

THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

PO Box 266

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NGANJ.ORG

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11 JANUARY 2018

The meeting was called to order at 1735 hours by President William L. Peace, Sr.

A roll call was read and the following elected officers were present:

COL Bill Peace, JFHQ, President
Maj. Eric Balint, 108th CE, 1st Vice President
MAJ Vince Tirri, 2nd Vice
CPT Gus Tascon, Acting Secretary

Distinguished Guests: COL Peace introduced Mrs. Josephine Grey-Martin of the Health and Benefits Committee, and she in turn introduced Mr. Darrel Hutchinson of (US Family Health Plan).

Representatives in attendance:

JFHQ CW2 Jose Ramirez
RSG CPT Gus Tascon
117th 1LT Kevin Meyer
119th 2LT Castillo
Brigade MAJ Joseph McNamara
114 John Lore
CAV CPT Prusser
BSB 1LT Curry
104th BEB 1LT Matthew Gounaris
108th multiple

Representatives via dial in:

2/102nd Cav Stephen Prusser

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Ben Britt provided account balances to Bill Peace who briefed the two main accounts. He advised that there was \$21,707 in the operating account (Last balance was a little over \$25,000) with \$30,576 in the Insurance reserve account (last balance was \$30,698). The draft budget that was sent out to the executive council for an electronic vote received 16 votes, all in favor of and was passed. Our accountant, Wasserman Inc., is performing our annual audit and taxes returns.

Memberships: 2018 dues were presented. No change to dues since 2016. Vince Tirri presented online payment option utilizing NGAUS.ORG website. He discussed an Early bird special as well as a refund to NJ if dues are paid early as an incentive for our association. We need to be at a certain % of membership IOT get full 25% back from NGAUS. Pay online. We average 25% per year.

Legislative: MAJ Vince Tirri Briefed. He is planning a legislative trip to D.C. for the spring of 2018 to meet with congressmen and is working to reinvigorate state visits to NGAUS. We foresee the new administration bringing new influence to NGANJ.

Resolutions: MAJ Vince Tirri Briefed. None have come in at this time. We will work with the membership and State leadership to develop 3 top resolutions and present them at the NGAUS conference. Spoke of the discussion within the group were regarding equipment shortages, GI Bill benefits, a lack of educational protection nationally (USARA). We will work with NGAUS legislative staff to improve in resolutions.

CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS:

STATE: Eric Balint Briefed: 2018 conference is set for Asbury Park 27-29APR. The room rate is \$129 for our members, when they are normally \$149 on Friday and \$179 on Saturday. There was an issue with registering, but same was fixed. Information is on our website, NGANJ.ORG. The elected officers are putting a program together for the weekend to include OPD, and will work with TAG and Chiefs of Staff to develop a great program for this year. We are also incorporating the Eastern Region Association of the Rainbow Division Veterans (WW II Group), with several hospitality suites being developed.

NATIONAL: Bill Peace briefed. 24-27 AUG New Orleans LA. Room rates will be available next meeting. Leadership will be in NOLA next week to get more information regarding room rates and program of events. We discussed renting a van or possibly a bus to take membership and guests to New Orleans to save money.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

HEALTH AND BENEFITS COMMITTEE: Mrs. Josephine Gray-Martin discussed benefits and committee news. Introduced Mr. Daryl Hutchinson to brief North Jersey updates. Outreach to Tricare eligible personnel in North Jersey units.

INSURANCE: COL Peace briefed insurance program. \$10,000 benefit. We went from 242 participants with benefits to additional 211 with the work from Chief (Ret.) Tom Comyack and COL (Ret.) John Scannell. Tom briefed program and ability to go out to units to sign people up. They also go out to PHAs/SRPs but those are more of marketing events. He advised it will take approximately 5 years to build a robust program. COL Scannell briefed benefits and importance of the program. Valuable, inexpensive benefit from the association.

OLD BUSINESS:

None to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

The new chair of the presidents golf outing, Gus Tascon, made a motion to establish 4 scholarships at \$1,000 from funds raised at the last Presidents Golf Outing. The motion was seconded by Joseph McNamara. There were 15 Ayes and no Nays and the motion passed.

A motion was made to end meeting by Doug Coppola seconded by John Lore. The meeting ended at 1935.

WILLIAM L. PEACE, Sr.
COL, LG, NJARNG
President, National Guard Association of N.J.

POST SCRIPT:

The elected officers met directly after the meeting to discuss administrative details.

1. It was decided that an Invitation be forwarded to the new Governor and the Asbury Park Mayor to attend the NGANJ Conference.
2. It was decided to again streamline reports for the Business Meeting.
3. Dates were established for upcoming meetings and recorded by Vince Tirri.
4. Hospitality Suites for MSCs and the Eastern Region Association, RDVF were totaled at 4 and Eric Balint will work with the Berkley Hotel to secure them.
5. 2019 event locations discussion ensued and Galloway Twp and Morristown were two areas discussed.
6. The Next Executive Council Meeting will take place at the State conference in April, possibly on Saturday (TBD). The next would be on 24 July 2018 to help finalize NGAUS conference activities, followed by one on 02OCT.
7. We discussed possible changes to Bylaws to streamline some of the committees by folding them into the vice presidents jobs.
8. We discussed including our Presidents Golf Outing with a "Tournament of Champions" match of four outings with one price and the winners of the outings working toward obtaining a TAG Cup.