

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

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HELD: 3 September 2002

A meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors of the Montana National Guard Association was held at 1500 hours on 3 September 2002 at the Dearborn Inn. The following Officers and Directors 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
MAJ Roy Ingram, Director
CPT Tracy Anderson, Director
CW5 Joe Yurcic, Director
LTC Steve Martinka, Legislative Committee Member

The following guests were in attendance:

CMS Roger Hagan

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF MINUTES. President Oelkers called the meeting to order.

COMMITTEE/OFFICER REPORTS

Financial Report. LTC Mehring gave the financial report. He reported that the Association currently has \$16,970.36.00 in the checking account. Currently we are in the black compared to this time last year due to corporate membership income. End of year balance is projected to be a positive \$2,400.00. A check for \$1,321.33 was received from the insurance program as a windfall. We should be able to meet our budget and carry a small surplus into next year. The Association will look at using the excess funds for augmenting Lieutenants to the state and national conference.

Motion to approve. Fox/Swanson. Unan.

Membership Report. LTC Oelkers briefed that as of 30 June the National Associations paid membership was sitting at 70%. For 2002 Montana ended at 73%, this compares to 82% in 2001, 79% in 2000 and 87% in 1999. The goal for FY03 will be plus 80% present. The dues rebate will be paid on any dues submitted prior to 28 February 2003. This year the Montana members will receive a membership letter with a bill a receipt and a membership card.

Insurance Report. LTC Oelkers stated that the association received a check for \$1,321.33. LTC Remick says he needs help in getting new members. In addition, he is looking for someone to take his place.

Insurance/Corporate Committee Report. LTC Jackson reported that we had a good first year, and will reenergize committee. The committee will consider hosting a corporate sponsor dinner at the Dearborn Inn. Motion was made to recommend LTC John Swanson as chairman of the corporate membership committee. This committee will look at a artist print to be sold by the association that has national appeal.

Motion to approve. Fox/Swanson. Unan.

Scholarship Report. CPT Anderson stated \$122,000.00 has been paid out in scholarships to date.

Company Grade Officer Report. No Report

Executive Directors Report. LTC Mehring stated he has received several positive responses to the e-mail newsletter. E-mail will be forthcoming with an update on current issues. The corporate membership program is catching on, but needs to be updated. He recommended more recognition at the state conference and that officers be assigned seating with the corporate sponsors. Web software indicted the association 2-4 hits per week with an average time of 6 minutes. Other states are using our page as a model.

State Conference Report. On behalf of LTC Oehmke, Maj Fox provided a balance sheet on the State Conference and a check for \$\$ paid to the association.

Judiciary Committee Report. No Report.

Resolution Committee. No Report

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

CMS Hagan and LTC Oelkers stated that DMA is asking the association what issues it is supporting for the next state legislature. They stated that the Challenge Program and the scholarship would be the number 1 and 2 priority for DMA. We then reviewed the DMA items put forth, and made the following motions.

1. To allow National Guard members – same federal benefits in a state active duty status.

Motion to approve. Swanson/Yurcic. No, however recommend interim study.

2. Reimbursement to National Guard in lieu of military paying allowances.

Motion to approve. Fox/Jackson. No

3. Hiring preference for National Guard Members

Motion to approve. Fox/Swanson. Yes

4. Deleted

5. Provide Soldiers and Sailors Act Benefits to Title 32 Guard Members.

Motion to approve. Fox/Jackson. Yes

6. “Housekeeping” bill that will amend Section 10-1-104.

Motion to approve. Jackson/Swanson. Yes

7. 100% tuition waiver and protection.

Motion to approve. Swanson/Ingram. Yes

8. Tax incentives to employer with members in the National Guard

Motion to approve. Jackson/Yurcic. Yes

9. State tax exempt title 32 and title 10 pay in state active duty status.

Motion to approve. Jackson/Anderson. Yes

10. Authorized conservation license at no charge for National Guard members

Motion to approve. Fox/Ingram. No

11-12 Deleted

13. No Action

14. Provide Free License to National Guard Members.

Motion to approve. Yurcic/Jackson. Yes

It was agreed CMS Roger Hagan will be paid \$1,500.00 to represent the Montana National Guard Officers Association in the 2003 State Legislature.

NEXT MEETING. The next meeting will take place 6 December 2002 at 1500 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