



THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS

P.O. BOX 663

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72115

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of NGAA Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting
09 November 2021

Officers Present: COL (ret) Damon Cluck (Exec Dir), LTC Sharetta Glover (Immediate past President), LTC Ryan Workman (President), MAJ Trey Marable (1st Vice President), CPT Shalin Gieson (2nd Vice President), COL Joel Lynch, CPT Dalton Shannon, MAJ Jonathan Ferricher, MAJ Jason Kulaga, COL (ret) Don Brooks, MAJ Lorne Kelley, CPT Alex Miller, CPT Brian Gabbard, LTC Noyal Brasfield, CPT Phillip Stevens, CPT La'Portia Jackson, 1LT Zach Plumlee, and MAJ (ret) Fred Lee.

Others Present: Maj (ret) James Lamb (Staff), Elizabeth Jara (Staff), Robin Brady (Staff), Tim McRae (New Benefits Coordinator), LTC Brian Shipman

Note: Several officers attended via Zoom call and the others attended in person and distanced themselves following Covid-19 guidelines.

1. The National Guard Association of Arkansas (NGAA) Board of Directors convened a quarterly meeting 09 November 2021 after a quorum was confirmed to be in attendance, LTC Ryan Workman called the meeting to order.
2. Board Members were given copies of the following before the meeting. These documents are also attached to the minutes.
 - a. November Meeting Agenda
 - b. 10 August 2021 meeting minutes (not attached to these minutes, accessible on NGAA website or in person at NGAA)
 - c. Memorandum of 2022 State Conference Committee Chairs and NGAUS Chairs
3. LTC Workman reminded everyone to provide the NGAA with their personal emails.

Old Business

4. The 10 August 2021 NGAA Board of Directors meeting minutes were previously approved by the Executive Committee. There was no discussion.

5. **Financial Update:** COL Cluck reviewed the status of funds as of 09 November 2021. The balance in the checking account is \$8,769.02. An unexpected payment of \$1,900 was made to the IRS. There is a shortfall of \$6,200.65 which was made up out of the set aside account.

COL Cluck stated that we need a motion to remove Barbara Scott from all Association bank accounts and add Robin Brady (the new Insurance Administrator) to Association bank accounts. We also need a motion to approve opening a new Escrow Account to process insurance commissions and fees for products other than the State Sponsored Life Insurance Program. Motion was made by MAJ Kulaga and seconded by COL Lynch. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

6. **Corporate Membership Update:** Elizabeth reported she has collected from three corporate sponsors (\$6,000). She is hopeful that this year she will have 7 to 10 new sponsors for a total around \$75,000. LTC Workman called for questions or discussion and there was none. He encouraged everyone to reach out within their communities and be diligent to help in this endeavor.

New Business

7. LTC Workman called everyone's attention to the memorandum of the 2022 State Conference Committee Chairs. It was emailed to everyone. We appreciate those who have already volunteered. He stated that he will send out information on what was done in previous years.
8. Scholarship application should be updated and ready by the end of the week. The deadline for submitting is 15 January.
9. **Digital Life Membership Update:** It is \$600 for state and national lifetime membership. It can be paid in monthly payments up to 12 months. This is a big deal. Up until 15 December, if a member has paid 2021 dues already, that amount will be credited to their account. You can make an initial payment before 15 December and still make additional payments after that date.
10. **State Conference Brief:** Registration is up and on the website. Discussion started by Elizabeth regarding awarding the first 100 members to sign up with an opportunity to be in a drawing for a gift. LTC Workman asked for any discussion or objections. This will be clarified later. He encouraged motivation to get everyone signed up early. Elizabeth also presented the idea to increase the registration amount if not signed up by a certain date. That discussion was tabled.

COL Cluck discussed a speaker for the State Conference. COL Saylor has recommended that we look at Scott Mann as a banquet speaker. Scott is a retired special forces operator. He has a traveling show dealing with issues of reintegration, family stressors due to deployment, and suicide. He also has a leadership program called Rooftop

Leadership. COL Cluck asked LTC Brian Shipman to tell more about Scott Mann and his leadership program. He reported that Mr. Mann participated in Operation Pineapple Express, an unofficial, underground effort coordinating the evacuation of interpreters and other people who were coalition partners in Afghanistan. He's an interesting guy. The program Rooftop Leadership is about human connection. At the conference they could tailor it to the time allotted. For the keynote speech he could have a certain target area that he covers there and then when he's working with the Company grade he could tailor the topics and what he covers there. I think the big benefit to the group would be is that he is from Arkansas, had a long career in the military, and has 10 plus years of doing this leadership training.

COL Cluck stated that an honorarium was discussed with him of \$3,500 which is in line with what we have paid speakers and entertainment in the past. This is a national level speaker with a national level platform that we think people would be interested in listening to.

11. COL Cluck introduced Tim McRae as the new Benefits Coordinator for NGAA. We have talked to him about developing more products to offer our members. We learned in our insurance meeting last month that other states are doing unit visits instead of just participating in PHA's. They are hiring teams of enrollers to go out to do unit visits. Tim with Colonial Life has teams of enrollers that they use. They are trained in multiple insurance products. We have contracted with them to visit the units. They will first service the State Sponsored Life Insurance products. Tim will be calling to schedule these visits. COL Cluck stated he has talked to the Adjutant General about this, he is supportive, and he is required under state law to ensure that all members of the Arkansas National Guard have the opportunity to enroll in the Arkansas State Sponsored Life Insurance program. So that's Tim's authority for being there. Tim has been working the PHA's for us for about a year and has been doing it successfully but it is difficult to have quality interaction in this setting.

Tim McRae stated that he appreciates the opportunity to help and to serve. The products they offer fill a gap that soldiers don't have now. A lot of our conversations will be more educational than anything else. Our people will be trying to fulfill needs, not selling. Let me know if you ever feel anything is different than that and we will immediately take care of that.

Elizabeth reported that Tim brought us our newest platinum sponsor for our corporate sponsor program and he has provided us with several more names of individuals to be corporate sponsors. He has been a big help to the Association, not just the insurance side.

12. **Top Golf Tournament:** Elizabeth gave a report on the Top Golf tournament at State Conference. We are trying to use this as a fund raising tournament to support some Gold

Star families that have big needs. We have two headline sponsors for the tournament thus far. We have two sponsors that are coming in with \$2,500. We still need two sponsors at the \$2,500 level. This event is on Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please talk it up and promote. There is a sponsor form set up on our Facebook page. There are multiple levels of support that we need. First Community Bank is providing the first place prizes for the team of 6 that wins. They are putting out \$100 gift cards for that team of 6 winners. We still need 2nd and 3rd place prizes. We've got bay sponsorships that are available. Spouses are welcome. There is no team discount because we split the price between ranks.

13. **Arkansas Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry:** COL Cluck stated that we are asking for volunteers to come out on 1 December to the ISU armory in the afternoon, help us assemble boxes of food from the Arkansas Food Bank. This month we are focusing on the traditional guardsmen. We are going to build the food boxes during the week, store them at ISU, and then that Saturday ISU will forklift them out to a number of armories. We are focusing on E-4's and below. It is not based on need.
14. LTC Workman asked for any questions or discussion.
15. COL Lynch made a motion to adjourn and CPT Jackson offered a second. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.