

NGAUS Conference Reflections

Written by Major Gerald Robinson Association Second Vice President

The 135th NGAUS General Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii just the sound of that conjures up images of warm tropical breezes, perfect sunsets, and sea turtles swimming gently in the waves as you stroll down the beach with soft tiki music floating in. Yes, the conference was all that and more... you may have missed it, but you were represented. Sixty-five members comprised of delegates, representatives of the NGAA board of directors and some NGAA corporate members were there to represent Arkansas.

Taking on Hawaii If you haven't been to a NGAUS Conference, I must tell you it is no small task and is all the more difficult when you throw in hearing from so many of our leaders today. The first question most ask is, "Why would I go all the way to Hawaii for a conference? If I go there, it would be for vacation". That is a good point and a good question, but it does not stop there. Why not ask, "Why NGAUS? ... Why NGAA?" Every time we rose early, put on our uniform and stepped into the conference hall ... yes, in Hawaii with the beaches just a few hundred yards away, we reminded ourselves that we are the firewall between Washington and the states. One member, the oldest member present at the conference, summed it up with his comment, "We are never beyond the sniper's reach." So, we remain on guard and we listen to the state of affairs in Washington ... the plans, the maybe's, and the what if's. We shake hands, we make contacts, and we exchange phone numbers and email addresses. We mentally embrace everyone that will listen or that we should be listening to. The conference location each year is unique, but the message is always about the continued relevancy and importance of the Guard.

As second vice president of your association, I am privileged to represent the Guard, the state, and you at these events. And, just as I did as a unit representative on the NGAA board of directors for many years, I believe that the continued message of the Guard is important. I do not say that it is more important now than ever ... it has always been and will always be important. I have read through the speech transcripts from the conference posted on the NGAUS website. The message is quite clear: We know the importance of the Guard, and we know what you bring to the fight; but people change and political allies change, so we must be vigilant, telling the story of the Guard, listening to what the mood is in Washington, and always be ready to speak.

One morning, as I headed out to a general session, a hotel staff member stopped me and looked at me in my uniform. He shook his head disapprovingly. Immediately I thought, did I miss a button? ... are my ribbons on wrong? ... then he said, "In uniform, in Hawaii?" I laughed and told him that I was there for professional development, representation, sequestration problems, etc. He listened, nodded, told me he was a veteran and that he understood the problems and kept up with the news. I shook his hand, thanked him for his service, and as I was stepping on the elevator, he said, "Just remember not everything is solved in the uniform. A lot of problems are solved when folks are just hanging out and talking". Walking to the conference hall that morning I am sure that passersby thought I had to be in another world. That hotel staff member's comment weighed on me. He is right ... sometimes we forget that and have to be reminded. The National Guard is strong because our social diagram is as complicated as it is. You do not have to go too far if you need something before you will find someone connected to what you need, be it car repair, a roofer, an Excel guru, or even a relative of a representative. Yes, we go to the conferences to hear from the speakers, but mostly we go to make those connections that solve problems that fill in the gaps and to find that spark that achieves end results.

Brigadier General Paul McGillicuddy, Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) Chief of Staff, understands our relevance. In his presentation, he discussed exercises, response plans and the state of the Pacific forces; and everything he said included the Guard. He said in order to meet the threats of today and in the future, just as we have met them in the past, we do it together. Conference speaker Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, United States Representative, Second District, Hawaii,

told her story about stepping out of her state's legislature to join the Guard, about deploying and meeting the challenges for our Nation then and now for us, providing a voice, a face and her story in Washington. Every morning, they put on their uniform just like you and me. They tell their stories and represent the Guard. They look to a future, a positive future, albeit one with challenges, for we will always have those. Finally, I take away from the conference those impressions that a joint effort, a worthy effort, is never insurmountable. We are here as one team for many challenges, many fights; and because we are a team, we are not alone.

I encourage you if you have never attended a National conference, to do that very soon. The 136th NGAUS Conference will be held in Chicago, Illinois, August 22-25, 2014. Put it on your calendar ... come out and see who else we have on our team.



NGAA Committees 2014

NGAUS General Conference and Exhibition	
Conference fille & Flace (2014)	Geraid Nobilison
2013 NGAA General Conference	
NGAA General Conference	Michael Culley
Awards/Signs/Banners	Michael Culley/Tammy Culley
Banquet	Fred Lee/Leon Parham
Business Session	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Company Grade Officer Awards	Cary Shillcutt/Erica Ingram
Exhibits	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Golf Tournament	·
Hospitality Suites	
Nominations	•
Parade of Commanders/Announcer	
Sergeant at Arms-Business Session	
Parliamentarian	
Past Presidents Activities	
Registration	
Speakers/Guests/Saturday Evening Entertainment	
VIP Escort	Anthony Goins

The chairpersons of these committees welcome your ideas and input. The association office (501-758-6422) can help you contact these individuals. And, if you would like to serve on a committee, contact us!



Minutes - NGAA Board of Directors Meeting

October 8, 2013

Absentees

1LT Uneeda Blackwell (871 Trp Cmd)

2LT Paul Bowen (1-153 Inf)

MAJ Jerod Burns (Title 10) (Transferred)

1LT Paul Davis (875 Engr Bn)

1LT Christopher Hart (1-114 Avn)

Maj Toby Morrow (154 Tng Sqdn)

1LT Jason Myers (1-151 Cav)

MAJ Anthony Sanders (R&R Cmd)

CPT Michael Speight (CMTC)

COL (Ret) Bill Stanton (Retiree Rep)

CPT Reese Walker (217 BSB)(TDY)

Guests/NGAA Staff

BG Keith Klemmer, Deputy Adjutant General, Ark NG COL Cary Shillcutt, Chief, Joint Staff MAJ Joel Lynch, 1-153 Inf CPT Leon Parham, 777 ASB James Lamb, NGAA staff Wanda Thomen, NGAA staff Bob Morgan, NGAA staff Judy Shere, NGAA staff

Proper notice of this meeting was given prior to the meeting.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m., and a quorum was verified. Guests were recognized and welcomed.

Minutes Approval

The minutes of the 13 August 2013 board meeting were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes as written.

New Business

Major Culley said the executive committee recently received a request from the Recruiting and Retention Command, Arkansas ARNG, for representation on the NGAA board of directors. He noted that the NGAA by-laws state that such additions must be approved by the board of directors. Following some discussion as to the size of the unit (118 full time work force) and that R&R Command falls directly under the ARNG commander with no brigade structure between it and the ARNG commander, a motion was made to create a position on the NGAA board of directors for the R&R Command. The motion was seconded and approved.

Board Representative Actions

Representatives were asked to approve the following board representative actions:

MAJ Anthony Sanders for the position of representative for Recruiting and Retention Command through April 2015 1LT Jason Myers to fill the unexpired term of CPT Justin Ferguson representing 1-151st Cavalry through April 2014 MAJ Brandan Robbins to fill the unexpired term of MAJ Edward Terry representing 25th ROC through April 2014 MAJ Willie Chapple to fill the unexpired term of MAJ Tommy Smith representing NGMTC through April 2014

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve these appointments.

BG Klemmer Remarks

BG Klemmer emphasized that at this time, NGAA and NGAUS are critical elements in getting the Guard's voice heard. We see the actions of these two organizations going on right now. Organizations such as these and the states' adjutants general are fighting for us. They are making sure we get paid and that our people are working. He encouraged everyone present to continue to participate and become more active in NGAA and NGAUS. He serves as vice chairman of the

NGAUS Fire Support Task Force and hopes that all here today will continue to serve and give their position everything they have and, time permitting, serve nationally too. He thanked everyone for attending today's meeting.

Finance Report, James Lamb

The finance report as of 30 September 2013 was presented for approval. There were no questions, and a motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the report as presented.

Membership Report, James Lamb

Dues collection begins this month. Representatives were provided a copy of a list of their unit officers as shown in the NGAA membership database and were asked to update that information to reflect the currently assigned officers and return that information to Mr. Lamb in the NGAA office. The deadline for 100 percent membership recognition and for NGAA to qualify for an "early bird" rebate from NGAUS is mid-March, following the March unit training assemblies. Questioned as to the possibility of looking at ways to encourage life memberships, it was suggested that incentives might be offered; e.g., discounts for NGAUS Conference costs, a raffle at the state conference for a life membership, etc. Board representatives were asked to contact Major Culley who would like to meet with them to brainstorm proposals to present to the board. Asked if there was anything being said about a change in the cost of NGAUS dues, LTC Moix said that since the NGAUS headquarters building is now paid for, that subject may come up in January at the NGEDA Conference.

Insurance Report, Wanda Thomen

There are 5938 policies in force at this time, and death claims in the amount of \$100,000 have been paid during the 2013-2014 insurance year as of this date. The insurance staff continues to attend SRP's and PHA's. It is not mandatory that Guard members stop by the NGAA insurance area at PHA's; however it is important that they keep their beneficiaries up to date, and that information can be reviewed at that time. Because the October drill was cancelled, premium deductions from drill pay will include two payments in November, not only for SSLI but for SGLI as well. Colonel Shillcutt asked Mrs. Thomen to send him that information so that he can put it out to Guard members.

2015 NGAA Conference Site and Date, Maj Robinson

Representatives were asked at the last board meeting to talk with their unit personnel about the site and date options for the 2015 state conference and be prepared this evening to decide on a site and date. Following a brief discussion, the board voted to conduct the 2015 NGAA Conference at the Springdale Holiday Inn and Northwest Arkansas Convention Center, Springdale, Arkansas, 17-19 April 2015. Major Robinson added that though there was no bid from Little Rock for the 2015 conference, the time and place committee will talk with those people again about a possible bid for the 2016 conference.

NGAUS Conference Update, Maj Culley

A good time was had by all at the NGAUS Conference in Hawaii last month. The speakers were excellent with good representation from both the Air and Army sides. All the draft resolutions approved by our association at our state conference in April were approved by the NGAUS resolutions committee and will be prioritized and placed on a working list at NGAUS for legislative action at the appropriate time. Hospitality Night at the Hard Rock Café in Honolulu was a big success. Next year's NGAUS Conference will be held in Chicago, and the selected hotels are within walking distance of the convention center. Major Culley encouraged everyone to make plans to attend this event.

NGAA Endowment Update, Major Culley

All the necessary forms and application requesting an IRS 501c(3) determination for the endowment have been finalized and forwarded to the IRS by the attorney. The determination should be forthcoming by January 2014.

Additional discussion included an explanation of the endowment initiative for the new board representatives. Major Culley said the endowment will promote NGAA and the Arkansas National Guard. To begin with, it will concentrate primarily on scholarships and will expand the ability of this organization to help others. It will be a 501c(3) organization and will accept outside donations designated for specific causes; e.g., charitable, scientific and educational purposes, with donors imposing the use of the funds. It is in its infancy right now, and there are still many opportunities to be explored.

Other Discussion

Major Culley recognized NGAA Company Grade Officer of the Year 2012 (Army Guard), Captain Leon Parham. Captain Parham was nominated by NGAA and the Adjutant General for the NGAUS Theodore Roosevelt Leadership Award and did receive that award during the NGAUS Conference last month in Hawaii. He is one of just five junior officers nationwide to receive this prestigious award for his achievements and dedicated service to country and community. In fact, all three of the NGAA 2012 Company Grade Officers of the Year received NGAUS leadership awards.

Also during the NGAUS Conference, NGAA was awarded a NGAUS 100 Percent membership plaque for the 8th consecutive year. Master Sergeant (Ret) Bob Morgan and Mrs. Judy Shere, members of the NGAA staff, were awarded

the NGAUS Distinguished Service Medal in recognition of their many years of service and dedication to the Arkansas National Guard and the National Guard Association of Arkansas.

Copies of the latest legislative alerts from NGAUS were distributed to board representatives. Major Culley encouraged responding to those, saying it is important that we do everything we can during this time of government shutdowns. These alerts are all present on the NGAUS website. Share this information with the enlisted ranks too. Colonel Shillcutt said everyone needs to be reminded that the National Guard is the organization to deal with both state and national issues. Let the chain of command know your needs, issues and concerns; remain vigilant. We will get through this.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled board of directors meeting is Tuesday, 7 January 2014, in the NGAA conference room. Dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m., and the meeting will start at 5:45 p.m. A reminder will be sent prior to the meeting date.

<u>Adjournment</u>

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned.



Membership.....

Why Be a Member of NGAA? This association was formed to enhance, promote and advocate the various interests of the Arkansas National Guard. NGAA strives to be your voice on issues that are of mutual concern to Guard members and their families. We want and need all officers to be active members in this organization. As military professionals, it is imperative that we maintain a solid organization and speak with one cohesive voice to ensure that the National Guard remains strong and relevant, achieves its goals, and receives the necessary funding, equipment and benefits to maintain a viable force in today's military structure.

NGAA achieved 100 percent membership in the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) for the eighth consecutive year in 2013. We need your help if we are to continue our 100 percent membership record in 2014. Dues may be paid on line at the NGAA website (www.ngaa.org ... click on Membership). There is a small handling fee for on line payments and for payments made by credit/debit card. Members may also pay by check or cash with no additional fees involved.

Amounts of annual membership dues are listed below. Our objective is to collect all annual dues no later than March 15, 2014.

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 for an annual fee of \$25.00.

Rank	Membership Dues
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
Life Membership	*\$1300.00

^{*}One-year installment plan is available. Contact the NGAA office for details (501-758-6422)



NGAUS Awards Recipients

Three Arkansas Guard officers were chosen to receive National Guard Association of the United States awards this year. Captain James Garvey, a member of the 188th Maintenance Group, Arkansas Air National Guard, and Captain Leon Parham, Jr., 777th Aviation Support Battalion, Arkansas Army National Guard, received the Theodore Roosevelt Leadership Award. CW2 Keith Dortch, 106th Army Band, Arkansas Army National Guard, was recipient of the Eagle Rising Award for Warrant Officers.



Captain Parham is shown here with NGAUS chairman of the board, Major General Steve Danner (*left*), and awards committee chairman, Colonel Jay Hooper (*right*), receiving his award while attending the NGAUS Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, in September. The Theodore Roosevelt Leadership Award recognizes the achievements and dedicated service of National Guard junior officers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and professionalism in their service to country and community.

Presentations to Captain Garvey and CW2 Dortch were made on separate occasions since the conclusion of the NGAUS Conference. The Eagle Rising Award for Warrant Officers recognizes the achievements and dedicated service of Army National Guard warrant officers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, technical skills, and professionalism in their service to country and community.



The National Guard Association of Arkansas was awarded the NGAUS 100 Percent Membership plaque for the 8th consecutive year. Shown here receiving the plaque from General Danner (*center*) at the NGAUS Conference are (*from left*) NGAA Executive Director Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Kenneth Moix; National Guard Executive Directors Association President, Ms. Janet Cowley; NGAA President Major Michael Culley; and Major General William Wofford, Adjutant General, Arkansas National Guard.

Two members of the NGAA staff were presented with the NGAUS Distinguished Service Medal in recognition of their many years' service and dedication to the Arkansas National Guard and the National Guard Association of Arkansas. Master Sergeant (Ret) Bob Morgan and Mrs. Judy Shere are shown here with General Danner and Colonel Hooper receiving their awards during the September NGAUS Conference in Honolulu.





188th Fighter Wing honors local community council with NGAUS Patrick Henry Award



Lt. Col. (Ret.) Kenny Moix, executive director of the National Guard Association of Arkansas (left) and Col. Mark Anderson, 188th Fighter Wing commander (right) present Dr. Jerry Stewart, president of the 188th Fighter wing/Fort Chaffee Community Council, with the National Guard Association of the United States' Patrick Henry Award at the 188th Fighter Wing's 60th anniversary celebration on November 2, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Dr. Jerry Stewart, president of the 188th Fighter wing/Fort Chaffee Community Council, accepts the National Guard Association of the United States' Patrick Henry Award at the 188th Fighter Wing's 60th anniversary celebration. Approximately 1,000 airmen, families and community members came together to mark the wing's 60th anniversary during a ceremony at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, November 2, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman John Hillier/188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

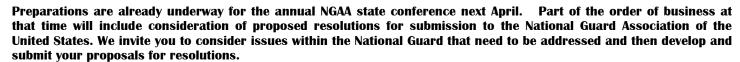
Resolutions Approved at NGAUS Conference

Major Mike Culley and Captain Rex Thomen represented the Arkansas National Guard on the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) resolutions committee at the NGAUS Conference in September. The NGAUS legislative agenda for the coming year was resolved as delegates passed more than 100 resolutions, including 37 related to Air issues, 21 related to Army issues and 48 that qualify as joint resolutions.

Highlights include calling for additional family and community benefits; equipment such as mobile missile launchers, humidity protection and a vehicle agnostic sensor; and electronic warfare warning systems. Resolutions relating to C-27Js, C-21s and C-40s were removed.

The approved resolutions will be prioritized and become the basis for the upcoming NGAUS legislative agenda.

2014 Call for Resolutions



Detailed information and an electronic input form are available at www.ngaa.org (click on Legislative). Everyone is encouraged to participate in the resolutions process share your thoughts and ideas about National Guard issues that need to be addressed at the state and national level.

In addition, visit the NGAUS website (www.ngaus.org) to review all the resolutions approved at the NGAUS Conference last month.

If you have questions, contact NGAA resolutions committee co-chairs Captain Rex Thomen (ARNG) (rex.a.thomen.mil@mail.mil) or Major Michael Culley (ANG) (michael.culley.1@ang.af.mil).

Proposed resolutions must be submitted to the NGAA office (<u>ishere@ngaa.org</u>) using the electronic input form discussed above no later than 1 March 2014.

NGAA/EAANG Scholarships Program 2014-2015

Fifty \$750 college scholarships will be awarded by NGAA and EAANG to members and their dependents for the school year 2014-2015. The scholarships apply to full time or part time enrollment at in-state or out-of-state colleges, four-year colleges, vocational training or post graduate studies. 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 (2014 dues must be paid) and must be covered under the NGAA state sponsored life insurance (SSLI) program. Scholarship applications may be completed and submitted online or downloaded from the NGAA website, www.ngaa.org (click on Scholarships), and copies are also available at the NGAA office, Building 8100, Camp Robinson.

Deadline for submission of completed applications is <u>January 15, 2014</u>. Applications must be received (or be postmarked if mailed) by the *National Guard Association of Arkansas Scholarship Program*, P.O. Box 663, North Little Rock, AR 72115, by that date.





The association welcomes its newest corporate member. Glidewell Distributing Company, Inc., is a leading provider of candy, tobacco, groceries and allied products in Arkansas, Oklahoma and beyond. Wherever you sell, you can count on Glidewell Distributing for the fastest, most complete service in the industry.

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Come join the fun!

The Auxiliary to the National Guard Association of Arkansas invites you to the annual ANGAA Christmas Auction. This event provides an opportunity to raise money to support a Guard family in need at Christmas, the Camp Robinson Chapel, Minuteman Youth Camp, Arkansas National Guard Museum and other ANGAA activities as well. It allows us to get together and enjoy each others' company while keeping the spirit of the season in our hearts. This year we're having a chili supper, so get your taste buds ready! Bring the beverage of your choice so everyone has their favorite drink alongside the chili.

Pick out an item that you like and we will auction it off to you or someone you invite to bid against. Bring gifts that make you laugh or that you would like to have around the house hidden treasures are a plus! We will auction whatever you bring, but don't feel that you have to bring anything. All funds raised will be used for good causes.

The auction will be at Chappell Armory, Camp Robinson (Rooms 186 and 187), Friday, December 6, 2013. Arrival begins at 6:00 p.m., and the fun and fellowship start soon afterwards.

We hope you will attend and bring your friends along with you the more the merrier! If you have questions, please contact the ANGAA president, Mrs. Nikole Brasfield (nbrasfield09@comcast.net) (Phone No. 870-267-2129) or Mrs. Wanda Thomen (wandathomen@yahoo.com) (Phone No. 501-766-5425).



"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful."

-- Norman Vincent Peale

NGAA Corporate Members

Headline Corporate Member

HDR Environmental, Operations & Construction, Inc. Coca Cola Enterprises of Arkansas PepsiCo Foodservice

Platinum Corporate Member

Nabholz Construction Services

Gold Corporate Member

Arkansas National Guard MWR Ben E. Keith Company DRS Technologies W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.

Corporate Member

AM General, LLC
Arkansas Blue Cross & Blue Shield
Arkansas Federal Credit Union
BAE Systems, Land & Armaments
The Boeing Company
DHS Systems LLC (DRASH)
EADS North America
Eye Safety Systems (ESS), Inc.
Fort Smith Arkansas Convention Group
Glidewell Distributing Company, Inc.
Hog Wild Wines and Spirits, Inc.
Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center, NW Arkansas
Humana Military Healthcare Services
Litefighter Systems

Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation Perkins Technical Services, Inc. Tyson Foods, Inc.

Tyson Foods, Inc. University of Phoenix Verizon Wireless

NGAA Goals

- Provide services to members
- Promote legislative actions to benefit members and improve the capabilities of the Arkansas National Guard
- Establish and maintain a cooperative relationship with like organizations
- Maintain long term financial stability
- Preserve the history of NGAA
- Educate federal, state and local communities on the National Guard story
- Improve the communication flow to membership regarding NGAA and its programs

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

Michael Culley, Association President (michael.culley.1@ang.af.mil)

Kenneth Moix, Executive Director (kmoix@ngaa.org)

James Lamb, Office Manager (<u>ilamb@ngaa.org</u>)
Wanda Thomen, Insurance Administrator
(<u>wthomen@ngaa.org</u>)

Bob Morgan, Insurance Technician (bmorgan@ngaa.org)
Judy Shere, Administrative Assistant (jshere@ngaa.org)

Phone: 501-758-6422 FAX: 501-758-2097 www.ngaa.org

Coming Events

NGAA Trusts Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m. NGAA Board of Directors Meeting, 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, 7 January 2014 NGAA Office, Building 8100, Camp Robinson

61st General Conference & Exhibition National Guard Association of Arkansas Springdale Holiday Inn & Northwest Arkansas Convention Center Springdale, Arkansas 11-13 April 2014