

# MONTANA NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 6683  
GREAT FALLS, MT 59406

## MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HELD: 12 MARCH 2003

A meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors of the Montana National Guard Officers Association was held at 1400 hours on March 12, 2003 at Ostermann's, on the Missouri River. The following Officers, Directors and members were in attendance:

LTC Loren Oelkers, President  
LTC Bryan Fox, Vice President  
LTC Steve Mehring, Executive Director  
LTC John Swanson, Director  
MAJ Roy Ingram, Director  
MAJ Buel Dixon, Director  
CAPT Tracy Anderson, Director

LTC Jeff Ireland, Treasurer  
LTC Monte Boettger, Secretary

BG Rex Tanberg, Resolutions Committee  
MAJ Tim Lincoln, Resolutions Committee  
CAPT Scott Smith, Resolutions Committee

**CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The meeting was called to order by LTC Oelkers. A motion to approve the minutes from January 24, 2003 was made by LTC Fox, seconded by MAJ Ingram and unanimously passed.

**REVIEW OF DIRECTOR/OFFICER VACANCIES:** There are no directors positions open this year on the Air side. On the Army side there will be director positions to replace LTC Jackson, CW5 Yuricic, CAPT Anderson and LTC Swanson. There will be open positions for an Air president and an Army vice president.

### **COMMITTEE / OFFICER REPORTS:**

**Financial Report.** LTC Ireland gave the report. For the year 2002 there were revenues of \$32,385.00 and expenditures of \$28,420.00, for an ending positive cash flow of \$3,965.00. This is good news as it is the first time the Association has been in the black for some time.

There is \$111.00 in the savings account and \$22,000.00 in the checkbook. The checkbook balance includes members dues and corporate sponsors. The corporate sponsor program is a definite success. Revenues for the first year of that program were \$3750.00. The goal by the Board for 2003 corporate sponsorships is \$7,000.00. This money can be used, in part, to offset costs for members to attend the national conference.

The books for 2002 are to be reviewed by CW5 Yuricic.

A motion was made to approve the financial report by LTC Fox and seconded by CAPT Anderson, and was unanimously approved.

**Executive Director's Report.** LTC Mehring reported that on February 20 he paid \$11,866.00 to NGAUS. They have changed their dues rebate program criteria this year, making us eligible for a 5% rebate which amounts to \$593.00.

The website has been revamped. Old newsletters have been archived. Changes to the site will offer better legislative help and information.

Currently the Association has email addresses for about 250 officers. We plan to begin offering a fax service for newsletters this year. This may help reach those officers who have a fax machine but do not have email. There is a significant cost savings to the Association by sending newsletters and information to members via email vs. snail mail.

A mailing will be going out shortly with information regarding the state conference. Actual (snail) mail will go to those members without email addresses. Those with email will receive this information electronically.

**Membership Report.** LTC Mehring reported that currently we are at 50% membership dues paid overall. This breaks down into Air at 90% and Army at 43%. As a percentage break down, the trouble areas for receiving membership dues are in the 0-6, Capt./1Lt, W-3 and W-2 ranks. Past history averages (June 30) were 73% for 2002 and 83% for 2001.

LTC Oelkers requested that LTC Mehring provide all past due members a second dues invoice marked "Second Invoice - Past Due" by May 1 and ask all members to respond, whether or not they choose to pay dues.

LTC Oelkers reported that the Board had sent out a dues letter to retirees in accordance with the bylaws and have received an encouraging response so far.

**Insurance Report.** LTC Oelkers gave the report. LTC Remick has informed us that we will be getting an insurance refund check this year. However, at this time the amount of this refund is not known. LTC Mehring informed the Board that he had received a check from the NGAUS insurance trust for approximately \$300.00.

**Corporate Report.** LTC Swanson reported that printed flyers have been sent out to

prospective sponsors and we are receiving a lot of response. We are receiving many renewals of the platinum and gold memberships as well as many new sponsors. There is a need to follow up mailings with a personal contact if possible. The program is great and sells itself however the follow up contacts are important to maximize a potential sponsor's response. Special thanks goes to Roy Ingram who has done a great job organizing this program.

LTC Swanson reiterated that one of the goals of the potential increased revenues from the corporate sponsorship program is to benefit our members through increased legislative efforts. We are seeing the fruits of some of those efforts now in areas such as the veterans preference for guardsmen and the scholarship program. These efforts need to continue and increase if possible. It was also noted that the Association's other efforts in the legislative arena, such as sponsoring the legislative reception, are also important and should continue and be improved upon if possible.

LTC Mehring suggested that the Board do a roll call of persons to be recognized for their efforts on behalf of the Association in developing these programs.

**Company Grade Report.** LTC Mehring reported that membership of company grade officers continues to be a problem for the Association which requires our attention.

**Scholarship Report.** LTC Oelkers reported that the Association has annually provided 2 - \$500.00 scholarships to dependents of members. This program was put on hold last year due to fiscal concerns. Unfortunately, these did not get advertised this year in time for the state convention. After discussion it was the consensus that the Association should advertise the scholarships in the email mailing for the conference, with a deadline for submissions of approximately 60 days. LTC Oelkers will contact Nikki DeWolf to arrange the details.

**2003 State Conference Report.** LTC Oelkers reported that everything is on track and he is anticipating a good turnout for the conference which will be held at the Colonial Inn in Helena, now known as the Red Lion Colonial Hotel. The Army mailing has been sent and the Air mailing should be sent out this week. On Friday night a casual gathering is planned with the preliminary events following the same format as previous conferences. However, on Saturday that portion of the business session for the Army and Air briefs will be opened to spouses of members so that they can get a better idea of what we do on a day to day basis. There will be a guided tour of the capital building. For the banquet a portion of the program will be dedicated to recognizing our corporate sponsors. The seating will be arranged so as to intermix our corporate sponsors with our people so that they can better get to know us as well as feel more included. So far there have only been 7 people registered for the banquet. No banquet speaker has been confirmed as of this date. The late registration fee has been waived.

LTC Mehring stated that there are some silver and gold members who can't come to the banquet who would like to donate their tickets to others. It was agreed that those corporate sponsors who do not use their banquet tickets or hotel room may give those benefits away to others.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**NGAUS resolutions.** BG Tanberg reported that NGAUS resolutions are starting to come in. Some of the ones received thus far deal with immediate retirement of guard members at 20 years service. Another concerns the new army howitzer. Resolutions need to be sent to NGAUS by May. LTC Mehring stated that every state should do a resolution supporting retirement reform to force NGAUS to make this a priority, which it has not so far. Currently this year, as last, NGAUS is not supporting retirement reform. After discussion it was decided that LTC Mehring will put this issue in the next E-Newsletter and solicit comments to be sent to BG Tanberg.

**State resolution.** LTC Swanson reported that given the increased OPSTEMPO for the military an issue, especially important for AGR's, are "control grades" which limits opportunities for development of combat experience. LTC Swanson will look at the resolutions from last year to see if one addressing this issue was sponsored.

**Attendance of corporate members and vendors.** MAJ Ingram reported that many corporate sponsors want to attend our conference but are already committed to other conferences. There is a need to get the word out as soon as possible concerning the dates of our state conference so that corporate sponsors have the opportunity to commit to attending our conference sooner. MAJ Ingram noted that if we moved the dates of the state conference up a week or two, it would help this situation and would also have the added benefit of allowing us to consider resolutions sooner and then get those resolutions to other states.

**By-laws revisions.** Several amendments have been proposed to the by-laws. LTC Boettger presented the proposed changes to the Board for discussion. The amendments would provide that:

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

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

After discussion, LTC Fox moved to adopt the proposed by-law amendments for presentation to the membership at the state conference, with the exception of re-inserting the language on page 10 concerning nomination of the Executive Director which was inadvertently stricken. LTC Swanson seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Stipend for Executive Director.** LTC Oelkers stated that LTC Mehring, as Executive Director, puts in numerous hours on behalf of the Association and has become invaluable to the process. LTC Oelkers recommended that the stipend for the Executive Director be increased to \$400.00 per quarter (it is currently \$300 per quarter). After discussion the matter was tabled to be re-addressed after the proposed by-law amendments are acted upon by the membership.

**MTNGA distinguished service award.** LTC Fox requested that anyone having nominations for the MTNGA distinguished service award for Army and Air to have those to him by the first of April.

**NEXT MEETING:** A meeting will also be held on Friday, April 25, 2003 at 1100 hours at the Colonial Inn, Helena.

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

---

**Loren Oelkers**  
LTC MT ARNG  
President