

**SIXTY-THIRD GENERAL CONFERENCE  
NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS**

**LITTLE ROCK MARRIOTT AND STATEHOUSE CONVENTION CENTER  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

**BUSINESS SESSION, SATURDAY, APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**

NGAA President Gerald Robinson asked everyone to stand for the presentation of the colors and remain standing for the National Anthem and invocation. He then asked everyone to join in silently honoring the memory of Arkansas National Guard members that had passed away during the past year (*the names of deceased members were scrolled on the video screen*).

President Robinson announced that the 63<sup>rd</sup> annual business meeting of the association had been publicized in accordance with the by-laws, a quorum had been confirmed by the registration committee, and declared the session to be duly convened. A roll call of units followed. Next, a video was shown featuring Governor Asa Hutchinson who welcomed the members of the association to Little Rock, saying he applauds their efforts toward legislative issues to help find solutions for the National Guard and thanked everyone for their good work.

The *Year in Review* video narrated by Arkansas National Guard Adjutant General Mark Berry was then shown. General Berry related that over 10,000 soldiers and airmen served on foreign soil and state active duty missions across the state in 2015. The video highlighted training, deployments and accomplishments of units of the Arkansas National Guard during 2015 to include numerous state active duty missions. The economic impact of the Arkansas National Guard in the state is tremendous; in Fort Smith alone it was over \$8 million last year. The video concluded with General Berry thanking all for their service on foreign soil and at home, noting that he is impressed with everybody's dedication and willingness to serve.

President Robinson then recognized general officers, retired adjutants general and retired general officers in attendance. He introduced the individuals at the head table: Lieutenant Colonel Matt Snead, NGAA president elect; Lieutenant Colonel Tammy Culley, NGAA second vice president; Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Kenny Moix, outgoing NGAA executive director; and Major General (Ret) Kendall Penn, incoming NGAA executive director. He thanked the 106<sup>th</sup> Army Band brass quintet for the excellent prelude music.

President Robinson recognized and welcomed the NGAA corporate members and conference exhibitors in attendance and urged all members to speak to those individuals and visit the exhibits during the conference. He welcomed a group of ROTC cadets from Arkansas State University, ASU-Beebe, Harding University and the University of Arkansas. Arkansas Army NG Senior Enlisted Leader Command Sergeant Major Steven Veazey, Arkansas Army NG State Command Sergeant Major Larry Rankin, Arkansas Air NG Command Chief Master Sergeant Asa Carter, and EAANG president Master Sergeant Jeffrey Frisby were welcomed.

**The Honorable French Hill Remarks**

Major General Mark Berry introduced United States Representative (Second District, Arkansas), French Hill, saying that the Congressman is responsive, always available and devoted to the men and women in uniform. He is dedicated to the interests of veterans in Arkansas and is fighting for the Guard.

Congressman Hill said he is honored to represent the State of Arkansas in Congress. He is privileged to work with General Berry on matters that benefit the Guard and our country and with Lieutenant Colonel Matt Snead and the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs. He based his remarks on his favorite movie, *The Good, Bad and the Ugly*, with the Ugly being our national security, the most serious situation we have ever faced with Islamic terrorists wreaking havoc on our way of life. He discussed those details and challenges. He recently traveled to Russia where much improvement is needed in our relationship with that country. Others within the EU are concerned about Russia as well. This is one of his top concerns. He discussed the Paris terror attacks last year, saying the President's administration has begun to change its approach toward that concern. He is encouraged about Syria and the northern Iraq situations. His remarks included the Guantanamo Bay mission and whether it should be continued there. He is opposed to closing it and moving the remaining prisoners to the United States, maintaining that such move would duplicate what we have in Guantanamo and asks why spend money to do that. He contends that to fight terrorism successfully, we need to cut off their financing, and he suggested ways to do that.

The Bad is the federal budget. There are twelve appropriation bills in the House and six in the Senate. They are fighting to get a balanced budget through, but he is not optimistic about that this year. He continues to fight every day for training and travel money for the Guard.

The Good starts right here in Arkansas with our Congressional delegation that is committed to this state dealing with natural disasters and long term planning. They oppose the President's clean power initiative and are working to make sure the men and women in uniform attacked by terrorists can be awarded the Purple Heart. They are working on locating a SCIF (Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility) in Fort Smith, and they support all they can for the Guard.

Congressman Hill thanked everyone for serving the nation and state and for their families' sacrifice. He will continue to be responsive to the Guard.

President Robinson presented Congressman Hill with a National Guard Minuteman statue.

### **Major General (Retired) Gus Hargett Remarks**

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Kenny Moix, Executive Director, NGAA, introduced Major General Gus Hargett, President, National Guard Association of the United States, noting that General Hargett is a former adjutant general of the Tennessee National Guard. As NGAUS president, he is responsible for the association's day to day operations in Washington, DC, and a staff of 28 employees. He provides the Guard with unified representation before Congress and supports a nationwide membership of nearly 45,000 current and former Army and Air National Guard officers.

General Hargett thanked LTC Moix and said it has been a pleasure to work with him, adding that he has made a difference. He welcomed the opportunity to work with MG Penn and looks forward to that. What separates a good association from others? It is getting people like French Hill and Major General Mark Berry to come today. They came because everyone here is important to them. He said he goes back a long way with the Arkansas association. He talked about NGAUS's continuing fight for counterdrug funding. He said the future of the Air Wing will affect everybody, and not just states where they are located. Guard bases are going to continue to be closed or converted to other missions. There are challenges within the Air Guard and Air Force as they compete for money. The active Army is out of balance and needs the Guard. It is important that we become a Total Army. The JCS needs a Guard person. Everybody knows that in the event of a major catastrophic event, the Guard will be there. He thinks Apaches will remain and that money for that will be forthcoming. He does not think we will get a budget this year and will get a continuing resolution. Tricare needs a lot of work. The military technician program needs work, and we need to focus on the loss of 1200 FTM last year and 1200 more this year. He does, however, feel good about where we are going, saying a lot of progress with the Army and Air Force has been made. And all that, he said, is due to what everybody here does.

General Berry thanked General Hargett for his remarks, adding that he is one of the most influential men in Washington, D.C., and presented him with the Arkansas Exceptional Service Medal.

### **Major General Berry Remarks**

Colonel (P) Gregrey Bacon, Deputy Adjutant General, Arkansas National Guard, introduced Major General Mark H. Berry, Adjutant General, Arkansas National Guard.

General Berry spoke highly of several members present to include LTC Matt Snead who he said is doing a tremendous job as Director of Veterans Affairs in the state, Major Mike Culley's first rate training of Air Guard navigators at the Little Rock Air Force Base, and said Congressman Hill is a true fan of the Arkansas Guard. He remembered Lieutenant Colonel Anderson Neal who lost his wife this week to cancer, and her funeral is today. He said he appreciates everyone here; all here are great soldiers and airmen. Governor Hutchinson was unable to be with us today and wants us to know that he is in awe of us and that we have 100 percent backing and interest.

We will be recognizing three Arkansas senators today for their outstanding support of the Arkansas National Guard. He recognized MG (Ret) Doug Burnett, former Florida adjutant general; the senior enlisted members of the Arkansas Guard; MG (Ret) Don Morrow, former Arkansas adjutant general and now a staunch supporter of the ESGR organization; BG (Ret) Jim Bisson, representing DRS Technologies, and Brig Gen Dave Fountain from Scott Air Force Base are here today. He recognized Kenny Moix and the NGAA board of directors and welcomed Kendall Penn as the new NGAA executive director.

General Berry said it's been a busy year with the repurposing of nine of the state readiness centers to the local communities, counterdrug program work in partnership with the Arkansas State Police, working in Guatemala and doing an awesome job there, Youth Challenge and CSTP are very important programs that mold and mentor young men and women that are struggling with issues in their lives, and the MEDCOM unit increased medical readiness. He expressed his sincere appreciation for Deputy Adjutant General BG Keith Klemmer who he said is most intelligent and responsive for sustainment on the Army Guard side and is stepping aside for Colonel (P) Gregrey Bacon to become Deputy Adjutant General starting next month. He spoke of others within the command group that are filling important roles and doing a tremendous job. Colonels Damon Cluck and James Treece have changed commands with Cluck going to 87<sup>th</sup> Troop Command and Treece to Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center. Upcoming promotions include Colonel Troy Galloway's promotion to brigadier general, Colonel Gregrey Bacon to brigadier general and Colonel Tammy Hutchins-Frye to brigadier general. The new missions of the 188<sup>th</sup> Wing and 189<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing are moving along well, the legal staff is doing good things. We are going to accomplish our missions, both state and federal; and we are going to meet standards for fitness and training. As leaders, are not going to tolerate substance and sexual abuse. We will do everything possible to not let one soldier or airman take his or her own life. We will continue to grow soldiers/airmen to answer our nation's call.

### **Executive Director Update**

Lieutenant Colonel Moix reported that the NGAA Endowment currently boasts \$1.1 million in assets. This growth is going to allow the association to do great things in the very near future. The endowment supports the scholarship program and will soon be able to fund more programs to help our members. He stressed the importance of membership in the association. Our 100 percent status last year made us eligible for a sizeable rebate from NGAUS. That rebate was used to fund a program that allowed a reduced cost of lifetime memberships for thirty officers and funded the attendance of additional company grade officers to attend the NGAUS Conference in 2015. Our annual operating budget is approximately \$330K.

In keeping with his upcoming retirement at the end of June, LTC Moix took the opportunity to welcome Kendall Penn as his replacement and said is sure he will take the association in a direction that will accomplish much for all of us. He then individually thanked each member of the NGAA staff for their support during the last twelve years, adding his appreciation for Colonel Don Sears, his predecessor as NGAA executive director, for his guidance. He thanked the thirteen NGAA presidents that have served during his time as executive director for their leadership and vision. He thanked the command group, the NGAA corporate family, exhibitors, American Equity Investment Life Insurance Company, and NGAUS for their support and friendship. Lastly, he thanked the NGAA membership for allowing him to serve seven years as executive director. He never considered the position as a job. He enjoyed everything he did. He will miss everyone and extended his best wishes to all.

### **Announcements**

Announcements prior the break included thanks to North Point Ford for providing a courtesy vehicle this weekend, Coca Cola and Pepsi for donations of soft drinks, and Colonels Don and Frankie Sears for the wine that will be served at the evening banquet. Lieutenant Colonel Snead thanked the individuals that served on the various conference committees for their help in putting the conference together and encouraged everyone to visit the exhibits and to sign the attendance roster.

Following the break, the following business was conducted:

### **Joseph T. Robinson Medal of Merit Presentations**

General Berry presented State Senators Jane English, Jim Hendren, and Bobby Pierce the Joseph T. Robinson Medal of Merit for their outstanding support of the Arkansas National Guard for their sponsorship of senate bills that were enacted as Act 500, an appropriation to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the Fallen Heroes Memorial (English), Acts 1213 and 1408 that created an exemption from the Arkansas state income tax for military pay or allowances received by active duty members of the armed services (Hendren), and Act 402 that modifies the military family relief trust fund and the military family relief check-off program providing members of the Arkansas National Guard, Reserve Components of the armed forces and their families with short term emergency financial assistance in the form of grants (Pierce).

### **Company Grade Officer of the Year 2015 Awards**

Major James Holifield announced the recipients of the NGAA Company Grade Officer of the Year 2015 awards. Recipients were Captain Janelle T. Guillebeau, 189<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Arkansas Air National Guard; Captain Robert L. McCoy, 224<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Company, Arkansas Army National Guard; and CW2 James L. Stanley, 875<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, Arkansas Army National Guard.

### **100 Percent Unit Membership Awards**

Awards to units with 100 percent membership in NGAA/NGAUS were presented by Brigadier General Patricia Anslow, Brigadier General Kirk Van Pelt, and Colonel Marc Sicard.

### **Army National Guard Company/Battery of the Year Award**

Brigadier General Patricia Anslow described the Company/Battery of the Year Award as one that was initiated a few years ago to recognize ARNG unit excellence in meeting readiness goals in personnel, training, equipment, and logistics. An evaluation of all units resulted in this year's award going to Battery B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 142<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery.

### **Attendance Award**

The attendance award for the service with the largest percentage in attendance at the conference was presented to the Air Guard.

### **Brigadier General (Ret) Kendall Penn Remarks**

General Penn said he is honored and privileged to have been selected as executive director for the NGAA. He invited everyone to call him on for whatever he can do for them. He offered a special thanks to the commanders of the 100 percent membership units for their hard work to that end. He congratulated Kenny on his upcoming retirement, adding that he is in awe of Kenny's handling of the many details involved in putting this conference together. He presented Kenny a gift card from the Bass Pro Shop from the NGAA executive committee.

Colonel Michael Spraggins followed with a gift to Kenny from the 39<sup>th</sup> IBCT -- a Bowie knife and plaque.

General Berry presented Kenny with the Arkansas Diamond Award.

### **Finance Report**

Mr. James Lamb, NGAA financial manager, reported that the 2014-2015 NGAA annual audit resulted in a clean report, and the budget was over by \$9K after all expenses. Members interested in specifics are welcome to contact the NGAA office. Mr. Lamb voiced his appreciation for the cooperation received from the unit representatives that resulted in 30 units achieving 100 percent membership status.

### **Insurance Report**

Mrs. Wanda Thomen, NGAA insurance administrator, reported that the association insurance staff visited with over 6,681 unit personnel throughout the last year during physical health assessments and unit training assemblies where beneficiary information, addresses and phone numbers were updated, and NGAA State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) was offered. During the past year, claims totaling \$403,000 were paid on twelve members, nine spouses, and one child.

### **By Laws Report**

NGAA second vice president, Lieutenant Colonel Tammy Culley, presented proposed changes to the NGAA bylaws for approval. The changes relate to (1) wherever "mail" appears throughout the bylaws, change that to "by mail or e-mail", (2) Article 4, Section 3, regarding nomination of 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president, add "candidates will be from the Army NG in even years and the Air NG in odd years, (3) the president shall appoint a nominations committee which will be comprised of five voting members and one senior leader nonvoting advisor (from the Army NG in even years and the Air NG in odd years). The voting members will consist of the immediate past president (chair), executive director, first vice president, and two board members, and (4) as pertains to Article 11, Section 2, subparagraph b will be changed to read "Life membership in NGAA shall be available for any person eligible under all other criteria at a cost of three hundred dollars (\$300)." There were no questions or comments and a motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed changes, and the motion passed.

### **Resolutions Committee Report**

Captain Rex Thomen, NGAA resolutions committee co-chairman, reported that in addition to the six resolutions proposed by the committee, two more resolutions had been added for approval. He discussed the two added resolutions that relate to Virtual Clearance Training Suite (VCTS) and Warfighter Information Network -Tactical (WIN-T), Increment 2 (copies of the resolutions were available at the conference registration desk).

President Robinson asked if there were proposed resolutions from the floor. There were none. He asked for a motion to approve the draft resolutions presented. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the eight draft resolutions that will be forwarded to

NGAUS for consideration at the NGAUS Conference and then, if selected, prioritization by the NGAUS/NGB legislative staffs for further consideration/adoption.

### **Legislative Report**

Colonel James Treece updated the membership on state legislative matters. It was another challenging year at the national level and included efforts by NGAUS to secure additional benefits for Guard members and success in urging Congress to direct the Pentagon to do a more in depth study to recommend what is best in the interest of national security. At the state level, 2015 was somewhat better, and 2016 will be less eventful because this is the off year of the biennium and the state legislature is not in regular session. He discussed in detail several national level concerns being worked by the NGAUS legislative committee. These concerns include their opposition to drastic cuts in the Army NG and a recommendation for a level of resourcing for the Guard to preserve its current operational capability and strategic depth. Other issues are pay and retirement, health benefits, and quality of life programs (a full report on this issue is available at the NGAUS website ([www.NGAUS.org](http://www.NGAUS.org))). Yet another piece of legislation that is of critical importance to the 188<sup>th</sup> Wing that NGAUS is actively working concerns protecting ANG units operating remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) at civilian airports by ensuring the airports remain eligible for federal funding and FAA grants. Colonel Treece said NGAUS continues to push for a number of new issues on behalf of all Guardsmen.

Colonel Treece discussed a number of successful acts passed by the state legislature in 2015, adding that the NGAA and the adjutant general's legislative action committee is currently developing initiatives for next year. Contact him or Major Anthony Sanders for additional information on both state and national level issues.

### **Scholarships Committee Report**

Captain Seana Warner, scholarships committee chairman, reported on the 2016-2017 NGAA/EAANG scholarships program. The scholarships committee processed 87 scholarship applications in February this year. She explained the review process and said that fifty scholarships in the amount of \$750 each were awarded. Congratulations to all the recipients!

### **Nominations Committee Report**

In accordance with the NGAA bylaws, NGAA first vice president Lieutenant Colonel Matt Snead will automatically ascend to the NGAA first vice president position and Lieutenant Colonel Tammy Culley from second vice president to first vice president. The NGAA nominations committee nominated Major Anthony Sanders for the position of second vice president. President Robinson asked if there were nominations from the floor for the position of second vice president. There were none, and the membership approved the nomination presented. The officers were sworn in by President Robinson.

### **NGAA Board of Directors Nominees**

President Robinson presented the slate of nominees for representatives on the NGAA board of directors. A motion was made, seconded and approved to elect the nominees presented.

### **Announcements**

Following administrative announcements relative to the remaining afternoon and evening activities, the meeting went into recess until 6:00 p.m.

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The assembly reconvened at 6:00 p.m. for the Arkansas National Guard parade of commanders and military banquet. The banquet speaker was the Honorable John Boozman, United States Senator for Arkansas.

*End of Report*