

MONTANA NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 6683
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59406

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HELD: 01 December 2003

A meeting of the Board of Directors and Officers of the Montana National Guard Officers Association was held at 1500 hours at the Dearborn Inn. The following persons were in attendance:

LTC Bryan Fox, Chairman of the Board
LTC John Swanson, Vice Chairman
LTC Steve Mehring, President
MAJ Buel Dickson, Director
MAJ Roy Ingram, Director
MAJ Tim Lincoln, Director
CPT Tracy Anderson, Director
CW5 Joseph Yuricic, Director
LTC Monte Boettger, Secretary
LTC (RET) Doug Remick, Insurance Manager
LTC Pete Hronek, Resolutions Committee
CMS Roger Hagan, legislative representative

CALL TO ORDER / APPROVAL OF MINUTES: LTC Fox called the meeting to order. A motion was made by LTC Swanson to approve the minutes of 11 Sep 03. The motion was seconded by CW5 Yuricic and approved by unanimous vote. **Closed Item.**

FINANCIAL REPORT: LTC Ireland was unable to attend so a budgetary review was not presented. LTC Mehring reported that cash on hand is \$18,667.96 with expenses for the corporate program still outstanding. Financially, the Association is healthier than we have been for a long time. **Closed Item.**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: LTC Mehring reported that final 2003 membership dues paid was 75% of the total membership. The 2004 membership drive has started. The army side asked that membership dues be provided in bulk so that they can be handed out to individuals with some personal emphasis. On the air side LT Larry Gardner is in charge of dues. The early start is intended to give the Association enough time to collect dues in order to qualify for a rebate from the national organization. **Closed Item.**

INSURANCE MANAGER REPORT: LTC (RET) Remick reported that Montana had the lowest rebate ever for last year. This year however, the program is \$750,000 in the

black. This should result in a rebate of approximately \$1800.00 for both the officers and enlisted organizations. **Closed Item.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: LTC Mehring reported that he had recently spoken to Bill Goss at NGAUS to receive a legislative update. NGAUS wants us to know that its building in Washington D.C. is available for use when meeting with your Congressional representatives. Currently, Montana is only one of about ten states that take advantage of this opportunity. **Closed Item.**

CORPORATE COMMITTEE REPORT: MAJ Ingram reported that he is nearly ready to kick off the corporate membership drive. The database for corporate sponsors is completed. There is a plan for drafting an E-letter for the corporate kick off. The real work however, is the follow up contacts with potential sponsors. MAJ Ingram plans to go to Helena and speak to the various commanders of the units about the program. Several goals have been identified for this year. One is to obtain a corporate sponsor from each town in which a member resides. Another is to obtain 52 corporate members this year. **Closed Item.**

COMPANY GRADE REPORT: 1LT Crowe was not available. LTC Fox reported that CPT Strom has been activated and will be gone for an indefinite period. Rob Effinger has been selected as the Company Grade officer of the year. **Closed Item.**

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT: LTC Lynde was not available. LTC Mehring reported that no applications for the scholarship program have been received so far this year. The application period closes January 9, 2004. **Closed Item.**

OPEN ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES: LTC Mehring reported that he has located some sample SOP's from Florida to use as a guide in constructing the Association's SOP's. The Florida SOP's have checklists for various components and committees that are very helpful. These are being revised and should be ready for circulation/input within a month or so. **Open Item.**

CORPORATE COMMITTEE REPORT: **Closed Item.** (See above)

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP MAILING DATABASE: **Closed Item.** (See above)

MTNGA SCHOLARSHIP: **Closed Item.** (See above)

RETIRED MEMBERSHIP: LTC Mehring reported that 300 letters have been sent out to retired members. The goal is to get 30 retired members re-involved with the Association. So far 18 have responded. **Closed Item.**

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

STATE ACTIVE DUTY ISSUES: Mike Morrison made a presentation to the board regarding the various problems affecting guardsmen that continue to arise when they are called to state active duty. Mike would like to see the Association address these matters. These basically break down into three major areas:

- 1) Pay inequities. Presently there are huge inequities and disparities in how guardsmen are treated for pay purposes as compared to civilian contractors performing the same work. Presently enlisted persons only receive double pay for the first 15 days of state active duty.
- 2) Treatment for injuries. The current state workers compensation system does not adequately address the potential losses they could face if injured while on state active duty.
- 3) Retirement issues. Currently no retirement points accrue while serving on state active duty.

Board members discussed various ideas that have been proposed in the past to address these issues. There are potential serious ramifications associated with each of the alternatives. The board decided that this is a matter that should be referred to the legislative committee for more research. The board also felt that work in this area should be done in conjunction with the enlisted association. Mike was requested to obtain relevant information from other states that have addressed these issues and provide the same to the legislative committee. **Open Item.**

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Roger Hagan reported that the National Guard and Reserve have done well legislatively on the national scene this year. VA home loans initiatives for guard and reserve members look like they will pass in Congress. On the state scene, the internal committee for the VA met on September 26, 2003 and look to be very attuned to Guard and Reserve needs. Members of this committee made various comments supportive of the Guard, especially in the area of retention and as how this relates to the state scholarship program. The legislature passed a veterans point preference bill. The Board of Regents will also be asked to treat out of state residents who are members of the Montana National Guard the same as Montana residents. Roger will be attending the upcoming legislative finance committee meeting as they may be discussing the National Guard in relation to the cost of the fires of 2003 to make sure we are in good standing with those members. **Closed Item.**

2005 STATE CONFERENCE: MAJ Dickson reported that they are looking into the possibility of holding the 2005 conference at Big Sky in February of that year. Buel will report back when he has prices and other information. **Open Item.**

2004 STATE CONFERENCE: Major Bricker is presently working this. A guest speaker has not yet been identified. **Open Item.**

2003 SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE NOMINATIONS: The board discussed nominations for one army and one air person to receive the 2003 superior performance

award at the 2004 State Conference. Nominations are due mid-January, 2004. **Open Item.**

HELENA AIR SHOW 2004: CW5 Yuricic reported that on July 24, 2004 there is a possibility that a military air show will be held in Helena. There would be no charge for military members. There is exists a great opportunity to raise money for the Association by operating a concessions booth at this event. **Open Item.**

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held at Chico Hot Springs on Friday, February 27, 2004 commencing at 1400 hours.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 1700 hours.

BRYAN P. FOX, LT COL, MT ANG
Chairman of the Board