

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

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HELD: 24 January 2003

A meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors of the Montana National Guard Association was held at 1300 hours on 24 January 2003 at the Armed Forces Reserve Center, Helena, MT. The following Officers, Directors, and Committee Members were in attendance:

LTC Loren Oelkers, President
MAJ Bryan Fox, Vice President
LTC Steve Mehring, Executive Director
LTC Jonathan Jackson, Director
LTC John Swanson, Director
CPT Tracy Anderson, Director
1LT Tim Crowe, Director
CW5 Joe Yuricic, Director

LTC (RET) Doug Remick, Insurance Administrator
MAJ Roy Ingram, Insurance / Corporate Committee Member

The following guests were in attendance:

CMS Roger Hagan

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF MINUTES. President Oelkers called the meeting to order. The minutes from the September meeting were reviewed.

Motion to approve. Yuricic/Crowe. Unan.

COMMITTEE/OFFICER REPORT

Financial Report. LTC Mehring gave the financial report. He reported that the Association currently has \$22,131.32 in the checking account. CW5 Yuricic agreed to accomplish the annual audit on the Associations books.

Membership Report. LTC Mehring briefed for 2003 overall membership is sitting at 28%, 126 out of 558 have paid their dues. The Army is at 16%, 54 of 351 and the Air is at 67%, 71 of 107.

Insurance Report. LTC (RET) Remick stated the insurance program is attracting more senior members versus younger members because at the end of a military career, the SGLI is costly to convert to VGLI, which makes the Association insurance more attractive at that time. CW5 Yuricic agreed to accomplish an audit on the association insurance program.

Insurance/Corporate Committee Report. LTC Swanson reported a brochure and letter to be signed by LTC Oelkers for corporate sponsors is ready to go. Maj Ingram recommended when National Guard Officers attend conventions or trade shows we solicit the onsite vendors for membership in our association. LTC Mehring stated for calendar year 2002 corporate membership brought the association \$3,450.00, which was great for the first year of this program. It was agreed by all for a corporate goal of \$7,000.00 for calendar year 2003.

Motion to approve. Ingram/Crowe. Unan.

Scholarship Report. LTC Oelkers reported that all state funds for scholarships are distributed. Scholarship funding for the next biennium is not budgeted. Scholarship funding will be the number one legislative priority for the association.

Company Grade Officer Report. 1LT Crowe reported that a letter has been sent to the individual assistant AG's for Army and Air requesting their endorsement of the association to junior officers. To date, no response. LTC Oelkers/Fox will follow-up. 1LT Crowe was submitted for a position on a National NGAUS Committee. Capt Anderson attended the company grade meetings at the National NGAUS Convention in Long Beach, California.

Executive Directors Report. LTC Mehring stated he attended the NGEDA Conference in Biloxi, Mississippi 12-16 January. Concerning retirement reform, the states have been asked to put forth the resolution for the 108th Congress to give NGAUS a unified direction from the states. We will need to draft a resolution for our state conference. In addition, we should consider a resolution to make the Tricare health program insurance) available and affordable to all guardsmen. LTC Mehring is currently making the focus of the MTNGA E-Newsletter on state legislative news. The MTNGA web site has been expanded to include state issues, legislative score cards and links to identify legislators.

State Conference Report. LTC Oelkers announced the conference will be held at the Red Lion Colonial Inn, Helena, MT. We will continue to wear the military uniform at the banquet. For this years' business session spouses will be invited to attend the annual Army and Air report and to view the NGAUS national conference promotional video.

Judiciary Committee Report. No Report.

Resolution Committee. No Report

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

CMS Hagan reported the status of all legislative issues concerning the association. He also briefed the schedule of events for the legislative social event the association will be hosting at Jorgensen's Hotel that evening.

LTC Oelkers opened for discussion the current policy of the association paying the TAG membership dues of \$800.00 annually. Recent research has determined that most states budget and pay this assessment using State funds from the TAG budget. LTC Oelkers will explore the potential for using DMA funds for calendar year 2003 and beyond.

ITEM OPEN

LTC Oelkers proposed that the number of seats on the board that are up for election be advertised on the web site. Interested parties would submit a package for nomination. The nominees would then be put forth at the general conference.

LTC Fox proposed that we change Article 4 of the bylaws to reflect that the title of President and Vice President of the association be changed to Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board and the title Executive Director be changed to President of the Association. This will correspond with like changes at the National Level and will be reflective of standard corporate board titles. The will be presented to the membership at the April Conference.

NEXT MEETING. The next meeting will take place 12 March 2003 at 1400 hours at the Dearborn Inn, Dearborn MT.

ADJOURN. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1700 hours.

Loren Oelkers
LTC MT ARNG
President