

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

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HELD: 24 JANUARY 2002

A meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors of the Montana National Guard Officer Association was held at 1500 hours on January 24, 2002 at the Dearborn Inn, Montana. The following Officers and Directors were in attendance:

MAJ Bryan Fox, Vice President
LTC Steve Mehring, Executive Director
LTC Jonathan Jackson, Director
LTC Jim Oehmcke, Director
LTC John Swanson, Director
2LT Timothy Crowe, Director
MAJ Monte Boettger, Secretary

The following committee members/guests were in attendance:

COL Rex Tanberg, Resolutions Committee
CPT Orlan Strom, Resolutions Committee, ARNG Company Grade Representative
WO1 Elizabeth Cook, Judiciary Committee
LTC Jim Taflan, Insurance/Corporate Committee

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF MINUTES. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Fox. A motion to approve the minutes from of December 13, 2001 was made by LTC Oehmcke, seconded by LTC Jackson and unanimously passed.

COMMITTEE / OFFICER REPORTS:

Financial Report. The financial report was presented by LTC Mehring. The balance on hand in the Association checking account is \$18,000.00. This is high because of the intake of national dues which as yet to be turned over to the National Association.

The 2001 budget was essentially a wash. There is a projected \$1000.00 shortfall for the 2002 budget year, which takes into account the new dues structure and an assumption that we will have 75% of all members pay their dues. This does not include any potential insurance experience refunds as predicting those revenues is speculative at this time. However, LTC (RET) Doug Remick has indicated that the Association should receive a minimum of \$1,000.00 this year. This amount is included in the budget.

The 2002 budget projected expenses is \$11,000.00 and total projected revenues is approximately \$10,000.00, leaving a \$1,000.00 or more potential deficit. This deficit will have to be made up by increasing the persons paying dues beyond 75%, obtaining corporate sponsors and/or increasing the attendance at the annual meeting.

Membership Report. LTC Mehring reported that as of this date, 39% of the Association's members have paid their dues. Out of 102 Air Guard officers 69 have paid so far. Out of 355 Army Guard officers, 106 have paid so far. A minimum of 70% dues (Army and Air together) must be paid up by February 28, 2002 in order to qualify for a dues rebate.

Insurance Report. LTC Mehring reported that the Association should expect less than \$1800.00 this year. We can not count on receiving any experience refunds this year.

Executive Director's Report. LTC Mehring reported that he will be filing the lobby report as required by state law, although there is nothing of substance to be reported at this time. The Montana annual corporate report is also due and MAJ Fox will sign this so it can be filed.

There are numerous updates and changes to the Association's WEB site ranging from benefits, state and national conference updates, dues and membership information.

LTC Mehring will be attending the National Guard Executive Directors Association (NGEDA) Conference from January 26-30, 2002.

The Board also needs to decide how many rooms to reserve for the national NGAUS conference. Over-booking ties up the Association's money needlessly. Usually we reserve 20 rooms, but rarely do we end up needing that many. MAJ Fox suggested reserving 15 rooms for this year's conference.

Corporate Report. LTC Swanson gave the report. He passed out a sample brochure to be used to solicit corporate sponsors for the Association. A cover letter personally signed by President Oelkers will accompany the brochure to each prospective corporate sponsor. LTC Mehring provided a list of potential corporate sponsors. Other Board members also provided input. There was discussion on the brochure and letter and input was provided concerning changes to each. LTC Swanson will revise the letter and brochure with this input and prepare to send. The brochures and letters will be ready for mailing by February 1, 2002. An extra 100 brochures will be printed for distribution at the State Conference.

Company Grade Report. CAPT Strom reported that a letter is ready to be sent to new officers focusing on providing information of what the Association does for them and asking them for their participation and input. LTC Mehring emphasized the importance of getting these new officers active in the Association.

Scholarship Committee. CW2 Brad Nelson reported that he and John Nugent are researching eligibility criteria for the Association scholarship. When this is done an application for the scholarship will be prepared. This should be complete by next week.

So far for this biennium, \$95,000.00 has been spent on the National Guard State Scholarship Program out of a total \$250,000.00 appropriation. There have been very few Air Guard Applications; however, this may be because those applications have not yet been forwarded from the 120th Fighter Wing. It is projected that at the present rate, the \$250,000.00 appropriation will be spent before the next legislature meets in 2003.

Resolutions Committee. COL Tanberg reported that so far he has not received any input for potential resolutions to be brought to the membership for action at the state conference. LTC Mehring passed out the 2003 legislative priorities. LTC Mehring has been receiving some input from various companies asking for the Association's support. He will forward these to COL Tanberg.

State Conference Committee. LTC Oehmcke reported that planning for the 2002 State Conference is proceeding on track. The conference will be held in Great Falls on 19-22 April at the Holiday Inn. Rooms have been reserved for \$55.00 per night. The registration fee will be \$20.00 to \$30.00 depending on grade. The banquet cost will be \$25.00. Child care will be available. A Friday night social will be held at the Heritage Inn in conjunction with the Enlisted Association. General Tex Brown is scheduled to be the speaker at the banquet. As of this date 66 vendors have been invited to attend.

LTC Oehmcke stated that we are soliciting nominations for the MTNGA Distinguished Service Award which was started last year to recognize outstanding contributions to the Association by individual members.

MAJ Fox reported that at the last year's conference the Association gave a free registration to the first 2LT and W01 to send in their registration for the Conference. This year it is proposed that all first time conference attendee W01's and 2LT's will not have to pay the registration fee.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business was reported.

NEW BUSINESS:

2003 Legislative Plan. MAJ Fox lead the discussion on what state legislative proposals should be sponsored or supported by the Association. Some of the proposals include:

1. Pay equity issues;
2. Allowances for guardsmen on state active duty who are injured in the line of duty;
3. Fee waiver for license plates and/or fishing/hunting licenses;
4. Arrest authority;
5. Authority to arrest guardsmen who are AWOL.
6. Consequences to guardsmen failing to fulfill their contractual obligations to the National Guard.

CAPT Strom provided a letter from the Company Grade officers proposing, among other items, that those who try to get out of the Guard under less than honorable circumstances or without satisfactorily completing their obligation be held accountable in some fashion such as ineligibility to receive loans, grants or other financial assistance from the state. LTC Mehring reported that other states have adopted various policies on this issue which should be looked into more fully and a report made at the State Conference. MAJ Fox volunteered to look into this matter from the Air side to see what types of recoupment programs or mechanisms are in place to deal with these issues. WO1 Cook volunteered to do the same on the Army side. LTC Swanson recommended that the issue of priorities should be addressed by the Association as a whole. After discussion the Board agreed that the following items would be proposed as priorities for the Association:

1. Workers Compensation while on State Active duty;
2. Scholarship Program increase - full tuition;
3. Veterans hiring preference;
4. Consequences for guardsmen leaving the Guard with anything except an honorable discharge being ineligible to received state financial assistance, loans or grants employment with the State of Montana.

The Board agreed that the Scholarship Program and the Workers Compensation issue were the most important of the priorities. It was decided that license plate and fishing license fee waivers for guardsmen should be tabled for now.

Location/Date of 2003 State Conference . Discussion was then held on whether the annual State Conference for 2003 should be held in Helena in February in conjunction with the convening of the legislature. After discussion, the consensus was to leave the meeting date in April but to put more thought into meeting with the legislature in a more productive setting prior to the legislative session's commencement.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be March 7, 2002 at 1500 hours at the Dearborn Inn to finalize preparations for the State Conference. A meeting will also be held on April 19, 2002 at the Heritage Inn, Great Falls, Montana immediately prior to the social hour commencing the State Conference.

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

--Signed--

Bryan Fox
MAJ MT ANG
Vice-President