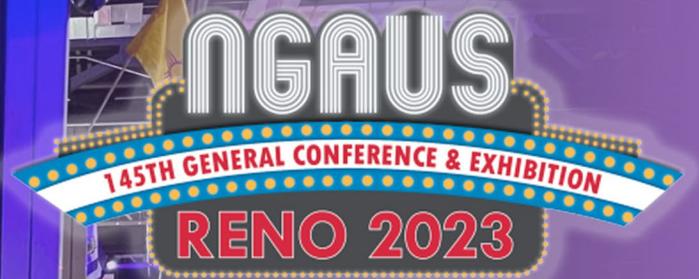




144th General Conference & Exhibition
Columbus, Ohio

MINNESOTA



145th General Conference & Exhibition Reno, Nevada August 18-21, 2023

Join us for the 145th General Conference & Exhibition. More than 2,000 Army and Air National Guard officers from all 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia gather to connect, party and get down to business setting the NGAUS upcoming legislative agenda.



FALL 2022

VIKANG NEWS

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Save the Dates

118th NGAMN State Conference
April 21-22, 2023
Marriott - St. Louis Park, Minnesota

145th General Conference and Exhibition
August 18-21, 2023
Reno, Nevada





President's Report

Col. Mike Piontek

I'll keep my remarks short for this issue, there's a lot of information to pass on. Thank you to everyone who participated in the 144th NGAUS General Conference in Columbus. I won't spend a lot of time on it, BG Kennedy has put together a great conference report that you'll find further on in the newsletter – thank you sir. You'll also find comments from the CGO's we were able to send in this issue. After talking with them at the conference and reading their notes, I think their experiences were very positive a gave them a better understanding of the "Why" behind the NGAUS mission. My ask to them and to you is to help spread the message of their experience to our soldiers and airmen in order to encourage more of our officers to become a part of NGAMN & NGAUS. Through great work by Julie, our executive director, (Thank you) in concert with NGAUS and additional life memberships activated, our membership has increased to 43% which has allowed Team MN to receive the NGAUS incentive rebate for this year. Our numbers have gone up, but we still have a lot of room for improvement. The key is through life memberships.

As an organization we've worked to offset some of the cost of an already reduced digital life membership cost. We will continue to do so as long as we can.



President Mike Piontek (left) presents a thank you gift from NGAMN to Alex Allen (right), Pearson's Vice President of Operations, for their sponsorship of Team MN at the NGAUS Conference.

Photo courtesy of Alex Allen, Pearson's Candy Company

**** Thanks to Pearson's Candy for their sponsorship of Team MN for the NGAUS Conference. They provided products that help represent MN for the Roll Call of the States as well as build our gift basket that was raffled off on hospitality night.**



Hospitality Night
Minnesota Gift Basket

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS! SPREAD THE WORD!

NGAMN & NGAUS Promotional Membership

Huge Savings (See page 7 for details)





NGAUS NEWS

The NGAUS General Conference was held August 26-29, 2022 in Columbus, Ohio

The conference is the Association's annual business meeting and includes Army and Air National Guard officers from all 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia who gather to network, set their legislative agenda and hear from America's civilian and military leaders.

This year, Minnesota was represented by a 36 person delegation.

The three main conference speakers are all members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. To see a full video recording of presentations, click on the names highlighted in blue to connect using the hyperlink.

Click [here](#) to read the full conference report by [Brig. Gen. \(Ret.\) Tim Kennedy](#).



youtube.com/watch?v=NBTxN5N5Sbo

[Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Chief of the National Guard Bureau](#)

America has a “moral imperative” to improve military health care. He called focusing on health care “the biggest initiative of all” because the issue is critical to readiness. NGAUS considers zero-cost TRICARE to ensure reserve-component medical readiness a legislative priority. He also talked about expanding the State Partnership Program because mutually beneficial alliances and partnerships are our enduring strength.



youtube.com/watch?v=f6FcGrsPV0g

[Gen. James C. McConville, Chief of Staff of the Army](#)

The service's new fitness test improves the previous version and will make soldiers stronger.

Active duty and Active Guard and Reserve first record test is due before April 1, 2023, while most Army Guard and Army Reserve soldiers will have until April 1, 2024. McConville also said “Dieting is extremely important to physical and mental health.”



youtube.com/watch?v=kpmTGMJ0DVs

[Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., Chief of Staff of the Air Force](#)

Changing the service to meet future challenges will likely be uncomfortable. “If we're comfortable, we're probably doing it wrong.” He said modernizing the Air Force would help its components compete against China citing agile combat employment as an Air Force modernization opportunity. ACE enables Air Force units to rapidly mobilize and deploy worldwide regardless of threat level. “I really believe in challenging the status quo,” Brown acknowledged. “We've got to be willing to take a chance.”



youtube.com/watch?v=9jCCUfRbWuk

[Lt. Gen. Laura A. Potter, Deputy Army Chief of Staff for Intelligence \(G-2\)](#)

The National Guard is crucial to the military's information gathering. The State Partnership Program provides valuable knowledge helping counter U.S. rivals like China and Russia. She expressed concern that potential threats like China might exploit social media to spy on America's soldiers yet limiting military personnel on social media could be a morale issue. TikTok, an app that has become widely used by younger soldiers, is owned by a Chinese company.

Gen. Andrew P. Poppas, the new commanding general of Army Forces Command – Highlighted that the Guard has provided 150,000 crisis response days so far this year.

Lt. Gen. Jon A. Jensen, the Director of the Army National Guard (Army Session) – Highlighted the main focuses of strength and readiness, focus on multi-echelon training (XCTC, RCTC and War Fighter) and taking full advantage of training opportunities. Academics and fitness are big accession issues.

Lt. Gen. Michael A. Loh, the Director of the Air National Guard (Air Session) – General Loh indicated that, last year, the focus was on Afghanistan, this year it is on Ukraine. The number one priority is to defend the homeland from Guam to Maine. With China, Taiwan is a distraction, the real target is Guam.

Area V Breakout (Minnesota)

This was not an election year for Area V so the discussion focused on:

- Increasing NGAUS General Conference attendance, including changing the meeting structure.
- Membership growth- Area V is 63%. The goal for NGAUS is to grow 1% per year.
- Increasing association memberships by utilizing the complimentary 1 year membership.

One Year Complimentary NGAUS Membership! Newly commissioned officers/warrant officers, National Guard officers who have never had a complimentary membership and officers who are transitioning from active duty to the National Guard are all eligible!

FREE AUSA Membership for all NGAUS members! The Association of the United States Army is granting FREE memberships to NGAUS members. AUSA is a nonprofit educational and professional development association serving America's total Army. While AUSA focuses on Army personnel, the group's relationship with NGAUS provides fresh advantages to all association members regardless of service.

Go to www.ausa.org to learn about benefits or to become a member.



States Dinner

The States Dinner had a sports theme with attendees wearing their favorite team's jersey. Mascots from Ohio college sports teams were at the dinner. There was also a short performance by the Ohio State University cheerleaders.

Curtis N. "Rusty" Metcalf Trophy

Members from the 133rd Airlift Wing accepted the Curtis N. "Rusty" Metcalf Trophy. The trophy is named after former NGB deputy chief, plans and operations division. It is presented to the airlift or air refueling wing which demonstrates the highest standards of mission accomplishment.

Annual Roll Call of States and Territories

A longstanding popular tradition of the annual NGAUS conference. The ceremony allows the 54 states and territories to explain, in 60 seconds or less, why their National Guard is the best. Thank you to Pearson's Candy Company for proving our Minnesota team with treats to share during the Roll Call! Read about Capt. Brandon Hale's first experience on page 5 and you will definitely want to attend next year's conference!

The Spouses' Luncheon





“The moment I was pelted in the chest with a one-pound bag of rice I realized that this was not your typical conference.”

CPT Brandon S. Hale, 2-147 Assault Helicopter Battalion

It was Saturday, August 27, 2022, and the 54 states and territories were successively throwing prizes and paraphernalia into the throng of over 2,000 individuals. Candy, single-serve bottles of rum, beer cozies, and yes, bags of rice, were hurled into the crowd.

Simultaneously, their chosen representatives solicited the greatness of their respective state or territory while a sixty second timeclock played out on the jumbotron screen at the front of the auditorium. The 144th General Conference of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) had officially begun.

As a first-time attendee of the NGAUS General Conference, I was unsure what to expect during my time in this year's host city of Columbus, OH. Over the course of the conference, I participated in company level Officer Professional Development (OPD) sessions, general sessions with leaders such as General David R. Hokanson (Chief of the National Guard Bureau), perused the latest wares from exhibitors such as Rocky Military, Sikorsky, Airbus, Bell, Bose, and Gerber, and attended more no-host socials than the last three holiday seasons combined.

Through it all, what I found was that the NGAUS, and the convention itself, is an institution of professionals who are eager to assist and develop others within the organization, regardless of branch, rank, duty MOS, state, or territory. It is an organization that is built upon professionalism with a mutual respect for other members of the military profession. It is an organization that is well worth one's time and attention, as it will not only expose you to individuals and industry that you do not encounter in the day-to-day business of life, it will also provide you with the tools and resources to become a better military professional.

The Governor's Reception



“It truly was an eye-opening experience. I did not realize all that NGAUS, as an organization, has done for the National Guard.”

*CW2 Matthew Castillo,
Joint Force Headquarters*

“An excellent way to meet other CGOs both inside and outside of your career field. The conference afforded me the opportunity to ask questions to our most senior leaders in the National Guard and gain insight I can share with other Airmen. A great mix of fun and learning!”

*Capt. Ellen McNair,
133rd Airlift Wing*

“I left feeling reenergized to our State's mission, and grateful I connected to Army and Air peers concerned about protecting National Guard members' entitlements. An event to attend whether for career development, social networking events, or to gain perspective on how Minnesota fits into the greater mission of the U.S. Air Force.”

*Capt. Kimberly Aguilar,
148th Fighter Wing*

“This organization champions and fights for the parity of the National Guard at the highest levels, within the U.S. Congress and the Pentagon. Our job as leaders, is to continue to voice the concerns from our organization and junior Soldiers and Airmen, and to support NGAUS by becoming involved as a member.”

*CPT Jordan Dibich,
34th Infantry Division*



Executive Director

Maj. (Ret.) Julie Grandaw

Happy Holidays from our NGAMN family to yours!

As 2022 comes to a close, I would like to thank everyone who makes the NGAMN such a great success.

From the Board of Directors, Group Reps, and our members who selflessly dedicate their time and efforts to support and grow our organization to our external partners of our State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) team who provide membership briefings and insurance benefits, thank you.

To our corporate partners who allow us to provide reduced priced memberships, college scholarships and many other benefits to our members. The NGAMN team appreciates and thanks you!

Wishing you a safe and Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

To become a member of this great organization and take advantage of the significant discount and tremendous benefits, it's as easy as selecting 1, 2 or 3 below:



SCAN



CLICK



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Congratulations to our 2022 Scholarship Winners!



Charles Hackett

McGough Construction

\$1,000 Scholarship

Alexandria Technical College

Major: Biology



Abigail Sackett

NGAMN

\$500 Scholarship

Bemidji State

Major: Elementary Education



Taylor Stinson

NGAMN

\$500 Scholarship

College of Saint Benedict

Major: Elementary Education



National Guard Association of Minnesota / National Guard Association of the United States

Membership Registrations



Name: _____ Rank: _____

Address: _____ City | State | Zip: _____

Personal Email: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Select Unit:

1 ABCT 347 RSG 34 ID 133 AW 148 FW JFHQ 34 CAB 84 TRC ALUMNI

NGAMN & NGAUS DIGITAL/ACTIVE LIFE MEMBERSHIP SAVINGS!

Promotional Combined Rate to the First 400 Digital/Active Life Membership Registrants!

PROMOTIONAL RATES:

WO1 / CW2 / O1 / O2 / O3 = **\$300** CW3 / CW4 / O4 / O5 = **\$375** CW5 / O6 / O7 / O8 = **\$450**

HUGE Discount! NGAUS Life Membership is usually \$1,000

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Grade	O1	O2	O3	O4	O5	O6	O7	O8	WO1	CW2	CW3	CW4	CW5
NGAMN	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$35	\$35	\$35	\$45	\$45	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$35	\$35
NGAUS	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$80	\$80	\$80	\$130	\$130	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$80	\$80
Total	\$60	\$60	\$60	\$115	\$115	\$115	\$175	\$175	\$60	\$60	\$60	\$115	\$115

PLEASE NOTE – YOU CANNOT BE A MEMBER OF NGAMN WITHOUT BEING A MEMBER OF NGAUS

OTHER MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

Newly Commissioned Officers and Warrant Officers receive their membership **FREE** for the first year!

Associate Member: \$70

Alumni/Retired Officers: NGAUS Life Member \$125 – State Life Member \$50 (Note, officers who have not “retired” and have elected to renew their service obligation with the guard will revert to annual membership while they are on active status)

MAIL PAYMENTS TO: NGAMN, 8362 Tamarack Village #119-444, St. Paul, MN 55125



Check Payment: Make check payable to NGAMN

[Pay Online with PayPal](#)

Credit/Debit Card Payment: Mail form to NGAMN or email to Director@NGAMN.Org

Name on Card: _____ Card Number: _____ Exp: _____ CVV: _____

(A 3.5% surcharge will be applied to all credit card payments)



National Guard Association of Minnesota

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Thank You to our Corporate Partners!

