

# NGAA News

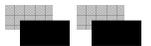
**Colonel Mark Berry**  
**President**

---

This past August approximately sixty-five NGAA members and our gracious corporate sponsors attended the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Conference and Exhibition of the National Guard Association of the United States in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. While none of our delegates brought home the Harley Davidson motorcycle given away, we did have a wonderful time of fellowship with our comrades in arms from the several states and territories. Thousands of soldiers and airmen experienced an opportunity to listen to the most distinguished military and civilian leaders from Capitol Hill to the Pentagon and all points in between. Unquestionably, the most significant initiative addressed during this annual pilgrimage was the quest for the director of the National Guard Bureau to have a seat at the table of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As of 3 October the number of senators who support S. 1025, the National Guard Empowerment and State-National Defense Integration Act of 2011 giving the Chief, National Guard Bureau, a seat on the Joint Chiefs of Staff is sixty, including Senators Mark Pryor and John Boozman from Arkansas. Reaching this point will most likely ensure approval and give the National Guard unprecedented influence at the highest level in the Pentagon. The bill, part of the National Defense Authorization Act, has already received approval in the House of Representatives. I encourage you to visit the NGAUS website, [www.ngaus.org](http://www.ngaus.org), for updates to this historic initiative in addition to many other extraordinary efforts being worked by your NGAUS staff on Capitol Hill.

Looking forward, we continue to plan and organize the 59<sup>th</sup> National Guard Association of Arkansas Conference and Exhibition being held in Springdale 20-22 April 2012 at the Holiday Inn and Northwest Arkansas Convention Center. The NGAA staff and volunteers expend many hours and tremendous efforts to make our annual conferences an overwhelming success. We can always use help during the planning and preparation process. If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact your unit's representative on the NGAA board of directors. Visit the website, [www.ngaa.org](http://www.ngaa.org), periodically for information on the 2012 conference.

Finally, I encourage each of you to make plans to attend the 134<sup>th</sup> General Conference and Exhibition of the National Guard Association of the United States next year in fabulous Reno, Nevada. Plan ahead and reserve the dates 9 through 12 September, 2012. I'll place my bet ..... attend once and you'll want to attend again.



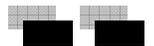
# Committees 2012

NGAUS General Conference and Exhibition .....	Damon Cluck
Resolutions .....	Clint Miller/Michael Culley
Scholarships .....	Rex Thomen
Legislative .....	James Treece
Corporate Activities and Corporate Membership .....	Michael Culley
Conference Time & Place (2013) .....	Michael Culley

## 2012 NGAA General Conference

NGAA General Conference .....	Mark Berry
Awards/Signs/Banners .....	Michael Culley/Tammy Culley
Banquet .....	Fred Lee/Anthony Wilmington
Business Session .....	Gerald Robinson/Barry Eason
Company Grade Officer Awards .....	Keith Klemmer/Erica Ingram
Exhibits .....	Lorne Kelley/Mike Merritt
Golf Tournament .....	Tamhra Hutchins-Frye/Tenise Gardner/Wes Nichols
Hospitality Suites .....	Gerald Robinson/Tracey Murray/Tommy Smith
Nominations .....	Keith Klemmer
Parade of Commanders/Announcer .....	Tommie Brasfield/Noyal Brasfield
Sergeant at Arms-Business Session .....	Lucien McConnell
Parliamentarian .....	Steve Zega
Past Presidents Activities .....	Mike Merritt
Publicity .....	Keith Moore
Registration .....	James Lamb
Speakers/Guests/Saturday Evening Entertainment .....	Mark Berry
VIP Escort .....	Anthony Goins

The chairpersons of these committees welcome your ideas and input. The association office (501-758-6422) can help you contact these individuals.



# Membership

**\*\*NEW VIDEO\*\***

**“NGAA WORKING FOR YOU”**

View on NGAA website ... Click on Home/Latest News/  
[Membership Video](#)

**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.

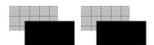
**NGAA** achieved 100 percent membership in the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) for the sixth consecutive year in 2011. We need your help if we are to continue our 100 percent membership record in 2012. Dues may be paid on line at the NGAA website ([www.ngaa.org](http://www.ngaa.org) ... click on Membership). There is a small handling fee for on line payments and for payments made by credit/debit card. Members may also pay by check or cash with no additional fees involved.

**Amounts of annual membership dues are listed below.** Our objective is to collect all annual dues no later than March 15, 2012.

**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)



# *Minutes – NGAA Board of Directors Meeting*

*October 3, 2011*

## **Absentees**

Col Mark Berry, President (Deployed)  
1LT Sean Burger (142 Fires Bde)  
MAJ Bettye Dufour (1-114<sup>th</sup> Avn)  
CPT Thomas Edwards (2-153 Inf)  
CPT Justin Ferguson (1-151 Cav)  
MAJ David Grant (Hq 39 IBCT)  
MAJ David Harrison (Title 10)  
MAJ Charles Hartwick (1-206 FA)  
CPT Edward Hill (Medical Command)  
MAJ Lorne Kelley (777 ASB)  
Capt Fred Lee (188 FW)  
Maj Toby Morrow (154 Tng Sqdn)  
LTC Clement Papineau (JFHQ)  
2LT Scotty Parker (77 TAB) (OBC)  
WO1 Antonio Pouncy (217 BSB)  
1LT John Tatum (875 Engr Bn)

## **Guests/NGAA Staff**

COL Keith Klemmer, Chief, Joint Staff  
Col Tamhra Hutchins-Frye, Director, Air Staff, AR ANG  
Ms. Phyllis Holifield, Priddy & Holifield, P.A.  
Ms. Debbie Robinson, Priddy & Holifield, P.A.  
CPT Noyal Brasfield, 39<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion  
CPT Natashia Coleman, Title 10 Representative  
CPT Anthony Sevier, 2-153<sup>rd</sup> Infantry  
Maj (Ret) James Lamb, NGAA staff  
Mrs. Wanda Thomen, 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 at 5:45 p.m., and a quorum was verified. Guests were recognized and welcomed.

## **Old Business**

The minutes of the 2 August 2011 board meeting were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes as written.

## **New Business**

### External Audit Report, Ms. Debbie Robinson

Ms. Robinson noted that her firm appreciates the opportunity to have served as auditor for the association for over six years. The audit reports for NGAA and Trusts #1 and #2 have been reviewed with the association management and executive committee. Ms. Robinson presented audit information that is required by law to be reported to the board of directors. She discussed all recommendations of the report with management, and there were no disagreements. One recommendation is to look at the insurance set aside account. LTC Cluck discussed that recommendation:

The NGAA insurance program provides most of the association's income. NGAA is a non-profit organization and as such, is entitled to tax free status. The recommendation is to get an outside attorney to look at the NGAA and trusts funds as concerns the 80/20 split and whether that is being done properly so as to still qualify as a non-profit organization with the funds not taxable. It is time to get a legal opinion to see if we have the funds split properly so we do not have a tax bill. He asked the board to consider approving an expenditure of up to \$5,000 to allow Priddy & Holifield and an outside attorney to review the trusts documents and NGAA status. A motion was made to authorize such expenditure to have

additional assessments prepared by Priddy & Holifield and an external attorney to establish the association's tax free status. The motion was seconded and approved.

*(Note: A copy of the audit report is available for review in the NGAA office.)*

#### 133<sup>rd</sup> NGAUS General Conference

LTC Cluck said approximately 65 delegates and their guests attended the NGAUS conference in August in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Several NGAA corporate members were in attendance as well. Mr. Brad Hegeman, Nabholz Construction Corporation president, was presented with the NGAUS Patrick Henry Award; and CW2 Lucien McConnell was awarded the NGAUS Eagle Rising Award (only four of this award were presented).

One issue put forward concerned how 100 percent NGAUS membership is calculated. The current method is that all life members are counted along with the annual members. NGAA has achieved 100 percent membership for six consecutive years, a status that gives us additional voting rights that enhance our lobbying efforts. A movement was made to change the calculations to include only currently serving officers. Our delegation was of the strong opinion that such change would be a disservice to the life members. The motion did not gain approval, and the method remains as is.

Major Mike Culley discussed the actions of the NGAUS resolutions committees. He provided board representatives with a list of draft resolutions that were reviewed and approved for forwarding to the appropriate policymakers in Congress for adoption or placement on a working list at NGAUS for action at the appropriate time. He noted that very few recommended resolutions are coming from Arkansas Guard members. He urged everyone to look at all the resolutions on the NGAUS website, talk to their unit members about this as well and encourage them to transmit their ideas. This is the time to gather that information and get it to the NGAA office for consideration during the state conference next April. Look at what is already out there so we do not duplicate efforts. LTC Cluck added that if there is something you are interested in; e.g., equipment, personnel, etc., look first on the NGAUS website to see if there is already a standing resolution on that. If already there, check to see if it needs to be changed, updated, etc. You can submit that as well. The NGAA call for resolutions will be posted to the NGAA website in mid-November along with the standard input form that may be used to propose a new resolution or a change to a resolution that has already been drafted. Finally, LTC Cluck said an Army member is needed to serve as NGAA resolutions committee chairperson next year. Major Clint Miller volunteered to serve. Major Culley said legislative updates are posted regularly on the NGAUS website and provide hot topics that board representatives might want to forward to their unit members. Finally, he suggested that everyone write the Congressional representatives about what is needed for the National Guard.

CW2 Lucien McConnell spoke of his experiences as a company grade officer attending the NGAUS Conference officer professional development program. It was a very good experience, and he encouraged all company grade officers to get involved. It was his first time to attend the NGAUS Conference, and he enjoyed the many activities and also learned a great deal about what is being pushed and what is going on in Congress.

#### 2013 NGAA General Conference

Major Culley recalled that board representatives had been tasked with polling their unit members for their preference as to the time and place for the 2013 conference. After some discussion, a vote resulted in conducting the conference 12-14 April 2013 at the Holiday Inn and Fort Smith Convention Center in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

#### Board Representative Action

Representatives were asked to approve the following board representative change:

MAJ Tommy Smith to fill the unexpired term of CPT Adam Young representing the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center through April 2012

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

#### Finance Report, James Lamb

The finance report as of 31 August 2011 was presented for approval. There were no questions, and a motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the report as presented.

#### NGAA Membership

Unit officer rosters according to the NGAA officer database were recently provided to board representatives with a request that updated information be provided to NGAA. Please provide that update to Mr. Lamb as soon as possible. Congratulations to Headquarters, 233<sup>rd</sup> RTI, for already reaching 100 percent membership for 2012! LTC Cluck asked if everybody had shown the six-minute membership video to their unit members and encouraged everybody to use that tool to help get dues paid. COL Klemmer added that it is extremely important to get 100 percent membership early, and he is going to put command emphasis on that. He said NGAA must remain strong.

### Insurance Report, Wanda Thomen

There are 5498 policies in force at this time, and death claims in the amount of \$343,500 have been paid for the 2011-2012 insurance year. Ms. Thomen discussed an ongoing problem area concerning insurance premiums that are taken from drill payment checks. LTC Cluck explained that the life insurance premiums and, in many instances, premiums for Aflac coverage are taken from drill checks. Many times, the Aflac premium is higher than the life insurance premium. In addition, if a unit misses a drill one month, those premiums are then carried to the next month resulting in double premiums being taken from the drill check. He asked board representatives to explain this to their unit members. This is the current practice, and NGAA is looking at ways to help this situation. Ask your personnel to call Ms. Thomen at NGAA for an explanation when/if that happens to them. Questioned if advance payments are possible, Ms. Thomen responded yes, but arrangements to do that must be made early on.

### 2012 NGAA Committee Assignments

A list of proposed committee assignments was provided to board representatives and all were asked for their approval/acceptance if listed for a committee position. A final list will be provided at the next board meeting. Committee chairpersons will meet monthly January through April.

### Scholarship Application and Call for Resolutions

The 2012-2013 NGAA/EAANG scholarship application and 2012 call for resolutions will be posted to the NGAA website next month. The scholarship deadline for submission of completed applications to NGAA is changed to 15 January 2012 this year (deadline has been 15 February in past years). The reason for this change is because it has been necessary for the Enlisted Association conference to be moved to an earlier date (in March), and the EAANG president asked for the change so as to allow time for the selections to be made prior to that time. A motion was made, seconded and approved to change the deadline for receipt of completed scholarship applications at NGAA to 15 January in 2012.

### Other Discussion

LTC Cluck said he had looked at Facebook accounts of other state associations and visited with TAG public affairs office personnel about a Facebook account for NGAA. He learned that there are both pros and cons associated with such undertaking. He will get with LTC Papineau and MAJ Dufour and will report back on this at the next meeting.

### Next Meeting

The next scheduled board of directors meeting is Tuesday, 10 January 2012, 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.

## *Scholarships 2012-2013*

**Forty \$750 college scholarships will be awarded by NGAA and EAANG to members and their dependents for the school year 2012-2013. 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 state sponsored life insurance (SSLI) program. Scholarship applications may be downloaded from the NGAA website, [www.ngaa.org](http://www.ngaa.org) (click on Scholarships), and copies are also available at the NGAA office, Building 8100, Camp Robinson.**

**Deadline for submission of completed applications is January 15, 2012. Applications must be received (or be postmarked) by the *National Guard Association of Arkansas Scholarship Program*, P.O. Box 663, North Little Rock, AR 72115, by that date.**

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

Lieutenant Colonel Damon Cluck and Major Mike Culley represented the Arkansas National Guard on the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) resolutions committees at the NGAUS Conference in August. The resolutions fall under three categories: Joint, Air and Army, and are divided into standing resolutions and draft (proposed resolutions). The draft resolutions were considered during a joint session and then the committee broke out to the individual components (Air and Army). Some of the resolutions reviewed included:

## **Joint Draft Resolutions approved:**

**Increases in Funding for Dental and Medical Care to Enhance Operational Readiness**

**Funding for Common Operating Picture System for Emergency Management**

**Allowance for Concurrent Receipt of Disability Pay and Combat Related Special Compensation for 100% Disabled and 100% Individual Unemployables**

**Onboard Vehicle Power Kits for Emergency Response Vehicles – (proposed by Arkansas)**

**Increase in Virtual Simulation Training Aids – (*similar to what the Arkansas Guard operates now*)  
(proposed by Arkansas)**

**Allow Title 32 members to select their BAH rate for either home of record or duty station without a waiver process.  
(*Spouse may not want to move due to job, school, or PME school*)**

## **Air Draft Resolutions approved:**

**Real Time Information in the Cockpit Upgrade for C-130s / Self Protection Systems: MWS-LAIRCM**

**Imagery equipment upgrades for national, state and local authorities providing real-time imagery during homeland security, emergency response, and rescue operations – (*affects 123rd Intelligence Squadron at LRAFB*)**

The Joint Threat Emitter proposal failed due to this type of training aid no longer being manufactured and other upgraded systems are available – (proposed by Arkansas)

## **Standing resolutions carried over from previous conferences include:**

**Joint #2            Reduction in Retirement Age**

**Joint #3            TRICARE Medical Coverage to Increase Readiness**

**Joint #4            State Active Duty for Title 32 Members, Control Grades, Donation of Sick Leave**

**Joint #15          Space A Benefits**

**Joint #25          GI Bill Benefits and the Ability to Transfer Unused Portion to Immediate Family Members**

# *2012 Call for Resolutions .....*

Preparations are already underway for the annual NGAA state conference next April. Part of the order of business at that time will include consideration of proposed resolutions for submission to the National Guard Association of the United States. We invite you to consider issues within the National Guard that need to be addressed and then develop and submit your proposals for resolutions.

Detailed information and an electronic input form are available at [www.ngaa.org](http://www.ngaa.org) (click on Legislative). 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.

In addition, visit the NGAUS website ([www.ngaus.org](http://www.ngaus.org)) to review all the resolutions approved at the NGAUS Conference last August.

If you have questions, contact NGAA resolutions committee co-chairs Major Clint Miller (ARNG) ([clinton.w.miller@us.army.mil](mailto:clinton.w.miller@us.army.mil)) or Major Michael Culley (ANG) ([michael.culley.1@ang.af.mil](mailto:michael.culley.1@ang.af.mil)).

Proposed resolutions must be submitted to the NGAA office ([jshere@ngaa.org](mailto:jshere@ngaa.org)) using the electronic input form discussed above no later than 1 March 2012.

## ***Company Grade Officers Attend OPD Program***

The association thanks the company grade officers that attended the NGAUS OPD program during the NGAUS Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this past August for sharing some of their experiences and perspectives with us.

First, we hear from **Captain Seana Warner**, 189<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing .....

*I was one of seven Arkansas National Guard company grade officers chosen to attend the NGAUS Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this past August in a paid status to participate in the NGAUS officer professional development program. The sessions were typically scheduled 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 or 5:00 p.m. during the three-day period. We were privileged to hear from several influential and educational speakers, to include General Craig R. McKinley, Chief, National Guard Bureau; Lieutenant Colonel Karen Kileen, Chief, Joint Officer Management Office, National Guard Bureau; and Ms. Kathleen Pearl, Deputy Director, National Guard Educational Foundation, NGAUS.*

*During our free time, we enjoyed all the planned social events. To kick off the conference on Friday night the group attended the company grade officer mixer at Coast, a casual upscale restaurant in a fun setting on the shores of Lake Michigan, where we had the opportunity to mingle and network with our Army and Air counterparts from all the 54 states and territories. Other events included the governor's reception at the amazing Harley Davidson Museum, hospitality night when Arkansas celebrated SEC night with five other states at Buck Bradley's Saloon and Eatery, and the formal all states dinner. And, when not attending conference events, we took in the sights of Milwaukee and enjoyed the local cuisine. Personally, I enjoyed the Milwaukee Brat House with their very tasty pretzel bun!*

*My fellow OPD attendees were .....*

*Captain Kenneth Simon, TAG Aide-de-Camp*

*Captain Noyal Brasfield, 39<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion*

*First Lieutenant Matthew Ritchie, 77<sup>th</sup> Aviation Brigade*

*Captain Brian Lawrenz, 142<sup>nd</sup> Fires Brigade*

*Captain Fred Lee, 188<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing*

*CW2 Lucien McConnell, 87th Troop Command*

---

These remarks are by **Captain Noyal E. Brasfield**, 39<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion .....

*As a member of the Arkansas National Guard, I have had many good experiences, one of which is paying my annual officer dues that combine NGAA, brigade, and battalion dues. I used to wonder what role NGAA played in the National Guard. I attended the state officers' conference every year and heard about the benefits of being a member of the association and what NGAA had done and was doing. Well, this year I had the pleasure of going as a delegate for the state of Arkansas to the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This was my very first time to attend the national event, and it was well worth the time and effort. As a company grade officer, I attended officer professional development sessions and had the opportunity to learn about NGAUS more in depth, interact with fellow company grade officers from all the states and US territories, and participate in question and answer sessions with more than a few general officers. During the evenings, we interacted with our state delegation, adjutant general, key state military leadership, and several retirees in the Arkansas hospitality room. In addition, NGAUS provided several enjoyable events that allowed us to interact and build a network with the other states at the same time. Events hosted by Miller Brewing Company, DRASH, and Milwaukee Harley-Davidson added much to the esprit de corps and made everyone feel welcome to the city of Milwaukee. Daily activities included business sessions, meeting vendors in the exhibition hall, electing new company grade directors to the NGAUS board of directors, and much more. There was plenty to do and much to enjoy, but the highlight of my trip was hearing how NGAUS pushes Congress to allow the National Guard to have the things we have today. Major General Frank Vavala, chairman of the NGAUS board of directors, spoke of how we have to get involved and make our voices heard. He noted that every military branch, including the US Coast Guard, has a seat on the Joint Chiefs of Staff except the National Guard. His passionate call was heard like the shot heard around the world as many of the Guard men and women in attendance acknowledged that the National Guard is what's right for America. This conference not only enlightened me on certain aspects of NGAUS that I didn't know, it also made me even more proud to be a Guardsman.*

---

**CW2 Lucien H. McConnell, Jr.**, 87<sup>th</sup> Troop Command, had this to say .....

*My experience at the NGAUS Conference in Milwaukee was outstanding. I had the opportunity to attend the conference along with my wife. There were so many wonderful people from Arkansas there who were willing to assist us and ensure that we had the best conference experience possible. I attended in a professional development status and had the opportunity to attend most of the breakout sessions. Those sessions covered a broad spectrum of topics related to the association and covered many important interests of the National Guard, both Army and Air. I was able to see a small part of the legislative involvement of the association and the direction it should be moving to strengthen the Guard. I believe that was my biggest takeaway from the conference. I am a newly appointed warrant officer and was not actively involved in the state enlisted association as an NCO. This conference enlightened me on the critical issues facing the Guard today such as securing a seat on the Joint Chiefs of Staff and budget, manning, and equipment concerns. While I might not have a total grasp on everything that goes on in our association, I now know that I am part of a larger group that is fighting to ensure the Guard is heard. My challenge is to take what I have learned back to my fellow officers, share my experiences with them, and hopefully get them involved in order to make our association even stronger. I am looking forward to attending the next NGAUS conference in Reno, Nevada, and hope to take more of our young officers along for the experience.*

And from **Mrs. Cheryl McConnell** .....

*My husband and I attended the 133<sup>rd</sup> Annual NGAUS Conference in Wisconsin this past August. Having never attended one of these events, I had no idea what to expect as we headed to Milwaukee. It turned out to be such a wonderful and varied experience that we are already looking forward to the conference in Reno next year. The business sessions included powerful speakers and proved to be an excellent source of information on the issues concerning today's National Guard. I was honored to watch as several Guard members received awards and to hear the stories of how these special people went above and beyond the call of duty to serve others. There was excellent entertainment provided throughout the conference and so many opportunities to enjoy the company of other Arkansas Guard members and their spouses as well as Guard members from all over the nation. I would certainly encourage other officers and spouses to get involved with the National Guard Association.*

## *NGAUS Awards Recipients*

Two Arkansas individuals received National Guard Association of the United States awards at the NGAUS General Conference held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, last August:



CW2 Lucien H. McConnell, Jr., a member of 871<sup>st</sup> Troop Command, Arkansas Army National Guard, received the Eagle Rising Award for Warrant Officers. This award is the most recent addition to the NGAUS awards program and was presented for the first time in 2011. It was established to recognize the achievements and dedicated service of Army National Guard Warrant Officers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, technical skills, and professionalism in their services to country and community.



Mr. Brad Hegeman, president of Nabholz Construction Corporation, was awarded the Patrick Henry Award. This award recognizes leading civilian officials and civic leaders for outstanding and exceptional service to the armed forces of the United States, the National Guard or the National Guard Association of the United States. Mr. Hegeman was nominated by NGAA for his involvement and leadership in local activities, charities and municipal organizations, and the NGAA Partners in Patriotism corporate member program. Another significant factor in his selection was his membership in the Air Force Civic Leader Program, an organization that provides ongoing influential advice to the chief of staff of the United States Air Force.



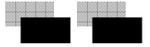
## *You are Invited .....*

The Auxiliary to the National Guard Association of Arkansas invites you to join us at our annual Christmas Auction. This event provides an opportunity to raise money to support a Guard family in need at Christmas, the Camp Robinson Chapel, Minuteman Youth Camp, Arkansas National Guard Museum and other ANGAA activities as well. It allows us to get together and enjoy each others' company while keeping the spirit of the season in our hearts. This year we're having a chili supper, so get your taste buds ready! Bring the beverage of your choice so everyone has their favorite drink alongside the chili.

Pick out an item that you like and we will auction it off to you or someone you invite to bid against. Bring gifts that make you laugh or that you would like to have around the house .... hidden treasures are a plus! We will auction whatever you bring, but don't feel that you have to bring anything. All funds raised will be used for good causes.

The auction will be at the new GIB Building, Camp Robinson, on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. Arrival begins at 6:30 p.m., and the fun and fellowship starts soon afterwards.

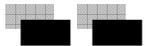
Please plan to attend and bring your friends along with you .... the more the merrier. If you have questions, please contact the ANGAA president, Mrs. Wanda Thomen, at [wandathomen@yahoo.com](mailto:wandathomen@yahoo.com) or call 501-766-5425.



## *Federal Tuition Assistance*

Effective 1 October 2011, Arkansas Army National Guard soldiers will use GoArmyEd ([www.goarmyed.com](http://www.goarmyed.com)) to submit federal tuition assistance (FTA) requests. This enterprise education system serves as a virtual gateway to education any time, anywhere. Currently, GoArmyEd supports active duty and Army reservists as a one-stop website allowing soldiers, Army education counselors and institutions of higher learning to conduct business for all educational needs in a seamless soldier-centric environment.

For more information, contact Sergeant Crystal Jones, 501-212-4049, [crystal.jones13@ng.army.mil](mailto:crystal.jones13@ng.army.mil).



## *NGAA Corporate Members*

### Headline Corporate Member

HDR Environmental, Operations & Construction, Inc.  
Coca Cola Enterprises of Arkansas  
Pepsi Beverages Company

### Platinum Corporate Member

Aflac Insurance  
Nabholz Construction Corporation

### Gold Corporate Member

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

### Corporate Member

ADS, Inc.  
Amtech, LLC  
The Boeing Company  
DHS Technologies LLC (Drash)  
EADS North America  
Humana Military Healthcare Services  
Old Mill Wines and Spirits  
Pinnacle Pointe Hospital  
Tyson Foods, Inc.  
University of Phoenix  
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**

Mark Berry, Association President  
([mark.berry@ang.af.mil](mailto:mark.berry@ang.af.mil))

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

James Lamb, Office Manager ([jlamb@ngaa.org](mailto:jlamb@ngaa.org))  
Wanda Thomen, Insurance Administrator  
([wthomen@ngaa.org](mailto:wthomen@ngaa.org))

Bob Morgan, Insurance Technician ([bmorgan@ngaa.org](mailto:bmorgan@ngaa.org))  
Judy Shere, Administrative Assistant ([jshere@ngaa.org](mailto:jshere@ngaa.org))

Phone: 501-758-6422 FAX: 501-758-2097  
[www.ngaa.org](http://www.ngaa.org)

### Coming Events

NGAA Trusts Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m.  
NGAA Board of Directors Meeting, 5:00 p.m.  
10 January 2012  
NGAA Office, Building 8100, Camp Robinson

59<sup>th</sup> NGAA General Conference  
Holiday Inn and  
Northwest Arkansas Convention Center  
20-22 April 2012  
Springdale, Arkansas

134<sup>th</sup> NGAUS General Conference & Exhibition  
Reno, Nevada  
9-12 September 2012