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President’s Report

National Guard Association Members –

Over the past several years our State Association has experienced a great deal of success, achieving our objectives of supporting and improving the Kansas National Guard, promoting adequate state and national security, and promoting and undertaking activities and programs of benefit to members and their families.

While the impact of the Association has been felt throughout Kansas and the nation, it has come at a financial cost. The increased focus on these outcomes brought on a reduced focus on the financial health of the organization, resulting in overspending on routine events and an increase in banking fees. Switching life insurance companies also caused a large reduction in annual income in 2018. To combat this trend and ensure our future financial stability, as well as to continue the great progress you have come to expect from the Association, I have reduced our current operating budget significantly and asked our audit team to conduct a full audit. Throughout these tough times, the Board and I remained dedicated to the health and welfare of the Association, and are committed to a fiscally responsible budget process.

You can expect to see some changes in the state conference this year as we focus on the most important requirements: conduct the business of the Association, create an environment for professional development and networking, and honor our outstanding performers. We made the decision to forego the banquet this year and focus our efforts on the Friday night family events and the Saturday business and awards programs. This will reduce the cost of attendance and give back some of your valuable weekend! I look forward to a great conference with a renewed focus on the most important things our membership has come to expect.

I will see you in Manhattan in April!
Erica Christie, President
National Guard Association of Kansas

Where have we been and where are we going?

We’ve maintained 100% membership for 30 years in a row, and have two senior leaders, Major General Tafanelli and Colonel (Retired) Tony DeJesus who serve on the national board of directors in Washington, D.C., which gives us an outsized seat at the national table. We’ve worked hard at the national level with NGAUS and with Congress on behalf of the membership to streamline the federal recognition process for promotions, expand deployment benefits for Guardsmen and their families, ensure equipment modernization and recapitalization, increase funding for military construction projects as well as cyber training, and locking in pay raises for military personnel.

In Kansas we’ve partnered with The Adjutant General’s Office, the State Legislature, and the Board of Regents to pass 100% in-state Tuition Assistance for our members, probably the single most important tool in years for our Soldiers and Airmen when it comes to education, recruitment, and retention. The NGAKS has also focused on professional development by sponsoring Guardsmen through civilian and business leadership courses throughout the state of Kansas, and sending several Company Grade Officers to the National Capital Summit in D.C. These are key developmental opportunities for our members to learn the role the association plays in the legislative process.

NGAKS has sponsored conference fees for junior officers for several years so they can experience the outstanding professional development and networking at the national conference. We’ve financially supported partner organizations like the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, the Enlisted Association, and played a key financial role in the Harry W. Colmery Memorial Plaza in downtown Topeka.

President’s priorities for 2019:

1. Restoring the financial health of the organization.
2. Fulfilling our promise of a 24-hour insurance payout.
3. Advocating on behalf of the membership with our State and Federal Legislators.

Michele Henry, NGAKS Executive Director from 2006-2019

After a great deal of deliberation, the NGAKS Executive Board has made the difficult decision that it is in the best interest of the Association and its membership to temporarily suspend the position of Executive Director. Michele Henry has passionately served as the Executive Director for over 13 years and her energy and dedication will certainly be missed. The NGAKS Board and committees have taken over her duties in the short term. We wish her well in her future endeavors and thank her for everything she has done for our membership and the Kansas National Guard!!

On the cover: Spc. Alec Vanzuiden, a military policeman, assigned to the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion 137th Infantry Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Spartan, prepares his vehicle before a training event, December 12, 2018, in the United Arab Emirates. Task Force Spartan Soldiers conduct training to ensure they maintain a high level of combat readiness.
Employers would receive tax credits for the time their National Guard and Reserve employees miss work due to service obligations under legislation introduced last week by the co-chairs of the House National Guard and Reserve Components Caucus.

Rep. Tim Ryan, D-Ohio, and Rep. Steven Palazzo, R-Miss, believe passage of the Reserve Component Employer Incentive, Compensation, and Relief Act of 2019 would incentivize employers to hire and retain members of the National Guard and Reserves.

“This legislation will provide these patriotic employers with well-warranted compensation for hiring service members who sacrifice so much for our nation,” Ryan said. “Maintaining this partnership between our country and employers is critical to the security of our nation.”

Said Palazzo, “Often times National Guardsmen and Reservists have unique demands that require them to drop everything and respond to their sworn military duties. This bill is a step in the right direction to provide relief for the employers that sometimes must choose between their own bottom line and patriotic duty to hire service member.”

Tax credits are not a novel approach, the two said in a Feb. 1 release. But past efforts have been too small monetarily and targeted too small of a population to incentivize companies and small businesses to actually hire members of the National Guard and Reserves, they said.

Ryan and Palazzo said their approach is different. For one, their tax credit would apply to all employers who hire and employ currently serving members of the Guard and Reserve.

Specifically, the Reserve Component Employer Incentive, Compensation, and Relief Act of 2019 would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a “reservist employment credit.” The credit would be $1,000 for the taxable year plus an additional amount based on the days of service in uniform during that taxable year:

- $3,000 for 30 to 89 days of service;
- $5,000 for 90 to 179 days of service; and
- $10,000 for 180 or more days of service.

Providing tax credits to Guard and Reserve employers is a NGAUS legislative priority.

“This is a potential game-changer for employers who hire Guardsmen and Reservists or who are considering one for a position,” said retired Brig. Gen. J. Roy Robinson, the NGAUS president. “Not only would it compensate employers for the loss of valuable employees to training or a deployment, it also recognizes the contributions of Guard and Reserve employers to the defense and security of our nation. We enthusiastically support the Reserve Component Employer Incentive, Compensation, and Relief Act.”
Bill Would Extend TRICARE to Guard Federal Employees

Bipartisan legislation introduced in the House and Senate last week would extend TRICARE health coverage to part-time National Guardsmen and Reservists who for work for the federal government.

The bills, each called the Tricare Reserve Improvement Act, have been referred to the Senate and House Armed Services Committees and have the support of NGAUS.

“Current law denies a valuable benefit to thousands of Guardsmen and Reservists,” said retired Brig. Gen. J. Roy Robinson, NGAUS president. “This important legislation would help them save thousands of dollars a year in health care premiums while ensuring their families have continuity of care when they are deployed.”


Under current law, federal employees who serve in the Guard or Reserve are prohibited from participating in Tricare Reserve Select. They must purchase their coverage from the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, which is generally more expensive than TRS.

Legislators said it creates “a financial incentive for transitioning service members to take their skillset and credentials away from the federal government, and penalizes those who choose to serve their country in a civilian capacity.”

“Our National Guardsmen deserve affordable healthcare options,” Daines said. “Senseless laws shouldn’t stand in the way of that. It’s time we provide our Guardsmen and Reservists with the care they need and this bill does just that.”

In the Senate, the legislation is co-sponsored by several members of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

“Guardsmen and Reservists should not be forced to pay more for health insurance because they choose to work for the federal government rather than in the private sector,” said Sen. Doug Jones, D-Ala. “The Tricare Reserve Select program has proven to be a valuable recruiting and retention tool for the Guard and Reserve for years. Current law punishes those who choose to also serve their government in a civilian capacity.”

“It is only fair that we allow anyone who joins the Guard or Reserve to access their health insurance plan,” he added. “These service members and their families sacrifice on behalf of all of us. They have earned these benefits.”

What has the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) done for me lately?

Does this headline look familiar? “Fedrec Wait Times See Dramatic Drop”, which headlined the October 9, 2018 in the “Washington Report, an online newsletter published by the National Guard Association of the United States. The Report highlights the efforts of NGAUS to reduce the number of days an officer waits between their state promotion order and their federal recognition. According to Defense Department data, wait times have been averaging 293 days earlier this year, and recently dropped to closer to 175 days.

According to the NGAUS website, the Association worked closely with Senators Elizabeth
Warren and Steve Daines, along with Representatives Trent Kelly and Carol Shea-Porter to introduce the National Guard Promotion Accountability Act to improve the promotion.

The efforts of your Association brought to light the inequity of the National Guard’s promotion process and NGAUS actively pursued measures to reduce it. I am continually impressed by the impact of the advocacy efforts of the National Guard Association!

Did you know?

FLORENCE RESPONSE More than 7,000 personnel from 29 states and the District of Columbia were part of the National Guard response to Hurricane Florence, which struck the Carolinas on Sept. 14. The large nationwide response comes a year after more than 45,000 Guardsmen responded to back-to-back-to-back storms in the Caribbean and the Gulf Coast Region, according to National Guard Bureau figures.

EANGKS

April 26th 2019

Registration begins at 0800 hrs  Shotgun start at 0900 hrs

4 Person Scramble

$260.00/Team

Includes Green Fees, Cart and Lunch will be provided

Register at WWW.EANGKS.ORG

**Prizes awarded for top finishers**

*Longest Drive
*Longest Putt
*Closest to the pin 2nd Shot

Contact: MSG Daniel Shaughnessy 785-646-3030
or
SSG Kenneth Boice 316-213-4075
2019 Joint Kansas National Guard Conference
Host: 235th Regional Training Institute, 235th Regiment
Four Points by Sheraton, Manhattan, Kansas
April 26-27, 2019

REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.NGAKS.ORG OR WWW.EANGKS.ORG

Conference Agenda:

Thursday:
Partners in Patriotism (Invite Only) / Tour the Lazy Heart D Bison Ranch /
Dinner at Four Points by Sheraton

Friday:
Golf: Stagg Hill / Skeet Shoot: Ravenwood Lodge / Fun Run: Four Points by Sheraton
Hospitality Suites: Four Points by Sheraton / Military Family Appreciation Night at the Flint
Hills Discover Center: Local Food, Local Entertainment, and Fun for everyone!!!

Saturday:
NGAKS/EANGKS business sessions
MG Lee Tafanelli, The Adjutant General, Kansas
Awards Luncheon
Corporate Partner Exhibits
Professional Development Breakouts
Retiree Breakfast and Lunch Program
Spouse Events
Youth Program to include “Wonder Workshop Children’s Museum”
Hospitality Night Continues
Child Care provided for age 0-6

Uniform: Unit or NGAKS/EANGKS polo’s encouraged for Saturday business, or
business casual.

Deadline for the Four Points by Sheraton is April 5, 2019
Call: 785-539-5311 ask for the National Guard block, room rate is $91.00 a night
Sporting Clay Shoot

26 April 19 | Shot Gun Start: 8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. | Lunch included @ 11:00 a.m.
Ravenwood Lodge
10147 SW 61st St. | Topeka

REGISTRATION
Adult: $45 | Youth: $30
$5 Late Fee After March 14

AWARDS
Awards presented directly after tournament
CATAGORIES
Top Overall Individuals & Teams | Top 3 Covey Flush | Top Female Shooter | Top Youth Shooter (ages 12-18)
Cash Prizes: Overall Highest Score - 50% of Individual /Team Entries (after Fees)
Score Card Drawings - 30% & 20% of Individuals (after Fees)

**Call Les to confirm intent to attend, no entry is valid until payment received in full**

Mail Entries Payable to:
Les Gellhaus
1239 Old Hwy 50
Lebo, KS 66856

Questions:
Contact Les Gellhaus
Phone: 785-806-0542
E-Mail: shrek1369@yahoo.com

Hosted by 235th REGT
Insurance: A Feature vs Benefit

We all ask when we purchase something - what is the benefit if I buy the product - the proverbial “what is in it for me”? We hear about all the features of the product. Many of those features we never take advantage of so they never become a benefit. Kind of like the features of my “SMARTPHONE” and I am not able to use many of the features unless one of my Grandkids show me how to use it. One of the features of your membership in the Kansas National Guard is protection for you and your family in the event of an unexpected loss. Specifically for this article we will discuss the features of cost group term life insurance.

As a member of the Kansas National Guard you are covered with a no cost to you - basic life insurance policy State Sponsored Life Insurance for $1,000. The policy is provided by the National Guard Association of Kansas. The policy has a feature to pay the claim to your listed beneficiary. However, many don't take advantage of that benefit because, they have never assigned a beneficiary! By law the claim will then be paid to the Estate of the deceased. If you want to make sure the claim is paid to your beneficiary instead of your Estate, contact via one of the options listed at the end of this article and we will turn it into a benefit. Also if you are a leader and would want us to take care of your entire section/unit set up a benefit brief during your training assembly.

Another feature is that you are eligible for is to cover your family with the low cost term coverage. That feature also is the only life insurance you can take with you when you leave the Kansas National Guard regardless of your length of service. Wait a minute that is not all - the premiums do not increase after you leave the Kansas National Guard. Your membership allows you the feature of up to $50,000 coverage on yourself, up to $25,000 on your spouse and up to $10,000 on each of your dependents. Another feature is the ability to purchase a permanent insurance policy on your dependents covered on the term policy when they no longer are eligible for the dependent coverage. Normally this is a conversion and there are automatically covered.

The final feature is the ability to write a check for the death benefit within 24 hours of notice of death is a benefit that every Kansas National Guard member deserves. Experience shows that immediately after the death of a family member is devastating to those left behind. Many times the check we deliver is received the family tells us know how much that will help with the unforeseen expenses. Commanders have relayed while the loss is tragic, the check is the first good news the family receives and they understand they will be able to get through the tragedy of the untimely death.

Do you want to turn the features into benefits? As always we are here to serve and would appreciate the chance to share the program at your unit training assembly. All you have to do is call and set up a briefing (316) 288-9496 or email NGAKSSSLI@AOL.COM.