

# THE VOICE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON  
NOVEMBER 2024

## CALL TO ACTION: GI BILL PARITY ACT OF 2024

All NGAW members are urged to take action today by asking our Washington legislators in DC to support **HB 7543** and **S 3873** — **the GI Bill Parity Act of 2024**. These bills propose to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to members of the National Guard who perform certain full-time duty. This ensures that Guard Members and Reservists receive credit for every day they spend in uniform in a federal duty status under Titles 10 or 32 for GI Bill purposes, putting higher education within the reach of millions of veterans.

NGAW is a voice to advocate for the Guard Family by providing a platform for action. Taking action by asking your legislators to support these bills helps *all* members of the Guard family.

You can directly contact Senators Murray and Cantwell, as well as your local Representative via the [EANGUS Legislative Action Center \(https://eangus.org/legislative-action-center/\)](https://eangus.org/legislative-action-center/). That page explains more about the bills and has easy-to-fill fields where you can add your own message.

## STAY IN TOUCH WITH NGAW

Staying in touch with our NGAW members is important to us! We want to make sure you receive our quarterly newsletters, information about upcoming events, and periodic Calls-to-Action for legislative bills that impact the National Guard. To ensure we can reach you and you can stay up to date on NGAW events and resources, please take a minute to submit your contact information through the Google form at the following link: <https://forms.gle/Ti48jjeu95NYoayP9>. If you've already done so (and many of you have), thank you! If you have trouble accessing the form, please email us at [ngaw@ngaw.org](mailto:ngaw@ngaw.org) with your current mailing address.

It has definitely been a while since some of you signed up for your NGAW membership. If you've moved, changed units, or been promoted, please let us know! Having the most accurate details helps us serve you better and keep our community strong. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to NGAW.

NGAW values your privacy. The information you provide to us will be used by or shared with the National Guard Association of Washington, the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), and/or the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS). No information will be shared with additional entities.

# Amplify the Voice of Every Guardsman

NOVEMBER 2024

## QUARTERLY NGAW MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting Date: 17 OCT 2024 Call to Order: 1700

Board Members Present: D. Wessman, Garcia, Kovell, Morgan, Ulsted

Employees Present: Golonka, M. Wessman

Members/Guests: J. Androski

### Quarterly Reports

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Still in search of a new Treasurer.
- Office Manager is cleaning up some of the past accounting.

#### **Development Report**

- Prepping for Industry Day
- Currently pulling back on Boeing engagements due to current events.
- Aiming for a 12 DEC launch for Annual Giving program to run through the holiday season.

#### **Membership Report**

- Officers: 520, Enlisted: 462
- Sept. TAG event was well attended.
- Planning a survey to confirm members' addresses, current ranks & units.
- Planning holiday card and looking ahead to next quarter for Membership coffee event(s).

#### **Communications Report**

- Still trying to connect with more Guard-owned businesses to build a database.

#### **Legislative Report**

- WA Legislative session opens 13 JAN 2025
- Will engage with leadership for priorities and then will get the Legislative team together for a kickoff event.

### Open Business

#### **Proposals for Board Review:**

- From Jack Androski: requesting Warrant Officer Association meeting donation button on NGAW Foundation website. **Passed**
- From Jim Kovell: requesting financial support to the WAARNG G5 Strategic Planning Conference. **Rejected**

Adjourn: **1752**



# Amplify the Voice of Every Guardsman

NOVEMBER 2024

## 2024 INDUSTRY DAY



Thank you to everyone who attended our 2024 NGAW Industry Day on Thursday, Nov. 7. This fantastic vendor exhibition allowed us to showcase several of our Corporate Partners. This event was an opportunity for our Soldiers, Airmen, and state decision makers to meet with the organizations that work with and support the Washington National Guard. The highlight of this year's event was the awesome Gunfighter Gym simulator from Conflict Kinetics. Thanks for setting that up CK!



For a full list of attendees, as well as links to their sites for more information, our **2024 Industry Day Booklet** can be found at:

<https://ngaw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2024/11/2024-Industry-Day-Booklet-2.pdf>.



# Amplify the Voice of Every Guardsman

NOVEMBER 2024

## SAVE THE DATE: GUARD BIRTHDAY EVENT



Next month, make sure to come by the Washington National Guard Museum to celebrate its REOPENING and the **388th Birthday** of the US National Guard! Refreshments, including cake, beer, and wine, will be provided by NGAW.



**Date:** Thursday, December 12



**Time:** 15:00-17:00



**Location:** Building 2 (Museum), Camp Murray

## SEPTEMBER MEMBER EVENT



In September, NGAW hosted a member Happy Hour with the new Washington National Guard Adjutant General. Members enjoyed a casual atmosphere with Maj Gen Welsh who addressed his focus on readiness for an impending great power competition and fielded candid questions from WANG's influential leaders.

Maj Gen Welsh encouraged active engagement with organizations like NGAW as we navigate unprecedented demands on the National Guard. Access to TAG and other senior leaders is a perk of your NGAW membership. We look forward to hosting more social events like this. If you have an idea for a future event (location, discussion topic, speaker, etc), please let us know!





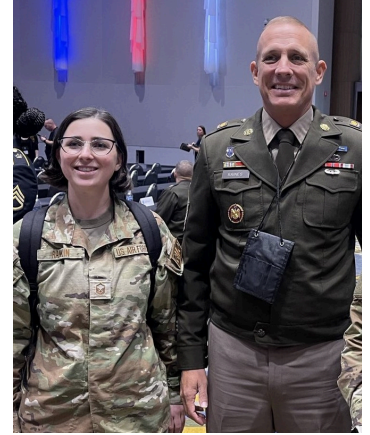
# Amplify the Voice of Every Guardsman

NOVEMBER 2024

## NATIONAL CONFERENCES RECAP

Both the EANGUS (18-21 Aug) and NGAUS (23-26 Aug) national conferences were held in Detroit, MI this summer. The Motor City called us, and Washington State showed up in force.

The national conferences are valuable professional development opportunities that allow you as an NGAW member 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. Attendees participate in multiple sessions with senior military leaders and officials, meet fellow Soldiers and Airmen from across the country, and have a ton of fun.





# Amplify the Voice of Every Guardsman

NOVEMBER 2024

## 2024 GOLF SCRAMBLE RECAP

Our 2024 NGAW Golf Scramble took place on Monday, August 12 at Capitol City Golf Club in Olympia. We had over 100 golfers spread between 26 teams, as well as an incredible silent auction with awesome items from our incredible sponsors, including Cutter & Buck, Well 80, and Guard-owned business Black Frog. The true hole-in-one for the day was that we raised over \$10,000 for our NGAW Foundation!

Proceeds from our golf scrambles fund our charitable NGAW Foundation and allow us to help WA Guard members with financial needs in education, emergency assistance, and family support.



SAVE THE DATE! Interested in Playing, Volunteering, or Sponsoring our next tournament? We'll meet you again on the links of Capitol City Golf Club on **Fri., Sept. 19, 2025**. For more information (sorry, it's too early to register) visit: <https://ngaw.org/events/golf/>



# Amplify the Voice of Every Guardsman

NOVEMBER 2024

## 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/](https://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

Dec 12 National Guard Birthday event

Jan 16 NGAW Quarterly Meeting  
2025

May 17 NGAW State Conference

Aug 11-14 EANGUS Conference

Aug 22-25 NGAUS Conference

Sept 19 NGAW Golf Scramble



## CONNECT WITH US!



@NationalGuardAssociationofWashington



@NationalGuardAssociationofWashington



@NGAW

## 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



DripDrop<sup>®</sup>  
Elite Hydration Science

