

November 2008



Getting Involved

*Lieutenant Colonel Tamhra Hutchins-Frye
First Vice President*

For those of you who don't know me, let me introduce myself. I am a member of Headquarters, Arkansas National Guard at Camp Robinson and currently serve as first vice president of NGAA. I am a past representative of the 188th Fighter Wing on the NGAA board of directors and was second vice president of NGAA last year.

NGAA and NGAUS enjoyed another successful year in 2008 and have many resolutions working for Fiscal Year 2009. To view those, log on to www.ngaus.org and click on Legislative Objectives FY-09 at the upper right side of the web page. For FY-08 legislation (with fourteen pages of "wins" for us), click on the Legislative Programs tab, then Legislative Summary FY-08 at the upper right side of the web page. Fiscal Year 2008 highlights include recalculations of TRICARE reserve select fees, no TRICARE fee or pharmacy increases (for the third consecutive year), waiver of co-payments for preventive health services for those under 65, expanded medical and dental readiness placing more responsibility on services and less on members, reduced age Guard member retirement for operations served (not reaching back to 9-11 as we had hoped, but our foot is in the door!), 3.9 percent pay increase which is over 0.5 percent of Presidential request, improved GI Bill, maintained Montgomery GI Bill tuition assistance for service member spouses, increased full time support positions and the list goes on. I challenge each of you to read the legislative summary of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 and then rush to your NGAA board representative and pay your annual dues if you are not already a lifetime member of NGAA/NGAUS. If you are a captain or lieutenant, I strongly urge you to become a life member of the state and national associations. This is also a great option for those of you who prefer not to pay each year. Your board representatives and unit leadership are now collecting 2009 annual dues. With the assistance of our retiree membership, our association achieved 100 percent NGAUS membership in 2008. Kudos to the 39th Infantry Brigade that deployed this year and still attained 100 percent membership and to the other nineteen units that achieved that goal.

The difference in the units that are 100 percent membership and those that are not is largely commander support versus the lack thereof. I challenge commanders at all levels to support our state and national associations. These organizations fight to ensure the National Guard has updated equipment, iron on our ramps, new and increased benefits for our personnel, and future missions for our units. How can you not invest your support for the organizations that fight for the members of the Arkansas National Guard and the National Guard as a whole. NGAA board representatives and/or the elected officers will be more than happy to provide information to your unit personnel in formal or informal settings. Just ask, and we'll be there. In the days of shrinking government dollars and extreme competitiveness for what's left, the Arkansas National Guard cannot afford to lose its voice in Little Rock and in Washington, DC.

NGAA also seeks your talent. If you would like to serve on a committee, have ideas, enjoy working with legislation (state and national), NGAA will put you to work.

Finally, my thanks to the NGAA staff. This group works every day to provide the guidance and support that make the organization a success. So, kudos to Colonel (Ret) Don Sears, executive director; Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Kenny Moix, office manager; Major (Ret) James Lamb, insurance and programs coordinator; Master Sergeant (Ret) Bob Morgan, insurance technician; First Lieutenant (Ret) Bill Lamb, membership coordinator; and Mrs. Judy Shere_ administrative assistant.

If NGAA can do something for you, please do not hesitate to call 501-758-6422 or 1-800-522-1617. Also visit the website at www.ngaa.org or the NGAUS website at www.ngaus.org for all kinds of information.

You are Invited

The Auxiliary to the National Guard Association of Arkansas invites you to attend its annual Christmas Auction. This event provides an opportunity to raise money to support a Guard family in need at Christmas and some other ANGAA activities as well.

It also gives us a chance to get together to enjoy each others' company.

The auction is always a potluck. This year we're having a chili supper. Some of the auxiliary members are making the chili, and everyone else will bring fixins' to go along with the theme or their favorite desert. Bring your own beverage of choice.

All auctioned items are donated mostly by patrons of the event. Most items sold are Christmas themed. Don't feel that you have to bring something, but please do if you would like. It will all go toward a good cause.

The auction will be at Chappell Armory on Friday, November 21, 2008, at 6:30pm.

We hope that you will plan to attend and bring your friends along with you. If you have questions, please contact me at e-mail teresa.treece@sbcglobal.net or phone 501-882-6873.

We look forward to seeing you on November 21st!

Teresa Treece
ANGAA President



NGAA Committees

The current chairpersons for the association's several committees are:

NGAUS General Conference Lt Col Tammy Hutchins-Frye/LTC Mike Merritt
Resolutions CPT Matthew Anderson/SSG Regina Powell/SSgt Michelle Miller
Scholarships CPT James Nolley/MSgt Michael Lenahan

NGAA Annual General Conference 2009

Awards/Signs/Banners	Capt Michael Culley
Banquet	Capt Fred Lee
Business Session	LTC Jay Stout
Company Grade Officer Awards	MAJ Erica Ingram
Corporate Activities and Corporate Membership	LTC Shannon Stone
Exhibits	CPT Pamela Ausburn/1LT (Ret) Bill Lamb
Friday Activities	Maj Tammy Culley
Golf Tournament	Lt Col Tammy Hutchins-Frye
Nominations	Col Bill Stanton
Parade of Commanders/Sergeant-at-Arms	(To be determined)
Parliamentarian	MAJ Steve Zega
Past Presidents Activities	Lt Col Anderson Neal, Jr.
Publicity	Maj Keith Moore
Registration	Maj (Ret) James Lamb
Speakers/Guests/Saturday Evening Entertainment	LTC Mike Merritt
Time and Place (2011)	LTC Mike Merritt
VIP Escort	CPT Anthony Goins

The chairpersons welcome your ideas and input as pertain to their area of responsibility. The association office (758-6422 or 1-800-522-1617) can help you contact these individuals.

NGAA Welcomes New Board Representatives

The association recently welcomed three new unit representatives to the board NGAA board of directors:

Second Lieutenant Kenneth Simon now represents the 189th Airlift Wing.

First Lieutenant William Drennan is the 1st Bn, 142nd Field Artillery representative.

Captain Bettye Dufour is representative for the 777th Aviation Support Battalion.

Unit members are encouraged to contact these individuals with their ideas and/or issues for the board of directors.

Minutes NGAA Board of Directors Meeting

October 7, 2008

Absentees

LTC Wayne Parnell, President
CPT Kevin S. Burton (Deployed)
1LT Yvette Coleman
MAJ Marshall Cooney
MAJ Jason Duvall
1LT Justin Ferguson (Deployed)
MAJ Richard Garringer
CPT Gordon Gregson
MAJ Doktor Lee
CPT Brian Mason
CPT Dwayne K. Page
MAJ Thomas Pickle
LTC Jay Stout
CPT Lane Tatom
LTC James Treece (Deployed)
MAJ Perry Turner (Deployed)
1LT Douglas Woodruff (Deployed)

Guests/NGAA Staff

Ms. Phyllis Holifield, Priddy & Holifield, P.A.
Ms. Debbie Robinson, Priddy & Holifield, P.A.
Col Bill Stanton, Director of Staff, Arkansas Air National Guard
Maj Tammy Culley, Hq 189th AW
CPT Bettye Dufour, 777th ASB
1LT Rex Thomen, 39 BCT
LTC (Ret) Kenny Moix, NGAA staff
Maj (Ret) James Lamb, NGAA staff
Mr. Bill Lamb, NGAA staff
Mrs. Judy Shere, NGAA staff

Call to Order

First Vice President Lieutenant Colonel Tammy Hutchins-Frye called the meeting to order and a quorum was verified. Guests were recognized and made welcome.

Old Business

Minutes of the 5 August 2008 board meeting were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes as written.

New Business

The board members were asked to approve the following board representative change:

Captain Bettye Dufour to fill the unexpired term of Captain Matt Anderson representing the 777th Aviation Support Battalion through April 2009.

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

Finance and Insurance, LTC Moix

The finance and insurance reports as of 31 August 2008 were reviewed. LTC Moix provided updated copies of the insurance program report showing the number of policies in force and the administrative fees earned. The death claims' total for the current insurance year is \$152,000.

There were no questions, and a motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the finance and insurance reports as presented.

Membership, Mr. Bill Lamb

Mr. Bill Lamb, NGAA Membership Coordinator, reported that membership collections will be conducted basically the same as last year. He will provide each unit representative with a list of their unit officers as it appears in the NGAA database. If the list is not correct, please provide corrections. He asked everyone to use the form sent to them when submitting dues payments. This form should also be corrected by unit representatives to reflect their current unit officers. Mr. Lamb will begin sending the lists out next week. He thanked everyone for their support of the membership program. Lieutenant Colonel Hutchins-Frye encouraged everyone to participate so as to ensure 100 percent NGAA/NGAUS membership in 2009.

External Audit Report, Ms. Debbie Robinson

Lieutenant Colonel Hutchins-Frye introduced Ms. Phyllis Holifield and Ms. Debbie Robinson of Priddy & Holifield, P.A. Ms. Robinson reported on the NGAA audit performed in July by her firm. She said she was pleased at the opportunity to speak to the board after having met with NGAA management and the executive committee just prior to today's meeting. She said her company is required to report certain items pertaining to the audit to the board of directors. The audit procedure is a full

scope review. She discussed a representation letter which states that management has made all records available for audit. Her firm audits both NGAA and the two NGAA trusts, and the audit reports and other required documentation are available in the NGAA office for anyone that would like to review those. All NGAA and trusts financial statements got clean opinions; i.e., there were no major adjustments necessary. There were no disagreements by management or the executive committee, and just a few minor problems were worked out satisfactorily. The firm's fee will be a little less than what was quoted because of the excellent cooperation by NGAA.

NGAA Trusts Board Member Confirmation

Lieutenant Colonel Hutchins-Frye asked for a motion to appoint Lieutenant Colonel James Treece to a five-year term on the NGAA Trusts Board commencing 1 January 2009 through 31 December 2013. A motion was made, seconded and approved to confirm the appointment.

Committee Chairperson Assignments

Lt Col Hutchins-Frye reviewed the list of 2008-2009 NGAA committee chairperson assignments. All committee chairperson assignments are filled except the conference Parade of Commanders/Sergeant at Arms Committee. She asked everyone to help identify a volunteer to chair this committee and notify NGAA as soon as possible. Planning for the 2009 general conference will begin in January.

Scholarships

The NGAA Trusts Board has approved awarding thirty college scholarships at \$500 each for the school year 2009-2010. Scholarship applications will be available after mid-November at www.ngaa.org, and hard copies will be distributed to Arkansas National Guard units. Everyone was asked to make their unit personnel aware of this opportunity for NGAA members and their dependents to apply for a scholarship.

Resolutions

The call for resolutions will be published during November. This information will be distributed to

Arkansas National Guard units and will be available at the NGAA website, www.ngaa.org.

NGAUS Conference

The feedback received from those in attendance at last month's NGAUS Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, has been very positive. The quality of speakers was excellent. Lieutenant Colonel Hutchins-Frye said these conferences always provide a great experience for everybody. The Arkansas hospitality suite was outstanding thanks to NGAA staff members Kenny Moix and James Lamb and the company grade officers who helped host that endeavor. She encouraged everyone to make plans to attend next year's conference in Nashville, Tennessee, and especially hopes to see more unit commanders in attendance. The Arkansas delegation will be lodged in the Opryland Hotel in Nashville.

Major Papineau agreed to arrange for a representative of NGAA to show the 2008 NGAUS Conference promotional presentation at an upcoming monthly Leadership 21 meeting so as to generate interest in the 2009 conference in Nashville.

Other Comments/Discussion

Lieutenant Colonel Hutchins-Frye said if anyone would like for members of the NGAA staff or the elected officers to visit their units to talk about 2009 membership, just contact them. They will be happy to do that and anything else they can do to help as well. The deadline for 100 percent unit membership recognition is 15 February 2009.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled board of directors meeting is Tuesday, January 6, 2009, at the NGAA office, Camp Robinson. Dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m., and the meeting will start at 5:45 p.m.

Adjournment

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned.

NGAA Membership

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.

Membership dues are now payable to your unit's representative on the NGAA board of directors. A list of those representatives may be found at www.ngaa.org (click on *About Us*, then *Board of Directors*), or call the NGAA office at 501-758-6422. Amounts of annual membership dues are listed below. Our objective is to collect all annual dues no later than February 15, 2009.

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.

<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
Allied Member	\$ 25.00

Scholarships 2009-2010

Thirty \$500 college scholarships will be awarded by NGAA and EAANG to members and their dependents for the school year 2009-2010. 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 group life insurance program. Scholarship applications may be downloaded from the NGAA website, www.ngaa.org, and copies are also available at your National Guard unit and the NGAA office, Building 8100, Camp Robinson.

Deadline for submission of completed applications is February 15, 2009. Applications must have been received or be postmarked to the *National Guard Association of Arkansas Scholarship Program*, P.O. Box 663, North Little Rock, AR 72115, by that date.

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 to develop and submit your proposals for resolutions. A resolution is a formal statement of a decision or expression of opinion put before or adopted by an assembly. It is an idea or a proposal about an issue that can help make the National Guard better for all of us. The resolutions adopted at the state NGAA/EAANG conferences will be taken forward to the national level for presentation at the NGAUS and EANGUS conferences. Resolutions adopted at those conferences will then be taken to our military or political leaders in Washington, hopefully for approval and subsequent implementation. **The results of the resolution process have a direct effect on the future of the National Guard in our state and our nation. It is through this process that the interests of the National Guard are presented and protected.**

The National Guard continues to play an important role in defending and maintaining the great American democracy, and it is critical that we make sure the needs of our soldiers and airmen are being addressed. It is the responsibility of each of us to contribute to the resolutions effort.

It is possible for an issue or idea conceived by one member within the state to subsequently become national policy or law. The vast majority of resolutions normally submitted relate specifically to modernization of equipment or personnel issues; however, the process is not limited to those subjects.

When considering resolutions, please keep in mind that we have a much better chance for success if the issue applies on a statewide or national basis. In other words, think about what is good for the National Guard as a whole and not just a few individuals. All resolutions will be channeled to the appropriate national association through committee review.

If you have an idea for a resolution, please provide some background information on what the issue or situation is and then provide your recommendation for addressing the issue. The resolutions committee members and the NGAA staff can assist you with the proper formatting. What we really need are your thoughts on the issues that need to be addressed at the state and national level. A guideline explaining the basic steps of the resolution process is shown below. The deadline for submitting resolutions is 1 March 2009. Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your thoughts and ideas.

BASIC STEPS OF THE RESOLUTION PROCESS

Resolutions may be proposed and drafted by any member of the National Guard Association of Arkansas (NGAA) or Enlisted Association of the Arkansas National Guard (EAANG).

Each level headquarters should review and screen the proposals for authenticity and validity, ensuring only those that apply on a state or national basis are forwarded.

All proposed resolutions must be received no later than March 1, 2009. Copies of all proposed resolutions selected by the committee for presentation to the state associations will be available at the NGAA/EAANG 2009 conferences.

Resolutions adopted by the NGAA and EAANG in general conference must be forwarded to their respective national associations no later than June 2009. The resolutions adopted at the national conferences will either be forwarded to the appropriate policymakers urging their adoption or will be prioritized and placed on a working list at NGAUS/EANGUS for legislative action at the appropriate time.

Proposed resolutions may be forwarded through command channels or may be sent directly to the NGAA/EAANG Resolutions Committee via e-mail if possible to jshere@ngaa.org or may be addressed to the NGAA Resolutions Committee, P.O. Box 663, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72115. They may also be faxed to (501) 758-2097. Resolutions must be received by **1 March 2009**.

Additional information, to include sample resolutions, is available at www.ngaa.org (click on *Legislative*, then *Call for Resolutions*). The resolutions adopted in 2008 by NGAUS can be found at www.ngaus.org by clicking *Legislative Programs*, then *Current Resolutions Adopted by 130th General Conference*.

Social Security Online -

Special Extra Earnings for Military Service

Since 1957, if you had military service earnings for active duty (including active duty for training), you paid Social Security taxes on those earnings. Since 1988, inactive duty service in the Armed Forces reserves (such as weekend drills) has also been covered by Social Security.

Under certain circumstances, special extra earnings for your military service from 1957 through 2001 can be credited to your record for Social Security purposes. These extra earnings credits may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit.

Special extra earnings credits are granted for periods of active duty or active duty for training. Special extra earnings credits are **not** granted for inactive duty training.

If your active military service occurred

- From 1957 through 1967, extra credits will be added to your record when you apply for Social Security benefits.
- From 1968 through 2001, you do not need to do anything to receive these extra credits. The credits were automatically added to your record.
- After 2001, there are no special extra earnings credits for military service.

How You Get Credit for Special Extra Earnings

The information that follows applies **only** to active duty military service earnings from 1957 through 2001. Here's how the special extra earnings are credited on your record:

Service in 1957 through 1977. You are credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty basic pay.

Service in 1978 through 2001. For every \$300 in active duty basic pay, you are credited with an additional \$100 in earnings up to a maximum of \$1200 a year. If you enlisted after September 7, 1980, and didn't complete at least 24 months of active duty or your full tour, you may not be able to receive the additional earnings. Check with the Social Security Administration for details.

Note: In January 2002, Public Law 107-117, the Defense Appropriations Act, stopped the special extra earnings that have been credited to military service personnel. Military service in calendar year 2002 and future years no longer qualifies for these special extra earnings credits.

(This information is available at www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm)

NGAA Corporate Members

Headline Corporate Member

Engineering Environmental Management, Inc.
Coca Cola Bottling Company of Arkansas
Pepsi Americas

Platinum Corporate Member

Aflac Insurance
Arkansas Blue Cross & Blue Shield
Nabholz Construction Corporation
Recovery Management, Inc.

Gold Corporate Member

Arkansas National Guard MWR
Base-X, Inc.

Corporate Member

DRS Technologies
Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas
Humana Military Healthcare Services, Inc.
Lockeby & Associates
Old Mill Wines and Spirits
Olive Group

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

Don Sears, Executive Director (dsears@ngaa.org)

Kenny Moix, Office Manager (kmoix@ngaa.org)

James Lamb, Ins & Programs Coordinator (jlamb@ngaa.org)

Bob Morgan, Insurance Technician (bmorgan@ngaa.org)

Bill Lamb, Membership Coordinator (blamb@ngaa.org)

Judy Shere, Administrative Assistant (jshere@ngaa.org)

Phone: 501-758-6422 FAX: 501-758-2097 www.ngaa.org

Coming Events

NGAA Board of Directors Meeting

5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 6, 2009

NGAA Office, Building 8100, Camp Robinson

National Guard Association of Arkansas

Fifty-Eighth General Conference

April 17-19, 2009

Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas, Rogers, Arkansas