

MONTANA NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION

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

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HELD: 27 February 2004

A meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors of the Montana National Guard Officer Association was held at 1500 hours on 27 February 2004 at Chico Hot Springs, Pray, MT. The following Officers and Directors were in attendance:

LTC Bryan Fox, Chairman of the Board
LTC Steve Mehring, President
LTC John Swanson, Vice Chairman
MAJ Tim Lincoln, Director
MAJ Wes Robinson, Director
CAPT Tracy Anderson, Director
CW5 Joseph Yuricic, Director
LTC Monte Boettger, Secretary

The following guest was in attendance:

MAJ Mike Bricker – state conference chairman

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Chairman Bryan Fox called the meeting to order. The minutes from 1 December 03 meeting were reviewed. CW5 Yuricic made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE/OFFICER REPORTS

Financial Report. CW5 Yuricic has audited the Association's books and everything looks good for 2003. Jeff Ireland continues to do an excellent job. We show an ending balance of \$253.00 for cash flow in 2003. A draft budget was presented. Using a 3-year-average to project income, \$4,583.00 is our projected income for 2004. This budget will give us approximately \$8,000.00 to use to help offset expenses for such things as the state conference. LTC Fox moved to adopt the proposed budget. The motion was seconded by Major Lincoln and passed unanimously.

Membership Report. LTC Merhing reported that as of 24 February we are at 39% of our membership paid up so far for 2004. On the Air-side we have 74 out of 109 paid for 68% and on the Army-side 102 out of 353 for 30%. Current corporate membership is at 27 and total revenues thus far are \$6,350.00. This represents a drop from last year of 30 members and \$8,150.00 in revenues. We lost two of our platinum members and have not been able to contact them yet to find out why. The retired Association memberships project that was started by Loren Oelkers and continued by

Chairman Fox has increased to 49 individuals. For a \$25.00 one-time fee, they will receive the E-Newsletter, a certificate and a letter.

Insurance Report. CW5 Yuricic reported that we should receive about \$2,100.00 from the insurance program this year. About 70% of the insurance fund is from enlisted persons even though the Officer Association gets 50% of the rebate. Due to reasons that we have discussed many times before, income from the insurance program is not likely to increase.

Insurance/Corporate Committee Report. LTC Swanson reported that he will be following up on contacts in the corporation program. COL Fox proposed that if a member brings in a new corporate member into the Association then that member could earn some incentives. Such an incentive program could include:

<u>Corporate Membership amount</u>	<u>Incentive</u>
\$100	Free registration at state conference and recognize member at banquet
\$250	1 banquet ticket at state conference
\$500	2 banquet tickets at state conference
\$1000	2 night's rooms and 2 banquet tickets at state conference
\$5000	Attend national conference free

The incentive would not extend into succeeding years and one could not give away his/her earned incentive to another person. However, if the person obtained an additional membership then the person would earn a double benefit. A motion was made to approve this plan and received a second. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report. LTC Mehring reported that he is still working on SOI's (standard operating instructions) as well as checklists. This is a work in progress and he will continue to report back on his progress. A full President's report will be made at the business session.

2004 State Conference Report. MAJ Bricker reported on the state conference beginning today. Currently the conference is \$146.00 in the hole however, various sources of revenue are not figured in to this, such as revenue from the silent auction. There are 99 people signed up for the Friday social; 54 for the general conference; 27 for the luncheon at the general conference; 94 for the banquet. This is a pretty good turn out in light of the many deployments. Chico is a nice place to have the conference, but it is expensive. This will have to be evaluated after the conference is over.

Representative Rehberg's aid will meet with us on Saturday after the business session is over. Some of the issues we will discuss with him are BRAC, Tri Care and retirement reform.

Discussion was held concerning an idea to extend next year's conference by one day to have more time available for family activities. Many states do this, and some even make it part of a regular drill.

Four Board seats are now open and will be filled during the business session. On the Army-side CW5 Yuricic (Warrant position) and Capt. Anderson's (Company Grade) positions are open. On the Air-side Major Dixon (at large) and BG Higgins' (retired rep) positions are open.

Company Grade Report. CAPT Anderson provided the Board a company grade "best practices" manual that sets forth various ways to energize company grade officers involved in state associations. CAPT Anderson obtained this manual at the National Convention that she attended in Biloxi. It was recommended that the Board appoint a temporary replacement for Capt Strom while he is deployed. She further recommended having a company grade caucus the night before the business session.

Resolutions Committee. LTC Swanson reported that there has been several state resolutions proposed for consideration by the membership. They include:

1. Proposal that the National Defense Medal be awarded to all Guard and Reserve serving in an active reserve status since 911 to recognize their readiness, training tempo and standby status.
2. Proposal to provide same retirement point recognition and awards for on-line courses as are awarded for correspondence courses.
3. Proposal to amend Title 32 to make retired medical benefits of Title 32 AGR active duty soldiers and airmen the same as Title 10 active duty soldiers/airmen.
4. Reduce the cost of buying military time in state PERS retirement plan.
5. Kit for making the Kevlar helmet more comfortable.

The consensus of the Board was to bring these proposals, and any others, to the attention of the Resolutions Committee for consideration and then to the membership at the regular business session.

NEW BUSINESS.

2005 State Conference. We are tentatively planning to have the 2005 state conference at Big Sky from April 7-10. The Air-side will be in charge for 2005. This is planned for one day longer to accommodate more free time for family activities. We can obtain rooms for \$99.00 per night that also includes a breakfast buffet. LTC Fox proposed doing away with the registration fee. After discussion it was decided to study the financial feasibility of doing this. MAJ Lincoln volunteered to study the issue and report back. LTC Swanson felt it was important that we do our best to attempt to offset some costs for our members to show the membership that their efforts are paying off.

Energizing the Membership. LTC Swanson has a proposal to activate and energize the membership to help with legislative priorities. He will discuss this initiative at the business session.

2004 Legislative Priorities. The proposed 2004 legislative priorities for the Association were discussed.

1. Continued funding of the state scholarship program (\$350,000.00).
2. Death/disabled benefits while on state active duty equal to that of federal service.

3. Tax exempt pay for state active duty.
4. Tax incentives for MTNG employers while members are deployed.
5. USERRA to protect MTNG members while on state active duty.
6. 100% tuition waiver for MTNG members attending higher education institutions.
7. Conservation license at no charge for one year upon a member's return from official deployment.
8. One free set of license plates to each active MTNG member.
9. Modify Title 10 of the MCA to qualify members for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act for state active duty of 15 days verses current 30 days currently required.

The consensus of the Board was that the substance of the priorities was good. The consensus was also that items 5 and 9 were more important than items 7-8. This list will be presented to the membership for approval.

NEXT MEETING. The next meeting will take place 13 April 2004 at 1300 hours at the Dearborn Inn, Dearborn MT.

ADJOURN. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1630 hours.

Bryan Fox
LTC MT ANG
Chairman of the Board