



## National Guard Association of Michigan

General Session Minutes for May 2021.

Date: 15 May, 2021

Time: 0907hrs

Location: Amway Grand, Grand Rapids, MI

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### Executive Board Present:

1. President Amie Kemppainen
2. Past President Scott Meyers
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Keith Lane
4. Treasurer Matt Ohrstrom
5. Secretary Ryan McCann
6. Army Retiree Representative Mike Wilson
7. Air Retiree Representative Joe Stevens

### Association Membership:

### Discussion:

1. Called to Order at 0907.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. President's introduction.
4. Roll Call
5. **Approval of Last meeting's minutes.**
  - **Moved: Keith Lane. Second: Scott Meyers. Discussion: none. Approved by consensus.**
6. Standing Committee reports
  - Scholarship Presentations by Richie Sands.
    - Three \$500.00 scholarships presented.
  - By-Laws review by Mike Wilson.
  - NGAM Conference future planning by Keith Lane.
    - Thanks to sponsors and vendors.
    - EANGUS Conference (National) in Albuquerque, NM May, 2021.
    - NGAUS 2021 (National) in Las Vegas, NV Aug, 2021.
    - "Guard Week" (State) in Detroit, MI May, 2022.
    - NGAM 2022 (State) in Detroit, MI (Motor City Casino Hotel) May, 2022.
    - EANGUS Conference (National) in Little Rock, Ar May, 2022
    - NGAUS 2022 in Columbus, OH Aug 2022.
    - NGAM 2023 in Detroit, MI (TCF Center) May 2022.
    - NGAUS 2023 in Reno, NV.
    - NGAM/Guard Week 2024 in Detroit, MI (Greek Town) May 2024.
    - Strategic Planning efforts for conference selection and agendas overview.
  - Corporate Partners recognition by Amie Kemppainen.
    - Corporate Sponsorship increased nearly doubled in two years.
    - Encouraged continue support for vendors that are present. Special thanks during

time of constraints.

- Legislative Update by Richie Sands.
  - Discussed Congressional Fellowship program and opportunities available to National Guard Soldiers.
  - Highlighted potential **\$6 Billion** cut to National Guard even with DOD increase in budget release.
  - Discussed current DOD strategic priorities in Pacific Command AO, Army Futures Command, DOD modernization efforts, and potential for Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center to be an asset for training with some of those emergent assets.
  - Discussed 'earmark' process and Military Construction (MILCON) efforts, how National Guard Bureau can request MILCON money.
  - NDAA and budget timeline delayed, beginning 27MAY2022, gave overview of the process. Army may be looking to National Guard to rebalance some force structure – may be opportunity for growth of National Guard.
  - Answered questions about the fellowship program – joint opportunities; Air MILCON current efforts, nothing to report but will follow-up.
  - Highlighted NGAM's importance in being able to support those types of efforts at state and national level.
  - Asked to share perspective of the power of Veteran Service Organizations: Organizations have influence through membership strength and citizen-soldier status, highlighted some of the recent efforts and successes of the organizations at the national level. Highlighted NGAUS healthcare efforts that have been in progress for several years and are recently being actioned.
  - Discussed Adjutant General's conferences and their outcomes, and how those outcomes are communicated to the state service members. Highlighted specific Michigan priorities and issues based on orders in support of civil authorities.
- Membership Committee report by Keith Lane.
  - NGAUS dues structure ratified last year supported desire for NGAM dues structure re-write.
  - Last year NGAM membership was 12% - effects state representation at NGAUS and in national discussions. Currently NGAM has reached 22%.
  - Dues structure proposal presented and questions fielded.
  - State Sponsored Life Insurance income to sponsor membership dues for NGAUS presented and questions fielded. – Discussed lifetime membership sponsorship opportunities. Discussed auto-renewal and 'free-trial' options.
  - Chief Jelinski-Hall commented on power of explaining benefits of Association membership to potential members.
  - Advertising efforts discussed.
- Resolutions presented by Amie Kempainen.
  - No resolutions to put before the body.
  - Highlighted resolutions at National Level and recent past resolution work
    - Several potential resolution opportunities had been not pursued throughout the year.
  - Endorsed membership participation at monthly board meetings to bring up or discuss resolution opportunities.
- Retiree affairs report by Mike Wilson and Joe Stevens.
  - Efforts in social media, newsletter, and other outreach methods discussed.
  - Solicited retiree assistance specifically for special events and conferences.
- VSG report presented by Amie Kempainen
  - Six year effort on Charitable Gaming partnership explained.
  - VSG Committee process overviewed.
  - 2020 and 2021 Grants awarded overviewed.

- Presented to the body the desire to move Charitable Gaming Partnership from a pilot program to a statutory status.
  - New partnership with Habitat for Humanity through \$1 million federal grant highlighted. H4H can put \$1 million toward veterans on a \$1 for \$1 donation match program.
  - Ways and Means reported by Keith Lane.
    - Income sources reviewed.
  - Communications and Social Media given by Jeromie Golab.
    - Three lines of effort reviewed: Smartphone App, webpage, twitter account.
    - Solicited young tech oriented volunteers to assist in efforts.
  - Keynote Speech.
  - NGAUS 2024 Conference Planning by Scott Meyers and Jeff Connell.
    - Partnered with the U.S. Virgin Islands. USVI committed to provide work in planning and preparation of event.
    - “The Year of the Company Grade” – to generate interest in the next generations of leaders.
    - Overview of general locations, events and format for the conference. Goal is to be bigger and better and more glamorous than any past convention, while appealing to Junior Enlisted and Officers to generate involvement.
    - Request fielded to circulate slide show to begin marketing the NGAUS 2024.
    - Solicited additional advertisement and volunteers to assist with planning and preparation for NGAUS 2024.
  - EANGUS and NGAUS representatives presented.
    - NGAUS Legislative report given by Priya Gosh Ahola and Marcy Weldon. Highlighted 2021 accomplishments and focus with Active Component Parity.
    - EANGUS report given by Chuck Casin – EANGUS Area V director, and Kevin Hollinger – Legislative Director. Highlighted NDAA provisions, many tied to COVID-related missions. Also highlighted the We Care for America foundation provides emergency assistance to National Guard Soldiers and Airmen through grants, specifically the WFCAs no-interest loan program.
7. Old Business: None.
8. New Business:
- Bylaws Ratification.
    - **Motion to ratify Bylaws as amended and approved by the board December 2020. Moved: Mike Wilson. Second: Ryan McCann. Discussion: None. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Approved by consensus.**
  - Membership Dues re-structure Ratification.
    - **Motion to approve membership dues re-structure as presented. Moved: Keith Lane. Second: Ryan McCann. Discussion: none. Ayes: All. Nays: none. Approved.**
9. Treasury report reviewed by Matt Ohrstrom.
- Charitable gaming, SSLI, Dues revenues and monthly expenses reviewed. Current balances presented.
10. Elections: voted via paper ballot.
- Secretary: Nicole Cosman nominated by Ryan McCann. Nicole accepted nomination. No objections or other nominations, Nicole Cosman is elected as Secretary.
  - Treasurer: Tech SGT Matt Ohrstrom nominated by Keith Lane. Matt Ohrstrom accepted nomination.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Anthony Woodford from 127<sup>th</sup> Attack Wing nominated by Bruce Rogers. No other nominations or objections. Anthony accepts the nomination and is elected.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Richie Sands is nominated by Kevin Palmatier. Keith Lane is incumbent and is continuing to run. 2 minutes allowed for remarks for each candidate and for rebuttal. Vote held by paper ballot. Mike Wilson stands in support of Keith Lane. Election held by

paper ballot. Ballots tabulated by Scott Meyers and verified by Ryan McCann. Initial vote a tie, and ballots re-distributed. Second vote tabulated by Scott Meyers and verified by Ryan McCann. Richie Sands is elected by paper vote for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.

- President: COL Holtz nominated by Scott Meyers. COL Holtz declined the nomination. Simon Brackett nominated by Bruce Rogers. Simon accepted the nomination. No other nominations or objections. Simon Brackett is elected as President.

11. Executive Director's Report.

- Jeff Frisby gave an official introduction and overview of his experience.
- He highlighted the importance of active membership and the potential of the organization, and provided historical examples of what effective organizations can do.
- Reviewed the progress made on the professional image of the organization and new office space.
- Emphasized retiree involvement, thanked retiree efforts, and value to maintaining relationships with retiree communities. Urged membership to hold the board and the body accountable for furthering priorities.
- Asked for comments and questions: recommended bringing on assistance for the executive director.
- Professional Soldiers (and Airmen) belong in professional organizations.

12. Adjourned 1723hrs.

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Amie Kempainen, NGAM President

Ryan McCann, NGAM Secretary 810-429-2498