

July Board Meeting Minutes
22 July 2008

The MONGA Board met on 22 July 2008 in the Executive Conference Room of ISTS in Jefferson City. Teleconference was available for those who could not attend in person.

1. Call to Order: LTC Jay Banwell, President, called the meeting to order at 13:00.

2. Roll Call: SFC Brenda Randles, Secretary

President, LTC Jay Banwell	Present	
President-Elect, LtCol Mark Bradley	Present	
Immediate Past President, Col Mike McEnulty	Present	
Vice-President - Air, MSgt Leah Caldwell	Present	
Vice-President - Army, CPT Barbara King	Present	
Secretary, SFC Brenda Randles	Present	
Treasurer, Capt Marcus Jackson	Present	
Enlisted Committee Chair, MSgt Leah Caldwell	Present	
Retired Committee, Jim Dunn	Not present	
Auxiliary President, Mrs. Debbie Cheshire	Not present	
Chaplain, CPT Dustin Kennedy	Not present	
Administrative Assistant, Suzanne Hardy	Present	
Executive Director, Vernon James	Present	
131 FW	1Lt Josh Hoorman SSgt Carney/SrA Conrey	Present Not present
139 AW	Maj Byron Newell SSgt Kent Harms	Proxy to MSgt Caldwell Proxy to MSgt Caldwell
157 AOG	Capt Darren Whitehorn MSgt Mark Smith	Present Present
JFHQ	LTC Jerry Sanders MSgt Veronica Hoffman	Not present Present
70th TRP CMD	MAJ John Benson SSG Teresa Hollis	Not present Not present
35 EN BDE	2LT Travis Miller SFC Mark Crites	Not present Not present
20 CBT AVN BDE	COL John Anderson MSG Lonnie Brandon	Present Proxy to SFC Randles
110 MEB	LTC Brent Beckley 1SG Ken Steinbeck	Proxy to CPT King Present
VISITORS	MAJ John Martin CPT Derrick Jennings 1LT Jordan Clark SSG Benjamin Hansen	

There were enough Board members present for a quorum.

3. Approval of Minutes: Minutes for the April Board Meeting were accepted as written with no changes or discussion.

4. Treasurer's Report: Capt Marcus Jackson
Account Balance as of 22 July 2008: \$13,586.00
Nothing outstanding.

Treasurer's report accepted.

5. Committee Reports:

a. Legislative: Vernon James

1. The Missouri National Guard Association has supported efforts in the Missouri Legislature to make military retirement pay exempt from Missouri state income tax for the last several years. HB 1788- "In addition to all other subtractions authorized in this section, for all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2008, there shall be subtracted from Missouri adjusted gross income, determined under section 143.121, one hundred percent of the retirement benefits received by any taxpayer as a result of the taxpayer's service in the armed forces of the United States, including reserve components and the national guard of this state, as defined in Sections 101(3) and 109 of Title 32, United States Code, and any other military force organized under the laws of this state, to the extent such benefits are included in the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income in the calculation of Missouri taxable income." The MoNGA supported this legislation but we were NOT successful in getting it to a final vote. Your legislative team will work again next year to get this bill passed. We will send a legislative alert to our members next year when this bill is again introduced. We will ask off of you to write your State Senator and Representative to encourage them to be a co-sponsor of the bill and push for final passage.

2. SB 806- "This act provides that the U.S. and Missouri state flags be flown at half-staff for one full day whenever a Missouri resident is killed in the line of duty during military service. The Missouri Veterans' Commission shall make ongoing reasonable efforts to determine if any residents have been killed in the line of duty, and shall notify the governor of any such death. The governor, who shall determine the day on which the resident shall be honored, shall then notify the office of administration." This bill was approved and delivered to the Governor for his signature on May 29, 2008.

3. HB 1678- provided for changes to the Missouri Veterans Commission and Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission. This bill also provides:

"Allows the spouse and children of a soldier who was killed in action after September 11, 2001, or who became 80% disabled as the result of an injury sustained in combat action after September 11, 2001, to receive an educational grant for tuition at a public or private college or university in Missouri. The Coordinating Board of Higher Education will award up to 25 grants annually. If the waiting list of eligible survivors exceeds 50, the board can ask the General Assembly to increase the number of grants it is authorized to award. The tuition grant cannot exceed what is charged for a resident by

the University of Missouri-Columbia. The veteran must have been a Missouri resident when first entering military service or at the time of death in order for his or her survivors to receive this grant. In addition to the full cost of tuition, the grant includes \$2,000 per semester for room and board and the actual cost of books up to \$500 per semester. Children are eligible to receive the scholarship until age 25. Spouses are eligible until age 45. No eligible student will receive a grant for more than 100% of the tuition costs when combined with other similar funds given to the student.” This bill was approved and delivered to the Governor for his signature on May 29, 2008.

4. SG 830- “This act shall be known as the “Missouri Returning Heroes’ Education Act,” and provides that all public institutions of higher education that receive any state funds appropriated by the general assembly shall limit the tuition charged to combat veterans to fifty dollars per credit hour, for any program leading to a certificate, or an associate or baccalaureate degree. A “combat veteran” is any person who served in the armed combat after September 11, 2001, who was a Missouri resident when first entering the military, and who was discharged from military service under honorable conditions.

An eligible combat veteran shall receive the tuition limitation as long as the veteran achieves and maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least two and one-half points on a four point scale, or its equivalent. The eligibility period for the tuition limitation shall expire ten years from the date of the veteran’s last discharge from service.

The Coordinating Board for Higher Education shall ensure that the institutions comply with the provisions of this act, and the board may promulgate any rules for the efficient implementation of the act. Any other financial assistance for which the veteran is eligible must be reported to the board, and no combat veteran shall receive more than the actual cost of attendance when the limitation is combined with any other financial assistance made available to such veteran.

Each institution may report to the board the amount of tuition waived in the previous fiscal year under this act, which may be included in each institution’s request for appropriations to the board for the following year. The board may include information about the amount of tuition waived in the previous year in its appropriations recommendations to the governor and general assembly, and the general assembly may reimburse institutions for the cost of the waiver for the previous year as part of the operating budget. However, this shall not be construed to deny a combat veteran a tuition limitation if the general assembly does not appropriate money for reimbursement to an institution.”

This bill was approved and delivered to the Governor for his signature on May 29, 2008.

5. Update - attempt to lower Medicare/Tricare reimbursement to doctors was headed off at the pass for now. The U.S. Senate passed the bill; it was vetoed by the President. This is just an 18-month fix. This impacts military personnel by tying Tricare reimbursement fees to Medicare and limiting the number of doctors who are willing to accept Tricare patients.

Legislative Committee report accepted.

b. Membership: Vernon James

1. The membership report as of 15 July 2008 was sent to Board members prior to the meeting.

2. The current membership brochure has two columns; one column for state only dues, one for national (EANGUS/NGAUS) dues. Discussion to eliminate the option to pay state only dues. The two columns also adds confusion if someone pays only the national dues, as both EANGUS and NGAUS require state membership to be a national member.

Motion: to redesign the membership brochure to have one column for dues.
Motion seconded.

Discussion: What about state life members? State life members would be alerted to the change.

Can we offer 2-year membership? The membership database was not designed for 2-year memberships.

Can we add a place on the membership brochure to indicate sponsorship? If we re-design the membership brochure, this would be possible.

Motion carried.

3. NGAUS offers ODP and EANGUS offers NCODP at their national conferences. Question: can we implement something like that at our state conference? This idea has been discussed before. The benefits would be: company-grade officers and junior enlisted could be on orders for the conference, which would help defray the cost; attendance could be improved. The main problem is time constraints.

4. President Banwell will select members for the Membership Committee, and a Membership Committee meeting will be scheduled outside the scheduled Board meetings.

5. MoNGA's Executive Director will build a powerpoint presentation for Command Reps for use in encouraging membership. The presentation will also be put on the website for downloading.

Membership Committee report accepted.

c. Finance: Capt Marcus Jackson

1. Capt Jackson is in the process of establishing a Finance Committee.

2. Industry Partnership Program has a balance of \$15,000. The growth of the Industry Partnership Program is due the hard work of the Executive Director, Vernon James. According to his contract, he gets paid 10% of dollars brought in. He has brought in \$9,600; he will be paid \$960.

Finance Committee report accepted.

d. Awards: No report.

e. Ways and Means: No report.

f. By-Laws: No report.

g. Auxiliary: No report.

h. Retired: No report.

i. Enlisted: MSgt Leah Caldwell

1. EANGUS Conference is 17-22 August in Savannah, GA.

2. Roger Hagan, EANGUS Vice-President, sent a thank you to the

Board for his attendance at the MoNGA Conference in April. Vice-President Hagan addressed the Enlisted Committee on Friday at the Conference, and spoke at the General Business Session on Saturday morning.

Enlisted Committee report accepted.

6. Vice President Reports:

a. VP Air: MSgt Leah Caldwell

1. There are legislative issues at both the state and national level that could affect Airmen and Soldiers and need to be monitored closely.

2. Once the membership brochure is published and ready for distribution, we need to ensure enough brochures go out to the Units. Although the website is set up to accept payment for membership, there are still a lot of Airmen and Soldiers who prefer to send in their payment via the brochure.

VP Air report accepted.

b. VP Army: CPT Barbara King

CPT King is working to get her arms around the position.

VP Army report accepted.

7. Insurance Trust Report: No report.

8. New Business:

a. Travel days for EANGUS National Conference are Sunday the 17th and Friday the 22nd. Travel is by commercial air. MoNGA has blocked out 28 rooms for attendees. Final changes will be coordinated with the hotel. Insurance Trust will pay for rooms for MoNGA Board members attending, and an equal dollar amount will be given for expenses at NGAUS National Conference.

b. MoNGA's Executive Director attended the site visit for NGAUS National Conference in Baltimore, MD. Missouri will share the hospitality room with New Jersey. Those planning to attend the Conference must register as soon as possible. Three of the award recipients at the NGAUS Conference are from Missouri.

c. 2010 EANGUS Conference: MSgt Leah Caldwell and Vernon James are the Co-Chairs for the 2010 EANGUS Conference in St. Louis. They will be selecting the committees soon.

d. Per email from Executive Director: "LTC (Ret) William (Bill) Ratliff has been serving as the registered Missouri lobbyist for MoNGA and we owe him a great debt of gratitude. He has done so much for us by being our pro bono lobbyist in the Missouri legislature. He pushed for passage of HB 444 on our behalf which began the phased-in exemption from Missouri state income tax for military retirement pay. He pushed hard for HB 1788 this year which would have completely ended state income tax on military retirement pay but it did not pass. I recommend that MoNGA pay the \$125 retired life membership dues to NGAUS on behalf of Bill in recognition of his valuable service to our association. If the board approves this expenditure, I also recommend that we send Bill an official letter signed by (MoNGA President) to commemorate our gratitude for his service to MoNGA. (Bill) joined MoNGA as a retired life member at the April conference."

Motion: to pay NGAUS retired life membership dues for LTC (Ret) William Ratliff and send an official letter signed by MoNGA's President as notification. Motion seconded. No discussion. Approved.

e. Executive Director's contract: The Executive Director's contract expires at the end of July. Vernon James has been working full-time at a part-time job and has done an exemplary job.

Motion: from Capt Marcus Jackson to renew the Executive Director's contract with a 10% increase in monthly salary to \$2,200, and to make the Executive Director an employee of the Association instead of an independent contractor.

Discussion: would there be a benefit to having a 2-year contract with the Executive Director, especially due to the 2010 EANGUS Conference in Missouri? There is more flexibility for pay with a one-year contract. Contract details will be worked out if Board approves retention of Executive Director position.

Motion carried.

9. President's Report: LTC Jay Banwell

a. President Banwell has recently returned from deployment and is getting settled back into home and work.

b. Membership cannot be stressed enough. (Executive Director: NGAUS and EANGUS both have membership workshops. Proposal to send a MoNGA member in addition to the Executive Director to these workshops, and that individual or individuals would also sit on the Membership Committee.)

c. Attendance at NGAUS Conference is encouraged.

10. Immediate Past-President's Report: Col Mike McEnulty

a. Welcome back to President Banwell.

b. Col McEnulty stressed making the Association a professional organization during his tenure as President, and the Executive Director's position was a big part of that.

- c. The membership database has largely been fixed.
 - d. In reference to offering ODP/NCODP at the Association Conference, it is important to have a balance of both work and fun.
 - e. A lot of hard work went into the By-Laws changes, which were approved at the Conference in April.
13. Pledge of Allegiance: LTC Jay Banwell
 14. The July Board Meeting adjourned at 14:25.