

# VIKANG NEWS

*Fall 2023*



NGAMN State Conference Business Meeting- President Col. Mike Piontek presents Lt. Gen. Jon Jensen with a memento for speaking.



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# President's Letter

Kristen Augé

**Association Members-** I am honored to be your president. Thank you for having the confidence in me to lead our team, build on our previous successes, and work to gain parity with our active-duty counterparts.

I sincerely thank our executive director, former presidents, and board members, who share their passion for moving our association to the next level. To continue the momentum our association has gained thus far, I have the following requests:

**Share** the value of belonging to this professional association with your fellow officers and warrant officers. During the NGAMN 118th State Conference business meeting, Lt. Gen. Jon Jensen said when talking about NGAUS, "It is a tool that strengthens our national defense." I couldn't agree more, especially when I heard last year their representative Blaise Lemke say, "NGAUS is not just your voice, but your megaphone. We have the ability to meet every day with Congressional members." Our senior leaders regularly travel to D.C. to discuss our priorities, but they are not there every week and certainly not every day. NGAUS representatives are the ones who can advocate for us daily.

Commanders- **Allow** organizational group reps to share information at the units, such as how to join NGAMN and NGAUS and how each membership benefits the greater organization as a whole. Allow time for the State Sponsored Life Insurance representative to present to your formations. This presentation is not a mandatory event for service members to attend but an opportunity to hear about the benefits offered exclusively to all members of the Minnesota National Guard.

**Submit** your draft resolutions to the NGAMN Board of Directors. NGAUS prioritizes resolutions by #1 saves lives, #2 is necessary to do your job, and #3 is simply nice to have. Your Soldiers and Airmen are your eyes and ears to identify deficiencies and ensure the readiness of our units. Ask them what improvements they want to see.

**Attend** NGAMN scheduled events. Mark your calendars for the Dec. 1, 2023, holiday dinner and the NGAMN 119th State Conference scheduled for Apr. 19-21, 2024. At this year's conference, we heard from retired Gen. Joseph Votel and Lt. Gen. Jensen – a fantastic opportunity to hear from our most senior leaders. NGAMN events deepen your relationships inside your organization and further connect you to the officers and warrant officers outside your organization. If your schedule allows, attend the NGAUS Conference in Detroit, Michigan during August 23-26, 2024.

**Support** the association. You can impact what your Army and Air Guard have for the future!

**Thank you to our corporate partners and sponsors! Your support assists us in achieving our priorities!**

Sincerely- Kristen Augé

# National Guard Association of Minnesota's Officer Holiday Social

**Date:** Friday, Dec. 1, 2023

**Social Hour:** 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Dinner:** 7:15 p.m.

**Attire:** Business Casual/Evening Attire

**Location:** Embassy Suites Minneapolis Airport

**Cost:** \$60.00/per person



**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Shawn Alderman, LTC (Retired), founder and president of the Magnus Veterans Foundation. He will talk about the Magnus Veterans Wellness Campus (MVWC), its' creation and how the MVWC is serving military veterans and their families by providing them free, holistic medical care (medical, physical, psychological, spiritual and social).

Register at <https://www.ngamn.org/events> or scan the QR code.

**Registration deadline:** Nov. 27, 2023

## Save the Dates

**119th NGAMN State Conference** - Hosted by Joint Force Headquarters  
**April 19-22, 2024**

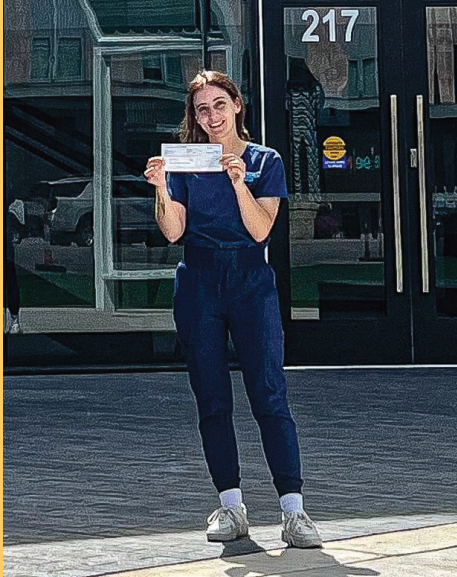
Marriott - St. Louis Park, Minnesota

**146th NGAUS General Conference and Exhibition**  
**August 23-26, 2024**

Detroit, Michigan



# Congratulations 2023 Scholarship Recipients!



**McGough \$1,000 Scholarship**  
**Kelsey Schmittling**

Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Degree: Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.)



**NGAMN \$500 Scholarship**  
**Logan Grayson**

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities  
Degree: Master of Business Administration



**NGAMN \$500 Scholarship**  
**Lucia Helgestad**

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities  
Degree: Kinesiology



## Executive Director

Maj. (Ret.) Julie Grandaw

As 2023 comes to a close, I would like to thank everyone who makes the NGAMN such a great success. From the Board of Directors, Group Reps, and our members who selflessly dedicate their time and efforts to support and grow our organization to our external partners of our State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) team who provide membership briefings and insurance benefits, thank you. To our corporate partners who allow us to provide reduced priced memberships, college scholarships and many other benefits to our members. The NGAMN team appreciates and thanks you!

May you enjoy the upcoming holidays and stay safe!



# NGAUS NEWS

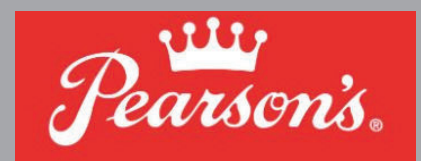


148th Fighter Wing  
awarded the  
Distinguished  
Flying Unit

The NGAUS General Conference was held August 17-21, 2023, in Reno, Nevada. The conference is the Association's annual business meeting and includes Army and Air National Guard officers from our 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia who gather to network, set their legislative agenda and hear from America's civilian and military leaders.

This year, Minnesota was represented by a 25 person delegation. As part of that delegation, four company grade officers were selected and federally funded to participate in this professional development opportunity.

Thanks to Pearson's Candy for their sponsorship of Team MN for the NGAUS Conference. They provided their treats - bringing a bit of Minnesota to conference attendees during the Roll Call of the States.





“NGAUS Conventions provide a framework for learning the history of the National Guard and a road map for future plans. Attending NGAUS this year combined the best aspects of networking and understanding the big picture of how Minnesota connects to NGB and other units. Also, bringing a spouse was beneficial to share in the fun, learning, and relationship building.”

– 1st Lt Flaherty

First Lieutenants – Keegan Flaherty (148th FW), Brett Bye (34th ECAB), Matt Jesse (133rd AW), and Jon Finnegan (84th TRC)

**Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall** told the 145th General Conference & Exhibition in Reno, Nevada, that he was "hoping" Congress would decide whether to create a Space National Guard under the Space Force. But with the future of the Guard's space personnel undetermined, Kendall said that settling the matter has become urgent.

[NGAUS 2023 Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall Keynote 8/19 - YouTube](#)

**Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Chief of the National Guard Bureau** spoke about the importance of serving in the Guard. "There's a calling inside of each and every one of us to really make a difference. We serve because, at the end of the day, someone has to stand up and do the right things for our families, for our communities, for our nation and for our world."

[NGAUS 2023 Gen. Daniel A. Hokanson Keynote Address 8/19 - YouTube](#)

**Gen. Randy A. George, Army Vice Chief of Staff acting as the Army Chief** shared with attendees his latest impressions of the Guard following a recent visit to Camp Grayling, Michigan, to observe exercise Northern Strike.

[NGAUS 2023 Gen. Randy George Keynote - YouTube](#)

**NGAUS Conference- Day 2 Combined Video (NGAUS 2024 Conference, Annual Report, Awards, Speakers, etc.)**

Full day's coverage including updates of NGAUS 2024 conference in Detroit, Michigan, annual report, awards and speakers.

[NGAUS 145th General Conference & Exhibition Day 2 - YouTube](#)

Passing legislative resolutions and electing candidates to several positions on the NGAUS board of directors were among the business items conducted at the 145th General Conference & Exhibition in Reno, Nevada, Aug. 18-21, 2023.

On the conference's final day, delegates passed 188 Army, Air and Joint resolutions that will form the basis of the association's legislative agenda on Capitol Hill next year.

**Link to Resolutions:** [Resolutions | National Guard Association of the United States \(ngaus.org\)](#)



Many thanks to our NGAUS  
Hospitality Night Sponsors!!

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National Guard Association of Minnesota /  
National Guard Association of the United States  
Membership Registrations



NGAMN & NGAUS DIGITAL/ACTIVE LIFE MEMBERSHIP SAVINGS!

Promotional Combined Rate to the First 400 Digital/Active Life Membership Registrants!

**PROMOTIONAL RATES:**

WO1 / CW2 / O1 / O2 / O3 = \$300  
\$950 In Savings!

CW3 / CW4 / O4 / O5 = \$375  
\$875 In Savings!

CW5 / O6 / O7 / O8 = \$500  
\$750 In Savings!

**HUGE Membership Discount!**

NGAUS Digital Life regularly \$1,000 - Plus receive a NGAMN Active Life Membership for FREE!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Grade	O1	O2	O3	O4	O5	O6	O7	O8	WO1	CW2	CW3	CW4	CW5
NGAMN	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$35	\$35	\$35	\$45	\$45	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$35	\$35
NGAUS	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$80	\$80	\$80	\$130	\$130	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$80	\$80
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60</b>	<b>\$60</b>	<b>\$60</b>	<b>\$115</b>	<b>\$115</b>	<b>\$115</b>	<b>\$175</b>	<b>\$175</b>	<b>\$60</b>	<b>\$60</b>	<b>\$60</b>	<b>\$115</b>	<b>\$115</b>

PLEASE NOTE - YOU CANNOT BE A MEMBER OF NGAMN WITHOUT BEING A MEMBER OF NGAUS

OTHER MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

Newly Commissioned Officers and Warrant Officers receive their membership FREE for the first year!

Associate Member: \$70

Alumni/Retired Officers: NGAUS Life Member \$125 - State Life Member \$50 (Note, officers who have not "retired" and have elected to renew their service obligation with the guard will revert to annual membership while they are on active status).

About to Retire? Select the *Promotional Combined* Rate listed above which will allow you and your family to receive all the NGAUS and NGAMN benefits such as scholarship opportunities and much more, not available with an Alumni Membership!

It's Easy to register for your memberships:

CLICK: <https://www.ngamn.org/individual-membership>

SCAN:





**National Guard  
Association of Minnesota**  
8362 Tamarack Village, #119-444  
St. Paul, MN  
55125

218- 349-3890  
director@ngamn.org  
www.ngamn.org

### Board Members & Staff

Executive Director: Maj. (Ret.) Julie Grandaw  
President: Lt. Col. Kristen Augé  
Former President: Col. Mike Piontek  
Vice President (Air): Lt. Col. Ryan Blazevic  
Vice President (Army): Chief Warrant Officer 4 Brett Setterlund  
Vice President Alumni: Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Tim Kennedy  
Vice President Legislative: Lt. Col. Jason Hull  
Treasurer: Capt. Tyler Anderson  
Interim Secretary: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Shannon Siroin  
Webmaster: Maj. (Ret.) Christopher Kline

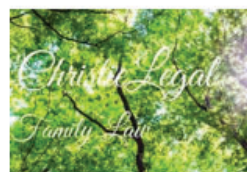
## Thank you to our Corporate Partners!



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