THE VOICE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Team,

What a great quarter it's been. We had an incredible turnout at this year's Annual Golf Scramble with 32 teams and raised over \$9,000—a huge success. Thank you to everyone who came out, participated, and helped make it such a fun and memorable event.

I'm also proud to share that all scholarship checks have been issued to our recipients. Your continued support makes opportunities like this possible for our Guard families.

This fall, unfortunately the government shutdown required a change in priorities. Instead of Industry Day, we focused on raising funds for service members in need through our partnerships with JSS and the Minuteman Fund. Thank you to everyone for the generous support! We hope to reschedule this year's Industry Day event, and we'll definitely be back the same week in November 2026.

As we head into the holiday season, I want to remind everyone to take a moment to check in on your battle buddies. The holidays tend to be a challenging time for many, so it's important we look out for one another. If you or someone you know needs help this holiday season (or any time during the year) make sure to check in with our friends at JSS.

Thank you for your continued support and everything you do to strengthen NGAW and the Guard community.

Respectfully, Fernando Garcia President, NGAW



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QUARTERLY NGAW MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting Date: 16 Oct 2025 Called to Order: 11:30am

Board Members Present: F. Garcia, J. Morgan, J. Cole, S. Wahto Employees Present: E. McMicheal, B. Golonka, M. Wessman

Guests: C. Lawson, H. Lamie

Minutes from 11 August Meeting read and approved.

Golf Scramble AAR

- Net profit \$9000
- Next year someone from NGAW should run the games that the Back Swing Golf rep ran this year

EANGUS & NGAUS Conferences Report

- Overall successful and good conferences.
- Incoming expense of +/- \$250 for area hospitality room.
- Waiting on expenses from PDs.
- Wahto got hers 100% covered.; emailing Jesse memo.

Industry Day

- 15 vendors signed up.
- Several vendors still pending.
- Brian to rent same amount of tables as last year.
- Vendors get one table at \$500 level. If they want more they need to up their sponsorship.

81st BGD Fight Night Support Request

• Tabled until later as event has been pushed to April of 26

Warrant Officers 53rd Meeting of the Members in Tacoma

- · Link was established for donations on our website; no donations were made
- No further action necessary

898 BEB Ball Support Request

Jesse moved to support with \$250 - Fernando 2nd - motion passed

Minuteman Fund

- MMF board had questions about dissolution and joining with NGAW
- Jesse moved and Fernando 2nd to form an MMF subcommittee motion passed.

Militia Ball Committee

· Committee is being absorbed by NGAW, they have the necessary info for closing their bank account

Adjourned: 12:46pm

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2025 EANGUS CONFERENCE RECAP

The month of August saw the annual conferences for both the national enlisted and officer associations. NGAW sent a delegation of enlisted members to Reno, NV from August 11-14 this year. We were especially grateful for Washington National Guard Senior Enlisted Leader Allan Lawson joining the group.

This conference provides valuable professional development opportunities, especially for our junior enlisted members. Our NGAW reps attended presentations by military leaders, networked with fellow service members and retirees from around the nation, and mingled with top industry partners.







During the conference's Senior Enlisted Panel, Soldiers and Airmen had a rare and powerful experience — hearing directly from Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Michael R. Weimer, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau John T. Raines, Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sergeant Joshua D. Moore, and Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard Brian Kendrick in one rare and insightful discussion.

This wasn't just a conversation but a masterclass in leadership, readiness, and the shared mission that unites us. Their insights reminded the attendees that no matter the uniform you wear, we are one team, ready to defend our nation at home and abroad.

During the conference, current NGAW President Fernando Garcia was elected as the Area VI Army Director and the We Care for America Chair. He was sworn in alongside the Area Directors from across the country.

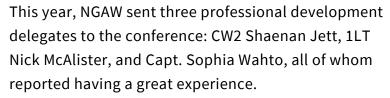
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2025 NGAUS CONFERENCE RECAP

Shortly after our enlisted delegation returned from Reno, a group of our officer members headed to Milwaukee, WI from Aug. 22-25. This group included the Adjutant General of the Washington National Guard,

Maj. Gen Gent Welsh as well as BG Paul Sellars, CG of the Washington Army National Guard, who spoke on a panel on the NGAUS main stage, discussing the Guard in INDOPACOM. As with CMS Lawson at the EANGUS Conference, we genuinely appreciate the support of our senior leaders at these events.





They described it as "an excellent opportunity to do many things usually out of reach for company grade officers." They were able to sit in on a wide range of thought-provoking lectures, panel discussions, and professional developments that highlighted both current challenges and future opportunities for the National Guard. They networked with leaders and representatives from across the country in a "low threat" environment, allowing for connection with both peers and senior leadership. And there was karaoke.







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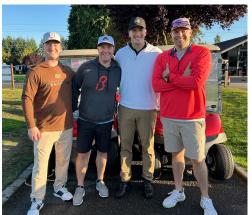
FALL GOLF SCRAMBLE

Fore! The 2025 NGAW Fall Golf Scramble hit the links on Fri. Sept. 19 at Capitol City Golf Club, and the result was a hole in one. We had 120 golfers spread between 31 teams. Everyone received a swag bag with awesome goodies from some of our incredible sponsors, including DripDrop, USAA, Emerald Queen Casino, and MyHy Liquid Hydration. The biggest win was that we raised over \$9,000 for our NGAW Foundation Scholarships!







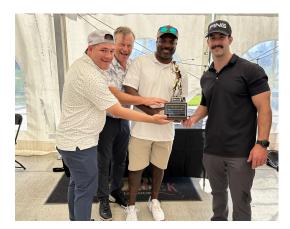












Thank you to everyone who came out to play. We look forward to seeing you again next year at Capitol City Golf Club on **Friday, Sept. 18.**

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2025 CAPITOL SUMMIT

Written by NGAW Legislative Director Sophia Wahto

As the Legislative Director for the Washington National Guard and a member of the Air National Guard, I recently had the opportunity to attend the NGAUS Capitol Summit in Washington, D.C.—a three-day professional development and advocacy course hosted by the National Guard Association of the United States.





Representatives from Louisiana, Tennessee, Washington, Missouri (x2), and Kentucky.

This summit brought together Company Grade Officer representatives from the 54 states and territories to learn how NGAUS engages with Congress to advance policies and programs that directly impact Guardsmen nationwide. The course provided in-depth insight into the legislative process, how advocacy is structured on Capitol Hill, and how grassroots engagement drives change at the federal level.

The experience came full circle as we transitioned from formal learning to direct advocacy, meeting with Senate and House offices to discuss current legislative priorities affecting the National Guard community. Engaging firsthand with policymakers reinforced how individual voices and coordinated efforts can influence outcomes that strengthen our force and support our members.

This experience not only deepened my understanding of federal advocacy but also strengthened my commitment to helping others in the Washington National Guard engage in the process—amplifying our collective voice and ensuring the Guard's needs are represented at every level.

Contact the NGAW office if you're interested in attending the next Capitol Summit.



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2025 INDUSTRY DAY

Our 2025 Industry Day event was *supposed* to be Thursday, Nov. 6, but after much deliberation and conferring with TAG, we decided to postpone the event. We're disappointed by this decision, but we believe it's in the best interests of our Corporate Partners and all involved. Stay tuned for the new date!



2026 CONFERENCE & MILITIA BALL



SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, May 16, 2026

NGAW has teamed up with the state Militia Ball Committee to host our annual state conference and the Adjutant General's Militia Ball. Our events will be in the Tacoma Convention Center. The exact times for the conference activities are still to be determined, but the evening's events will begin with a Cocktail Hour at 4:30pm and the Opening Ceremony at 6pm. The Closing Ceremony will follow dinner at approximately 8pm, and then you can dance the night away! Watch our socials for registration information.

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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, click HERE.

To register for Holiday Magic, visit: https://tinyurl.com/2zbsxspb





They're also hosting a fun family movie night on Camp Murray on Friday, Nov. 14. Make sure to bring your own chair or blanket to sit on.



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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 13 JSS Turkey Drop Nov 14 JSS Family Movie Night Dec 10 JSS Holiday Magic

May 15-17 State Conference & Militia Ball



CONNECT WITH US!



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@National Guard Association of Washington



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



























