

VIKANG NEWS

Spring 2024



34th Infantry Division "Red Bulls" Departure Ceremony on Feb. 1, 2024



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President's Letter

Kristen Augé

Association Members- The Minnesota National Guard must keep pace with force modernization to face global threats. Now, more than ever, we need your support in *sharing the message* of belonging to our state and national association. Membership pricing is still significantly reduced – become a life member and encourage others to do so.

Membership ensures NGAUS can better fight for our priorities in Congress. NGAUS was instrumental in your Minnesota Guard receiving more than 300 Joint Light Tactical Vehicles, or JLTVs, to replace the aging fleet of Highly Mobile Multi-Wheeled Vehicles. Another modernization win -the Abrams M1A2 SEPv3 Main Battle Tank arrived last week at Camp Ripley for the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team!

What would make your future military better? View Joint, Army, and Air resolutions here: <https://www.ngaus.org/legislation>. NGAUS prioritizes resolutions by #1 saves lives, #2 is necessary to do your job, and #3 is simply nice to have. Submit your draft resolutions to the NGAMN Board of Directors NLT April 17th.

Do you know an individual or organization deserving of an award? Please see the list of NGAUS awards available on page 5 of our newsletter. Visit www.ngaus.org/about-ngaus/awards for additional details and examples of each award submission. NGAUS couldn't have made it simpler to submit an award. Award submissions are due to me NLT April 30th.

Next month, we will hold our 119th State Conference, and I'm excited to report that Lt. Gen. Jon Jensen, the director of the Army National Guard, will be speaking at the business meeting again. Saturday's banquet is especially exciting for baseball fans – National Baseball Hall of Famer Paul Molitor will discuss leadership, teamwork, and commitment. We have set aside some time for Q&A for both guest speakers, so think about the questions you would like to ask them.

In the Spring 2022 VIKANG, I referenced Russia and Ukraine in an article. Russia hadn't invaded Ukraine yet. – I'll ask again: Does the Minnesota Guard have what it needs? I want the best. How about you?

Sincerely- Kristen Augé





Vice President Alumni

Tim Kennedy

Association Members- The Alumni Group (comprised of retired and separated officers) annually hosts two Minnesota National Guard Association dinners. One is in conjunction with the annual State Conference, and the other is our Holiday party, held on the first Friday in December. All retired, separated, or currently serving officers are encouraged to attend. The purpose of the dinners is to promote fellowship and the sharing of experiences. It is an excellent opportunity for the retired and separated to stay connected and informed about what is happening in the Guard today.

We have a common bond, and as a retired officer, I genuinely enjoy meeting and talking with those serving today and reconnecting with those I have served. We strongly encourage spouses/significant others to attend because it creates a tighter community and a sharing of common experiences for all who attend.

At every dinner, we have a guest speaker and strive to cover various topics. In the past, we have heard from LTG Jon Jensen of the National Guard Bureau, MG Shawn Manke when he assumed the duties of the Adjutant General, Randal Dietrich of the Minnesota Military Museum, and former Civilian Aide to the Secretary (CASA) of the Army and COL (Ret) Eric Ahlness who spoke about the Agriculture Support Team in Afghanistan and gave a CASA program overview. We had our last dinner on December 1, 2023, with over 70 people attending at the Embassy Suites in Bloomington. The team there does a great job helping us organize this event. Our guest speaker was Dr. Shawn Alderman (retired Special Forces LTC), who spoke about the Magnus Veterans Foundation. This non-profit provides free medical care for currently serving service members, veterans, and families of both.

We have our next dinner for Friday evening, April 19, 2024, in conjunction with the National Guard Association State Conference. Our guest speaker will be Stephanie Hurt. Stephanie is a Minnesota Yellow Ribbon team member and, among other topics, will explain a new program called Operation Kinship. This program focuses on supporting families of deployed service members and is timely given the recent deployment of the 34th Division Headquarters. Please plan to attend.

Sincerely- Tim Kennedy

NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA



119th State Conference

April 19-21, 2024

hosted by
Joint Force Headquarters

Guest Speakers



LTG Jon Jensen

Director of the Army
National Guard
@Business Meeting



Paul Molitor

National Baseball
Hall of Famer
@Saturday Banquet

Conference online
registration ends
April 15th

Hotel block rate ends
March 28th

Stefanie Hurt *@ Alumni Dinner*
Colette Winn *@ Spouse/Guest Luncheon*



April 19 -21, 2024



Minneapolis Marriott West

9960 Wayzata Blvd, St. Louis Park, MN

Register online or scan the code
www.ngamn.org/events



NGAMN Executive Director | Director@NGAMN.org | (218) 349-3890

NGAUS Awards

Visit www.ngaus.org/about-ngaus/awards for additional detail.

Submission Deadline: 30 APR 2024 POC: Kristen Augé

Harry S. Truman Award

The Harry S. Truman Award for Distinguished Service in Support of National Defense, authorized by the NGAUS Board of Directors in 1968, is the highest recognition conferred upon an individual by the Association.

Montgomery Medal

The Montgomery Medal, first presented in 2004, provides a mechanism to recognize an individual (or organization) who provides outstanding support in the pursuit of the NGAUS objectives.

Patrick Henry Award

The Patrick Henry Award is designed to provide recognition to local officials and civic leaders, who in a position of great responsibility distinguished themselves with outstanding and exceptional service to the Armed Forces of the United States, the National Guard or NGAUS.

Distinguished Service Medal

The Distinguished Service Medal was conceived to provide recognition for an individual who, as member of the Armed Forces (Active, Guard or Reserve), performed exceptionally outstanding service to the United States, to the Armed Forces of the United States or to NGAUS.

Meritorious Service Award

This award was created based upon a perceived need for an additional award that would specifically recognize individuals for significant contributions to the United States Government, the Armed Forces of the United States or NGAUS.

Valley Forge Cross for Heroism

The Valley Forge Cross is presented to members of the National Guard who have distinguished themselves by performing acts of heroism that otherwise might not be recognized due to the National Guard's peacetime status.

Garde Nationale Trophy

The Garde Nationale Trophy recognizes significant achievement of members of the National Guard in their civilian endeavors.

Theodore Roosevelt Leadership Award for Company Grade Officers

This award was established to annually recognize the achievements and dedicated service of Army and Air National Guard junior officers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and professionalism in their services to country and community.

Eagle Rising Award for Warrant Officers

This award was established to annually 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.

146th NGAUS General Conference and Exhibition

Save the Date!

August 23-26, 2024

Detroit, Michigan

If you've been to the conference, you know what a great time it is. If you haven't had a chance to attend, this is the year to start. Pack your bags and get ready to go! This is the Association's annual business meeting where Army and Air National Guard officers from all 50 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia gather to network, set their legislative agenda and hear from America's civilian and military leaders. But we're also here to network and have a lot of fun!

This year, the registration fee has been reduced significantly!

FREE registration to all currently serving company grade officers, warrant officer 1s and chief warrant officer 2s including their spouse/guest.

\$50 registration for currently serving field grade officers and their spouses and currently serving CWO 3-5, along with their spouse/guest.

The primary events include the Governor's Reception, Hospitality Night and States Dinner. Other events include golf tournaments, 5K Fun Run, mixers and luncheons.

Minnesota is ready!

Hotel: Marriott Renaissance Center with over 11 dining options, attractions and conference center all within walking distance. The cost is \$175/night. Block room registration coming soon!

Hospitality Night: Hosted by the Elite Eight- MN, MI, AZ, FL, OH, PA, SC & WI

Entertainment: Howl 2 Go Dueling Pianos, food, drinks & giveaways

<https://www.ngaus.org/events/146th-general-conference-exhibition>

“Attending the NGAUS National Conference opened my eyes to how NGAUS works for us. I was able to see the voting process for the lines of effort they are working on and how they conduct business at the national-level. The best thing about the conference was the networking and being able to see the different states' National Guard leaders and pick their brains about certain topics.”

- ILT Brett Bye, 34th Combat Aviation Brigade Group Rep

State Sponsored Life Insurance

A Benefit for all Minnesota National Guard Members!

The State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) program is derived from United States Public Law 93-289, May 1974, Title 37, Section 707 and is offered through the Minnesota National Guard. The program is comprised of a combination of several policies provided by the Military Benefit Association and New York Life Insurance where you select the 24/7 coverage policy that's right for you.

Key Benefits:

- Every Minnesota National Guard member is provided \$1,000 SSLI at no cost to the member
- Every new Minnesota Guard member (recruit or transfer) or newly appointed officer are eligible for \$10,000 SSLI coverage at no cost for their first enrollment year
- Up to \$1,000,000 of coverage is available through a combination of SSLI plans
- Coverage is available for your spouse and dependent children
- FREE** will preparation with a local law firm (you may update it as often as needed, at no cost)

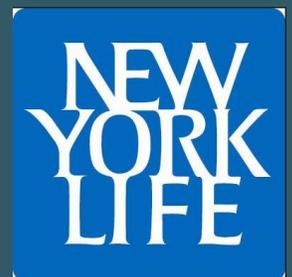
SSLI is known for their quick payment of most claims. Also, rates don't go up when you separate from the National Guard—you can keep your same coverage and premium amount.

In 2023, over 800 Minnesota Guardsmen enrolled in SSLI and more than 3,500 are enrolled in the SSLI program overall.



To learn more about the SSLI program go to the NGAMN website at <https://ngssli.com> or contact Kari Hegg at khegg@ngssli.com.

If you already have a policy and need assistance, please contact Eve at eve@ngssli.com.





**National Guard
Association of Minnesota**

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Thank you to our Corporate Partners!

