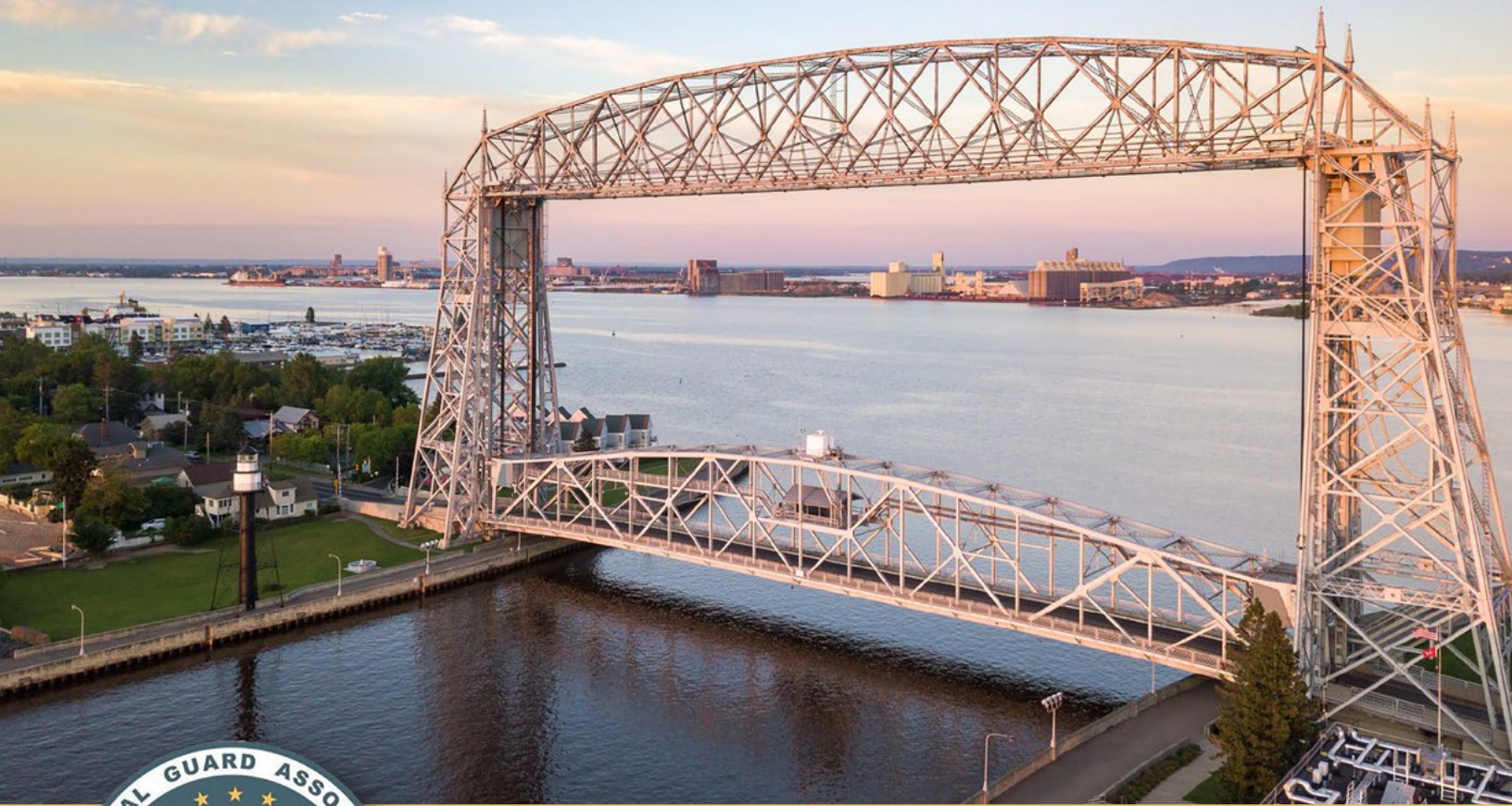


National Guard Association of Minnesota 117th State Conference



Spring 2022

VIKANG NEWS

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*Top: Duluth's Historic Aerial Lift Bridge
(Photo Credit: VisitDuluth.com)*

State Conference April 22-24, 2022

Duluth, Minnesota

Information: ngamn.org/stateconference

Registration: ngamn.org/stateconference

Membership: ngamn.org/individualmembership



*Right: Two F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 148th Fighter Wing,
Duluth, Minn. fly in formation over Lake Superior
(Minnesota National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Jason Rolfe)*

President's Report

Lt. Col. Jay Hackett

It's Sponsorship Season for the National Guard Association of Minnesota. A couple of things are different this year and I'd like to take this opportunity to explain to you how our approach is changing and what you can do to help.

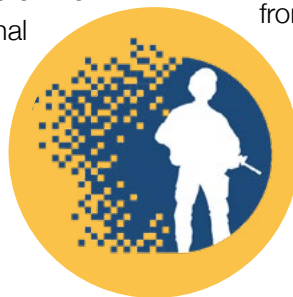
Our sponsorship program has essentially been a skeleton crew of companies that buy in at relatively low levels to demonstrate their support. "Corporate" Partnerships/Sponsors of our Association have traditionally been military affiliated companies. It was a natural fit, to reach out to companies that have involvement in the equipment upgrades that are of interest to both the Air and Army Guard. We are thankful for the support these companies have shown us through the years. But now, we are taking it to a different level.

We've made two significant changes to the program. First, your board of directors has supported a plan to adjust the purpose of our sponsorship program. We aim now to utilize the support we receive as much more of a funding mechanism to support the association. The primary purpose is now to assist in subsidizing membership and membership activities. Growth of our organization requires company grade influx, and a key impediment to company grade involvement is cost. This is why you've seen us work hard to bring down the price of digital life memberships. We're seeing the benefits from these efforts with record life membership registrations this year. We can do more. We can bring down the cost of our State and National Conferences which are vital to sustaining interest, sharing information and collaborating as a functional body to achieve our legislative goals. Dedicating more of our sponsorship dollars to membership and these events is a key change that can yield measurable results.



Secondly, the board also supports breaking the paradigm of whom we target as sponsors. The past two years of unprecedented National Guard OPTEMPO is something that we can and should take advantage of from a marketing standpoint. Large or small businesses, bars, restaurants, sports teams, car dealers, employers, insurance companies...any company that has benefitted from your service protecting their business ought to be thought of as targets of opportunity. We shouldn't limit our reach to defense contractors. The sky is the limit with respect to potential supporting sponsors.

You can help make our organization stronger, more solvent and better able to sustain affordable membership in the future by bringing in your sponsors. We invite everyone, to bring us your sale. I've even asked the board to consider structuring a sales incentive plan for members who bring in business (more to follow in the months ahead). It's really very simple. It takes surprisingly little effort to have a conversation with a company that you believe would support us. Let them know their sponsorship is tax deductible and can be had for as little as \$250. \$500, \$750 and \$1000 levels are also available. And by all means, if you are able to talk your favorite sponsor into something over \$1000.00, we're all ears. We will ensure they get proper recognition, advertising and multiple in-person opportunities to be in front of potential customers. Contact any of us on the board for assistance. Our Executive Director, Julie Grandaw would welcome your call or email with any information you might have on a prospect or a sale.



Corporate Partnerships Matter!



Minnesotans, including service members, veterans, and Gold Star families gather to remember and commemorate the sacrifices made since the attacks of 9/11 at the Minnesota Capitol in Saint Paul, Minn., Sept. 11, 2021. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Army Sgt. Luther C. Talks).



Vice President - AIR

Col. Mike Piontek

Thank you to all who are diligent about informing our members and future members about success and opportunities for the National Guard Association of the United

States. NGAUS has been our voice since 1878 on Capitol Hill enhancing our voice to the Legislature and the DoD. During 2021 NGAUS continued to advocate for the members of the National Guard by working to ensure equal benefits for equal missions. 2021 closed with a victory for the Guard with inclusion of incentive and special-duty pay parity in the National Defense Authorization Act. This was a NGAUS legislative priority and the association staff helped craft the language that went into the NDAA. Several items we were after didn't make the cut, but NGAUS continues to fight the good fight on our behalf.

Our NGAMN Business Meeting will take place on Saturday, April 23, 2022. We'll be face to face at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Duluth, Minn. We have reserved several rooms with easy access to the pool for our hospitality area which will provide a great opportunity for socializing with friends and colleagues on both Friday and Saturday nights. Saturday during the business meeting we will engage on crucial issues facing the Guard which will help you stay in touch with what's happening at the national level as well as provide an

opportunity to talk and network with your fellow Minnesota National Guard officers. On Saturday evening we will have our formal banquet and conclude in the hospitality area. The conference is about conducting business, but it's also about building and reestablishing connections.

Membership matters – pass the word.

Register online at ngamn.org/stateconference.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

**NGAMN & NGAUS
Promotional Membership**

**Huge Savings
to First 400 Registrants!**

(See page 7 for details)



Vice President - ARMY

Lt. Col. Kristen Augé

On June 30, 1970, then Private Timothy Kennedy joined the Army, and he quickly experienced the difference between the active duty and reserve components at basic training. Not only did he have to qualify on the M16, which was the active duty's weapon, but he also had to qualify on the M14. This training was for National Guard and Reserve Soldiers who would return to their units and their older weapon model.

When I asked now-retired Brigadier General Kennedy what other differences he noticed during his career, I was not surprised when he mentioned communications. As a signal officer, I can relate to the challenges of learning about Warfighter Information Network-Tactical at school when we were still using Mobile Subscriber Equipment in the Minnesota Guard. Any leader who is long in the tooth has experienced the disproportionate disparity between our active-duty brethren and us multiple times.

The general has been part of the association for more than four decades. When asked why membership is important, he said, "The National Guard is unique. We are in all Congressional districts and know the issues, and we can bring those issues forward. We have a local presence. We have a local voice."

In December 2004, a Soldier asked Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld why his unit had not deployed to Iraq with more armor; Rumsfeld replied: "You go to war with the Army you have, not the Army you might want or wish to have at a later time."

As the world watches the tensions between Russia and the U.S. over Ukraine, leaders – please ask yourself – Does the Minnesota Guard have what it needs? Membership in this association can assist in changing disparity. Help be our voice by sharing this message and bringing new members to the association!



Private Tim Kennedy (1970).

Vice President - Alumni

Brig. Gen. Tim Kennedy (Ret.)

The National Guard Association of Minnesota state conference will be held April 22-24, 2022 in Duluth, Minn. As part of that event, the Alumni Group will be the host for a dinner on Friday evening. This event is for both Alumni members and for those currently serving. It is a great time to reconnect with fellow members and, after the dinner, participate in the hospitality suites sponsored by the major organizations. I hope to see you there.

The 2022 National Guard Association of the United States conference will be held in Columbus, Ohio next year beginning on August 26. Most of the NGAUS legislative priorities come out of these conferences. For the Alumni Group, at the national level, that is where the legislation which provided veterans status to all military retirees evolved. At the state level, in 2016, NGAMN, along with several Minnesota veteran's groups was successful in getting military retired pay exempt from Minnesota State Income tax. This has resulted in thousands of dollars in savings, annually, for retired members of the Alumni Group. Please stay involved, your participation and membership matters.

Thank you for belonging to the NGAMN.

Tim Kennedy
President, NGAMN
Alumni Group
Brigadier General
USA (Retired)



148th Fighter Wing

Capt. Christopher Adams

Welcome Conference Attendees!

For nearly 75 years, the 148th Fighter Wing “Bulldogs”, via the 179th Fighter Squadron, have patrolled the pristine Northern Minnesota air. The booming echoes emitted by faithful aircraft offer the picturesque Duluth/Superior “Twin Ports” community a strong connection to 1,000+ Bulldogs who support and execute the 148th Fighter Wing mission. Though many Bulldogs are currently deployed throughout the world supporting various missions, it is the 148th Fighter Wing’s honor to host the 2022 National Guard Association of Minnesota State General Conference and Exhibition on the shores of our beautiful backyard April 22-24, 2022.

Thanks in part to the Digital Lifetime NGAUS/NGAMN membership drive and dedicated Minnesota National Guardsmen, NGAMN membership has soared over the past six months. With membership rates as high as they have ever been, the NGAMN State General Conference provides a timely opportunity to develop and fortify business relationships with fellow MNNG officers. On behalf of the 148th Fighter Wing and its Wing Commander, Colonel Chris Blomquist, we look forward to welcoming you to the 2022 NGAMN State General Conference and Exhibition in Duluth, Minn., in person for the first time in three years, and we thank you for your continued support of the Minnesota National Guard.

Minnesota State Conference: April 22-24, 2022



A panoramic view of the historic Duluth Aerial Lift Bridge and city of Duluth, Minn. (Photo Credit: VisitDuluth.com).



Two F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 148th Fighter Wing, Duluth, Minn. fly in formation over the Richard I. Bong Memorial Bridge's shores of Lake Superior. (Minnesota National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Jason Rolfe).



Executive Director

Maj. Julie Grandaw (Ret.)

Greetings NGAMN Members,

As the newly appointed National Guard Association of Minnesota Executive Director, I'm excited and honored to be representing our organization and the state of Minnesota.

On behalf of the 148th Fighter Wing, former member of the Wing, and Duluth hometown girl, I'd like to invite you to attend our "In-Person" 117th NGAMN State Conference being held in Duluth April 22-24, 2022. This event will be packed with opportunities to socialize with members throughout the state, visit with our Corporate Partners, and support an organization that provides you enormous benefits.

Being a member of the NGAMN is so much more than paying your dues once a year, or during our special promotion, a one-time payment for **Lifetime Memberships** to NGAMN and NGAUS at a HUGE discount!

Your Membership Benefits Include:

- ✓ Representation on Capitol Hill. See **NGAUS Priorities**
- ✓ Professional Development Events
- ✓ Scholarship Opportunities for You and Your Family
- ✓ State **Sponsored Life Insurance Supplements**

To become a member or learn more about these benefits go to **NGAMN - Individual Membership**.

Please feel free to contact me at 218-349-3890 or at **Director@NGAMN.Org** with any questions.

I look forward to seeing you at our state conference in Duluth!

National Guard Association of Minnesota State Conference



April 22 - 24, 2022

Holiday Inn & Suites Duluth, Minnesota

Learn more or register at
mganm.org/state-conference

Online
Registration
Deadline
April 15, 2022



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 Pay Pal](#)

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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President: Lt. Col. Jay Hackett

Vice President – Army: Lt. Col. Kristen Augé

Vice President – Air: Col. Mike Piontek

Vice President – Alumni: Brig. Gen. Tim Kennedy (Ret.)

Vice President – Legislative: Vacant

Treasurer: Col. Al Timm (Ret.), Capt. Tyler Anderson (Alt)

Secretary: Capt. Liz Clapero

Webmaster: Maj. Christopher Kline (Ret.)

Thank You to our Corporate Partners!

