

MONTANA NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 6683
GREAT FALLS, MT 59406

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HELD: 07 MARCH 2002

A meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors of the Montana National Guard Officers Association was held at 1500 hours on March 7, 2002 by way of telephone conference call. 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 Jim Oehmcke, Director
LTC John Swanson, Director
CAPT Tracy Anderson, Director
2LT Timothy Crowe, Director
CW5 Joe Yuricic, Director
MAJ Monte Boettger, Secretary

The following committee members were in attendance:

LTC (RET) Doug Remick, Insurance Manager
MAJ Roy Ingram, Insurance/Corporate Committee
MAJ Tim Lincoln, Publications/Resolutions Committee

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The meeting was called to order by LTC Oelkers. A motion to approve the minutes from January 24, 2002, with two corrections, was made by LTC Oehmcke, seconded by 2LT Crowe and unanimously passed.

COMMITTEE / OFFICER REPORTS:

Financial Report. LTC Mehring gave the report. Currently the Association has \$22,400.00 in its checking account. We did not meet the 70% mark necessary in order to receive the dues rebate. Accordingly, LTC Mehring will hold on to the money as long as possible in order to earn maximum interest.

The corporate sponsorship program has incurred the following expenses: Printing costs - \$629.82; Postage costs - \$51.00. A couple more sponsors will put this program in the black.

A motion was made to approve the financial report by MAJ Fox and seconded by CW5Yuricic, and was unanimously approved

Membership Report. LTC Mehring reported that as of March 6, 2002, 259 members have paid their dues which represents 57% of the eligible members. We were about 60 members short of qualifying for the dues rebate. The least participation by grade is from the grades of Captains, 1LT's, W1's and W2's which essentially represents the company grade officers. Paid up dues from the Air side is 84% and from the Army side is 50%. Last year we topped out at 82%. LTC Mehring emphasized that if we don't get at least 80% paid up memberships the Association will experience difficulty meeting the projected expenses outlined in the budget.

Insurance Report. LTC(RET) Doug Remick gave the report. LTC Remick has a written report concerning the insurance program. MAJ Fox requested that LTC Remick provide a copy of the report to the members at the State Conference as well as provide a briefing at that time. LTC(RET) Remick reported that he will be presenting a check for \$1660.00 to both the enlisted and officer Associations at the State Conference. This check is an administrative refund. There have been \$122,500.00 in losses in Montana this year therefore, an experience refund is speculative at this point. MAJ Fox noted that the Association's budget for this year does not include a revenue item for projected insurance experience refunds.

Corporate Report. LTC Oehmcke reported that LTC Swanson mailed out 150 letters to prospective corporate sponsors. The next step is to follow up with telephone calls to each prospective sponsor. LTC Swanson and LTC Jackson will work together to delegate this responsibility out to the various corporate committee members. Russell Country Credit Union has signed up for \$250.00 sponsorship. Another sponsor has sent a \$50.00, which is less than the minimum requested level of contribution. For those who have contributed less than the minimum level, LTC Mehring will reply with a letter thanking them and we will still recognize them as supporting sponsors but not in the same area of the WEB site as the bronze or gold sponsors. We will need to prepare plaques or certificates, as appropriate depending on level of support, to present to each sponsor. The plaque will have room for additional recognition if the sponsor pledges for successive years. Discussion was held as to how best to recognize successive years of support by sponsors.

LTC Mehring reported that he will build a data base to track current corporate sponsors as well as names for potential additional sponsors, so that the corporate committee can keep track of their progress. When the data base is started, LTC Mehring will provide this to the committee for review.

Company Grade Report. 2LT Crowe reported that he and 1LT Nelson are putting together email addresses for company grade officers in order to be able to better contact them as well as provide information concerning the benefits of membership.

Scholarship Committee. LTC Mehring reported that information concerning the Association scholarship was mailed to the membership and has been posted on the Association WEB site. MAJ Lincoln will also see that this information is placed in the Big Sky Flyer.

State Conference Report. LTC Oehmcke gave the report. LTC Oehmcke reported that everything is on track and he is anticipating a good turn out for the conference. MAJ Ingram is in charge of coordinating with vendors and helping them get set up. Seven Vendors have confirmed their attendance thus far. Pre-registration forms are starting to come in: 16 Air registrations have been received to date however, no Army registrations have been received yet. The registration form and agenda is posted on the Association WEB page. Registration forms have also been mailed to 400 members. This year the Officer's State Conference is being held at the same time as the Enlisted Association's Conference. The Enlisted Association's conference will be at the Holiday Inn and the

Officer Association's Conference will be at the Heritage Inn. A joint social function will be held on Friday night, April 19, at the Holiday Inn. General Tex Brown is still scheduled to be the speaker for both Associations. He is scheduled to speak at the Enlisted Association's luncheon and will be the guest speaker for the Officer Association banquet on April 20. Nominations are still needed for the MTGNA Distinguished Service Award. Nominations should be forward to MAJ Fox as soon as possible.

OLD BUSINESS:

2003 Legislative Plan.

LTC Oelkers stated that he will working with BG Mosley and others to develop an action plan for the 2003 legislature. LTC Oelkers will keep everyone informed.

CW5 Yuricic reported that we may have internal problems on the legislative front this year that we will have to be cognizant of as we move ahead. The federal government is considering cutting back on the Challenge Program nation wide. This could impact the state scholarship program as the TAG's number one priority in the past has been the Challenge Program. MAJ Fox stated that we need to demonstrate how the scholarship program has improved enlistment and retention vs. the benefits of the Challenge Program.

NEW BUSINESS:

2006 NGAUS Conference. LTC Mehring reported that NGAUS is looking for a host city in 2006 and 2007. We would need to have \$300,000 minimum in order to apply to be the host city.

NEXT MEETING: A meeting will also be held on Friday, April 19, 2002 at 1300 hours at the Heritage Inn, Great Falls, Montana in the Doug Remick hospitality room.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1600 hours.

Loren Oelkers
LTC MT ARNG
President