

November 2007



## *NGAA Membership*

Most professions in the business world are represented by professional organizations such as the American Bar Association, American Medical Association, etc. These groups were formed to enhance and promote the interests of the various vocations they represent. The National Guard Associations of Arkansas and the United States provide those services to the professional soldiers and airmen of the Arkansas National Guard.

A strong membership and strong participation in these organizations are essential if we are to achieve our goals. Obviously, our goal for 2008 is 100 percent membership. The majority of Arkansas National Guard units did achieve that goal in 2007, and we challenge all units to attain 100 percent membership in 2008.

Membership dues are now payable to your unit's representative on the NGAA board of directors. A list of those representatives may be found at [www.ngaa.org](http://www.ngaa.org) (click on *About Us*, then *Board of Directors*), or call the NGAA office at 501-758-6422. Amounts of annual membership dues are listed by rank on the inside back cover of this publication. Our objective is to collect all annual dues no later than February 20, 2008.

## *Scholarships 2008-2009*

Thirty \$500 scholarships will be awarded by NGAA and EAANG to members and their dependents for the school year 2008-2009. The scholarships apply to full time or part time enrollment at in-state or out-of-state colleges, four-year colleges, or vocational training. The scholarships may be used for any and all college expenses. Members of the Arkansas National Guard, their dependents, and dependents of deceased members of the Arkansas National Guard may apply. Applicant (or his/her sponsor) must also be a member of NGAA or EAANG and must be covered under the NGAA group life insurance program. Scholarship applications may be downloaded from the NGAA website, [www.ngaa.org](http://www.ngaa.org), and copies are also available at your National Guard unit and the NGAA office, Building 8100, Camp Robinson.

Deadline for submission of completed applications is February 15, 2008. Applications must have been received or be postmarked to the *National Guard Association of Arkansas Scholarship Program*, P.O. Box 663, North Little Rock, AR 72115, by that date.

# *Minutes ..... NGAA Board of Directors Meeting*

*October 2, 2007*

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## **Absentees**

MAJ Shannon Stone, Past Pres  
CW2 Veronica Alexander  
MAJ Ronnie Anderson  
CPT Kevin S. Burton  
CPT Ricky Caldwell (TDY)  
Capt Michael Culley  
CPT Christene A. Doyle (Deployed)

CPT Bettye Dufour  
1LT Justin Ferguson  
CPT Gorden Gregson (TDY)  
CPT Brian Mason  
CPT Dwayne K. Page  
CPT Brandon Peachey  
1LT Bryan Shipman

MAJ Greg Stanger  
LTC Jay Stout  
MAJ Luke Strickert  
CPT Lane Tatom  
1LT Brian Taylor (Deployed)  
Maj Deane Thomey  
LTC James Treece (TDY)

## **Guests/NGAA Staff**

COL William Johnson, Chief of Staff, Arkansas ARNG  
Col William Stanton, Director of Staff, Arkansas ANG  
Ms. Phyllis Holifield, Priddy & Holifield, P.A.  
Ms. Debbie Robinson, Priddy & Holifield, P.A.  
MAJ Ronald Gibby, CMTC  
LTC (Ret) Kenny Moix, NGAA staff  
Maj (Ret) James Lamb, NGAA staff  
Mrs. Judy Shere, NGAA staff

## **Call to Order**

President Neal called the meeting to order and a quorum was verified. Guests were recognized and welcomed.

## **Old Business**

Minutes of the 10 July 2007 board meeting were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes as written.

Lieutenant Colonel Neal said the 2007 NGAUS Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in August was a big success with approximately 82 Arkansas delegates, spouses, guests and NGAA corporate members in attendance. He said next year's NGAUS Conference will be in Baltimore, Maryland, and encouraged everyone to make plans to attend that event. Lieutenant Colonel Parnell thanked the NGAA staff for the help they provided in support of the Arkansas delegation.

## **New Business**

James Lamb, retired USAF major, was introduced as the newest member of the NGAA insurance staff.

## **Finance and Insurance**

The finance and insurance reports as of 31 August 2007 were reviewed. Questioned whether the NGAA insurance staff is in contact with the soldiers who are about to deploy concerning SSLI, LTC Moix responded that the staff participates in all the SRP's being conducted and talks to each soldier about SSLI. Approximately 200 applications were taken during the most recent SRP's. The insurance staff will attend SRP's for the 39<sup>th</sup> BCT later this year.

LTC Moix noted that the amount budgeted for the 2007 NGAUS Conference expenses (\$18,000) was exceeded by \$1,600. This amount, however, does not exceed the overall NGAA budget.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the finance and insurance reports.

LTC Moix introduced Ms. Phyllis Holifield and Ms. Debbie Robinson of Priddy & Holifield, P.A. Ms. Robinson reported on the NGAA audit performed in August by her firm. She expressed her appreciation of their relationship with NGAA and said because of the outstanding assistance and cooperation of the NGAA staff during the three years that her company has performed the audit, they have been able to reduce their fee by about \$500 each year for the last two years. She continued saying that her company is required to report to the NGAA board of directors. They audit both NGAA and the NGAA trusts. The trusts were both found to have clean opinions. Concerning the NGAA report, she said there was no mention in the minutes that the \$18,000 approved for the purchase of computer hardware and software was exceeded, with the actual expenditure being \$21,700. They are required to notify the board of directors of this. She suggested that the board might want to change such notification to be required only if it exceeds a certain percent. There was one significant deficiency listed on the NGAA audit, a requirement for an individual qualified in general

accounting principles to review the audit (this is a new requirement that was added this year to the audit checklist). She concluded her report saying that all the NGAA financial statements received a clean opinion with only a few minor adjustments.

Board members were asked to approve the nomination of Major Perry Turner to fill the unexpired term of Captain Christene Doyle representing the 142<sup>nd</sup> Fires Brigade on the board of directors. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to appoint Major Turner to the position through April 2009.

Board members were asked to approve the nomination of Major Thomas Pickle to fill the unexpired term of Major Ronnie Anderson representing Hq, 39<sup>th</sup> IBCT, on the board of directors. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to appoint Major Pickle to the position through April 2008.

Board members were asked to approve the nomination of 1LT Douglas Woodruff to fill the unexpired term of Major Thomas Pickle representing 39<sup>th</sup> BSTB, on the board of directors. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to appoint Lieutenant Woodruff to the position through April 2008.

Lt Col Neal recognized Major Ronald Gibby, in attendance for CMTC representative Captain Ricky Caldwell who is currently TDY.

Lt Col Neal presented a letter from the Enlisted Association of the Arkansas National Guard requesting confirmation of the term renewal of SSG (Ret) Stephanie Wynn on the NGAA Trusts Board. Her current term will expire 31 December 2007, and she will begin another 5-year term on 1 January 2008. The board approved the renewal.

Lt Col Neal reviewed two of his expectations of the members of the board: (1) networking electronically with constituents and (2) taking the lead in collecting annual membership dues. Questioned about networking with constituents, Colonel Neal said NGAA regularly communicates issues of interest to board members, the command group and a few selected officers. Board members should communicate those issues to their constituents. NGAA does want constituents' e-mail addresses, however, to add to the NGAUS database in order for that organization to contact members when considered necessary. In response to another question concerning use of government equipment to pass along information to constituents, transmitting messages for the purpose of disseminating pertinent information is deemed to be acceptable.

Lt Col Neal outlined what NGAA/NGAUS has done for its members lately: TRICARE health care benefits for all NG members and their families that do not have other health coverage is now available, \$9,000 annual income exemption from state income taxes is now in effect for every NG member, and culmination of an 8-year effort to secure funding in the amount of \$33 million for the new aviation support facility at Camp Robinson.

A list of potential chairpersons for the 2008 conference committees was provided to board members. Those on the list who were present at the meeting confirmed acceptance of their positions. Captain Matt Anderson volunteered to chair the Resolutions Committee. Lieutenant Colonel Neal added Major Deane Thomey as co-chair of the banquet/ball committee with Captain Fred Lee. The individuals on the list who were not present at the meeting will be contacted for confirmation of their positions.

The 2008-2009 scholarships will consist of thirty scholarships at \$500 each. The scholarships committee will publish and distribute scholarship applications in mid-November. Lieutenant Colonel Marc Huneycutt, committee chairperson, was asked to take the issue of limiting the number of scholarships that may be awarded to the same family to his committee for determination and report back to the board.

The call for resolutions and instructions for submission will be published before the end of the year.

### **Comments**

Questioned about the possibility of a higher conference registration fee in 2008 because of the probability of a fewer number of attendees, Lt Col Parnell said there is a tentative contract already in place with the hotel that should preclude a significant cost increase. He will take a look at that but does not think it will be an issue.

### **Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, January 8, 2008, at the NGAA office, Camp Robinson. Dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m., and the meeting will start at 5:45 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned.

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## Call for Resolutions

Preparations are already underway for the annual NGAA state conference next April. Part of the order of business at that time will be to consider proposed resolutions for submission to the National Guard Association of the United States. We hope that each of you will begin to seriously consider issues within the National Guard that need to be addressed and then develop and submit your proposals for resolutions. A resolution is a formal statement of a decision or expression of opinion put before or adopted by an assembly. It is an idea or a proposal about an issue that can help make the National Guard better for all of us. The resolutions adopted at the state NGAA/EAANG conferences are taken forward to the national level and are presented at the NGAUS and EANGUS conferences. Resolutions adopted at those conferences are then taken to our political leaders in Washington, hopefully for approval and subsequent implementation. **The results of the resolution process have a direct effect on the future of the National Guard in our state and the nation. It is through this process that the interests of the National Guard are presented and protected.**

At this time in the history of our nation, the role of the National Guard is changing rapidly. This change brings about multiple issues that affect our soldiers and airmen, making it critical that we make sure the needs of the National Guard are being addressed. It is the responsibility of each of us to contribute to this effort.

It is possible for an issue or idea conceived by one member within the state to subsequently become national policy or law. The vast majority of resolutions normally submitted relate specifically to modernization of equipment or personnel issues; however, the process is not limited to those subjects.

When considering resolutions, please keep in mind that we have a much better chance for success if the issue applies on a statewide or national basis. In other words, think about what is good for the National Guard as a whole and not just a few individuals. All resolutions will be channeled to the appropriate national association through committee review.

If you have an idea for a resolution, please provide some background information on what the issue or situation is and then provide your recommendation for addressing the issue. The resolutions committee members and the NGAA staff can assist you with the proper formatting. What we really need are your thoughts on the issues that need to be addressed at the state and national level. A guideline explaining the basic steps of the resolution process is shown below. The deadline for submitting resolutions is 1 March 2008. Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your thoughts and ideas.

### **BASIC STEPS OF THE RESOLUTION PROCESS**

Resolutions may be proposed and drafted by any member of the National Guard Association of Arkansas (NGAA) or Enlisted Association of the Arkansas National Guard (EAANG).

Each level headquarters should review and screen the proposals for authenticity and validity, ensuring only those that apply on a state or national basis are forwarded.

All proposed resolutions must be received no later than March 1, 2008. Copies of all proposed resolutions selected by the committee for presentation to the state associations will be available at the NGAA/EAANG 2008 conferences.

Resolutions adopted by the NGAA and EAANG in general conference must be forwarded to their respective national associations no later than June 2008. The resolutions adopted at the national conferences will either be forwarded to the appropriate policymakers urging their adoption or will be prioritized and placed on a working list at NGAUS/EANGUS for legislative action at the appropriate time.

Proposed resolutions may be forwarded through command channels or may be sent directly to the NGAA/EAANG Resolutions Committee via e-mail if possible to [jshere@ngaa.org](mailto:jshere@ngaa.org) or may be addressed to the NGAA Resolutions Committee, P.O. Box 663, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72115. They may also be faxed to (501) 758-2097. Resolutions must be received by **1 March 2008**.

Additional information, to include sample resolutions, is available at [www.ngaa.org](http://www.ngaa.org) (click on *Legislative Programs*, then *Resolutions*). The resolutions adopted in 2007 by NGAUS can be found at [www.ngaus.org](http://www.ngaus.org) by clicking *Legislative Programs*, then *Current Resolutions Adopted by 129<sup>th</sup> General Conference*.

## NGAA Annual Membership Dues

Membership in the National Guard Association of Arkansas is available to current, past and retired members of both the Arkansas Army National Guard and Arkansas Air National Guard. Allied memberships are available to members of other military organizations.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Membership Dues</u>
Second Lieutenant	\$ 42.00
First Lieutenant	\$ 60.00
Captain	\$ 74.00
Major	\$ 92.00
Lieutenant Colonel	\$105.00
Colonel	\$133.00
Brigadier General	\$153.00
Major General	\$169.00
Warrant Officer 1	\$ 38.00
Chief Warrant Officer 2	\$ 50.00
Chief Warrant Officer 3	\$ 61.00
Chief Warrant Officer 4	\$ 79.00
Chief Warrant Officer 5	\$ 98.00
Allied Member	\$ 25.00

### *NGAA Corporate Members*

#### **Headline Corporate Member**

Engineering Environmental Management, Inc.  
Coca Cola Bottling Company of Arkansas  
Pepsi Americas

#### **Platinum Corporate Member**

Aflac Insurance  
Nabholz Construction Corporation  
Recovery Management, Inc.  
The Stephens Group

#### **Gold Corporate Member**

Arkansas National Guard MWR

#### **Corporate Member**

Arkansas Blue Cross & Blue Shield  
Crescent Communications Corporation  
DRS Technologies  
Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas  
Lockeby & Associates  
Old Mill Wines and Spirits  
Olive Group  
Southern Office Services, Inc.

### *NGAA Goals*

- Serve those serving
- Achieve 100 percent annual dues paying membership
- Increase corporate membership by \$50K
- Reduce member costs for NGAA events
- Foster working relationships with state legislators and members of Congress to achieve goals of command and association interest
- Sustain a minimum of 70 percent participation level in the group term life insurance program

# National Guard Association of Arkansas (NGAA) Service Member/Family Benefits Fact Sheet

NGAA offers educational and legislative support as well as American Equity and American Family Life Assurance Company of Columbus (AFLAC) insurance programs.

- American Equity term life insurance is available for service members and their families
  - o FREE coverage of \$10,000 for one year to new enlistments
  - o \$50,000 coverage available to all service members
  - o Coverage is 24/7 with NO exclusions
  - o Claims are normally paid within 24 hours
  - o Premiums do not increase after separation or retirement
- AFLAC Cancer, Dental, Hospital Indemnity Plan and Specified Health Event plans are available for service members and their families
  - o Cancer and Dental coverage **includes** service members and families 24/7 regardless of the service member's duty status
  - o Hospital Indemnity Plan and Specified Health Event coverage provides protection for family members 24/7 but **excludes** the service member while he/she is in a military duty status
- Annual college scholarships are available in accordance with prescribed criteria to association members, their dependents, and dependents of deceased association members
- Provides oversight and leverage of state/national legislative issues affecting the Arkansas National Guard
- You may contact the NGAA staff at 800-522-1617 or 501-758-6422

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## *NGAA Welcomes New Staff Member*

Major (Retired USAF) James Lamb recently joined the NGAA staff as Insurance and Programs Coordinator, replacing Ms. Rebecca Rowland who has moved to other employment. A native Arkansan, James has a bachelor's degree from Grambling State University in Grambling, Louisiana, and a master's degree from South Dakota State University West Campus, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. His Air Force career included personnel officer, administrative specialist, and several years as a missile launch officer with assignments in several CONUS states and in Germany. His civilian pursuits included federal employment by the US Department of Agriculture, and he is currently an agent with Aflac Insurance. James is married to the former Joyce Jefferson and the couple are parents of Jack, 24, and Julie, 22.

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**National Guard Association of Arkansas  
P.O. Box 663, North Little Rock, Arkansas  
72115**

**Don Sears, Executive Director ([dsears@ngaa.org](mailto:dsears@ngaa.org))  
Kenny Moix, Office Manager ([kmoix@ngaa.org](mailto:kmoix@ngaa.org))  
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Bob Morgan, Insurance Technician  
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Judy Shere, Administrative Assistant  
([jshere@ngaa.org](mailto:jshere@ngaa.org))**

**Phone: 501-758-6422    FAX: 501-758-2097**

### Coming Events

**NGAA Trusts Board Meeting, 4:15 p.m.  
NGAA Board of Directors Meeting, 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, January 8, 2008  
NGAA Office, Building 8100, Camp Robinson**

**National Guard Association of Arkansas  
Fifty-Seventh General Conference  
11-13 April 2008  
Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas and  
Hammons Convention Center  
Rogers, Arkansas**