



# WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION, INC.

2400 Wright Street, Room 151, Madison, WI 53704-2572 • Tel: (608) 242-3114 • www.winga.org  
Michael Williams, *Executive Director*, michael.j.williams@winga.org  
Lynn Rasmussen, *Administrative Assistant*, lrasmussen@winga.org

**Professional Association Membership.** The Wisconsin National Guard Association (WINGA) and the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) are your professional associations. NGAUS is an association of associations. The success of these organizations is based on your membership, involvement and participation on association activities and volunteer support. Membership in professional organizations can enhance your personal and professional development and provide endless networking opportunities. Membership in WINGA/NGAUS displays a business initiative, engagement in the military and commitment to stay abreast of current developments in the National Guard. Benefits of association membership also includes:

- Leadership roles within the association
- Professional development and networking opportunities at conferences
- Newsletters and magazines
- Access to member-only benefits, such as college scholarships

## **What does WINGA/NGAUS do for me?**

- **Member Benefits:**
  - Since 1975, WINGA has paid out over \$12.7M in death claims to members & their families
  - WINGA sponsors no-cost Officer Professional Development at the State conference
  - Since 2013 WINGA has provided \$83,000 in college scholarships to 106 members & their families
  - WINGA funded 3 officers to attend OPD at the 2023 NGAUS Conference
  - Since 2016 WINGA has funded over \$122,750 for NGAUS life membership incentive for 376 officers
- **WINGA Initiatives:**
  - Supported WI Legislation SB 644/AB 769 relating to requirements for college and Act 274 (SB 795/AB 943) relating to benefit parity for National Guard members serving on state active duty
  - Funded \$85,000 to assist with the initiative to bring the F35 aircraft to Madison
  - Provides annual funding for Northern Lightning Exercise, Air HOF, Army HOF, and Officer/WO Summits
  - Provides annual grants of \$500 to each of the MSC and Wing Commands
- **NGAUS Accomplishments:**
  - Seat for the NGB Chief on Joint Chiefs of Staff
  - Adjusted effective DOR for FedRec delays
  - Expanded Post 9/11 GI Bill for Title 32
  - Paid Leave of Absence for childbirth
  - Extended TRICARE to gray-area retirees
  - Early retirement credits under 12304b orders
  - Access by Fed Employees to TRICARE Reserve Select
- **NGAUS Priorities for 2024:**
  - Modernization of UH-60 & Humvee
  - Increase F-35 and KC-46's for NG units
  - Increased Full Time Support/Manning
  - Improved mental health care treatment
  - Zero-cost TRICARE for medical readiness
  - Tax Incentives for Guardsmen and employers
  - Increased MILCON Funding
  - Enhance Guard Cyber/Space missions
  - Robust NGREA
  - Space National Guard as Primary Combat Reserve

## **Why should I join WINGA/NGAUS?**

- National Guard Bureau is a T10 Federal organization. It cannot be an advocate for **(y)our** "issues" (i.e., funding for equipment readiness, personnel benefits, medical coverage, education, and employment opportunities) to Congress – they are duly bound to support the President's and DOD budget.
- WINGA/NGAUS is **(y)our** professional organization that advocates our issues to Congress; they do so with a strong and unified voice. WINGA/NGAUS strength comes from the size of our membership.
- Membership, participation, and the payment of dues for WINGA/NGAUS are a voluntary decision of each service member. Service members will not be treated differently based upon those decisions.

### **Why is there a State Association (WINGA)?**

- WINGA is the voice for NGAUS here at home and represents our specific (local) interests to the National Association. Their primary objectives:
  - Ensure the WI Department of Military Affairs officer corps and its retirees stay informed on national level issues affecting the National Guard and encourage its members to support actions to resolve them
  - Identifies specific issues affecting WI DMA and its members here at home and presents those issues to NGAUS to garner national support for Congressional action and resolution

### **Why should I attend the Wisconsin National Guard Annual State Conference?**

- Very low cost due to association and corporate sponsorship
- This is **(y)our** Association's unified forum (Army and Air) to present/identify/discuss national and state level NG issues and vote on the priorities we supported at the national level
  - This is the only annual event for the Wisconsin National Guard where the entire officer corps (and retirees) to come together to meet professionally and socially
  - Hear directly from the senior leadership team of the Wisconsin DMA about the current state and future developments of both the Army and Air National Guard
  - Listen to and question NGAUS guest speakers who present topics and issues with national consequences
  - Meet senior leaders of other major commands in the Army and Air National Guard and learn about what they do and/or potential future opportunities for you and your career
  - Industry partners that support the military display cutting-edge technology that support the warfighter

### **How do I pay my NGAUS and WINGA Dues?**

- Call or visit the WINGA Office (608-242-3114) Tuesday thru Thursday / 0730-1600 and provide credit/debit card information. We also accept checks or cash.
- Pay online on the WINGA website [www.winga.org](http://www.winga.org) ; click on the Join or Renew button and follow the prompts using a credit/debit card. Please use a civilian laptop or device.
- Pay via Venmo – WINGA's Venmo QR Code is on the website or search for WINGA or WINGAAssn
- Mail your check to the WINGA Office – WINGA Inc, 2400 Wright St, Room 151, Madison, WI 53704
- Membership, participation, and the payment of dues for WINGA/NGAUS are a voluntary decision of each service member. Service members will not be treated differently based upon those decisions.

### **Life Membership Incentive Program**

- WINGA offers an incentive program for NGAUS & WINGA life membership. WINGA will underwrite \$250 for company grade officers and \$125 for field grade officers, which makes the total cost for life membership for company grade officers \$330 and \$455 for field grade officers.

### **2024 NGAUS and WINGA Annual Membership Dues**

- O1-03 / WO1–CW3 \$45 (\$40 NGAUS + \$5 WINGA)
- O4-06 / CW4–CW5 \$90 (\$80 NGAUS + \$10 WINGA)
- O7-08 \$150 (\$130 NGAUS + \$20 WINGA)

### **"Testimonials" from past WING attendees of NGAUS' Capital Summit:**

- The Summit was a great opportunity to gain a better understanding about the relationship between NGAUS, NGB and Congress. As a CGO, it is important to understand this relationship early in your career in order to play a role in impacting real change for the Guard and the benefits Guard members receive.
- Although I was a life member of NGAUS prior to attending this event, I did not grasp the scope of their efforts until witnessing and participating in some first-hand. Hearing from members of Congress and engaging with their staffers in Washington DC was incredible. This was the most unique and insightful professional development of my career.
- This opportunity was one of the most eye-opening and best experiences of my military career. I did not fully understand what "NGAUS lobbying" on our behalf meant until I saw the process in action.
- I thought it was an amazing experience. I encourage all Company Grade Officers to apply for the opportunity to attend as it was not only eye opening and educational to see how Washington works, it was a great networking opportunity to meet other CGO's, NGAUS staff, NGB staff, and Congressional legislative staff.