

The Guard Post

OHIO NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION · 1299 VIRGINIA AVENUE · COLUMBUS, OHIO 43212



From the President

COL Maria Kelly · If you believe in great timing or coincidence, then you would appreciate what a great stroke of luck I had when my boss presented a professional development library of fifteen books to each brigade headquarters of the Ohio Army National Guard. The libraries were purchased with award money from the Army Communities of Excellence National Championship Awards and will be distributed to every company, battalion and brigade headquarters in order to further leader development efforts. The book that caught my immediate attention—right after Peter B. Kyné's *The Go-Getter*—was *The Servant* by James C. Hunter.

The Servant is described as a simple story about the true essence of leadership. Quite simply put, it characterizes leadership no differently than we do in the military — influencing others to

work enthusiastically toward goals. The book emphasizes the use of *authority* over power. It further describes effective leaders as those whose “authority” is built on *service* and *sacrifice*.

I can't think of anyone who lived out this type of service and sacrifice on a daily basis more than our own Ohio National Guard Leadership. The Adjutant General of Ohio, MG Wayt, along with Assistant Adjutants General Maj. Gen. Feucht and MG Kambic provided extraordinary service to the Ohio National Guard and this nation's National Guard and national defense throughout their tenures of service. As President of the Ohio National Guard Association (ONGA) and a member throughout my commissioned service, I have been very proud to be a member of an association that serves the men and women of such a caring organization which is committed to both serving this great nation and state as well as its soldiers, airmen and family members. We will greatly miss these leaders as they retire from active military service, but look forward to their continued participation as members of our Association.

The example that our leaders set by their presence and participation in the ONGA and the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) serves as a great example to each of us. I'm very happy to report to you that your ONGA Board of Trustees is comprised of volunteer leaders who engage in their board work with dedication, responsibility, and enthusiasm. Your First Vice President Lt. Col. Kathy Lowrey has taken on the leadership of

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• Bulletin Board •

Board of Trustees Meetings

1830 hours

6 January 2011 7 April 2011

Unit Rep Meetings

1830 hours

13 January 2011 10 March 2011

Legislative Task Force Meetings

1700 hours

6 January 2011 7 April 2011

Legislative Breakfast

14 May 2011, Riffe Center, Columbus

133rd NGAUS Conference

27–29 August 2011, Milwaukee

NGEDA Annual Meeting

27–29 January 2011, Milwaukee

ONGA Winter Dinner Dance

19 February 2011

Hilton Polaris, Columbus

ONGA State Conference

15–16 April 2011, Columbus

Inside...

Winter Dinner Dance

**ONGA State Conference
information**

Brown Boots Scoop

COL Terry Dalrymple (ret) · The U.S. Senate has given this country some colorful, long serving senators. They must have enjoyed their work, because many of them served until their deaths. Among those were Ted Kennedy and Robert Byrd. Senator Byrd being the longest serving Senator, but not the oldest. That honor goes to Strom Thurmond, whom celebrated his 100th birthday while still in office. These wise old men became keen observers of the American scenes. The insights they gained through long lives can be instructive to us in arenas other than government. An example was an observation expressed by Senator Thurmond. Born in 1902, he claimed to have seen the coming of the automobile age, the air age, and the computer age. He went on to say that of the three advancements, the computer age would have the greatest impact on our lives. It has become apparent that he was right.

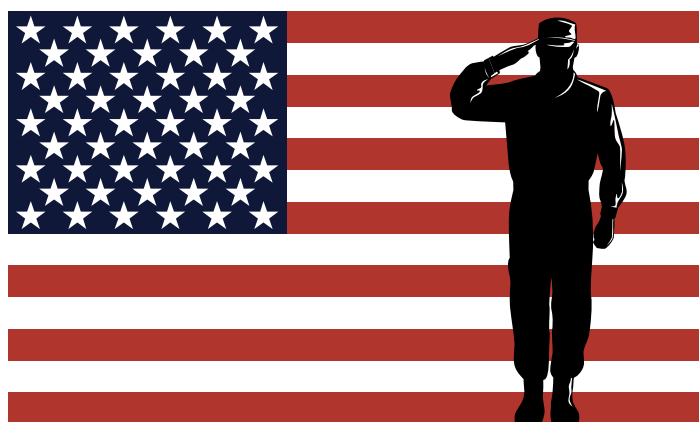
When the automobile first appeared, not many people learned to drive. Usually the head of the household would drive and everyone else would ride. Many older people did not learn to drive, even though they lived well into the twentieth century. The youth of the day soon found they could gain much prestige, and also have fun, driving a sleek, fast car. For many the automobile became the focal point of their lives. The same syndrome can be observed today with the computers. Older people are confounded by the contraptions while young people spend hours pursuing computer games, texting, music and even doing serious things such as homework. As older people find themselves left behind, they also find changes that are hard to accept. Typewriters have virtually disappeared, along with photographic film, phonograph records, and drafting boards. There is even talk that home delivered newspapers, and textbooks would eventually be replaced with electronic images and, possibly, books. Youth scoff at those who are not able to keep up, as did the hot rod kids of the early twentieth century, and do not want the formalities of the institutions of the past.

They seek new ways to communicate in the world rather than the old, one-way communications, such as newspapers and written correspondence. This seems to be threatening some of our longstanding institutions. Organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion are finding it difficult to attract members from the ranks of returning veterans. Going to a bar in a VFW to talk it over

with fellow veterans apparently is not attractive to youth. One veteran of Iraq recently referred to these veterans organizations as “dinosaurs.”

Will these changes in methods and attitudes impact the Ohio National Guard Association? I believe they will. As the membership grows to include more computer savvy individuals, they will expect better communications and less formality. Should their expectations not be delivered, interest in the organization and membership will probably decline. That identifies another issue, the concept of membership in an institution. Facebook has half a billion “members” worldwide. Maybe “members” is not the correct term. People do not fill out membership applications or pay dues. The association is informal and free. The current concept of being a member of an organization may disappear.

The Ohio National Guard Association serves an important role in pursuing national support for the National Guard. Healthcare, tuition assistance, adequate pay, retirement, and a host of other benefits enjoyed by National Guardsmen were delivered by the Association. The success of the National Guard is closely linked to the success of the Association. We must continually find new ways to serve our members and the National Guard. The new ways will include two-way communications, new sources of funding, legislative initiatives and many other issues. Senator Thurmond passed away in 2003. Facebook, Twitter, Skype and many other computer tools did not exist at the time. But he was able to perceive the future. Some in our society may not like the rapid pace of change, but we must accept it and embrace it in order to remain relevant and effective. □



Membership Reminder

The accompanying dues schedule lists the annual membership dues for both associations. The dues for other categories of membership are as follows:

- ONGA Associate Member – \$10.00 for 2011
 Retired Member – \$15.00 for 2011
 Life Member, Retired – \$125.00 (one-time)
 Life Member, Active – \$250.00 (one-time)
- NGAUS Active Life Member – \$1,000.00 (one-time, or four \$250.00 payments over two years)
 Retired Life Member – \$125.00 (one time)
 Retired Annual Member – \$45.00 (annually)

2011 Annual Dues

Special provisions apply for officers newly appointed outside the dues collection period. ONGA annual dues for those appointed during the year are waived until the following year. NGAUS provides a one-time, annual membership to any officer, regardless of rank, upon their initial appointment to the National Guard.

Rank	NGAUS	ONGA	Totals
0-1	\$ 30.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 45.00
0-2	45.00	15.00	60.00
0-3	59.00	17.00	76.00
0-4	72.00	20.00	92.00
0-5	85.00	22.00	107.00
0-6	108.00	24.00	132.00
0-7	123.00	25.00	148.00
0-8	139.00	25.00	164.00
0-9	153.00	25.00	178.00
WO-1	26.00	15.00	41.00
CW-2	35.00	15.00	50.00
CW-3	46.00	17.00	63.00
CW-4	59.00	20.00	79.00
CW-5	73.00	20.00	93.00

Taps



Col. Paul Steiskal (ret)
 LTC Donald A. Campbell (ret)
 Maj. Wayne E. Harmon Jr. (ret)
 Maj. Terri Adducchio (ret)
 Maj. Roger Mills
 CPT Corwin Belt (ret)
 CW4 Earl "Pete" Carle (ret)
 LTC Owen D. Newell (ret)
 CW0 Andrew G. Mays (ret)



The Guard Post

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 Ohio National Guard Association

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COL Maria E. Kelly, *President*
 Lt. Col. Kathy Lowrey, *1st Vice President*
 MAJ Phillip L. McGonagill, *2nd Vice President*
 MAJ Wayne A. Thomas, *Secretary*
 BG Robert L. Lawson (ret), *Executive Director*
 CW4 Jerry Wilson, *Insurance Administrator*

The Guard Post is published biannually by the Ohio National Guard Association. Letters, questions or items for publication may be sent to:

ONGA
 The Guard Post
 P.O. Box 8070
 Columbus, Ohio 43201

Moved? Moving? Retired?

Send changes of address to

ONGA
 P.O. Box 8070
 Columbus, Ohio 43201
 or ONGAKoper@prodigy.net

NGAUS
 One Massachusetts Ave, NW
 Washington, DC 20001
 or bcarter@ngaus.org

If you are retired and wish to continue receiving the Buckeye Guard, a written request must be sent to the State Public Affairs Office. Addresses are not automatically transferred from the SIDPERS mailing list.

Send your requests to

State Public Affairs Office
 Retiree Mailing List
 2825 W. Dublin Granville Rd.
 Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789

“Hot Wash” An Officer’s Report

CPT David Foster · The 2010 National Guard Association General Conference in Austin, Texas was an opportunity for 5000 officers from the fifty-four states and territories to get together and discuss the Strategic direction of the Air and Army National Guard. Attending this event included several senior National Guard leaders, U.S. Army and Air Force senior leaders, the Commander of the U.S. Northern Command, congressmen, senators and other distinguished guests.

The 2010 Conference kicked off with a mixer for all of the Ohio Delegates, where food and drinks were served, giving everyone a chance to meet each other since they were going to be attending events together over the next four days. Every night there was a social event for everyone attending the conference. These social events were important for the junior officers because they provided prime opportunities to network with seniors and peers — a chance to speak with the senior state and MSC leaders in an informal setting and on a personal level. But this was not the only reason to attend the Conference.

For the Junior Officers the primary focus was Officer Professional Development, which included attending the separate Junior Officer Professional Development sessions and attending the conference general sessions. Attendees came away from these events with a broader perspective of the strategic direction of the National Guard, the Army and the military as a whole gained through speeches given by Gen. Craig McKinley, Chief, National Guard Bureau, ADM James A. Winnefeld Jr., Commander, U.S. Northern Command, and GEN James D. Thurman, Commander, U.S. Army Forces Command. Each session presented a great deal of information and was followed by a question and answer session on the presenter’s area of expertise. This was the only chance some Junior Warrants, Lieutenants and Captains had to ask O-9s and O-10s questions about the National Guard as a whole and the strategic plans of the United States.

NGAUS provides one unified representation before Congress and acts as one voice, speaking for fifty-four state and territory organizations. NGAUS represents over 51,000 officers nationwide, all striving to achieve the same thing: modern equipment, training, missions and personnel benefits for the Army and Air National Guard, and benefits that as-

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A Guard Wife’s View

Erin Foster · As my husband David and I stepped off of the plane in Austin, Texas, I was filled with anticipation and excitement for another entertaining conference hosted by the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS). With a little hesitation and no knowledge of what to expect, I had accompanied David to his first conference, last year in Nashville. This year was different; I was feeling like a seasoned vet.

On our way to Austin we met a wide-eyed woman in the airport wearing an Air Force T-shirt. After introductions, I was pleased to find out that Rae was the wife of Ohio Air National Guard Capt. Bo Cunningham. I was ecstatic, because last year I had the pleasure of spending time with Tessie Springer, the wife of Capt. J. R. Springer, and I was hoping to meet another Ohio wife to enjoy my time with this year. I was eager to introduce Rae to all of the spousal activities available at the conference.

We arrived in Austin to real Texan hospitality. There were tables with refreshments offered while we boarded the buses that would take us to our respective hotels. Each state was assigned to a different hotel in downtown Austin, and we were provided bus transportation to and from the Conference center, the different activities, and the hotels.

When David and I checked into the Radisson, our room was not ready. However, to our delight the hospitality suites were already open. Each state had a hospitality suite supplied with snacks and beverages to entertain its members and visitors from other states during downtime throughout the weekend. We made our way to the suite where COL Ashenhurst, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, and a few other members of Ohio’s National Guard Association (ONGA) already were taking advantage of all of the comforts the hospitality room had to offer. We joined them for some drinks and conversation until our room was cleaned and ready. We were eager to prepare ourselves for the night’s festivities.

The first night the company grade officers and field grade officers went their separate ways. The Company Grade Mixer was hosted at Deutsches Haus, which had a great indoor/outdoor environment for socializing. Thanks to donations by DRASH, we were provided with an open bar of local wines and beers, including Shiner Bock. We enjoyed a buffet of brats and brisket, potato salad and coleslaw was

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MG Wayt with Ohio's NGAUS Patrick Henry Award recipients, Jim Albright (left) and Bill Allen (right).



MG Bunting recognizing BG Jim Abraham (ret) as the oldest veteran (in service) attending the conference.



No matter where you go.



COL Kelly trying to beat the 45 second clock during the States Introduction.



View From the Air

Col. Joe Carr (ret) · In this second in a series of articles on the F-100 aircraft, we detail its flying history with the Ohio Air Guard. Although Ohio's units have flown a great variety of aircraft and missions, the F-100 was at one time in the 1970's assigned to four of its five flying squadrons making it one of the most significant aircraft in our recent experience. The only exception to this unusual uniformity was the 160th Air Refueling Group (145th ARS) with its KC-97's and KC-135's. There were earlier times when most Ohio units were flying versions of the Republic Aircraft Corporation's F-84, and before that the legendary P/F-51, but the F-100 period stands out in its level of accomplishments as the Air Guard entered a new era.

The 121st Tactical Fighter Wing's 166th Squadron at Lockbourne AFB was the first to receive the F-100 in 1962 and would fly the aircraft for 12 years, longer than any other Ohio unit. It would also experience an activation and overseas deployment. In June, 1968, 25 aircraft were deployed to Kunsan AB, Korea during the Pueblo Crisis. During this deployment, two 166th pilots, Lt. Col. Donald Griffith and Maj. Kenneth Potts, volunteered for 45 day TDY's to Vietnam and flew combat missions there with other units. The 121st converted to the A-7 aircraft in 1974.

Springfield's 178th (162nd TFS) was next to receive the F-100 in 1970. Their new aircraft came from Europe and Vietnam with a history of hard use and minimum maintenance. After much effort they were rehabilitated and were soon performing to the typical Air Guard standards of ex-

cellence. Springfield was reequipped with A-7's in 1978.

The 180th in Toledo (112th TFS) had a similar experience to Springfield, also receiving most of its aircraft from Vietnam in 1970. They would fly the "Hun" until 1980 when they also received A-7's.

Mansfield's 179th (164th TFS) would have the shortest experience with the F-100, receiving them in 1972 and exchanging them for C-130's and an airlift mission only four years later in 1976.

This period, when four Ohio units flew the F-100, provided great opportunities for camaraderie and friendly competition in events like the annual "Turkey Shoot" gunnery events. There were also many benefits of being able to share resources, personnel and experience. In addition to the 121st Pueblo activation, the Ohio units executed many difficult training and exercise deployments in the U.S. and overseas, demonstrating their capability to an often skeptical Air Force during the early days of "Total Force." They overcame the many difficulties of maintaining and operating an aging and challenging aircraft and they wrote a record of many outstanding accomplishments. This was not achieved without a significant cost. Twelve F-100 aircraft were lost to accidents and tragically four Ohio pilots were killed. Our memories include their ultimate sacrifice.

Note: These statistics are based on information in the *Ohio ANG 60 Year History* and the *OANG History, 1927-1974*. They are not from official sources. My next article will deal with some personal experiences with the F-100 in Vietnam. □



An Ohio F-100F (two-seat version) in its original silver-aluminum colors.

President's Message, continued

continued from page 1

a long range planning committee, which will look for ways of efficient and effective operations for years to come. Past President Lt. Col. Bonnie Gamary heads up the finance committee and is an active participant in the long range planning committee. Second Vice President Phil McGonagill and his team of volunteers is planning your spring state conference and business meeting. CW5 James Markley and his wife are once again heading up the Winter Dinner Dance. CPT David Foster heads up communications and was largely responsible for the new website and our *Facebook* page which were unveiled just this last year. MAJ Jeff Watkins recently attended training for Membership and is working with your unit representatives. Maj. Victor Wilson and LTC Ashley Webb are heading up the Legislative Task Force and have led efforts to increase awareness of national issues and legislation affecting our members. Your unit representatives meet throughout the year receiving and reporting updates on Association activities. The list goes on with volunteers who serve your association.

All of the aforementioned leaders serve our organization, but all of our members do as well. Your paid memberships in the ONGA and NGAUS speak volumes to our General Assembly and our Congress. Your active voice—using the *Write to Congress* option makes a difference every day. Not everyone is in a position to serve in office or lead a committee at this time, but we still need you to continue to serve. Please look at the example our leaders have set. Their very presence and participation at meetings makes a difference. Your active interest in affairs of the ONGA and NGAUS will make a difference too. Commit to *Write to Congress* once a week or once a month. It takes less than five minutes. Ensure that your battalion or wing unit representative is attending meetings and reporting back to the officers and warrant officers in your command. Share the benefits of ONGA and NGAUS with new officers and warrant officers in your unit. Attend functions such as the Winter Dinner dance (Feb. 11), state conference (Apr. 11), and the National conference in Milwaukee (Aug. 11). Your interest alone in your association will generate influence that will strengthen our collective voice.

Finally, I want to take a moment to congratulate a very dedicated member of our Association. LTC Steve Stivers was elected to serve as Ohio's 15th Congressional District Representative. Congressman elect Stivers has served his military career in the Ohio National Guard and will now represent his district through legislative service to his country. We thank you for your service, Steve. □

ONGA Conference — Leadership Nominations

In accordance with Article V. ONGA Constitution and Section 4, ONGA by-Laws, the ONGA Nominating Committee is seeking the nomination(s) of candidates to fill the following positions:

President (1 year)

First Vice President (1 year)

Second Vice President (1 year)

Treasurer (1 year)

Trustee at Large – Army (Field Grade) (2 years)

Trustee Retired – Air (2 years) (*Elected by Retired Caucus at Conference*)

Trustee Company Grade

Please forward names, addresses, unit of assignment and telephone numbers of interested and qualified members of the Association for nomination to the above listed positions to: ONGA Nominating Committee, 1299 Virginia Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43212.

Deadline for nominations is March 30, 2011. Nomination from the floor or write-in votes is appropriate during the election proceedings at the State Conference.

ONGA Conference — Call for Resolutions

Members of the Association, Units, or other interest groups may submit subjects for consideration as resolutions for the ONGA State Conference. These submissions should be forwarded to the Association office, 1299 Virginia Ave., Columbus, Ohio, 43212, by March 15, 2011.

These resolutions form the basis for your association's work with military and political entities for the coming year. This is an opportunity to present your view on important Guard issues. Once adopted by the Association, a resolution is forwarded to the addressees and to NGAUS for consideration for inclusion in the national resolutions process.

Proposed resolutions should be submitted to the ONGA Resolutions Committee at the above address or sent by email to ongakoper@prodigy.net. Subject matter experts will staff the suggested resolutions to confirm appropriate background information, language, and format. The final drafts will be presented to the membership for approval at the state conference.

Resolutions may be in the form of a letter, note or other written material that gives the background on the subject of concern and offers recommendations for improvement. The name(s) of the sponsor(s) should be included.

Columbus, Ohio

2011 ONGA Officers Conference

Friday 15 April

What Mixer

Where The Fawcett Center
Oliver's Restaurant
The Ohio State University
2400 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210

When 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Cost \$15.00

Saturday 16 April

What ONGA/ONGEA Business Meeting,

Where The Fawcett Center
Clinton Room
The Ohio State University
2400 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210

When 8:00 am – 8:30 am, Registration
8:30 am – 10:30 am, Combined Business Session and
sit-down breakfast. AGs and Speaker will anchor
this joint session
10:30 am – 10:45 am, Break
11:00 am – 12:30 am, Separate sessions

Cost Company Grade attendee and guests \$15.00 each
Field Grade attendee and guests \$25.00 each

Attire Business Casual

Officers Conference Registration Form

Name/Rank _____

_____ # to attend Friday's member's mixer x \$15.00 _____

_____ # to attend Saturday's events x \$15/\$25.00 _____

RSVP no later than 12 April 2011

Make checks payable to:

Ohio National Guard Association

or go online to www.ohionga.org to register
and pay through our online Paypal account.

Total _____

Forward RSVP with Check to:

ONGA, P.O. Box 8070
Columbus, Ohio 43201



"Hot Wash," David Foster, continued from page 4

sist service members from the active component and other branches. At the state level the Ohio National Guard Association (ONGA) works with the General Assembly to get additional benefits for national guardsmen, to include the 100% scholarship program, and the Ohio Veterans Bonus. As members of the military, we cannot lobby Congress (we can inform), so the civilian members of NGAUS/ONGA provide this service for us. Being a member directly supports legislation to improve the Ohio National Guard and the military as a whole.

All Company Grade Officers and all Warrant Officers are strongly encouraged to join these organizations. NGAUS/ONGA are not military organizations, but rather, private organizations advocating and providing services for military members — membership is voluntary. Any officer can be a member (ENGAUS is for Enlisted) and any officer can hold office within the organization (the communications chair is a captain). There are two guaranteed positions for junior officers on the board, one Army and one Air. The focus for the new president of ONGA is officer professional development; so attending the state and national conferences provide opportunities for professional development through networking, education, and Q&A sessions with Senior Leadership.

Conference attendance is especially important to junior officers because of the exposure you gain to senior state officers, the strategic perspective of the National Guard, and networking opportunities with other junior officers from Ohio and the rest of the Nation. Even more importantly, membership is something every officer should be proud of; NGAUS/ONGA has helped influence the make-up and the benefits the Guard enjoys today. To join or renew your membership go to www.ohionga.org, click on membership, and fill out the information; you are able to pay your dues either by PayPal or check.

Next year the state conference will be held in Columbus and the national conference will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a short eight-hour drive. Officers of all grades are encouraged to attend and will benefit from the experience — plan on attending the State conference in April and the National conference in August! □

A Guard Wife's View, Erin Foster, continued from page 4

served while a live band performed familiar country songs. It was our first opportunity to meet and greet couples from all over the country.

During this event the tradition of trading the state pins became noticeable. Each state designs and brings their own pins and gives each member and their spouse a certain number to trade with other state members. It is the perfect opportunity for people to mingle and strike up conversations. This year Ohio was represented with the Marble Head Lighthouse complete with its own red blinking light. The goal was to obtain a pin from each of the fifty-four states and territories. Some of the wives made it a little friendly competition, and came up with some creative means for filling up their lanyards. I was able to obtain forty-six states this year.

Although Thursday night was full of activities and socializing, Friday was the official kickoff of the conference. All of the exhibits were open for viewing and included everything from previews of wearable gear to the newest military technology. While the officers inquired about new gear for their troops, their spouses took interest in some of the interactive booths and the free goodies that were up for grabs. We were able to fire computerized weapons, tour new combat vehicles and tents, and even create personalized dog tags. Pens, coffee mugs, T-shirts, kozies, and notepads were just a few of the goodies I grabbed to add extra pounds to my suitcase. After taking our first quick tour of the exhibits, Rae and I headed up to the opening ceremonies. Last year, I was unaware that spouses were allowed to attend this portion of the conference, and fully intended to be present this year.

A local high school's JROTC performed an impressive drill team routine to kick off the ceremony. A mariachi band and country music musicians played songs leading up to the introduction of the governor of Texas, Rick Perry. He gave an incredible speech that welcomed everyone to the great state of Texas, explained all of the future plans for the Texas National Guard, and jokingly asked the soldiers present to stay behind and help secure the border.

Immediately following the governor's speech came the State Roll Call. Each year, a representative of each state has sixty seconds to introduce their state. Each one is different. Some states described their accomplishments in the military, some rattled off facts in creative ways while throwing treats into the audience. I made a note that next year I am going to borrow my husband's IOTV and ACH for the

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A Guard Wife's View, Erin Foster, continued from page 9

State Roll Call. Puerto Rico threw bags of coffee, Louisiana threw Mardi Gras beads, Texas threw cowboy hats. I was hit in the head twice by candy corn that Nebraska tossed, dodged numerous snacks and goodies, and was relieved when the "Granite State," New Hampshire, decided not to throw real granite. Did you know California has more cows than Texas, and makes more cheese than Wisconsin? Did you know that Georgia has the biggest party college in the nation? A few interesting characters accompanied the roll call of select states. Elvis was in the building, and Maryland had dancing crabs. Alabama promised that if you visited their beaches, thanks to BP, you would lie down and stick to them. All in all, it was very entertaining.

The day was followed by an evening of bull riding, barrel racing and rodeo clowns. For supper, everyone enjoyed brisket, rotisserie chicken, and peach cobbler served out of the back of Conestoga wagons. As if a rodeo wasn't enough excitement for the evening, like royalty, we were treated to a private concert by country music singer Rick Trevino. We headed back shortly after the concert, and although some couples decided to check out the night life of Austin, we headed back to the hotel because David had an early morning of meetings, and I had a big day of shopping ahead of me.

Saturday morning was the big spouses outing. While our husbands and wives were busy in meetings, we were given the option of shopping at the Riverfront in San Antonio, antique shopping in Austin, or outlet mall shopping in San Marcos. To our surprise, we were each handed a twenty-dollar gift card to use on our shopping excursion. Even though the temperatures were reaching 106 degrees, Rae and I enjoyed our outlet mall shopping experience. Some of the spouses enjoyed their free afternoon by lying out at the hotel pools and relaxing. I was impressed by the way the spouses were included and entertained through the long hours our soldiers and airmen were in meetings.

Saturday night was the much-anticipated Hospitality Night. As I mentioned previously, each state has a suite that is designated to their members for relaxing and refreshments during downtime. However, one night out of the weekend, the rooms were transformed into a room full of pride for the state. It was their opportunity to brag about the local foods, display fun decorations representing college and professional teams, and to entertain visitors from other states. New York had some of their upstate wines and, of course, Buffalo wings. Florida had crab dips and a "special recipe" clam chowder. The SEC football states put their differences aside and banded together to throw the party

of all hospitality parties at Maggie Mae's, a local bar. It was a two-story bar opened exclusively to the NGAUS participants. Music, drinks, dancing and more food was available. I think I gained fifteen pounds from all of the succulent brisket I ate.

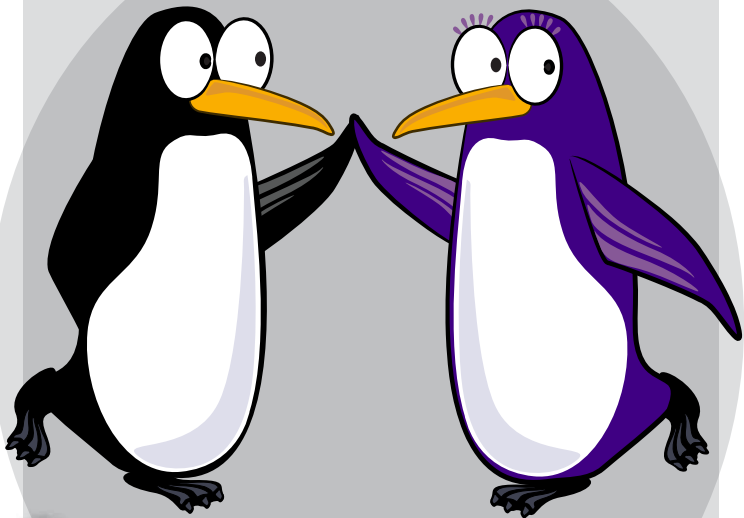
As the conference was coming to a close, the spouses were offered a parting gift. They had about fifteen gifts from which to choose, including longhorn shaped dinner bells, pewter or sterling silver cuff bracelets, coffee mugs, and for the culinary lovers present, a book filled with Texas recipes. Each wife walked away with a souvenir to fit their own taste and style. Rae chose a beautiful sterling silver bracelet, and I chose the boot shaped dinner bell that is a nice addition to my western themed bedroom.

On the last night, Texas sent us out in style. The state's dinner is always the last event, and this one was a great culmination to the 2010 NGAUS Conference. Filet mignon, stuffed chicken, sweet potatoes and fresh salad were served, together with bottles of red and white wine. After an enjoyable meal with the other Ohio junior officers, we were invited to get a group picture with the Ohio TAG, MG Wayt. It was the perfect conclusion to the perfect weekend.

I strongly encourage all officers and their spouses to join us for the 2011 NGAUS Conference in Milwaukee! These conferences are great professional opportunities for any soldier or airman, and wonderful occasions for spouses to meet and make lasting friendships. As Rae perfectly articulated, "I felt not only included, but welcomed into this part of Bo's life which is so important to him." David and I fully intend to participate. So, you first-timers feel free to hunt down the bubbly, talkative, red head, and I will be glad to show you the ropes! □



The Association's



Winter Dinner Dance

19 February 2011

at the Hilton Polaris, Columbus

6:00 pm Hors D'oeuvres & Cash Bars

7:00 pm Dinner & Entertainment

8:30 pm Dancing

Please fill out and return the *ONGA Winter Dinner Dance* RSVP form before 15 February 2011 to reserve your seat or unit/group table. Group table reservations can only be made in advance or go online to www.ohionga.org to register and pay through our online Paypal account.

Questions can be directed to,
cw5 James Markley, Winter Dinner Dance Chairman
614-336-6618

2011 ONGA Winter Dinner Dance Registration Form

Name _____

Rank _____

Unit _____

Phone _____

Guest _____

Meal Selection

Special dietary needs? Call Tina, 614-882-2058

	Cost Per Person		
	<i>NY Strip</i>	<i>Lasagna</i>	<i>Salmon</i>
Senior officer <i>0-4, CW4 & above</i>	\$50.00	\$40.00	\$40.00
Senior officer guest <i>0-4, CW4 & above</i>	\$50.00	\$40.00	\$40.00
Junior officer/guest <i>0-3, CW3 & below</i>	\$45.00	\$35.00	\$35.00

Total \$ _____

Register and pay online: www.ohionga.org

Or make check payable to **ONGA** and mail your check and this form to arrive no later than 14 February 2011 to:

The Ohio National Guard Assn.
P.O. Box 8070
Columbus, Ohio 43201

Questions? Please call cw5 James Markley
614-336-6618

Voucher # _____

Seating will be setup by unit. Table reservations will not be necessary



Winter Dinner Dance

Saturday, 19 February

Hilton Polaris, Columbus

cw5 James Markley, Chairman, 614-336-6618

www.ohionga.org