

# The National Guard Association of North Dakota

# NGAND



National Guard  
Association of  
North Dakota

Our purpose: To educate, advocate and promote the well being of our state and nation. Now and forever - We are the Guard!

May 2016

## Executive Director Update



The National Guard Association of North Dakota has been productive since the first of the year. The year started with our annual membership drive and to-date we have approximately 40% of our officers paid or are life members. If you are interested in joining please see your respective unit representative or visit [www.ngand.org](http://www.ngand.org) to find your representative. In March, we had our annual Roughrider conference in Fargo. For those of you who did not attend, please visit our annual conference tab on our website with the recap of the event. This year we had roughly 100 in attendance during the day and close to 160 that attended the banquet. My goal for next year's conference in Bismarck is to have 200 personnel in attendance. This year NGAND and NDNGEA presented the Second Annual Roughrider Association Award to MG (Ret) David Sprynczynatyk for a lifetime of dedication to both the Enlisted and Officer Associations. The list of our sponsors are listed on the home page of our website, so please thank them. **During the conference both associations agreed that we will be fighting for State Tax exemption for all NDNG Soldiers, Airmen, and Retirees during the 2017 legislative session.** This means that we need all of your support to make this happen. If interested in assisting, please contact CW2 Simmers or myself. This year's national NGAUS conference is being held in Baltimore, MD from 9-12 September. It would be great if we could bring 20 delegates to this year's conference to represent ND, so please email CW2 Simmers or myself if you are interested, as there is money available to offset costs. It has been a privilege being the Executive Director of our association and am excited for what is to come in the future. Please don't hesitate to email me if you have any questions or concerns about your association, NGAND.

## Chairman's Corner



What good is this newsletter to me? What would my membership do for me? I get the sense that these are common questions—and ones that merit answers. If one is familiar with NGAUS, they'll know that NGAUS drove many key items that we could not when we raised our hands to support Uncle Sam...and gave up a certain amount of our freedom of speech. The reason Guardsmen have their current access to TRICARE is, in large part, thanks to NGAUS. The reason we're recognized as an operational force—equitable to our Active Component siblings in rights, benefits, and equipment, is because of NGAUS. The reason Congress didn't cut our drill pay in half over the last couple of years' budget cuts is because NGAUS is there advocating for you and for me. Check out [ngaus.org](http://ngaus.org) for more. If membership was pushed on you in the past, I am sorry about your experience—but now it's **your** decision what **you** want to do, and this membership:

--protects your future both in funding for your success during your military career and protecting your retirement benefits afterward

--protects the future for those serving under you and those who will join our ranks in the future. And if we're good leaders, we can agree that it's not about us, but others

Please, let us know why you have or why you have not joined. We believe this organization serves every Service Member well, and we need your feedback to promote its value to you. Please don't hesitate to contact Chris or me.

### Why join NGAND?

- Be a member of a professional organization that promotes and supports the well being of Soldiers and Airmen
- Fight for benefits for our Airmen and Soldiers
- Address future issues that could impact our State or Federal missions

### Upcoming Events:

- Membership Drive: Ends 26 June 2016
- National Conference: 9-12 September in Baltimore, MD
- 2017 Roughrider Conference: 17-19 March in Bismarck

### Information on NGAND:

[www.ngand.org](http://www.ngand.org)

[www.facebook.com/NGAssnND](https://www.facebook.com/NGAssnND)

### Executive Director Info:

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