

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

MINUTES OF MEETING BUSINESS SESSION
46th GENERAL CONFERENCE 2003

HELD: 26 APRIL 2003

CALL TO ORDER The Business Session of the Montana National Guard Association's 46th General Conference was called to order by President (Lieutenant Colonel) Loren Oelkers at 0900 hours, Saturday, April 26, 2003 at the Red Lion-Colonial Hotel, Helena, Montana. The following Officers and Directors were in attendance:

LTC Loren Oelkers, President
Lt Col Bryan Fox, Vice President
Lt Col Steve Mehring, Executive Director
LTC John Swanson, Director
LTC Jonathan Jackson, Director
LTC (Ret) John Nugent, Director
Maj Roy Ingram, Director
Maj Buel Dixon, Director
CPT Tracy Anderson, Director
1Lt Tim Crowe, Director
CW5 Joseph Yuricic, Director
LTC Jeff Ireland, Treasurer
Lt Col Monte Boettger, Secretary

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was rendered. LTC John Swanson gave the Invocation.

APPOINTMENT OF SERGEANT AT ARMS Second Lieutenant Todd Mortag and WO1 Robert Graber were appointed as Sergeants at Arms.

APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN Lt Col James Taflan was appointed as Parliamentarian.

INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS MG John Prendergast, MG Sekora, BG Randy Mosely, BGen Frank Tobel, and BGen Rex Tanberg were introduced. All retirees attending were recognized.

APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATIONS COMMITTEES FOR BOARD/OFFICER

VACANCIES Brigadier General Randy Mosley was appointed to form a committee to nominate candidates for two board of director positions and vice president on the Army side. Brigadier General Frank Tobel was appointed to form a committee to nominate two candidates for board of director positions and president on the Air side.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS The keynote address was given by Jon Eisberg, Deputy Director, Army Activities, Legislative Department, NGAUS and Captain in the Maryland Army National Guard. Mr. Eisberg spoke about the resolutions process at NGAUS and how the resolutions that result from that process drive NGAUS' priorities. Some of the legislative priorities for NGAUS in 2003 include increases in full time manning for the Guard, health and dental care, personnel benefits, Army aviation modernization, Army and Air equipment purchases and Milcon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES The minutes for the 45th General Conference were presented by LTC Boettger. A motion to approve the minutes was made by BGen Tobel, seconded by Lt Col Oehmcke and unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT LTC Jeff Ireland reported that at year's end (2002) the Association showed a net change in financial position of \$3,965.66, which is a very positive sign compared to previous years. This positive change in position is due mainly to two factors: reduced printing and mailing costs from increased use of the MTNGA web site and the success of the new corporate membership program. Maj Lincoln moved to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by COL Putnam and unanimously passed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT Lt Col Steve Mehring reported that the Association is trying for more two way communication with the membership using electronic mailing instead of the traditional one way communication by mail. The E-newsletter ties in with this. Our goal is to communicate in a timely fashion. Many issues of importance to the Association involve legislation at the state or even national level. Time is of the essence in these matters and electronic communication with the membership helps us get the word out quickly to encourage our members to contact their representatives so that our collective contacts can make a difference.

We continue to actively use the MTNGA web site. We are able to tell how many people view the site and how many pages of the site they are actually using. This year we had over 1000 users viewing over 1900 pages viewed on the site. We are seeing a steady increase in Web site use after publication of our E-newsletter, indicating that our members are taking action as a result of our calls urging them to contact their representatives on various legislative matters. 100% of the airside can be now be contacted at their military email; 40% can be contacted at their personal email. On the Army side only about 27% of our members can be contacted by military email; about 29% can be contacted at their personal email. We are also reaching more retired life members as a result of President Oelker's initiative to get our retirees more involved in Association activities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resolutions Report: BGen Tanberg presented the Joint, Army and Air Resolutions for FY 2004 proposed by NGAUS. BGrn Tanberg recommended that the Association endorse all of the proposed resolutions with the exception of A-4 (which is redundant to A-6):

JOINT

- A-1: Relating to equitable personnel benefits
- A-2: Relating to tax credits for employers of NG members and for self-employed members
- A-3: Relating to payment for distance learning courses
- A-5: Relating to the weapons of mass destruction civil support teams retention and incentive pay
- A-6: Relating to a bonus for newly appointed warrant and commissioned officers
- A-7: Relating advance information technology service

ARMY

- B-1: Relating to the modernization of the ARNG Aviation
- B-2: Relating to the modernization and sustainment of the ARNG combat maneuver (mounted) force
- B-3: Relating to the modernization of the ARNG command control, communications, computers and intelligence (C4I) areas
- B-4: Relating to the modernization of the ARNG's fire support/field artillery battle operating systems and related training devices
- B-5: Relating to the modernization of the ARNG combat support/combat service support force
- B-6: Relating to the modernization of the ARNG combat engineer force

AIR

- C-1: Relating to ANG force structure
- C-2: Relating to ANG F-16 aircraft
- C-3: Relating to ANG F-15 aircraft
- C-4: Relating to the ANG A/OA-10 aircraft
- C-5: Relating to the ANG C-130 aircraft
- C-6: Relating to the ANG C-17 aircraft
- C-7: Relating to the ANG C-5A aircraft
- C-8: Relating to the ANG KC-135 aircraft
- C-9: Relating to the ANG theater air control system modernization
- C-10: Relating to the procurement of promina multiplexors for ANG combat comm. units
- C-11: Relating to the procurement / modernization of theater deployable communications (TDC) equipment

BGen Tanberg moved that the Association support these draft resolutions. The motion was

Seconded by COL Putnam and passed unanimously. BGen Tanberg further recommended that the Association endorse the following four Montana resolutions:

- MT-1: Opposing SECDEF proposal to consolidate DoD MILPERS appropriations at the service department level
- MT-2: supporting HR 742 lowering eligibility age for receiving retired pay to 55 years of age for the Guard and Reserve components
- MT-3: Relating to the LW 155 towed howitzer
- MT-4: Relating to procurement of the fire support combined arms tactical trainer-towed (FSCATT-T)

BGen Tanberg again moved that the Association support these draft Montana resolutions. The motion was seconded by Lt Col Oehmcke and passed unanimously.

Insurance Report: LTC (ret) Remick gave the insurance report. LTC Remick reported that revenues from the insurance program continue to decline. This year net income was only \$6397.00. LTC Remick presented a check for \$1877.41 as the MTNGA share from the insurance program for 2002. LTC Remick emphasized that while SGLI is good coverage, that coverage ends when you retire. Our insurance continues after a person retires. Information concerning the insurance program is available on the MTNGA web site.

Legislative Report: BG Mosely reported that every bill we went forward with this legislative session passed. BG Mosely credited this success to the initiative of the Association in conjunction with the lobbying efforts of Roger Hagan. The E-newsletter was especially effective in getting timely support for many measures. Some of the accomplishments include the scholarship program, which was not proposed by the Department of Military Affairs but was supported by the MTNGA and its members. The result is that funding for the next biennium is \$337,000.00, which is higher than ever. Another accomplishment is HB 35, which gives National Guard members a veteran's preference without any prior active duty requirement. The legislature also passed a mini soldiers and sailors civil relief act for Guard members. BG Mosely believes that the Association has a real opportunity to help our people and invigorate our membership during the next legislative session.

By-Laws Report: Lt Col Boettger reported that there are several by-laws provisions proposed for consideration by the membership this year. The proposed changes include:

1. "Associate members" would be further defined to include enlisted members. The annual rate for associate members would be increased to \$10.00 per year.
2. Corporate memberships would be recognized. However, such members would not have a vote on any Association matters.
3. Board composition would be re-defined to reflect how the Association actually elects directors and officers. It would be clarified that time spent serving as president or vice president does not count toward term limits for Board members. The rotation of president and vice

president between the Air and Army would also be clarified. At present, there are no director positions open this year on the Air side. For some reason the director positions are not staggered as they are supposed to be according to the bylaws. Also, according to the original formula in the bylaws for determining the number of Air and Army director positions, there should be an additional Air director. The proposed amendments to the bylaws will result in the same numbers of directors but will be much easier to figure out.

4. A procedure would be provided to allow the Board to develop and maintain Standard Operating Instructions (SOIs) to clarify duties of the treasurer, secretary and executive director as well as any pay those positions are to receive. SOIs would be separate from the by-laws and the membership would delegate responsibility for the SOIs to the Board of Directors.

5. The position of "executive director" would be re-designated as "president". The position of "president" and "vice president" would be re-designated as "chairman" and "vice chairman" respectively, to be more in accordance with nomenclature of the business world as well as other state officer associations.

6. The by-laws would be edited to make them consistent with the proposed amendments.

Copies of the Association by-laws with the proposed changes were previously provided to the membership and Lt Col Boettger then went over each of the proposed changes. Lt Col Mehring stated that approving these proposed changes will do several things. First, it will show more confidence in the Board as the changes will give it more flexibility and responsibility for its operations. Second, the proposed SOIs will allow for the duties/responsibilities of the Association officers to be more easily described and amended as necessary to make those positions more responsive to the Association's needs. Third, the proposed changes will allow the Board to more effectively represent the membership and to be more responsive to its needs.

BGen Tanberg made a motion to approve the proposed by-law changes as presented. Maj Donna Loomis seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Lt Col Oehmcke moved that in order to have all director terms conform with the approved changes in the bylaws, to increase CW5 Yuricic's term to expire in 2004 and to decrease BGen (Ret) Higgins' term to expire in 2004. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Membership Report: Lt Col Mehring reported that so far 303 out of 458 Association members have paid their dues, for a 67% total. This represents about 59% of Army officers and 92% of Air officers. This is close to our historical average for this time of year: 2002 - 73%; 2001 - 82%; 2000 - 79%; 1999 - 87%. Our statistics are also comparable to national averages as well.

Scholarship Report: CW2 Brad Nelson reported that the Association did not provide a scholarship award last year due to financial constraints. However, due to an improved financial condition this year, the Association will be providing up to two - \$500.00 scholarships. Details

concerning this will be announced within the next two weeks. The State scholarship program has been funded by the legislature and will available as well.

Company Grade Report: 1Lt Crowe presented the Company Grade report. Lt Crowe reported that membership continues to be a struggle at the company grade level. He requested the support of senior leadership to encourage company grade participation in the Association.

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS Brigadier General Mosley presented the following Army nominations for vacancies on the Board of Directors:

Major Patrick Nugent (at large)
Major Wesley Robinson (at large)

LTC John Swanson was nominated to serve as Vice-chairman.

Brigadier General Tobel presented the Air nominations for vacancies on the Board of Directors:

Major Tim Lincoln (at large)

Lt Col Bryan Fox was nominated to serve as Chairman of the Board.

A motion to accept the nominations as submitted was duly made, seconded and unanimously passed by the membership.

(After an intermission, the business session resumed and was joined by spouses of MTNGA members)

CORPORATE REPORT LTC John Swanson and Lt Col Steve Mehring gave the Corporate report. Lt Col Mehring reported that the Association continues to confront financial challenges. The insurance program reserve has continued to decline from \$7,000.00 in 1991 to about \$2,000.00 in 2001. Also, membership is not growing, and has remained static at about 70 - 75%. We would be in the red today but for the work of the insurance/corporation committee. Those members are LTC Swanson, LTC Jackson, Lt Col Oehmcke, Lt Col Taflan and LTC (ret) Nugent. Under the committee's direction we have gone from 0 in corporate revenues in 2001, when the program started, to \$3,450.00 in revenues in 2002 and \$6,650.00 in revenues 2003. We have gone from 15 corporate members in 2002 to 24 corporate members in 2003. We have barely scratched the surface of this program. Our corporate members believe in our mission and in us. With this resource we can increase our efforts to benefit our members in both the state and national legislatures. We can foster and encourage our membership by helping younger, company grade officers attending such events as this state conference.

LTC Swanson reported that he has not been turned down by a single prospective corporate member he has talked to. The success of the corporate program thus far is the result of the efforts of just a very few people. However, we want to expand our efforts and get everyone

involved.

2002 NGAUS CONFERENCE REPORT CPT Tracy Anderson and Maj Roy Ingram gave the report of the NGAUS convention held in Long Beach, California.

2003 NGAUS CONFERENCE REPORT Lieutenant Colonel Mehring reported that the 2003 NGAUS conference will be at Biloxi, Mississippi from 15-17 September. All are encouraged to attend. Airfares are estimated at \$350.00 to \$400.00. As an incentive to attend, if a member signs by the end of this month and pays the deposit, he/she becomes eligible for a drawing for one free night's lodging. Additional information can be found on the MTNGA web site.

ARMY BRIEF Brigadier General Randy Mosley presented the Army brief for 2002.

AIR BRIEF Brigadier General Tobel presented the Air brief for 2002.

CLOSING COMMENTS President Oelkers reported that the next state general conference is tentatively scheduled for 27-29 February at Chico Hot Springs.

BENEDICTION LTC Swanson gave the benediction.

ADJOURN There being no further business, the Montana National Guard Association's 46th General Conference meeting was adjourned.

Loren Oelkers
Lieutenant Colonel, MT ARNG
Chairman of the Board