, M. Wessman

Motions Votes and Approved:

- stop printing documents for meetings-approved
- move meetings and slides to Teams-approved
- \$50 life membership rate for State Guard (all ranks)-approved
- approve FY23-24 annual budget at \$203,500-approved
- conduct NGAW silent auction at Militia Ball-approved
- donate \$500 to holiday magic-approved
- donate \$500 to Highlander Ball-approved
- donate \$200 to National Guard Birthday Fun Run-approved

Business Report

- Campground: updated office phone systems to better manage during off hours
- Boat Dock: demolition has started, leveling of sites starts in November
- Electrical system update: check budget to see if upgrades/improvements are approved
- SSL: August 126 new policies, average revenue remains 5K per quarter

Development Report

1. Industry Day. Wednesday 8 November 2023. 18 tables filled, guard owned businesses are permitted to set up a table for free this year, half price next year. Non-guard business pays \$500 corporate sponsor membership.
 - Amazon – Need to engage w/new POC (old POC was laid off)-need to reengage this
 - Boeing – Re-engage on employment benefit-no update at this point
2. Next 90 Key Actions / Events:
 - USO northwest dinner-pending decision to attend
 - Guard on Tap
 - Industry Day
- 3.Goals for next Quarter:
 - Develop strategic engage plan with high level sponsors
 - Draft year end giving letter for members

For the full Oct 2023 Meeting Minutes, visit: <https://ngaw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2023/11/2023-Oct-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>

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2023 NATIONAL CONFERENCES RECAP

The month of August saw the annual conferences for both the national enlisted and officer associations. NGAW sent 10 people to Rochester, MN for the EANGUS Conference and 19 to the NGAUS Conference in Reno, NV.

These conferences provide valuable professional development opportunities, especially for our junior members. Our NGAW reps attended presentations by military leaders, networked with fellow service members from around the nation, and mingled with top industry partners. One of the focus areas was how America's National Guard is a Local Force with Global Reach, especially fitting, considering our involvement in the SPP.



NGAW sent 4 Professional Development nominees to each conference: junior officers and enlisted members selected by their commanders based on their performance and potential. These individuals attended numerous panels and workshops tailored for their career development, and they had critical facetime with several of the Guard's senior leaders. This was a massive networking event for them, and hopefully they all came away with a greater understanding of not only their role in the greater scheme of the National Guard, but more importantly, what NGAW represents and lobbies for.



NGAW PDs meeting with Command Chief of the Air Guard CMSgt Williams & Dir of the Air Guard LtGen Loh, Chief of NGB Gen Hokanson, and SMA Weimer.

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FALL GOLF SCRAMBLE

Fore! The 2023 NGAW Fall Golf Scramble hit the links on Fri. Sept. 15 at Eagles Pride Golf Course, and the result was a hole in one. We had 130 golfers spread between 33 teams. Everyone received swag bags with awesome goodies from some of our incredible sponsors, including Olympia Overhead Doors and MyHy_Liquid Hydration. The biggest win was that we raised over \$12,500 for our NGAW Foundation Scholarships!



Thank you to everyone who came out to play. But thank you most of all to our amazing volunteers who sold raffle tickets and supported us on the course! Patty McCarthy, Ryan Beck, Josh Eaton, Aaron Kaehn, Naz Brockman, Magen Fassoth, Merari Almont, Jeremy Cordova, Jimmy Takach, and Sam Haffley, the day was a success because of you!!

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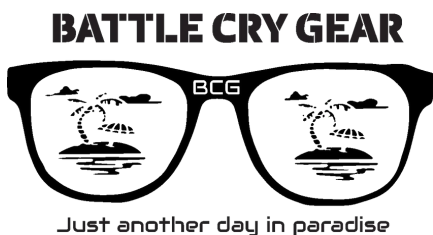
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2023 INDUSTRY DAY

NGAW hosted our annual Industry Day on Wednesday Nov. 8 In Raven Hall. This fantastic event was a vendor exhibition, showcasing several of the organizations that work with and support the Washington National Guard. We had more than 20 corporate and community partners attend, include: ESS, DripDrop, MAK Technologies, ADS, Cocoon, B.E. Meyers, Battle Cry Gear, First Command, Gerber, Grand Canyon University, Hallowell, HDT, JSS, Motorola, Rainier Designs, US Family Health Plan, and USAA, among others.



This year we invited Guard-owned businesses to join us, and we had a few, but we'd love to showcase more next year! If you own a business or know a fellow Guard member who does, and you're interested in hosting a table next year, let us know! We'd also love to promote you throughout the year. Get in touch!



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JSS HOLIDAY EVENTS

The Joint Services Support - Washington is the official one-stop support center for all WA National Guard, Reserve, Veterans and Family needs. They offer a variety of services, including: mental/psychological health assistance, financial guidance, child & youth services, employer/employee support relationship services, and a resiliency care team.

This time of year, they have special events to help ease the burden of holiday strain. Registration is required.

To register for Turkey Drop, visit:

<https://jss-turkeydrop-2023.eventbrite.com>

To register for Holiday Magic, visit:

<https://jss-holidaymagic-2023.eventbrite.com>



REGISTER TODAY FOR OUR ANNUAL
TURKEY DROP

Turkey Drop 2023! This event is open to National Guard and Reserves ONLY this year who are in need of a Holiday Meal this year. This event will be a drive-thru style, where volunteers and JSS staff will be placing a Turkey (limited number of complete meals this year) in the trunk or backseat of your vehicle. Further directions will be emailed with your confirmation to attend the event. Pick-up Location will be emailed with your confirmation.

November 15th
[HTTPS://JSS-TURKEYDROP-2023.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://jss-turkeydrop-2023.eventbrite.com)



CAMP MURRAY
Holiday Magic
Dec 13, 2023

THE WA NATIONAL GUARD JSS TEAM COORDINATES HOLIDAY MAGIC ANNUALLY TO ASSIST SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS WHO MAY NEED ADDITIONAL HELP DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

VERIFIED CANDIDATES WILL RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL ACCEPTANCE EMAIL ON 9 DEC . YOUR ACCEPTANCE EMAIL WILL CONTAIN INSTRUCTIONS ON LOCATION AND PROCESS.

WHEN REGISTERING, PLEASE SELECT THE DATE AND TIME SLOT YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO PICK UP HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE. ID WILL BE REQUIRED AT CHECK-IN.

ALL DEPENDENTS MUST BE IN DEERS. PLEASE NOTE, CHILDREN ARE NOT PERMITTED AT THIS EVENT, PLAN ACCORDINGLY.

[HTTPS://JSS-HOLIDAYMAGIC-2023.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://jss-holidaymagic-2023.eventbrite.com)



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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

Nov 15 JSS Turkey Drop

Dec 13 JSS Holiday Magic

April 5 Education Fair

April 20 NGAW State Conference

May 18 Militia Ball



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WE NEED YOUR CIVILIAN EMAIL ADDRESS!

Please update your membership account with a **civilian email address** so that you can better view our messages.

THANK YOU PARTNERS

