



NGAAZ NEWS

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2008

From the NGAAZ President ~ LtCol Morgan

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Welcome to your Spring 2008 National Guard Association of Arizona (NGAAZ) Newsletter. For those that don't know me, I'm LtCol Mike Morgan, a 20 year member of the Arizona National Guard family, and currently serving as the 161st Air Refueling Wing Comptroller. Although new to the office of the Association President, I have also been a longtime member of the Board of Directors. I previously served as Treasurer on two occasions, and most recently as Vice President/President Elect. I am honored by this opportunity to lead our Association during the challenging times that lie ahead and remain extremely hopeful that we can continue our record of success in taking care of our soldiers and airmen.

First and foremost, I'm going start off by asking for you take a more active role in your association! Remember, this is YOUR association!

Recently we kick-off our 2008 membership drive. With our NGAAZ Executive Director — Mike Krouse — by my side, I met with our state senior leadership, and requested a more visible support of our Association. I wish to convey that same message to all the Commanders and senior staff officers reading this newsletter: **LEAD BY EXAMPLE** ... become more involved in the NGAAZ! I truly believe that by doing so, your fellow officers will follow.

I am please to inform you that we've had General Officer participation at our last two board meetings and have their pledge that their active involvement will continue. To our Joint Forces Headquarters leadership: thank you for your renewed commitment and leadership. I am confident that this support will pay huge dividends as we work on the myriad of issues that the National Guard will be confronted with in the future.

Everyone ... it all STARTS with MEMBERSHIP!! Here's the unvarnished truth! We've had a declining membership base for the last several years. At present, the **AZ ANG** is at about **36%** and the **AZ ARNG** is at about **17%**. I've heard all the reasons, to include overseas deployments, which are all valid. The real question now is... what to do? We can not afford to give up! This association, along with our National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) affiliate, are the "frontline" in the battle for the better care and equipping of our troops. Simply put, the National Guard will continue to rely on NGAUS as our primary means to acquire the weapons systems and missions necessary to remain relevant in a fast changing world. Together, we can produce a powerful voice to petition for more equitable pay, allowances, and the benefits that will be needed to recruit and retain high quality soldiers and airmen. Again, it all STARTS with MEMBERSHIP!

For those interested in getting more involved, but are not exactly sure how, feel free to contact me or the board members and unit representatives listed on the last page of this publication. Please encourage all of your fellow officers to join and actively participate in the NGAAZ. There are plenty of issues to be worked. Help us make this great Association even better!

As a reminder, our State Conference is just around the corner: May 16 — 17 2008 at the Carefree Resort & Villas (conference packets are in the mail). Our National Conference will be held September 20 — 22, 2008 in Baltimore, Maryland. I hope to see you there!

In closing, I want to thank those of you that have been actively involved in the NGAAZ. We are now reaping some of the fruits of your past labor. An example is our current military state tax exemption. We couldn't have done it without you!

LtCol Mike Morgan, President

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



REDUCED AGE FOR RECEIPT OF RETIREMENT PAY

Among the top priorities for NGAUS is the reduction in age for our members to receive retirement pay.

Current law states that a retired Reserve Component member will begin to draw military retirement pay upon reaching 60 years of age. A National Guard member who joins the National Guard at age 18 and retires after 30 years of service must wait twelve years before drawing a military pension. In contrast, an active component member who joins at the same time and serves the same number of years receives a pension immediately upon retirement. The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) believes that a more equitable Reserve Retirement Program would greatly aid recruiting and retention in the National Guard.

Legislative Efforts. Although NGAUS has taken a broad-based approach to this issue and not recommended a specific method for reducing the age to receive retirement pay, we believe the new law should apply to all members of the Reserve Component and be an incentive to serve beyond 20 years.



NATIONAL GUARD EMPOWERMENT ACT

On April 26, 2006, the National Defense Enhancement and National Guard Empowerment Act of 2006 was introduced in both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives. This legislation proposed significant changes to the role of the chief of the National Guard Bureau and other Guard relationships.

It is completely logical that the policies and procedures that have guided the effective use of the National Guard be considered for revision in light of the sweeping changes to the missions and employment of our armed forces.

As of October 26, 2007, the National Guard Empowerment Act of 2007 had been introduced in the Senate (S. 430) and the House (H.R. 718). For more information about the National Guard Empowerment Acts of 2006 and 2007, review the 2007 Fact Sheet and National Guard Empowerment testimony before the CNGR (Commission on National Guard and Reserves) located at <http://www.ngaus.org>

WANTED

Members for the NGA AZ Legislative BN

Volunteer to support our National Guard bills!

Add your name to a list of people that we can contact via email who would volunteer their time to make an appearance at upcoming bill committee hearings to represent the National Guard. Other participation can include putting in a call, email or fax to your senators and representatives about your legislative priorities. To join the BN or for more information please call Mike Krouse @ (602) 275-8305 or email NGAofAZ@aol.com.

“GANG” Corner

The GANG (Graduates of the AZ National Guard) is the group of retired Arizona National Guard Officers that stays committed to the well being and future of the soldiers in the AZ National Guard by continued participation in the National Guard Association. Members of the GANG participate in State and National Association activities and are encouraged, like all officers, to become lifetime members of the NGA of AZ. Besides being able to keep in better touch with Guard friends, their involvement also provides a great mentoring opportunity for junior officers in the association. If you are interested in becoming a GANG member as you approach retirement, or know of a retired officer who would like to get involved, please contact MAJ(R) Clayton Marlowe at ckmarlowe@cox.net.

National Guard Association History



With the help of NGAUS, the National Defense Act of 1933 made the National Guard an Army component at all times, not just during war. The act established that each member belonged simultaneously to his state Guard and the Federal Reserve force. NGAUS worked long and hard to maintain the strength and readiness of the Guard in its dual role, but the United States withdrew into isolationism, and funding was cut as the nation slipped into the Great Depression. However, the looming onset of war in Europe would lead to the rebuilding of the nation's military.

Source: NGAUS Notes

Raising Funds for Our Association ~ January 2008



During this past holiday season, the NGA AZ and Enlisted Association (EANGA) accepted a fund raising opportunity offered by Mr. Scott Essex - our very own AZ Employer Support to the Guard and Reserves (ESGR) Chairman. Several die-hard EANGA/NGAAZ members and spouses braved the chilly temperatures and manned the Johnsonville Big Taste Grill at the December 31, 2007, New Years Eve Tempe Fiesta-Bowl Block Party. This event is billed as one of the country's reigning New Year's Eve block parties.

The Tempe Insight Fiesta Bowl Block Party stretched over 10 blocks long and four blocks wide and drew legions of revelers to a jam-packed evening of fun and entertainment for the whole family. Our volunteers grilled, prepped and sold brats out of the Johnsonville rig and tent, joining several beer gardens, bands/entertainers and other vendors on the street. The evening was capped by the official countdown to 2008, fireworks displays, and a great brat sell-off. We were successful in collecting \$423 in tips and \$2,500 in proceeds, which the EANGA and NGA AZ split 50/50. All-in-all, we felt it was a good return for the time and work involved. Not to mention that we had a BLAST!!!

A week later, we found out that our joint associations must be pretty good at selling brats... as Johnsonville called to ask if NGA AZ/EANGA volunteers would be able to support the Barrett Jackson Classic Car Show and Auction. Established in 1971, Barrett-Jackson produces the "World's Greatest Classic Car Event" in Scottsdale, AZ, providing products and services to classic and collector car owners, astute collectors and automotive enthusiasts.

Once again our ANG and ARNG members and their spouses took up the tools of the BBQ-grill-enthusiast, and on the 13th, 14th, 16th, and 17th of January 2008, cooked, prepped and sold the delectable Johnsonville sausage. Volunteers had an opportunity to rub elbows with the rich and famous, and, even though it was mostly sunny, had to battle with one day of intense wind, which adversely impacted our sales. This time we collected a total of \$660 in tips and received \$2000 in proceeds (split 50/50). Intense FUN was had by all, and left over brats were enjoyed at the NGA AZ Board meeting on Thursday night.

A special "thank you" goes out to everyone that helped ... especially those who drove all the way up from Tucson to work the block party and car show/auction. We hope to participate in other fund raising opportunities in the future and will be planning to dedicate one or two fund raising events to support the AGAAZ Scholarships program.

Mark Your Calendar

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March 13th ~ NGA AZ Board Meeting

April 10th ~ NGA AZ Board Meeting

May 8th ~ NGA AZ Board Meeting

May 16-17 ~ State Conference, Carefree Resort & Villas, Carefree, AZ

June 12~ NGA AZ Board Meeting

Now ~ Pay NGA AZ 2008 Membership Dues!

AZ Guard Chief's Confirmation Finally Gets Out of Committee ~ Arizona Republic, February 19, 2008

The Adjutant General, David P. Rataczak won a quick and easy recommendation for confirmation, ending more than a year of drama surrounding his appointment as the head of Arizona's National Guard.

The Senate Government Committee voted unanimously to forward Rataczak's appointment to the full Senate.

His reappointment had been in limbo since last year, when the committee chairman, Sen. Jack Harper, R-Surprise, refused to conduct a hearing. Harper disagreed with Rataczak's opposition to a 2003 Harper bill that would have required the Arizona National Guard to train near the Arizona-Mexico border. Harper had no questions for the adjutant general, nor did other panel members.

After the hearing, Senate President Tim Bee congratulated Rataczak in a crowded Senate hallway. "So glad to have this done," Bee said, as he shook the general's hand.

Bee had initially backed Harper in his decision to not hold a confirmation hearing for Rataczak's second full term. But in the last few months, a campaign mounted by 14 former officers of the Arizona National Guard and the Air National Guard persuaded senators to give Rataczak a hearing. He has served as state adjutant general since 1999, when then-Gov. Jane Hull named him to the post.

The next hurdle: Rataczak turns 64 in December and by state law must retire from the job. However, last year Congress raised the retirement age for adjutants general to 66. In order to avoid retirement at year's end, Rataczak would need lawmakers to change state law to match the federal law. It is unclear if such a change will be made, since the deadline for introducing bills has passed.

Tempe Town Block Party ~ Jackson-Barrett Car Auction Fund Raising January 2008



(L-R) MSgt Frank Enfinger, Command CMSgt Phil Conway, TSgt Ed Seykora, & MSgt Dave Morgan



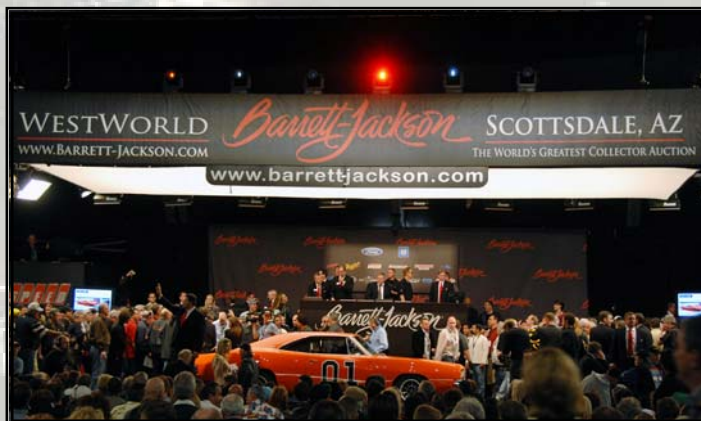
(L-R) Mary Anne Garrity, Debbie Morgan, Jeanne Blaes, and Brad (Johnsonville Sales)



(L-R) TSgt Ed Seykora, and Command CMSgt Phil Conway



(L-R) Pat Muscati, Lt. Josh French, & SMSgt Tim Garrity



129th NGAUS General Conference ~ San Juan, Puerto Rico



Spouses Tour— Bacardi Rum Factory



MAJ's Paul Babeu & Larry Ostendorf, WO Mike Mottolo, and CPT Noel Chun at States Dinner



SEN John McCain & Delegate CWO John Vitt



Lt.Col. Jill Nelson, Lt.Col. Mike (NGAAZ-President) and Mrs. Debbie Morgan



MG David Rataczak, TAG (C), Col. Paul & Mrs. Jeannie Kerwien at States Dinner



El Coquí



Brig Gen Littleton & COL Deb Spear

Pay your 2009 Dues and Win!

Members that pay their 2009 dues before Jan 1st will be entered into a drawing for the prizes below. Winners will be announced at the 2009 NGAAZ Conference.

1st Place—Bronze Eagle Statue

2nd Place—2009 dues reimbursed and 2010 dues paid

3rd Place—2009 dues reimbursed

*All members receive the National Guard Magazine

*Newly commissioned officers and officers new to the National Guard receive the remainder of their first year and second year free

**130TH NGAUS
NATIONAL
CONFERENCE**

**BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
SEPTMEBER 20-22, 2008**



NGAAZ & NGAUS 2008 Membership Application STATE AND NATIONAL DUES BY GRADE 1 JAN — 31 DEC

<u>PAY GRADE</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>NGAUS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PAY GRADE</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>NGAUS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
O-1	\$20	\$30	\$50	WO1	\$20	\$26	\$46
O-2	\$20	\$45	\$65	CW2	\$20	\$35	\$55
O-3	\$29	\$59	\$88	CW3	\$20	\$46	\$66
O-4	\$31	\$72	\$103	CW4	\$30	\$59	\$89
O-5	\$35	\$85	\$120	CW5	\$35	\$73	\$108
O-6	\$37	\$108	\$145	Retired Life	\$50	\$125	\$175
O-7	\$40	\$123	\$163	Active Life	NA	\$1000	\$1000
O-8	\$40	\$139	\$179				
O-9	\$50	\$153	\$203				

Mail, fax or email payment information to:

National Guard Association of Arizona
5640 E. McDowell Rd Fax: 602-275-9254
Phoenix, AZ 85008 NGAofAZ@aol.com

Rank / Name _____ Unit _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

New Officer: Date of Commission _____

New to the Guard: Date joined _____

Check # Amount Date

Credit Card Number _____

Amount Exp. Date

Signature _____



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Your Voice in Arizona

**Please come and check out our
Guard Store, located East of 52nd
Street, next to the Distance
Learning Center.**

**We carry a large selection of
military clothing, collectibles
and equipment.**



2007-08 NGA AZ Board of Directors

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Vice President – COL Debra Spear

Past President – LTC Bob Moscarello

Secretary – LTC (R) Roger Soden

Treasurer – COL (R) Jeanne Blaes

Parliamentarian – vacant

Executive Director – LTC (R) Mike Krouse

The Adjutant General – MG David Rataczak

Member-OJS – COL Robert Centner

Member-161ARW – Col Paul Kerwein

Member-162 FW – Maj Sandra Wilson

Member-162 FW—Maj Donna Wolslagel

Member-107 ACS – Maj Adam Marshall

Member-JFHQ – Maj Kellie Adolf

Member-JFHQ – CW5 John VItt

Member-JFHQ – LTC Gerald Paulus

Member-JFHQ – LTC Steven Smith

Member-WATTS – LTC Mike Schuh

Member-158 CSSB – LTC Bob Moscarello

Member-1120 TC BN – MAJ Ray Garcia

Member-981 TC – MAJ John Ladd

Member-98 TC – MAJ Scott Hadley

Member-1 BN 158 INF – MAJ Michael Warren

Member-98 TC AVN – MAJ Alex Navarette

Member-1/285 AVN – CPT Stephen Sellaro

Member-Det2 – 2LT Allen Carrico

Member-198 RSG – CW2 Rita Ybarra

Member-Air Retired – Lt Col (R) Sigsbee Nelson

Member-Army Retired – CW4 (R) Walter Herd

Member-Army Retired – MAJ (R) Clayton Marlowe

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