

# **MONTANA NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION**

**P.O. BOX 6683  
GREAT FALLS, MT 59406-6683**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**HELD: 10 JANUARY 2001**

**A meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors of the Montana National Guard Officer Association was held at 1430 hours on January 10, 2001 at building P1-515, Fort Harrison, Montana. The following Officers and Directors were in attendance:**

**LTC Peter Hronek, President  
LTC Loren Oelkers, Vice President  
LTC Steve Mehring, Executive Director  
Major Monte Boettger, Secretary  
CW4 Joseph Yuricic, Director  
LTC Jonathan Jackson, Director  
Maj. John Swanson, Director  
Maj. Jim Oehmcke, Director  
Maj. Bryan Fox, Director  
LTC (Ret) Doug Remick, Insurance Manager**

**The following members/guests were in attendance:**

**Maj. Nikki Dewolf, Chair, Scholarship Committee  
Roger Hagen  
Capt. Tim Lincoln  
LTC Brad Livingston**

**CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF MINUTES. The meeting was called to order by President Hronek. A motion to approve the minutes from 16 October 2000 was made by Maj. Fox, seconded by CW4 Yuricic and unanimously passed.**

### **COMMITTEE / OFFICER REPORTS**

**Financial Report. The financial report prepared by Maj. Ireland was presented. There is a present balance of \$8658.66 in the Association's bank account as of January 9, 2000.**

**The projected net increase in Association revenue from a \$5.00 state dues increase for the**

**year 2002 would be \$1,800.00 (assuming a total of 360 officers).**

**Maj. Fox moved to approve payment of stipends in the amount of \$450.00 for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2000. LTC Oelkers seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.**

**Membership Report.** LTC Hronek gave the membership report. LTC Mehring sent out dues invoices in the middle of December, 2000. 75 individuals have already paid dues (32 Air, 43 Army). This is the best response we have had in a long time. It may be possible to hit the 70% dues paid goal by February in order to qualify for a dues rebate. June is the cut off date for all dues. LTC Mehring and LTC Oelkers will be meeting weekly to assess the dues progress. LTC Mehring stressed that if anyone knows people that are not getting the information concerning membership dues to let him or LTC Hronek know and they will make sure the information is provided.

LTC Mehring passed out fliers advertising the Association dues/membership for posting. The goal is to make the Association more visible to its members.

LTC reported that the enlisted and officers Associations have historically sponsored the legislative banquet. The cost to each Association is \$1,000.00.

**Insurance Report.** LTC (Ret) Remick gave the insurance report.

LTC Remick reported that the net revenue received for the year 2000 was approximately \$6080.00 compared to \$15,000.00 from the year before. \$1600.00 will be presented to both the officers and enlisted Associations at the State Conference, plus any experience refund received. The bad news is that claims exceeded premiums as of November, 2000. Overall, the insurance program was approximately \$250,000.00 in the red. Next year LTC Remick stated that each of the Associations could probably expect about \$1,700.00. LTC Remick stated that the increase to \$200,000.00 in life insurance for members of the National Guard has had a major adverse effect on the insurance program. Many people do not feel that they need more insurance than what they are now receiving from the Guard. We are now getting older members and death claims are mounting up.

**Executive Director=s Report.** LTC Mehring gave the report.

LTC Mehring displayed the award given at the NGAUS convention for Senator Conrad Burns. As Senator Burns was unable to receive the award at the conference, it will be presented to him at the Legislative reception this date.

The Association website has been substantially updated to include, among other updates, information about the upcoming State Conference at Chico. Col. Joe Cusker=s paper, for which he was presented an award at the NGAUS conference is also on the website. Information about the insurance program has also been updated.

The progress of various National Resolutions can also be viewed on the website.

The proposed keynote speaker for the State Conference banquet will be BG McKinley. The proposed speaker for the State Conference Association meeting will be Col. William Goss (ret.) from NGAUS.

LTC Mehring will be attending the NGEDA conference in Indiana in February.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Insurance / Corporate Committee.** LTC Hronek wants to propose a bylaws change to emphasize the need for corporate sponsorships. LTC Jackson as chair and Maj. Oehmcke, a member of the committee, with assistance from LTC Mehring, will be looking into corporate sponsorships to assist the Association with its revenues.

**Legislative Committee.** LTC Hronek reported that last October the plan was to ask the legislature for \$350,000.00 for the scholarship program. However, when the Governor's proposed budget was released, only \$300,000.00 was provided for the program. Roger Hagen reported that it was originally projected that we would need \$350,000.00 to properly fund the scholarship program. We initially started with \$250,000.00 two years ago. As scholarship recipients pass through the pipeline the projection was that we would need \$350,000.00 in order to meet the growth. With the Governor's proposal to scale the program back it will most likely mean turning people down who would otherwise have qualified for the scholarship program. Roger felt that the Department of Military Affairs does not want to appear to criticize the Governor's budget, so it appears that they will not support a request to ask for the additional \$50,000.00. Roger stated that he needed guidance from the Association on how to proceed with this matter. A general discussion was held that it is likely the scholarship program will exceed the \$300,000.00 now proposed by the Governor over the next two years. President Hronek stated that the Association does not ask the legislature for anything else. We are going to be asking for a study regarding state active duty problems that were identified after the 2000 fire season.

After lengthy discussion the consensus was that the Association does not want to do anything to jeopardize Department of Military Affairs programs. Roger Hagen felt that supporting the scholarship program as originally planned would not jeopardize any such programs and that if it appeared that his lobbying for the scholarship program would do so he would back off. Roger stated that to keep the scholarship program viable we need to keep with the original plan, which was \$250,000.00 in the first biennium and \$350,000.00 in the second biennium. LTC Oelkers stated that the scholarship program is one of the Association's few success stories. \$50,000.00 is a huge issue for us and not a huge issue for the state budget as a whole. The scholarship program is our only real recruitment tool. Keeping our strength up is always an issue. The scholarship program helps us achieve that. CW4 Yuricic stated that the \$350,000.00 is the cheapest insurance policy there is to have a national guard available to the state.

The consensus was to support full funding for the scholarship program as originally planned - \$350,000.00 - and to closely monitor the situation to make sure there is no adverse impact on the Department of Military Affairs. Roger Hagen to keep us informed on this.

**Scholarship Committee.** Maj. Dewolf gave the scholarship report. March 1, 2001 is the deadline for essay contest entries. Maj. Dewolf is working on criteria for the scholarship for the Challenge Program. LTC Hronek reported that at present the Association is spending \$125.00 twice each year for that scholarship.

**Judiciary Committee.** LTC Hronek asked the Board to consider a bylaws change in Article V concerning the making of committee chair appointments by the President; the inclusion of a corporation committee within the existing Insurance Committee and the addition of a scholarship committee. More information about this will be presented at the March 2001 meeting.

**State Conference Committee.** LTC Oelkers presented the report. LTC Oelkers will be working on a registration form for the State conference to be held at Chico Hot Springs April 20-22, 2001. Next year's convention will be held in Great Falls. Maj. Oehmcke will be heading this effort. We would also like to present an award to recognize those person(s) who have greatly contributed to the Association's goals.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Association Award.** LTC Hronek again asked the Board to consider a resolution creating a yearly award given by the Association to recognize an Association member who has greatly contributed to Association goals. Proposed resolutions creating and making the award were provided to the Board. More discussion will be held at the March meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Approval of 2001 budget.** LTC Hronek presented a proposed budget for 2001. The future is not bright for the budget. The current budget is projected to be \$3,000.00 short for 2001. After discussion, LTC Oelkers moved to approve the 2001 budget as presented by President Hronek. Maj. Swanson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Proposed Dues Increase.** LTC Hronek presented the Board with a report of the effect of a dues increase of \$5.00 - \$10.00 on the Association budget. Even if approved, any dues increase will not help the 2001 budget. The Association has not had a dues increase since the early 1980's. Any dues increase would just keep up with inflation. LTC Hronek reported that a proposed dues increase and proposed amendments to Article V will be presented at the March meeting for further consideration.

**Legislative Issues.** LTC Hronek asked for guidance relating to two legislative issues pending before the legislature that he may be asked to support. The first is a bill that would make burning the American flag a crime (misdemeanor) if it done for the purpose to incite a riot. The other issue concerns support for a change in federal law for mandatory two year national service. After discussion, the Board's consensus was to not formulate any decision at this time as more information and discussion is needed. The Board requested to see the specific language on these issues for consideration.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be March 13, 2001 by at 1430 hours by telephone conference call. The three main issues to be discussed will be the bylaws amendments (Article V), the proposed Association recognition awards and, the proposed dues increase.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1600 hours.

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**J. Pete Hronek**  
LTC MT ANG  
President