

January 2011



## *What a Year..... !!*

**Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Kenneth Moix**  
**Executive Director**

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It has been just over a year since Colonel (Ret) Don Sears' retirement as executive director of the association and my selection for the position. Much has happened in the last fifteen months. One of my first duties was to attend the National Guard Executive Director Association (NGEDA) Conference in Austin, Texas, last January. During that meeting, we discussed insurance issues, association membership and the then upcoming NGAUS conference held in August 2010.

Membership remains an important topic, and although Arkansas enjoys a very good membership relationship with NGAUS, we do have room for improvement. Talk to your friends in the active and retired Arkansas National Guard and help us increase our numbers. In strength, our voice is louder. Our 2011 membership is currently underway. The goal is for our units to be 100 percent by February 15, 2011. To help attain this goal, please pay your dues as soon as possible. To make it easier, our website ([www.ngaa.org](http://www.ngaa.org)) will soon be set up to receive your payments on line. So, keep watching the website; we hope to have this available very soon. This payment feature will also help us with future state and national conference registrations. Also, check our website for the 2011 call for resolutions. Lieutenant Colonel James Treece and Captain Michael Culley, NGAA Resolutions Committee Co-Chairs, are working to make the resolution process even easier than it is already.

The NGAA insurance trusts board has worked very hard to bring the NGAA/EAANG scholarship program back up to \$30,000. Three years ago, because of financial setbacks, the trusts board had to reduce the scholarships to thirty \$500 scholarships. We are happy to report that the board's diligence toward improving the financial stability of the insurance trust, has resulted in forty \$750 scholarships being offered for the 2011-2012 school year. This brings the scholarship program back to \$30,000. Application forms are available on this website.

At the last state conference, we consolidated the NGAA/EAANG joint conference with the Adjutant General's senior leadership conference. Everyone in attendance seemed to enjoy themselves, especially since this type of conference freed up two additional weekends for families to be together. Scheduling conflicts, however, will not allow inclusion of the senior leadership conference in 2011. The NGAA and EAANG will conduct a joint conference in Hot Springs, Arkansas, on April 8-10, 2011. So mark your calendars for this event!

Speaking of conferences, the 2010 NGAUS Conference last August in Austin, Texas, was very informative and entertaining. The National Guard Association of Texas did an outstanding job coordinating the event. About seventy-five NGAA members and guests attended and enjoyed Texas BBQ, a rodeo, a great hospitality evening; and the always popular all states dinner wrapped up the three-day event. See our website for pictures. If you were unable to attend in 2010, mark your calendar for August 27-29, 2011, for the NGAUS Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The NGAA *Partners in Patriotism* corporate program continues to grow. Colonel Sears did an outstanding job of reorganizing and revitalizing this important part of our association. I am happy to report that we added ten new businesses to our corporate family last year. The most recent, Verizon Wireless, joined in October 2010. Please contact me or any of the NGAA staff if you can help with the program. Many of you work in companies that would make great corporate partners.

This has been a wonderful first year for me as executive director, and I want to thank the staff and the association officers and the entire membership for all your hard work. I can assure you that I would not have been able to enjoy such a year without your help and support. I am looking forward to an even better Year Number Two!

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# NGAA Committees 2011 .....

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The 2011 association committees and their chairpersons are:

## COMMITTEES

NGAUS General Conference  
Resolutions  
\*Scholarships  
Legislative  
Corporate Activities and Corporate Membership

## Annual General Conference 2011

NGAA General Conference  
Awards/Signs/Banners  
\*Banquet  
\*Business Session  
Company Grade Officer Awards  
\*Exhibits  
Golf Tournament  
\*Hospitality Suites  
Nominations  
\*Parade of Commanders/Sergeant at Arms  
Parliamentarian  
Past Presidents Activities  
\*Publicity  
Registration  
\*Speakers/Guests/Friday Evening Entertainment  
Time & Place (2012)  
VIP Escort

\*Co-chaired by NGAA/EAANG

## CHAIRPERSONS

Mark Berry  
James Treece/Michael Culley  
Rex Thomen  
James Treece  
Damon Cluck

Mike Merritt  
Michael Culley/Tammy Culley  
Fred Lee  
Gerald Robinson/Barry Eason  
Richard Swan/Erica Ingram  
Matt Anderson  
Tamhra Hutchins-Frye/Tenise Gardner/Wes Nichols  
Gerald Robinson/Don Mabry/Tracey Murray  
Tamhra Hutchins-Frye  
Shawn Keeter/John Chase  
Steve Zega  
Tamhra Hutchins-Frye  
Anderson Neal/Keith Moore  
James Lamb  
Mark Berry/Johnathan Metcalf  
Damon Cluck  
Anthony Goins

The chairpersons welcome your ideas and input as pertains to their area of responsibility. The association office (501-758-6422 or 1-800-522-1617) can help you contact these individuals.

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## *Minutes – NGAA Board of Directors Meeting*

*October 4, 2010*

### Absentees

Mark Berry (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President) (TDY)  
Col CPT Kevin S. Burton (1-153 Inf)  
1LT John Chase (2-142 FA)  
Capt Michael Culley (154 Tng Sqdn) (TDY)  
CPT Thomas Edwards (2-153 Inf)  
CPT Justin Ferguson (1-151 Cav)  
MAJ Richard Garringer (233 RTI)  
CPT Phoebe Gaston (217 BSB)  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt William Ginger (184 FS)  
CPT David Grant (39 BSB) (TDY)  
Capt Fred Lee (188 FW)  
CW2 Lucien McConnell, Jr. (871 Trp Cmd)  
CPT Johnathan Metcalf (1-206 FA) (TDY)  
CPT Tracey Murray (39 BSTB) (TDY)  
MAJ Clement Papineau (JFHQ) (TDY)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Kenneth Simon (189 AW)  
MAJ David Stapp (Hq 39 I BCT) (TDY)  
1LT John Tatum (875 Engr Bn)

## **Guests/NGAA Staff**

Ms. Phyllis Holifield, Priddy & Holifield, P.A.  
Ms. Debbie Robinson, Priddy & Holifield, P.A.  
BG Richard Swan, Chief, Joint Staff, Arkansas National Guard  
LTC James Treece, Co-Chair, NGAA Resolutions Committee  
Maj (Ret) James Lamb, NGAA staff  
Mrs. Kimberly Winston, NGAA staff  
MSG (Ret) Bob Morgan, NGAA staff  
Mrs. Judy Shere, NGAA staff

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

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order, and a quorum was verified. Guests and nominees to serve on the board of directors were recognized and welcomed.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the 3 August 2010 board meeting were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes as written.

## **External Audit Report, Ms. Debbie Robinson**

Colonel Merritt introduced Ms. Phyllis Holifield and Ms. Debbie Robinson of Priddy & Holifield, P.A. Ms. Robinson reported on the NGAA audit performed by her firm in July. She said she was pleased at the opportunity to speak to the board after having met with NGAA management, the executive committee and the trusts board just prior to today's meeting. She thanked the NGAA staff for their help during the audit. Her firm audits NGAA and both NGAA trusts and prepares the association tax return. The full scope audit rendered a clean opinion; i.e., there were no major adjustments necessary. There were no disagreements by management or the executive committee. The tax return was basically the same as last year. The audit reports and other required documentation are available in the NGAA office for anyone that would like to review those.

Ms. Robinson said a proposal letter has been given to the executive director and includes no increase in her firm's fee. She said they did not even charge as much as quoted for this year because the process ran smoothly and took less time than anticipated.

She asked if there were questions concerning the audit, and there were none.

## **New Business**

### **Board Representative Actions**

Board members were asked to approve the following board representative changes:

MAJ Anthony Wilmington to fill the unexpired term of LTC Travis Mann representing ISU through April 2011.  
CPT Dwayne Page to fill the unexpired term of LTC Jay Stout representing Fort Chaffee MTC through April 2012.  
MAJ Matthew Anderson to fill the unexpired term of MAJ Shawn Keeter representing 77<sup>th</sup> TAB through April 2012.  
MAJ Shawn Keeter to fill the unexpired term of MAJ Matthew Anderson representing 1-114<sup>th</sup> S&S through April 2012.

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

Colonel Merritt presented the following requests from the NGAA Trusts Board concerning trusts positions:

Colonel Tamhra Hutchins-Frye to replace SSG (Ret) Stephanie Wynn as trusts secretary effective 1 January 2011 (this is a one-year appointment). SSG Wynn will move to the position of vice president on that date.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the appointment.

SGM (Ret) Edwin Lyons' term on the trusts board will expire 31 December 2010. The trusts board has nominated him for a new 5-year term beginning 1 January 2011 through 31 December 2015.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve this appointment subject to approval by the EAANG board of directors.

#### Finance and Insurance. Maj (Ret) James Lamb

Major Lamb presented the finance and insurance reports as of 31 August 2010. There were no questions; and a motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the reports. He discussed the insurance policies currently in force and reported that death claims in the amount of \$64,500 have been paid for the 2010-2011 insurance year.

Questioned about how the Aflac products are progressing, the response was that they are doing well with 47 Aflac policies added last month.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the finance and insurance reports as presented.

#### Auditor Contract

Colonel Merritt discussed a proposed contract from Priddy & Holifield audit firm. He said the 3-year contract quotes the same rate as that of the past three years and will not increase during the 3-year period. They may not even charge the full amount based on the time it takes to complete the annual audit. A discussion concerning the reasons for having an outside audit included, among other reasons, that it protects the board of directors and keeps our association abreast of new tax codes in order to keep our tax exempt status. It was suggested that the outside audit is definitely something the association needs and it is worth the investment. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Priddy & Holifield contract to audit the NGAA and its two trusts for the next three years.

#### Membership

Major Lamb sent rosters of unit officers to all board representatives in September (as it appears in the NGAA membership database) for review and updating of current officers. The board representatives were asked to begin collecting 2011 dues from their unit officers. Brigadier General Swan explained that NGAA does not have access officer information from DSCPER. He said it is unfortunate but the Military Department cannot release personnel information data to NGAA, thus NGAA must ask the unit representatives to update that information each year.

NGAUS offers the association a five percent rebate for dues paid by the end of March each year. Lifetime NGAA/NGAUS memberships (\$1300) are available and may be paid utilizing a one-year installment plan.

Questioned about plans for setting up an on-line payment procedure, the response was that the association is in the process of talking to different companies about taking over its entire automation program; i.e., internet, website, etc., and there is no decision on this at this time. The discussion that followed included setting a goal to get this done. This has been on the agenda for some time now. Among several suggestions were (1) develop a package outlining everything that is needed and send that to several companies for a bid, and (2) in the interim, get set up for on-line payments as soon as possible. LTC Moix explained that on-line dues and conference registration payments is not where the problem lies. The association needs more than just payment information; it needs changes in ranks, units, addresses, etc. The discussion concluded with a direction by the president to accomplish what needs to be done to get on-line payments set up or have a firm timeline that it will be done by the next board meeting in January.

#### Resolutions

LTC James Treece, resolutions committee co-chairperson, discussed his and co-chair Capt Michael Culley's plans to energize the resolutions process. He said they normally receive 15 to 20 vendor resolutions and only a very few from state members. He urged the board representatives to look at the standing resolutions from the 132<sup>nd</sup> NGAUS Conference on the NGAUS website and asked them to get their unit members to do that as well. He explained the resolutions process and discussed the electronic input form that is used for submission of resolutions. It is a simple form and he and Captain Culley are working on adapting that form into a state level form that they can use to transfer information over to the NGAUS form in order to send it to NGAUS. He hopes everybody will look over the draft resolutions at the NGAUS website and ask their unit members and commanders to look those over as well. In addition, he hopes to get more proactive on state level resolutions and plans to modify the electronic form to use for both national and state resolutions. The call for resolutions will be published in mid-November, and proposed resolutions will be accepted through February 2011. He asked that everybody energize their people to submit their ideas.

LTC Cluck added that the standing resolutions have associated task forces in place; e.g., field artillery, aviation, combat service support, personnel, etc. These task forces meet throughout the year; so before starting from scratch, look to see

if your issue has already been addressed and then see if you want to amend that. A copy of the task force titles and members was provided to all present.

### **2011 General Conference**

A list of proposed conference committee chairpersons was provided to all present. With exception of one or two minor changes, the list was acceptable to all concerned. Colonel Merritt said the committee chairs will meet monthly starting in January.

Major Gerald Robinson distributed a spreadsheet outlining three options for hospitality suites at the conference. The options are Hot Springs Convention Center, Embassy Suites and Austin Hotel. The spreadsheet included detailed information as to room sizes, locations, cost, and food and drink restrictions. Following a lengthy discussion, it was decided to locate the hospitality suites/rooms in the Austin Hotel. The spaces there are all complimentary, and that is not the case at the other two locations. A decision to locate food and drink in a centralized area and split the cost for that among units or have food and drink in each of the separate suites will be determined later after each unit decides what it wants to do.

### **2012 General Conference**

Current plans are to conduct the 2012 conference in Little Rock, and negotiations have been underway for some time with the Peabody Hotel; however, nothing there has been finalized yet. The original plan was that the 2012 event would be another mega-conference to include the adjutant general's leadership meetings. The association was informed recently that those plans have changed and the conference will not include TAG leadership meetings in 2012. Since the Peabody presents the same hospitality suite issues as Hot Springs, the NGAA executive committee suggested looking at other sites for the 2012 conference; e.g., Springdale, Fort Smith, Little Rock (at sites other than the Peabody). The Springdale Advertising and Promotions Commission will donate \$5,000 to our event if we choose Springdale. If anyone has any ideas for the conference site, send those to LTC Cluck ([damon.cluck@us.army.mil](mailto:damon.cluck@us.army.mil)) or LTC Moix ([kmoix@ngaa.org](mailto:kmoix@ngaa.org)). The executive committee will prepare some options for the board's consideration at the January 2011 board meeting.

### **Other Comments**

Colonel Merritt thanked Mrs. Winston for preparing the delicious lasagna served this evening, a remark that was followed by an enthusiastic round of applause for Kimberly!

### **Next Meeting**

The next scheduled board of directors meeting is Monday, 10 January 2011, 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.

### **Adjournment**

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned.

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## ***Resolutions Adopted at NGAUS Conference .....***

**Lieutenant Colonel Damon Cluck and Captain Mike Culley represented the Arkansas National Guard on the NGAUS resolutions committee at the NGAUS Conference in August. They reported that all the previous year's draft resolutions were adopted as standing resolutions for next year's legislative agenda. In addition, all the resolutions adopted by the NGAA membership at the state conference last April were adopted and accepted as standing resolutions at the national level. Those resolutions include increased pay for retired personnel cited as heroes and Tricare as a healthcare option for technicians. The committee was also able to modify several standing resolutions related to equipment needs in the National Guard because that equipment has either been fielded, funded or both. This is a direct reflection on the influence NGAUS has in Congress and its successful efforts to obtain additional equipment procurement funds through Congressional add-ons above the President's budget request.**

**The 2011 call for resolutions is posted to this website. 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.**

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# NGAA Membership

**Why Be a Member? .....** 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.

**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 *Directors*), or call the NGAA office at 501-758-6422. Amounts of annual membership dues are listed below. Our objective is to collect all annual dues no later than February 15, 2011.

**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.

<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
Life Membership	*\$1300.00

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

## Scholarships 2011-2012

**Forty \$750 college scholarships** will be awarded by NGAA and EAANG to members and their dependents for the school year 2011-2012. 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 are now available at this website, (on the

Home page, click on Scholarships). Copies may also be obtained from your unit representative on the NGAA board of directors and are available at the NGAA office, Building 8100, Camp Robinson.

**Deadline for submission of completed applications is February 15, 2011. 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.**

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## ***NGAUS Awards Recipients***

Seven Arkansas National Guard officers were recognized by the National Guard Association of the United States for meritorious service or acts of heroism at the NGAUS General Conference held in Austin, Texas, August 21-23, 2010. We are pleased to congratulate these individuals:

**Colonel (Retired) Donald L. Sears** was presented the NGAUS Meritorious Service Award in recognition of his decade of service as executive director of the National Guard Association of Arkansas during which time he demonstrated an unparalleled sense of duty, leadership and strategic vision; initiated a corporate member program within the association that is larger than ever envisioned in the history of the organization, and generated an unprecedented growth in the insurance program.

**Colonel (Retired) Mary Frances Sears** was awarded the NGAUS Meritorious Service Award for her service in the Arkansas National Guard as a military health care professional that took her on numerous OCONUS medical readiness and nation-building exercises, deployment during Desert Storm with her field based evacuation hospital where she attended wounded U.S. and allied service members and numerous Iraqi prisoners of war. She was responsible for increasing relevance for female service members, an effort that included several "pioneering firsts". Colonel Sears was the first female president of any state or territory National Guard association and during her military career served on many commissions and committees at both the state and national level. Of particular note is her tenacious work with the Arkansas General Assembly and the Veterans Administration at both the state and national levels that resulted in the establishment in 2001 of an 82-acre veterans' cemetery in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

**Lieutenant Colonel James H. Treece** received the NGAUS Meritorious Service Award for his distinguished service and contributions to both the state and national officer and enlisted associations through his work on the adjutant general's legislative action committee. He was the driving force behind the recent passage of the increased state tax exemption law for all officers and enlisted personnel of the Arkansas National Guard, an act that resulted in the overall financial betterment for all those soldiers, airmen and their families and provides another positive benefit to remaining in the Arkansas Guard.

**Colonel Tamhra Hutchins-Frye** was awarded the NGAUS Meritorious Service Certificate in recognition of her two years' service as president of the National Guard Association of Arkansas. Her "can do" attitude was the driving force that initiated and contributed to the first combined conference involving the National Guard Association of Arkansas, the Enlisted Association of the Arkansas National Guard and the Adjutant General's leadership conference. Her unparalleled sense of duty, leadership and strategic vision provided the key ingredients that allowed concepts to become realities, obstacles to become building blocks and time away from families to become those priceless moments of sharing time at home.

The NGAUS Valley Forge Cross for Heroism was awarded to **Major James S. Hall** and **CW3 Rickey E. Bullinger** and the Valley Forge Certificate went to **Major Michael Henderson** for their heroism and for voluntarily risking their own personal safety while attempting to rescue a drowning victim in water that had become electrically charged by faulty wiring.

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## *NGAA Welcomes Board Representatives .....*

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The association is pleased to welcome eleven new unit representatives to the NGAA board of directors. They are:

- Major Clement Papineau, Joint Force Headquarters
- Captain Edward Hill, Medical Command
- Major Anthony Wilmington, Institute Support Unit
- Captain Dwayne Page, Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center
- Captain Lorne Kelley, 777<sup>th</sup> Aviation Support Battalion
- Major Clint Miller, 87<sup>th</sup> Troop Command
- CW2 Lucien McConnell, Jr., 871<sup>st</sup> Troop Command
- Major Betty Anderson, 25<sup>th</sup> Rear Operations Center
- First Lieutenant John Tatum, 875<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion
- Captain Tracey Murray, 39 Brigade Troops Battalion
- First Lieutenant Sean Burger, 142<sup>nd</sup> Fires Brigade

## *New Partner in Patriotism ....*

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We are pleased to welcome a new *Partner in Patriotism* to our NGAA corporate family:

### **Verizon Wireless**

Verizon Wireless operates the nation's most reliable and largest wireless voice and data network. Providing America's largest mobile to mobile calling family of more than 80 million subscribers, the company works hard to offer its customers the highest level of satisfaction by offering quality products and services. More than 85,000 Verizon Wireless people serve over 80 million customers nationwide. Verizon Wireless is committed to helping the local communities where they work. Their credo is they have work because their customers value their high quality service, they focus outward on the customer, they know teamwork enables customer service better and faster, integrity is at the core of who they are, bigness is not their strength – best is their strength. See more about Verizon Wireless at [www.verizonwireless.com](http://www.verizonwireless.com).

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## *NGAA Corporate Members*

### Headline Corporate Member

HDR | Engineering Environmental Management, Inc.  
Coca Cola Enterprises of Little Rock Arkansas  
Pepsi Americas

### Platinum Corporate Member

Aflac Insurance  
Nabholz Construction Corporation  
Recovery Management, Inc.

### Gold Corporate Member

Arkansas National Guard MWR  
DRS Technologies  
Laser Shot, Inc.  
W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.

### Corporate Member

ADS, Inc.  
Amtech, LLC  
The Boeing Company  
EADS North America  
Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas  
Humana Military Healthcare Services  
Old Mill Wines and Spirits  
Perkins Technical Services, Inc.  
Pinnacle Pointe Hospital  
Tyson Foods, Inc.  
Verizon Wireless

## *NGAA Goals*

- Serve those serving
- Achieve 100 percent annual dues paying membership
- Increase corporate membership income by \$10K
- 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**  
P.O. Box 663, North Little Rock, Arkansas  
72115

Michael D. Merritt, Association President  
([mike.merritt@rmi-debris.com](mailto:mike.merritt@rmi-debris.com))

Kenneth Moix, Executive Director  
([kmoix@ngaa.org](mailto:kmoix@ngaa.org))

James Lamb, Office Manager ([jlamb@ngaa.org](mailto:jlamb@ngaa.org))  
Bob Morgan, Insurance Technician  
([bmorgan@ngaa.org](mailto:bmorgan@ngaa.org))  
Judy Shere, Administrative Assistant  
([ishere@ngaa.org](mailto:ishere@ngaa.org))

### Coming Events

NGAA Trusts Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m.  
NGAA Board of Directors Meeting, 5:00 p.m.  
10 January 2011  
NGAA Office, Building 8100, Camp Robinson

NGAA/EAANG Joint Conference  
Hot Springs Convention Center  
8-10 April 2011  
Hot Springs, Arkansas

133<sup>RD</sup> NGAUS General Conference & Exhibition  
Frontier Airlines Center  
27-29 August 2011  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

# Happy New Year!