

Executive Director Report, 16 Oct 2004

It has now been six months since I began working in this position and it truly continues to be an eye opener for me. I am impressed by the activity in this association and even more impressed by the efforts of you all as volunteers that make it all work.

In addition to the daily activities at Biddle Hall, Rosie and I were extremely busy with the administrative preparation for the NGAUS conference in Las Vegas. We had 74 delegates, spouses, and guests participate in the conference and it was a huge success. Pennsylvania's attendance was obvious as we represented the largest National Guard in the country. President Bush and Senator Kerry addressed the group; we conducted conference business and elected new officers. MGen Lynch was elected to NGAUS Vice President – Air, to his credit and the efforts of his campaign chairman, Andy Ryder. Needless to say, Gen Lynch's appointment is good for Pennsylvania and this association.

The following are some of our issues and activities happening in our association.

-PNGAS.net. Dennis Guise manages an outstanding web page for us. Look into it frequently, it is always current and provides important association activities. We plan to add a "Country Store", where we will sell PNGAS shirts, coins, miniature medals, posters, etc. Let us know anything else you would like to see.

-The Guardian. I have met with our publisher for our association magazine, Hawthorne Communications. We plan to publish the magazine four times a year rather than three as we have been doing. There is certainly enough interesting and newsworthy activity going on in the Pa Guard. An additional copy a year will cost more money but to offset the cost our publisher plan to aggressively sell advertisement and solicit more supporters. Currently the magazine only goes to PNGAS members. I would like to someday afford to send it to all Pa guardsmen.

-Legislative Activities. I have established email address book of all Pa. Legislators and their staffers. This has given me quick access to send them issues that we, NGAUS and PNGAS are seeking support. The current priority has been the initiative to provide cost-share Tricare to all guardsmen who are either unemployed or whose company does not provide health insurance, not just those deployed. I have also been in contact with Representative Curt Weldon encouraging his support. He has been selected as one of the 29 representatives to work the national defense authorization act.

-Cyber Café'. Using the funds authorized by this board, seven Dell computers were purchased for the Cyber Café'. The Cyber Café' is an internet platform which allows soldiers and airmen to visit, surf the web, and communicate with email to friends and family. PNGAS.net is the home page on all our computers, and the Training Site provided a huge sign across the entrance "PNGAS Internet Café'". The gap cable has been installed for connectivity. Overall it is quite obvious that this is a PNGAS supported initiative. Maj Tim Gwinn deserves a lot of credit for getting this project up and running.

-Corporate Membership. Andy Ryder and I are very involved in vitalizing our corporate membership program. We are discussing the dues structure, an area where we

are selling ourselves short. We will be developing a program that is more lucrative while providing a more intimate relationship with our defense contactors. We will highlight our credentials such as largest National Guard, Stryker brigade, legislative power in Pa., i.e. Murtha, Weldon, and also NGAUS board influence with VP-Air Lynch. We will also develop a program that provides more exposure to our corporate members, our senior leadership, and lawmakers.

-Biddle Hall Maintenance. Currently have work orders to repair steps on side of building. Ground hog holes and flooding have caused erosion that has made the steps unsafe.

-Past Activities

--17 Aug, Legislative staffer visit with TAG.

--14-16 Sep, NGAUS conference, Las Vegas (Gen Lynch elected VP-Air).

-Future Activities

Unscheduled

--Watchilla/Siegal Award presentation?? Tag Review-Watchilla //Siegal-Visit DC office

--Senior leader function scheduled for 18 Sep cancelled for weather, rescheduled?

--2005 Capitol Day plans?

2004

--22 Oct, Title 10 Conference, PNGAS hosts refreshments, Buddy Davison brief benefits

--24 Oct, Stryker activation, 28th Div host, Ft IGMR, PNGAS reception at Biddle

--3 Nov, Foundation Meeting, future of Lodge and Soldier's Grove

--10 Dec, TAG Review, PNGAS asked for donation

2005

--23 Jan, NGEDA meeting, Honolulu, plan 2005 NGAUS conference

--4 Feb, PNGAS Board meeting, 0800hrs, Biddle Hall

--1-2 Mar, Legislative Visit/Breakfast, Holden host, Rayburn building

--29-30 Apr, PNGAS conference, Sheraton Society Hill, Philadelphia, 56th BDE host

--1 May, PNGAS board meeting, Sheraton Society Hill, Philadelphia

--20-22 May, SSLI meeting, Denver, Co

--30 Jul, PNGAS board meeting, Biddle Hall

--21-24 Aug EANGUS conference, Orlando, Fl

--17-19 Sep, NGAUS conference, Honolulu, Hawaii

2006

--29-30 Apr, PNGAS conference, Toftrees Resort, State College, 112th AOS/Army? host

--18-21 Aug, NGAUS conference, New Orleans, La

2007

--7-10 Sep NGAUS conference, San Juan, PR

2008

--22-25 Aug, NGAUS conference, Des Moines, Iowa

Report submitted by:

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