

MAY 2022



A Message from the President

By Jason Diaz

As I reach the end of my term as President of the Association, I look forward to the things that are to come. We are gaining momentum in all of the right areas. We have the full support of our Senior Leaders and have experienced great growth in our industry partners. I urge each and every member to talk about the vital role NGAWV and NGAUS play in the benefits we each receive as service men and women. Educate yourself on the fight we faced over the National Guard Empowerment Act and understand that without the efforts of NGAUS, we would not have a seat on the Joint Staff. That accomplishment has led to great strength in our advocacy and brought the needs of the National Guard to the same level as each of the services.

To our committee members, thank you all for your hard work and dedication to the Association. I know you will continue to do great things for our members.

See you all in August for the National Conference in Columbus.

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NGAWV Executive Committee

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2022 State Conference Recap

The 2022 NGAWV/EANGWV State Conference wrapped on April 30, 2022, in Charleston. This year marked the first time the conference was held in person since the start of the pandemic. We saw a significant increase in participation with more than 100 attendees in person and joining virtually.

The event kicked off with at TAG/SEL Industry Partner Reception, which welcomed our Gold Corporate Associate sponsors, Azimuth Inc.; Drip Drop; Viasat; American Military University; Lockheed Martin; and IRS. In addition, representatives from Sen. Shelley Moore Capito and Congressman Alex Mooney's office were in attendance. We look forward to increasing our Gold and Silver Corporate Associate sponsors next year.

The business meeting for both associations was held on Saturday following the Prayer Breakfast which was led by Ch. Mike Allen. MG Bill Crane, The Adjutant General, and CSM Dusty Jones, the Senior Enlisted Leader, shared their thoughts on the way forward for both associations and touted the benefits of memberships for our Guardsmen.

During the breakout session for the NGAWV, elections were held and members were recognized for their contributions to the West Virginia National Guard. Col. Wally Hatfield was named the NGAWV Officer of the Year for the Army and Capt. Brad Dorsey of the 130th Airlift Wing was named NGAWV Officer of the Year for the Air. Maj Holli Nelson was awarded the Scarboro-Sencindiver Award for outstanding contributions to the NGAWV.

Newly elected members include Holli Nelson, President; Sammi Brown, Vice President; Paige Hunter, Secretary; Brad Dorsey, Treasurer; Retired Army, Scott Bossie; Retired Air, Rick Hunter; Army CGO, Samantha Fabian; Member Air; Vic Dumrongkeitiman; Member Army, Keith Hammack.

Next year's State Conference dates have already been set for April 28th & 29th 2023. The 77th Brigade is the lead unit for planning. A location will be announced soon.

Legislative Update

During the State Conference, two state legislative issues were brought forth for consideration by NGAWV members.

1. Adding language to earn military service credit for State of West Virginia retirement as a public employee for time spent on State Active Duty.
2. Looking into means to provide a tax credit/benefit for military income to make it non-taxable or provide an incentive for up to a certain amount of military income to be non-taxable.

If you have additional input on legislative action we can advocate for, please reach out to Holli at holli.snyder19@gmail.com

Save the Date: 2022 NGAUS Conference in Columbus



NGAWV is looking forward to the 2022 NGAUS Conference in Columbus, Ohio. We are expecting a great turnout and would like to have you there for fellowship, advocacy and professional development.

Primary social events include the Governor's Reception, Hospitality Night and the States Dinner. Other events include golf tournaments, a Fun Run, mixers and luncheons. Conference registration is \$180.

The theme for the Conference will be The National Guard: At the Heart of It All. The NGAUS board has decided on the Operational Camouflage Pattern uniform for business sessions and other meetings and approved the Ohio National Guard Association's recommendation of sports jerseys — high school, college, pro or Olympic — for the States Dinner.

<https://www.ngaus.org/events/144th-general-conference-exhibition>

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NGAUS: Army Unveils Guard Maternity Leave Program

Army National Guard and Army Reserve drill-status "birthparents" will receive excused absences with pay and retirement points for 12 unit training assemblies within 12 months of a birth, according to new policy announced last week.

The program is designed to provide comparable leave across the components of the Army, officials said.

Twelve UTAs would cover three standard weekend drills monthly. Women in the active components have had three months of maternity leave after pregnancy and childbirth since 2016.

In addition to the 12 paid UTAs, birthparents will be allowed an additional four unpaid UTA absences.

The program is part of the Army's Parenthood, Pregnancy and Postpartum directive signed by Army Secretary Christine Wormuth.

Army officials say much of the directive began as a grassroots effort by soldiers. It includes expanded postpartum operational and training deferments, extended exemptions for physical fitness testing and the Army Body Composition Program, standardized convalescent leave in cases of pregnancy loss and greater family care plan flexibility.

The changes affect more than 400,000 parents across the Army, including 29,000 single-father soldiers, who outnumber single-mother soldiers by a 3-to-1 ratio.

Under this directive, all of the components — which previously existed in more than 20 Army regulations — are consolidated in one document to provide a resource for leaders to assist military families.

The Guard and Reserve maternity leave program brings the Army into compliance with the law.

The fiscal 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, signed in January 2021, included a provision to provide excused absences with pay to drill-status Guard and Reserve women for up to three months of unit training assemblies after pregnancy and childbirth.

NGAUS championed the legislation on Capitol Hill during its formulation. The Army is the first service to implement the law.

Following the Army's announcement, a Defense Department spokeswoman told Military.com the DoD policy on the matter is "in its final stages of completion and is expected to be published soon." "It will apply to all reserve components across DoD when published," Pentagon spokesperson Lisa Lawrence said.

Lawrence attributed the delay to the law providing a maternity leave benefit but not the necessary leave authority. The Pentagon had to determine whether it had sufficient authority to implement the program without additional legislation, she said.

She added the benefit will not be retroactive to include drilling Guardsmen and Reservists who have had babies since January 2021 and have missed weekend drills.



Upcoming Events

MAY 2022

JUNE 2022

17-20

REGION II BWC
Camp Dawson

18

GENE VANCE JR DAY
Morgantown, WV

22-24

INTERIM SESSION
WV Legislature | Morgantown

14

ARMY BIRTHDAY

20

WEST VIRGINIA DAY
State Holiday

25-2

**YOUTH LEADERS/
KIDS CAMP**



NGAWV/EANGWV
STATE CONFERENCE

**APRIL
28 & 29
2023**

LOCATION TBD
www.ngawv.org

SAVE THE DATE

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NGAWV

National Guard Association of West Virginia

About NGAWV

The National Guard Association of West Virginia (NGAWV) was founded in 1959 as the professional organization of the West Virginia National Guard and its members. NGAWV was created to provide a strong, unified voice in which the needs of Guard members could be realized and supported.

Mission

The mission of the National Guard Association of West Virginia is to promote the homeland of America by ensuring the West Virginia Army and Air National Guard have the necessary personnel, equipment, and infrastructure to carry out assigned missions.

Membership

Membership in NGAWV and NGAUS provides access to state/national level events and NGAUS voting rights.

When you join NGAWV, you add your voice to a group of like-minded people who understand the role of the National Guard in the nation's security and want to enhance its capabilities to perform that vital mission at home and overseas.

Contact Us

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Benefits

Benefits for members of NGAWV include life insurance, scholarship opportunities, and better communications to legislators and policy makers to ensure your interests are being represented at the state and national levels.

Legislative Work

Each year NGAWV aligns efforts to match NGAUS legislative priorities, the Adjutant General's priorities and other legislative initiatives in the West Virginia legislature that are beneficial to West Virginia Guardsmen and their families to advance. Recent accomplishments include:

- Paid maternity leave for drill-status women
- Six months of transitional medical coverage for Guardsmen and their families after Title 32 orders
- Authorized purchase of TRICARE Reserve Select in 2030 to Guardsmen and Reservists who are dual-status technicians
- Six C-130J Super Hercules cargo planes for the Air Guard, 43 new or rebuilt UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and \$100 million toward Humvee modernization in the Army

