

THE VOICE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON
FEBRUARY 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Written by President Dan Wessman

The team here has been hard at work over the last few months, volunteering at JSS events, supporting legislation, and most importantly, gearing up for conference season. Please remember to **SAVE THE DATE, April 20th**, for the 2024 NGAW State Conference. Our theme this year is “Looking Back to Move Forward.” The State Conference will be part of the exciting lineup of events in celebration of MG Daugherty’s final months as TAG. The State Conference will be held at the Courtyard Marriott Downtown, and we should have a registration link available soon. Watch our social media accounts for more details and a booking link with a discounted price for anyone who’d like to stay at the hotel.

Our Scholarship Committee is preparing to award \$12,000 in scholarships – more than double what we distributed last year! Check out the article a few pages down for more information and a link to apply.

Additionally, our Development Director Steve Vuleta continues to work hard to generate Corporate Sponsorship, as we attempt to make national conference attendance more affordable. Both the EANGUS (18-21 Aug) and NGAUS (23-26) national conferences will be held in Detroit, MI this summer. The Motor City is calling, and we’d like to help *you* get there. The national conferences are valuable professional development opportunities that 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.



SAVE THE DATE

 **NGAW** **2024 STATE CONFERENCE**

APRIL 20 COURTYARD MARRIOTT TACOMA DOWNTOWN
1515 Commerce Street Tacoma, WA 98402



As always, I am here to serve you. Please let me know if there is anything our NGAW team can do to make the Guard Family stronger.

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QUARTERLY NGAW MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Prepared by Secretary Laura Dutton

Meeting Date: 25 Jan 2024

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

Employees Present: Golonka, Sweeney, M. Wessman

Motions Votes and Approved:

Approved:

- Donate \$500 to Air Guard Professional Development event (1-3 March)

Need More Information:

- Request from 2LT Josh Peters, 2-146: Would NGAW be willing to offer support for Washington Best Warrior Competition (2-3 March), as well as Regional Best Warrior Competition (13-17 May)
- Request from CPT Ryan Olsen, 81st SBCT: Requesting support for the Raven Rendezvous because a lot of retirees and their families will be in attendance, they will not be able to use WAARNG funds to support and are trying to provide a lunch meal for everyone in attendance.

Business Report

- SSLI Updates: 169 Enrollments in November, 37 in October
- Campground Updates: 50% occupancy

Development Report

- Corporate Sponsor Updates:
 - StreetSmartsVR interested in State Conference; need to schedule call and get them onboard
 - SAIC & Airbus have expressed interest in State Conference; will follow-up
 - Emails re: State Conference sent to Boeing, CorVive, Moxion, Revision, MantisX, Skydyne, Operative Experience, PTS Exped. Comm, ABX Group, SerketUSA, Litefighter Tactical, IBVI, ADS Inc, ARRO iSF, Northrup Grumman, L3Harris, Phantom Light, Navy Federal Credit Union, Survive, Knight Aerospace, TrueClot, Rescue Essentials, FORTS USA, Collins Aerospace
- Next 90 Key Actions / Events: Priority Follow-Ups for State Conference: Boeing, BLR, Airbus
- Goals for next Quarter: Close primary sponsor for 2024 State Conference (Boeing, etc.)

Membership Report

- Officers: 477, Enlisted: 431

For the full Jan 2024 Meeting Minutes, visit: <https://ngaw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2024/02/2024-Jan-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Prepared by Legislative Director Charles Barnett

The Legislative Committee has been working hard! The 2024 Washington State Legislative Session convened on January 8, 2024, and will adjourn this year on March 7. Our committee has recently pushed out multiple Calls to Action, asking you to contact your legislators and encourage them to support the bills that would have a tremendous impact on the lives of our Washington service members and their families.

Priority Bills:

SB 5803 - Guard referral & Bonuses. Scheduled for executive session today at 1330.

HB 1943 - Guard Grant for spouses and dependent children. Referred to appropriations.

HB 1869 - Guard referral & Bonuses. Scheduled for executive session today.

HB 1005 - Employer tax incentive for Veterans/Guard Members. Needs a Rules Pull by the House Speaker or another member of the Rules Committee.

Supported Bills:

1. HB 1862 Disabled Veteran Assist./tax (Rep. Leavitt)
2. HB 1869 National Guard Recruitment (Rep. Leavitt)
3. HB 1917 Physician Assistant Compact (Rep. Leavitt)
4. HB 1925 Veterans Service Officers (Rep. Shavers)
5. HB 1939 Social Work Compact (Rep. Orwell)
6. HB 1943 National Guard Grant (Rep. Leavitt)
7. HB 2004 Military Student Early Registration (Rep. McEntire)
8. HB 2101 Child care licensing fees (Rep. Rule)
9. HB 2111 Subsidized Child Care (Rep. Nance)
10. HB 2162 LTSS exemption/military (Rep. Chambers)
11. HB 2203 Incarcerated Veterans Pilot (Rep. Ryu)
12. HB 1952 Concerning Long-Term Recovery after Disasters
13. HB 2020 Creating a state-administered public infrastructure assistance program within the emergency management division.
14. HB 1978 Adding special purpose and junior taxing districts to the intrastate mutual aid system.
15. SB 5803 National Guard Recruitment (Sen. Conway)
16. SB 5815 Physician Assistant Compact (Sen. Muzzall)
17. SB 5941 Subsidized Child Care (Sen. Wilson, C.)
18. SB 6000 Military Service Credit (Sen. Hunt)



On Jan. 24, Secretary of State Hobbs met with members of the Washington National Guard who were attending the National Guard Legislative Day.

The next Legislative Committee meeting is February 14. If you're interested in joining and volunteering with the Legislative Committee, contact our Legislative Director Charles Barnett at legislatedirector@ngaw.org.

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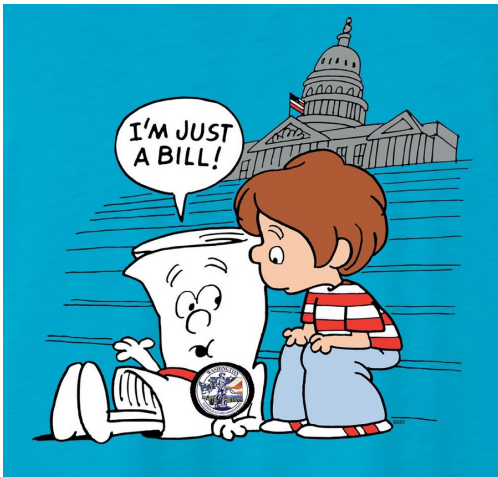
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LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

With all of these pieces of legislation, that begs the question, what is the process for a bill to become a law here in the state of Washington? Here's a rundown from Jim Baumgart, the Intergovernmental Affairs and Policy Director for the Washington Military Department.

Starting in December of the previous year (Dec. 23 for Jan '25 session), the Intergovernmental Affairs Office works with communities and divisions within the WA Military Department to draft legislation. That legislation is submitted to the ATG and code reviser office, and a bill sponsor is found. When drafting a bill, the Intergovernmental Affairs Office needs to address the following questions:

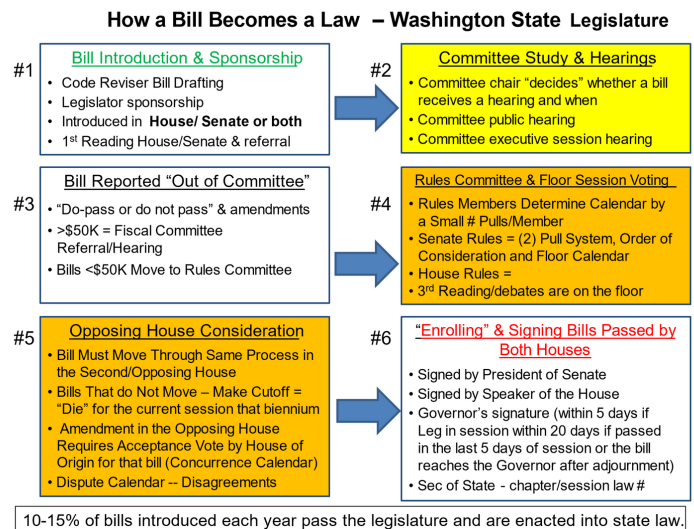
- What is the problem that we're trying to solve?
- What is the evidence that this problem exists?
- Does this funding request actually address the problem?
- Is there a clear public benefit provided by this funding request?
- Are there legal or administrative mandates to this program or legislation that require changes to the law?
- Who else benefits from this request?
- Who is adversely impacted or left out of this request?
- Who would be opposed to this idea and why?
- What alternatives have we considered to funding this within our own agency?
- What are the workforce assumptions (salary & wages), employee benefits, staff equipment, supply, and travel costs?
- What are the equipment maintenance and operations costs, including any long-term service contract?



Once these questions have been fully answered, someone from the Intergovernmental Affairs Office, TAG/ATAG, or a division director will testify at committee. If necessary, an executive session will be requested if things aren't moving out of committee.

At that point, the bill may move to a fiscal committee or the rules committee, which is when NGAW sends out a Call to Action, asking you to contact your legislators. Then the process is repeated for the other chamber.

Finally, the Intergovernmental Affairs Office provides comment on all "enrolled" bills and makes recommendations to the Governor's Office.



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2024 SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications for our 2024 Scholarships are now open! 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 \$5000 in scholarships to our members and their dependents!

Our scholarships are available for Soldiers and Airmen, Officers and Enlisted, members and their dependents. Applicants must be a current paid or lifetime member of NGAW or the dependent of a current or lifetime member. Applicants must submit an essay and two letters of recommendation. For current Guardsmen, one letter must come from your Unit Commander or First Sergeant. All applications must be submitted by the March 15, 2024 deadline. Recipients will be announced on April 20 at the State Conference.

For more information and to apply, check out our [Scholarships page](#), where you can also learn about a variety of other scholarships open to our members (<https://ngaw.org/scholarships/>).



HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

NGAW is YOUR association. How can we help you and your unit? NGAW would love to support your unit event. Do you need coffee for your volunteers or do you need some of our members to help by volunteering? Would our campground be a good spot for your warm-weather event? Do you need financial assistance for a holiday event? Let us help you! Contact our office at ngaw@ngaw.org or complete the Unit Event Support Request form on the Contact Us page of our website: <https://ngaw.org/unit-supportrequest/>. Let us help you.

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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

Mar 17-19 NGAUS Capitol Summit

April 5 Education Fair

April 20 NGAW State Conference

May 18 Militia Ball

Aug 18-21 EANGUS Conference

Aug 23-26 NGAUS Conference



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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 CORPORATE PARTNERS

