

MONTANA NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 6683
GREAT FALLS, MT 59406

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HELD: 25 APRIL 2003

A meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors of the Montana National Guard Officers Association was held at 1100 hours on April 25, 2003 at the Red Lion-Colonial Hotel, Helena, Montana. The following Officers and Directors were in attendance:

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

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The meeting was called to order by LTC Oelkers. A motion to approve the minutes from March 12, 2003 was made by LTC Fox, seconded by CW5 Yuricic and unanimously passed.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

LTC Mehring reported that as of April 24, 2003, 303 out of 458 officers have paid their dues, for a 67% total. This compares to 70% at this same time last year. After the conference, LTC Mehring indicated he would send out a direct mail to all officers who have not paid, as requested by the board at the March 12 meeting. The final cut-off for dues payment is 30 June 2003. LTC Oelkers reported that he will be providing an updated address to LTC Mehring for the Army side. LTC Mehring indicated that the biggest holes in our membership appear to be in the company grade officers where we currently have less than 50% of 1LTs and less than 60% CAPTS enrolled. Another problem area is WO2's. LTC Oelkers reported that our numbers are consistent with the national membership numbers he is seeing.

REVIEW OF DIRECTOR/OFFICER VACANCIES:

LTC Mehring reported that at present, 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, and LTC Swanson. There will be open positions for an Air president and an Army vice president. LTC Mehring reported that for some reasons 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 to be considered at this years conference will result in the same numbers of directors but will be much easier to figure out. LTC Mehring reported that in order to get the director terms staggered properly as they are supposed to be, the following directors terms could be adopted:

<u>Army Air Name</u>	<u>End term</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Jackson	termed out	
Dixon	04	
Swanson	03	
Higgins	05	04
Anderson	04	
Ingram	05	
Yuricic	03	04
Crowe	05	
Nugent	05	
Vacant	03	
Ahler	05	

Using this schedule of modified director terms, if adopted, would mean that on the Army side there would be a vacancy for an at large officer and one vacancy on the Air side for an at large officer. It was moved, seconded and unanimously passed to recommend to the membership that director terms be revised as indicated, to increase CW5 Yuricics director term to expire in 04 and to decrease BG (Ret) Higgins term to 04.

COMMITTEE / OFFICER REPORTS:

Financial Report

LTC Ireland gave the report. The Association had an ending balance of \$17,795.00 for 2003. As of April 1, 2003 the balance in the checkbook is \$25,096.53. CW5 Yuricic reported that he has completed an audit of the Associations books and they are in excellent condition. A motion to approve the financial report was made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Insurance Report

CW5 Yuricic reported that he had met with Doug Remick and the Association will be receiving a check for \$1,877.41 from the insurance program at the General Conference this year.

Corporate Report

LTC Swanson reported that all flyers have been sent out to companies known to have an interest in being corporate sponsors. LTC Oelkers then worked with the board to make arrangements to ensure that all of the corporate sponsors attending the conference banquet would be accompanied by a board member. We had 14 corporate sponsors last year. Of this number, ten have renewed thus far. LTC Swanson reported that the impact of our corporate sponsorship program could be huge. The added money to the Association could be used to benefit our members in many ways from increased lobbying efforts to encouraging more participation at the state conference. A general discussion was held on different methods that could be employed to

accomplish increased participation at the conference.

Company Grade Report

1LT Crowe reported that membership of company grade officers continues to be a problem for the Association which requires our attention. Some of the comments to him from junior officers concerning their non-attendance at the conference included day care and uniform costs. More communication is needed in this area to help our members realized the long term benefits of belonging and participating in the Association. LTC Mehring pointed out that the dress uniforms can be put on a members military star card at no interest. This is an investment that, if made early on in ones career, is good for many years.

Scholarship Report

LTC Oelkers reported that scholarship program is still funded at \$350,000.00 at this point in the legislative session due to end tomorrow. Hopefully the program will survive the last minute cuts still proposed in the budget. LTC Oelkers reported that he believes a huge part of the Associations success in our legislative efforts has been, and is, the legislative banquet that we sponsor prior to each legislative session. LTC Oelkers reported that the 2 - \$500.00 scholarships that we did not get out last year due to budget concerns, will be awarded this year. This is usually done by the time of the conference, but has been delayed. The plan is to open the process by mid-May and close by July. The scholarships will be awarded to family members of members in good standing in the Association. It will consist of a minimum four page essay on a topic to be announced.

OLD BUSINESS

2003 State Conference Report

LTC Oelkers reported that everything is on track and he is anticipating a good turn out for the conference. This Friday evening a casual gathering is planned with the preliminary events following the same format as previous conferences. 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 also be a guided tour of the capital building. A portion of the banquet 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. Lieutenant Governor Karl Ohs will be the banquet speaker.

By-laws revisions

As reported at the March 12, 2003 meeting, several amendments have been proposed to the by-laws. LTC Boettger reviewed the proposed changes to the Board. 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 (SOIs) to clarify duties of the treasurer, secretary and executive director as well as any pay those positions are to receive. SOIs would be maintained 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 cleaned up to make them consistent with the proposed amendments.

These proposed changes have been included in all of the members packets attending the conference this year where they will be presented for a formal vote of the membership.

There was no new business.

NEXT MEETING

A meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 24, 2003 at 1300 hours at the Ostermans between Helena and Great Falls.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Loren Oelkers
LTC MT ARNG
President