



# YOUR COMMUNICATOR

Wisconsin National Guard Association, Inc.

The Wisconsin National Guard Association exists to promote the readiness, modernization, and relevance of the Wisconsin National Guard family and its members.

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

March 2022



I hope everyone experienced an enjoyable winter! However, I'm confident you are ready for spring.

As I prepare to write my last letter to you all through the Communicator, I'm feeling a little nostalgic. First and foremost, I want to thank each of you for the tremendous support to WINGA, the Wisconsin National Guard, and the citizens of this great nation you all have demonstrated over the years. Without your support and cooperation in developing priorities, executing ideas, contributing countless hours to association business, and being my sounding board over the last twenty-one years I have had the honor and privilege to serve on the Board of Directors, I would've been lost. I would like to extend a personal thanks to COL (R) Mike Williams and MAJ (R) Lynn Rasmussen for the tireless behind the scenes work. Your unwavering support and dedication is a driving force of why WINGA continues to be the premier officers association in the nation.

The following are a few of WINGA accomplishments from the last six years we have worked together during my time as serving as your President:

- Together we developed the first Officer Professional Development Program at the state conference, allowing members the opportunity to grow as leaders. This continues to flourish and I am excited to see the growth and innovation this will bring to future conferences.
- The board raised the college scholarship from \$500 to \$1,000 to assist members and their families to offset educational costs.
- To guarantee our future leaders have a voice in the organization, we developed the WINGA Company Grade Officer Advisory Committee.
- In order to strategically posture WINGA and assist with long term viability, we instituted the NGAUS lifetime incentive program.
- The board has implemented and funded over twenty company grade officers to attend the National Conference to participate in first class officer professional development.
- Finally, in 2020 the WINGA board of directors assisted with the establishment of the Wisconsin National Guard Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) charitable foundation.

By working together as a team we have continued to transform our organization for generations to come. It was my goal as president to ask for "engagement", not just membership in WINGA. I believe we accomplished this endeavor during the last six years, with individuals volunteering to serve on multiple committees, improving the state conference, increasing legislative engagement, and developing innovative ways to give back to our membership.

In my first communicator letter I outlined the following four focus areas: **Legislative Priorities, Conference Participation, OPD, and a Strategic Plan.** I believe we have made great progress although there is more work to be done. I am proud to have worked with all of you in achieving success in each of these four focus areas.

We are preparing for the upcoming WINGA State Conference and would encourage everyone to consider attending. This is a great professional development opportunity, time to catch-up with colleagues and continue to build professional relationships. I look forward to seeing each of you in Green Bay! It has been a privilege to serve as the president of our great officers association.

Keep moving WINGA forward!

*President Eric Leckel*



### 42 or BUST!

WINGA will award 5 Digital Active Life memberships to individuals who pay their 2022 membership dues by 28 June 2022. Digital Life Memberships will be awarded to: 1 Air CGO, 1 Air FGO, 1 Army CGO, 1 Army FCO and 1 WO. The names of the lucky winners will be randomly selected in July.

### CAPITOL SUMMIT—UPDATE

The next Capitol Summit will be held 17-19 July. Application details will be in the May Communicator and an application form will be posted to the WINGA website. The Capitol Summit brings Army and Air National Guard company grade officers to the nation's capital for a close look at how the government works and the role NGAUS plays in the legislative process.

### TAPS



CW4 (Ret) Willis Kohlhagen  
COL (Ret) Douglas Mason

Please notify us if you are aware of a member's death. We publish the names of those who pass away as we are notified, which may result in a delay of notifying you, our members.

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION DUES FOR MEMBERSHIP YEAR 2022**

**NEW: Digital Active Life Membership (DALM) for only \$330 for Company Grade Officers and \$455 for Field Grade Officers.** DALM members will receive a digital copy of the Monthly National Guard magazine rather than a printed copy and they will not receive a steel membership card. Active life members are members forever—even after they retire.

Pay Grade	NGAUS DALM	WINGA Incentive	WINGA	Total
O-1 thru O-3 WO1 thru CW3	\$500	-\$250	\$80	<b>\$330</b>
O-4 thru O-8 CW4 thru CW5	\$500	-\$125	\$80	<b>\$455</b>

**Annual Membership Dues:**

WINGA WINGA Assn  
@WINGA-WINGAAssn



**venmo**

Pay Grade	NGAUS Dues	WINGA Dues	Total
O-1 thru O-3; WO1 thru CW3	\$40	\$5	<b>\$45</b>
O-4 thru O-6; CW4 & CW5	\$80	\$10	<b>\$90</b>
O-7 & O-8	\$130	\$20	<b>\$150</b>



**Updated Payment Options on the WINGA Website—www.winga.org.** The WINGA website has allows members to pay for annua, digital active life or retired life membership directly on the WINGA website using PayPal, credit or debit. Drop down menus will display the correct dollar amount for each rank within each type of membership.

While the NGAUS & WINGA membership year runs from 1 January—31 December, the membership campaign runs from 1 November 2021 to 28 September 2022. Commands achieving 100% membership by the 29 March 2022 deadline will be eligible for the 5% Early Bird rebate.

**42 or Bust:** WINGA will award 5 Digital Active Life memberships to individuals who pay their 2022 membership dues by 28 June 2022. Breakdown of DALM memberships: 1 Air CGO, 1 Air FGO, 1 Army CGO, 1 Army FCO and 1 WO.

**Dues may be paid in any of the following ways:**

- Venmo—QR code is above and on the WINGA website—or search for WINGA or WINGAAAssn (last 4 digits of phone number are 6274)
- Credit or debit via the WINGA website (QR code is above)
- PayPal via the WINGA website (it is WINGA’s PayPal account; no requirement for payee to have a PayPal account).
- Credit or debit by calling Lynn Rasmussen 608-206-7006

Additional membership documents can be found on the WINGA website [www.winga.org](http://www.winga.org): WINGA Membership Flyer, NGAUS Membership Flyer, NGAUS FY 21 Accomplishments, 21st Century Priorities, and Why Should I Join WINGA/NGAUS. Membership is not mandatory.

With this new lower life membership rate, senior officers could consider sponsoring a life membership for a junior officer. This is an excellent way to “pay it forward” and start a junior officer’s military career with a “gifted” NGAUS & WINGA life membership. If you are interested in gifting an annual or life membership, please contact WINGA at: [michael.j.williams@winga.org](mailto:michael.j.williams@winga.org)

**GIFTED DIGITAL ACTIVE LIFE DONOR**

- Brig Gen Dave May (1/2 mbrshp)
- Brig Gen Dave May (1/2 mbrshp)
- Anonymous—NGAUS Life
- Anonymous—NGAUS Life

**RECIPIENT**

- Capt Christine Brooks, 128ARW
- 2LT Shane Wedekind, Volk ANG Base
- Capt Roger Roth, 115FW
- CW3 Zachary Statz, 1-147 Avn

**AFBA/NGAUS Scholarship:** NGAUS is now accepting applications for the AFBA/NGAUS \$5,000 scholarship. This is open to Active Life / Digital Active Life Members or their dependents seeking undergraduate, graduate or post-graduate degrees. The deadline to apply is 1 June 2022. Details can be found on; <https://www.ngaus.org/membership/member-benefits/scholarships>

**Western Governors University Scholarship:** Western Governors University recognizes the dedication and sacrifice of our United States Army and Air National Guard members who stand ready to respond in defense of our homeland anytime, anywhere. WGU, therefore, announces the new \$4,000 Guarding Our Nation Scholarship. Recipients will receive \$4,000 (\$1,000 for up to 4 terms) towards an online degree with WGU and may apply for any of our scholarships after they’re provisionally accepted into a degree program. WGU is also proud to offer seven scholarships specifically for service member and/or they’re family members and you can learn about them on all our Military Scholarships page.

**NGAUS Conf**

144th: 26-30 Aug 2022  
Columbus, OH



**Wisconsin National Guard State Conference**

22-24 April 2022, Radisson, Green Bay, Host Unit: 64th Trp Cmd  
28-30 April 2023, Chula Vista, WI Dells, Host Unit: 32nd IBCT



2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

- The 70th Annual WINGA Conf, along with the WNGEA and Red Arrow Veterans Assn, was held 25-27 June in Milwaukee. 227 National Guard members, veterans, retirees, and guests attended and participated in professional development sessions and social events.
- NGAUS Conf was held 27-30 August in Las Vegas. 65 members & guests participated in Professional Development. WINGA sponsored the attendance of 4 CGOs, while 4 CGOs were on military orders. Corporate partners sponsored the attendance of 2 CGOs, as well as DALM.
- The WINGA-sponsored Shooting Challenge was held at the North Bristol Sportsman's Club on 24 September. 35 officers, enlisted and guests participated. Over \$1,500 was generated for Wisconsin National Guard Scholarship funds.
- The WINGA-sponsored golf outing, held separately from the State Conference, was held at University Ridge Golf Course on 13 September. It was attended by 104 officers/enlisted/guests.
- 10 WINGA members or their dependents received educational grants of \$1,000 each totaling \$10,000.
- WINGA sponsored plaques for the WIARNG Hall of Honor (\$928) and the WI ANG Hall of Fame (\$646).
- WINGA offered the NGAUS/WINGA life membership incentive program providing 50% discount to CGOs & 25% discount to FGOs. 15 officers took advantage of this program.
- WINGA received \$402 from NGAUS for the Early Bird Rebate, which was redistributed to the 732 CSS Bn and WI Med Det for achieving 100% membership.



**WINGA/WNGEA / 32d RAVA State Conference**  
**Radisson Hotel & Conference Center Green Bay, 2040 Airport Drive, Green Bay, WI 54313**  
**22-24 April 2022**

**UPDATED ATTIRE:** Business Casual attire has been authorized to be worn by all attendees (including those in a military duty status) during Professional Development/Business sessions as well as the Saturday evening banquet. Appropriate Business Casual attire is defined as dress pants/skirt, dress collared shirt/blouse, polo shirt, sweater, optional jacket/optional tie. Military uniform will be worn by those military panel speakers during the Town Hall Senior Leader PD session, as well as by military award recipients and their presenters during the Joint Session. Those wishing to wear military uniform (ASU/Class A/Mess Dress) vs Business Casual attire are authorized to do so.

NGB has approved a limited number of company grade officers/enlisted to attend professional development (PD) in a paid status. Selection of personnel will be determined by the chain of command. Individuals in a paid status must attend all PD sessions / official functions.

**Registration:** Online conference registration <https://wngea.org/wngea-conf-reg/> Through 1 April, the Early Bird Registration fee is \$25 per person and \$34 per person for the Saturday evening banquet. Effective 2 April, the registration fee will increase to \$35 per person and the Saturday evening banquet charge will increase to \$37 per person. There is no charge for the icebreaker nor for any meeting/breakfast/luncheons. If you prefer to mail in your registration, mail the registration form and your check to the 64th Troop Command (54th CST), ATTN: CPT Justin Hofmann, 6001 Manufacturers Dr Madison, WI 53704. Scan the conference registration QR code; there is also a link on the WINGA website to the conference registration site.



Conf Registration QR Code



**Hotel Rooms:** Radisson Hotel & Conf Center Green Bay, 2040 Airport Drive, Green Bay, WI 54313,

920-494-7300. You can complete your room reservation online at the same time you complete your online conference registration. If you prefer to contact the hotel directly, you must ask for a room in the Wisconsin National Guard Association room block to receive the reduced rate; room block deadline is **15 April**. Room rate is \$96 plus state/local taxes of \$14.88, for a total of \$110.88. Rooms include comp Wi-Fi, fitness center, swimming pool, complimentary parking, casino, mini-fridge, hair dryer. Scan the hotel QR code; there is also a link on the WINGA website that will take you directly to the hotel reservation site.

Hotel QR

**Conference App:** There is a conference app (search "WNGEA" in the App Store) to register for the conference and obtain the latest info.

**Conference Check-in:** Hotel Lobby. Friday from 1500-2200 and 0700-0845 Saturday morning. Your registration packet will contain your conference program providing you the location and time for all events, exhibitor information, etc.

**Friday Night Icebreaker/Reception:** Corporate partners will be co-located with the icebreaker. Light hors oeuvres and soda will be provided, with a cash bar available. Tailgate-like atmosphere. There will be complimentary beer & wine taste testing tables. Wear your favorite team's jersey.

**UPDATED: Professional Development Schedule:** Professional development sessions may be attended by any conference attendee. Updated conference schedule can be found on the conference registration form on the WINGA website [www.winga.org](http://www.winga.org)

- Saturday Company Grade PD Session 0800-0830 (includes CGO caucus); separate Retiree Caucus 0800-0830
- Saturday Joint WINGA/WNGEA/RAVA Session 0845-1020
- Saturday WINGA Business Meeting 1030-1200 - includes voting by current members of elected officer positions
- Saturday Luncheon & two PD Session 1215-1430
- Saturday Town Hall Senior Leader PD Session 1450-1550
- Saturday SEA Whitehead Meeting with Senior Enlisted 1550-1630
- Saturday Evening Banquet 1830-2100 (social hour 1730-1830)
- Sunday Company Grade/Enlisted PD Session with TAG 0930-1100
- Sunday Army & Air Breakout Sessions 0930-1100, led by DAGs/CSM/CMSgt/CCW5 with Senior Officers/Senior Enlisted

**Joint Hospitality Room:** Plaza Club, open Friday 2100-2359 and Saturday 2100-2359.

**Corporate Partner Exhibits:** Take time to check out the exhibits on display and visit with our corporate partners sponsoring the conference. Play corporate Bingo and win great prizes!



**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**Permit No. 1**  
**Madison, WI**

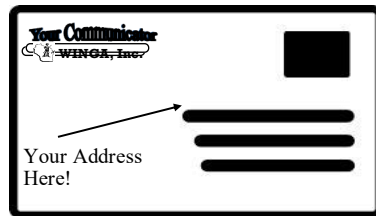
**2400 WRIGHT STREET, ROOM 151**  
**MADISON, WI 53704-2572**

**E-mail: [michael.j.williams@winga.org](mailto:michael.j.williams@winga.org) or [lasmussen@winga.org](mailto:lasmussen@winga.org)**  
**PHONE (608) 242-3114**

### Address Service Requested

Please inform us when you change addresses via e-mail or phone at 608-242-3114

[michael.j.williams@winga.org](mailto:michael.j.williams@winga.org)  
 or  
[lasmussen@winga.org](mailto:lasmussen@winga.org)



### DIRECT BENEFITS OF YOUR WINGA/NGAUS MEMBERSHIP

- Tax-free retired military pay in Wisconsin
- WI State Tuition Assistance Program and post 9-11 GI Bill
- Since 2016, funded \$92,000 for NGAUS Life Membership Incentive for 183 officers
- Since 2012, funded over \$63,000 Educational Scholarships for 106 members and dependents
- Annual WINGA Conference, including sponsoring of no-cost Professional Development
- No-cost \$10,000 life insurance policy to new members of the WI National Guard for 1 year
- No-cost \$1,000 life insurance coverage for all actively serving WI National Guard members
- Annual funding for Hall of Honor & Hall of Fame Programs
- Annual grants of \$500 to each MSC and Wing Commands
- Funded Officer and Warrant Officer Summits
- VA Home Loans available for Title 32 service
- Three month maternity leave from unit training assemblies with pay & retirement credit for drill-status females
- Reemployment rights for State Active Duty or responding to a national emergency or natural disaster
- Definition of "veteran" now includes NG and reservists with 20 years of service
- Post-deployment mental health care & TRICARE Coverage
- WINGA newsletter (published 6 times per year) & monthly NGAUS magazine
- Benefit parity for the National Guard

