

MAY 2023



## 2023 NGAWV State Conference Recap

The National Guard Association of West Virginia and the Enlisted Association of West Virginia held the annual State Conference April 28-29, 2023, at Camp Dawson. This year's conference featured many new updates to the format to include live entertainment, the inclusion of professional development sessions and opportunities for our corporate sponsors to present during the business session.

Kicking off the weekend on Friday was the Enlisted and Officer professional development sessions, where senior leaders both past and present, offered advice about service in the National Guard, being engaged with legislative issues and overall leadership lessons. MG Bill Crane, the Adjutant General, led the officer professional development alongside Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Paige Hunter, BG Michaelle Munger, and Brig. Gen. Mike Cadle while CSM Dusty Jones, CSM Chad Money Penny and CMSgt Brandon Ives led the enlisted session.

During the business session on Saturday morning, we had the privilege of receiving a report from the West Virginia Retired Military Council, conducted the normal business of the association to include reports on financials, voting in new members and passing resolutions for inclusion at the national level. The NGAWV voted in favor of submitting two resolutions this year related to modernization of C-130 and C-17 aircraft. These resolutions are designed to address critical shortfalls in modernization outfitting for the C-130J on tactical data link capability and extended fuel tacks for the C-17 fleet in the Air National Guard. Both resolutions passed and were submitted to NGAUS for consideration in the 2025 Resolutions process.

The NGAWV also recognized the outstanding Army and Air Officers of the Year, which included LTC Sam Oliver of the 2/19th Special Forces Battalion and Capt. Aaron Hansrote of the 167th Airlift Wing. Lt. Sammi Brown was awarded the Scarboro-Sencindiver Award for her contributions to the NGAWV over the past year. Additionally, LTC Bob Luther was recognized for running the fastest time during the Broadwater 5K and the Joint Forces Headquarters unit was recognized for having the highest attendance at the conference for 2023.

Voted into office for the 2023-2024 year:

President - Adam Thomas

Vice President: Tim Fairhurst

Secretary: Paige Hunter

Treasurer: Holli Nelson

Retired Army: Tom Cook

Active Company Grade Air: Brad Dorsey

Member Air: Richard Switzer

Member Army: Caroline Muriama

Hosting the 2024 conference will be the Martinsburg-based 167th Airlift Wings. The unit is already in full planning mode. The 2024 State Conference will be held April 27-28, with the location yet to be determined.

Thanks you to our generous sponsors who helped make this year's event a success!

# Newsletter Highlights

NGAWV State  
Conference Recap

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NGAUS 145th General  
Conference

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FREE NDIA Membership  
for National Guard  
members

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NGAWV/NGUAS Updates

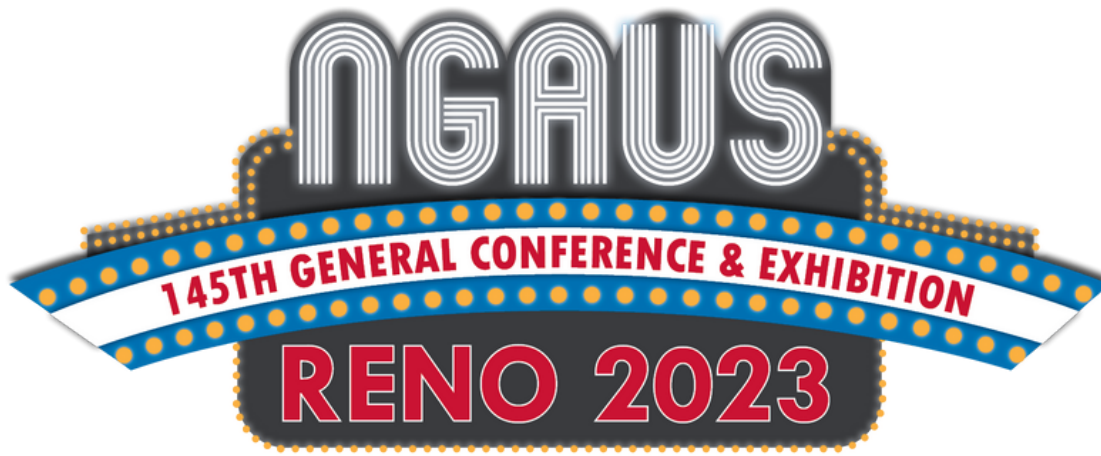
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## NGAWV Executive Committee

PRESIDENT: Holli Nelson  
VP: Sammi Brown  
SECRETARY: Paige Hunter  
TREASURER: Brad Dorsey  
INSURANCE REP: Chris  
Shamblin  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:  
Christopher "Mookie" Walker

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:  
Vic Dumrongkietiman , Keith  
Hammack, Rick Hunter, Dave  
Cadle, Richard Switzer





The Nevada National Guard Association has finalized the planned social events and activities at the 145th General Conference & Exhibition in Reno, Nevada, Aug. 18-21.

Activities begin Aug. 18 with the NGAUS Golf Tournament at the Lakeridge Golf Course. The Robert Trent Jones-designed course offers views of Reno and the surrounding mountains. The signature hole is No. 15, a world-famous par 3 overlooking Lake Stanley with an island green.

Two other events on Aug. 18 will take participants into the mountains. One is the NGAUS Vibrations Motorcycle Ride. Riders will start and end in Reno, but can choose between two different scenic routes.

The first route is a leisurely ride to and around Lake Tahoe, North America's largest alpine lake, before stopping at Carson City, Nevada's capital. The second is more challenging, with twisting roads, Lake Tahoe and a visit to the historic mining town of Virginia City. You can bring your own bike or rent one.

There is also a scheduled hike up Mount Rose on Aug. 18, which rises to become the highest and most topographically prominent peak of the greater Sierra Nevada range in the state.

The traditional conference mixers are the evening of Aug. 18. Company-grade officers and warrant officers will gather at Greater Nevada Field in Reno for dinner, drinks, music and a minor-league baseball game.

Meanwhile, field-grade officers will head to the National Automobile Museum, which features more than 225 rare, one-of-a-kind, antique and collector cars. Food and drink will be served on the museum's south patio.

Traditionally the conference's last event, the States Dinner will be held downtown Aug. 19 at the Reno Events Center. Western Wear is the recommended attire. Entertainment will follow.

The Spouses Luncheon is downtown at the Reno Ballroom Aug. 20. Expect a 1920s Speakeasy theme with lunch and a theatrical production featuring a murder mystery. There will also be gifts for all participants and prizes for a lucky few.

The Governor's Farewell will conclude the conference Aug. 21 at the Reno Events Center. The event will feature food, drinks and a concert by a name performer.

The NGAWV will have a large hospitality suite this year at the El Dorado and our two hotels will be the El Dorado and Silver Legacy. If you are interested in attending, please reach out to Holli Nelson at [ngawv1@gmail.com](mailto:ngawv1@gmail.com) or 740-710-1745.

**NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF WEST VIRGINIA | [WWW.NGAWV.ORG](http://WWW.NGAWV.ORG)**

*The National Guard Association of West Virginia is chartered in accordance with Section 501c(19) of the IRS code. Tax identification number 55-0488374*



# Free NDIA Membership Extended to WVNG Members

As a member of the West Virginia National Guard, you qualify for a FREE membership in the National Defense Industrial Association and NDIA West Virginia Chapter. This free membership was made possible thanks to our Platinum Sponsor and President of the NDIA Chapter of West Virginia, Mr. Craig Hartzell of [Azimuth, Inc.](#)

The National Defense Industrial Association drives strategic dialogue in national security by identifying key issues and leveraging the knowledge and experience of its military, government, industry, and academic members to address them. NDIA formed from a merger between the American Defense Preparedness Association, previously known as the Army Ordnance Association, founded in 1919, and the National Security Industrial Association, founded in 1944. For more than 100 years, NDIA has provided a platform through which leaders in government, industry, and academia can collaborate and provide solutions to advance the national security and defense needs of the nation.

To apply, simply visit

<https://www.ndia.org/membership/membership-categories/government-membership>

- Ensure you apply for Government Membership.
- Press the blue Join button.
- From there, you will need to “Create an Account” or use an existing account.
- The system will walk you through from that point.

## NDIA

National Defense Industrial Association  
[www.ndia.org](http://www.ndia.org)

Over 1,800 Corporate Members  
Over 65,000 Individual Members

NDIA West Virginia Chapter

Over 50 Corporate Members  
Over 270 Individual Members



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# Updates from the NGAWV

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Our inaugural scholarship awards will be awarded in June following the Executive Committee meeting. Applications are being accepted through 30 May. Details available at [www.ngawv.org/scholarship](http://www.ngawv.org/scholarship)

## CAPITOL SUMMIT

The dates for the next Capitol Summit have been set for 17-19 September. This professional-development program brings Guardsmen from each state and territory to the nation's capital for a close look at how the government works and the role NGAUS plays in the legislative process. The NGAWV Executive Committee selects a CGO from the Army or Air that have been nominated by their commands.

## GRAY AREA RETIREES

Senate legislation introduced last week would enable traditional National Guardsmen and Reservists eligible for early retirement to purchase low-cost military medical coverage upon receiving retirement pay instead of waiting until they reach age 60. [FULL STORY](#)

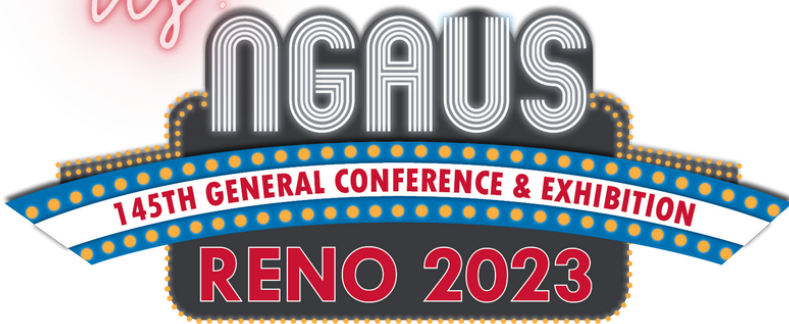
## WVNG LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

For the FY2024 NDAA, the Adjutant General submitted the following projects for potential inclusion in the NDAA. Many of these projects are related to military construction across the Army and Air National Guard. The top priorities were as follows:

- A covered facility at Camp Dawson that would enable Soldiers to conduct the Army ACFT.
- Funding for the Ridge Runner Irregular Warfare Center to conduct IW-focused validation training for deploying units.
- Funding to authorize demolition and renovation of numerous buildings at the 130th Airlift Wing to move toward progress on a new Squadron Operations Building.
- Funding to complete a new small arms range at the 167th Airlift Wing.
- Planning and design funding for armories throughout the state.

Other legislative priorities that are being worked with West Virginia's Congressional Delegation include upgrades to the C-130J and C-17 as well as NGAUS priorities such as Zero Cost Tricare and the creation of a Space National Guard.

Join us!



Aug. 18-21, 2023

### 2023 Conference Details

Interested in attending? NGAWV will pay your registration fee and 1/2 the room cost if you attend. The only expenses you would have is your cost to travel to and from Reno and food while there.

As an attendee, you can volunteer to be a task force representative, which affords members the opportunity to collaborate across states and services to address the challenges facing the National Guard. Most importantly, you get to be a part of the West Virginia delegation. This means you represent the NGAWV at the national level, provide hospitality to our fellow NGAUS members, and interact with vendors, fellow Guardsmen, senior leaders and more!

If you want to attend, please reach out to us at ngawv1@gmail.com or you can call/text Holli Nelson at 740-710-1745.



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