

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

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HELD: 17 October 2001

A meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors of the Montana National Guard Officer Association was held at 1500 hours on 17 October 2001 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 Jim Oehmcke, Director
MAJ Buel Dickson, Director
CPT Tracy Anderson, Director

The following committee members/guests were in attendance:

CPT Orlan Strom
CW2 Brad Nelson

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF MINUTES. The meeting was called to order by President Oelkers. The minutes were approved and a motion to approve

Motion to approve. Fox/ Oehmcke. Unan.

COMMITTEE/OFFICER REPORT

Financial Report. LTC Oelkers gave the financial report. He reported that the Association currently has \$8,034.00 in the checking account. The increase in income was a windfall from the insurance trust. He stated the new SGLI program for spouses could possibly have a negative effect on the Association's insurance program thus reduce potential future income. Initial budget projections projected a \$1,500 loss for this year, however, with the recent insurance windfall this year's budget should remain in the black. A bill (known as the AG bill) for \$868.00 has been assessed. This is a \$.25 assessment for every Soldier and Airmen. The executive director stated the TAG assessment was required by the NGAUS by laws in order to afford the TAG and hence the membership the authority to vote on NGAUS matters. It was agreed that the membership will pay this fee in June of 2002. A motion was made to approve stipend checks for the authorized positions.

Motion to approve. Oehmcke /Jackson. Unan.

Membership Report. LTC Mehring presented a sample of the 2002 dues invoice. In addition to reflecting the new dues structure, as approved, at last year's state convention, the invoice will also contain a survey and request for updated personal data. The invoices are to be distributed by the first of December and collected by 31 December 2001. The Association web page has been updated to reflect the new dues structure and updated bylaws from the April state conference. LTC Mehring has renewed the Association web site hosting for the year for \$534.00.

Insurance Report. LTC Oelkers stated that LTC Remick was to get information posters out showing that the Montana National Guard Life Insurance program is competitive with the new SGLI policy for spouses.

Insurance/Corporate Committee Report. LTC Jackson reported that he was approached and met with Enlisted Association members Steve Lance and Dorri Hagan. The Enlisted Association would like to combine the corporate fund raising programs. It was decided at this time not to enter into a joint corporate fund raising venture. The corporate committee presented a solid fundraising program. A consensus was that the time is ideal to solicit as a result of the September 11 events. This program will be scrubbed and e-mailed to the directors for final review. A goal was established to implement this program by 1 January 2002. The committee was praised for their good work on this new endeavor.

Scholarship Report. CW2 Brad Nelson gave the report. He projected the \$250,000.00 the State Legislature has approved for National Guard member scholarships over the next bi-annum will be expended entirely. In January 2002 his committee will select the essay topic and provide the Association scholarship applications.

Company Grade Officer Report. CPT Strom reported that a letter has been drafted and sent to all company grade officers on what the NG and MTNG Officer Association does for its membership. CW5 Joe Yuricic is accomplishing similar actions for the warrant officers. A second letter is in draft requesting feed back as to what issues should be worked by the association and soliciting data for a company grade data base. A company grade member will speak to each OCS class focusing on education about the association. In addition, they are exploring a junior officer membership award. A request was made to the association to pay for the necessary postage.

Motion to approve. Jackson /Dickson. Unan.

Executive Directors Report. LTC Mehring spoke about the national conference held in Indianapolis IN. Although small in numbers, he stated that the Montana representatives were highly engaged in the resolutions process. COL Tanberg and LT Gillman had a particular "strong voice" during this session. They were able to add a resolution calling for the donation of sick leave for both Army and Air members. This resolution was adopted. Next they were successful in modifying the targeting pod resolution to state "funding in the Air National Guard in the next two years versus seven years". Likewise, this was approved and made a priority on Capital Hill. LT Gillman will present a verbal trip report at the state conference. The MTNGA had one entry in the Minds Writing Program. CPT Ricky Anderson presented a paper on the counter drug program. The next national conference will be held at Long Beach California in August 2002.

State Conference Report. LTC Oehmcke briefed that the conference for 19-21 April 2002 at the Great Falls Heritage Inn is on track. The MTNG Enlisted Association will coincide their convention at the Holiday Inn Great Falls this same time. Presently it planned to have a Monte Carlo Night on Friday evening. The spouse's luncheon will be held at the Collins Mansion. A guest speaker still needs to be retained for the banquet and business session.

Judiciary Committee Report. No Report.

Resolution Committee. No Report

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None

NEXT MEETING. The next meeting will take place 13 December 2001 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