

Virginia National Guard Management Group

October 2019 | Issue #9

Strategic Planning: Current and Future Membership



The **VNGMG** Board of Directors (BOD) is moving forward as an organization with the VNG Officer and Enlisted associations with the purpose to serve all members and provide increased membership benefits by establishing a strategic planning process based on the membership survey at the 2019 VNG Conference in April. Enhanced communication avenues have been explored and will be available for members to be informed of the VNG “history” and “story” in the next few months. 2020 conference planning and a new website with Apps are currently being worked. Current status of our efforts by Phase follows in the next paragraph to inform the membership of our progress.

The VNGMG strategic planning process has completed three of the five phases. Association Presidents and their BOD representatives have been involved and have contributed to this success. Phase 1 involved a Vision Statement with Mission Objectives. Phase 2 involved Priorities and Goals while Phase 3 presented **Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis**. Phase 4 will be conducted in the next month and will center on Short, Med, and Long Term Tasks and Objectives. Phase 5 will be completed at a workshop before the end of this year to conclude the initial strategic planning process and will be centered on approving the strategic plan, begin execution, and formulating a review schedule of efforts and results. The approved plan will be an on-going and continuous effort to provide membership benefits and will be based on membership input and review at least every six months. Also included in the process is a briefing at the Annual Conference that will include a working group breakout with association Presidents and Representatives for input.

The VNGMG strategic planning is a combined process with the associations that will serve the associations and every member. This strategic planning process will be the foundation for our success in the future years. A standing committee will be established for opportunity exploration based on membership input. Your input and participation through your association and chain of command will ensure the organization has valid and achievable objectives for the entire organization and for every member. We are moving to the Future as a Team.

John D. Taylor
MG (VA), Retired
VNGMG Chairman



The Adjutant General's Corner: Preserving Our National Treasure

Our Associations, to include [AGAUS](#), [NGAUS](#), and [EANGUS](#), are vital to our continued success as an organization. They benefit the Guard by taking our collective voices and unifying them on Capitol Hill. Recently, these associations – your associations -- proved invaluable in protecting our National Guard from potentially devastating legislation. This legislation threatened our very existence as we know it, and was skillfully hidden in the National Defense Authorization Act 2020 language. Our Associations, acting on our behalf, combed through the NDAA 2020 and were able to find legislation that specifically stripped away authority for the National Guard from our Governors, shifting it into the federal arena. Their efforts resulted in the Senate Armed Services Committee removing these harmful initiatives, assuring that our “National Treasure” -- our National Guard -- is preserved.

Here’s our takeaway – we narrowly avoided a catastrophe. What will it take to prevent this in the future? Activism. Involvement. Support. Many of you have heard me say this, repeatedly, that membership in our associations translates into tangible power that can and will be used to secure the benefits and tools necessary for our fighting force. Every Guardsman who gets involved is one additional voice added to the collective, advocating for our rights and telling our story. As you can see, the National Guard needs protection. I see it every single day, from small slights to monumental assaults on our rights, benefits, and force structure. Please help me carry this message. Get involved, and get your teammates to the table. Ensure they understand that each of us has a responsibility to do everything within our power to preserve the Guard that we love. Not just for our own benefit, but for that of our nation for generations to come.

I'm honored to serve with you!

Timothy P. Williams, Major General
The 28th Adjutant General of Virginia

Virginia National Guard Historical Foundation



This [M1911 .45 caliber pistol](#) went missing from the old Virginia Army National Guard's Roanoke Armory in ... 1940!

While it is not clear what happened to this pistol over the years, the ATF recovered it in Texas in 2008, after the apprehension of a [criminal](#) in possession of it.

The M1911 served as the basic sidearm for the VaARNG into the mid-1990s.

Enlisted Association

PRESIDENTIAL CLIFF NOTES



Your Association leadership has stayed busy over the past months in attending the [National EANGUS Conference in Des Moines, Iowa](#) at the beginning of August. The Virginia delegation was seventeen strong, including five Professional Development Soldiers and Airmen. We had a great conference but Virginia's bid to host the 2022 EANGUS Conference in Norfolk, VA fell short in a committee vote of 8-6, with

Rochester, Minnesota winning. However, many people, including the Time and Place Committee Chairperson, encouraged us to resubmit for either 2023 or 2024. That is a decision for the Association to deliberate at the 2020 Annual Conference.

CSM (Ret) Carl Holcomb and CMSgt (Ret) Robert Barnette attended the Virginia Army National Guard's Annual Retirement seminar, where they offered information to all attending the mission [EANGUS](#) and the [VAA/ANGEA](#). I attended the first Annual [Virginia National Guard Retiree's Appreciation Day](#) and also presented the mission of both our Association and that of Virginia National Guard Association. We thank [Schneider Electric](#) for allowing the VAA/ANGEA to sponsor the event's catering and look forward to future events. CSMSgt Barnette also attended the VAANG's [192nd Annual Family Day](#) and provided information to the large attendance to the event.

The next VAA/ANGEA Executive Council meeting will include a Strategic Planning Seminar and all are invited to attend this most important meeting. It will be held at the new JFHQ building at DSCR, Richmond, VA on Saturday, November 16th, from 0900-1400 hours. RSVP for this event NLT 10 NOV for lunch planning purposes.

We have rolled out an [updated website](#) with the help of our Executive Director's staff. Recently CMSgt (Ret) Jay Ellis was offered a paid position as the Executive Administrator by our Executive Director, LTC (Ret) Matt Ritchie. Jay brings his breath of knowledge in banking and website/App design and will manage our administrative and member services. With that, it was necessary for Jay to resign as our Treasurer, and after deliberation with our EC, we approved the Interim assignment of CSM (Ret) Timothy White as our Association Treasurer. It is important to note that Jay's employment will be absorbed entirely by Matt's current stipend, less expenses incurred for our Association's work.

I officially informed the Adjutant General that our Association's budget will not include the \$4000 line item that we have earmarked in past years for the Legislative Reception. This is necessary due to our dwindling availability of funds. Until our corporate memberships and VNGMG support improves, we cannot financially justify our return on investment on this event sponsorship. Look for information elsewhere in this newsletter on our upcoming Conference and Military Ball, but mark the weekend of 28 February - 1 March 2020 for attendance to the great weekend we have planned at the [DoubleTree by Hilton, Koger Center, Richmond, VA](#). Look for indoor carting, a "virtual" golf tournament, a "Polar" motorcycle ride, our annual business meeting, the Military Ball and hospitality room, our Memorial Service, and a large number of exhibitors in 2020. Make your room reservations NLT 28 JAN 2020 and use Virginia National Guard as the room block name for the blocked room rate.

Have you heard about our "Sustaining" Membership option? Depending on your level of support it might include your conference registration, a nice embroidered polo shirt, a logo dress shirt, and a tax deduction. See our website for details. And thanks to our first four Gold level Sustaining Members: Ronnie Emerson, Jay Ellis, Cliff White, and Cheyenne Johnson.

--Cliff White, President

VaA/ANGEA Leadership

Clifton White, President

**Cheyenne Johnson,
1st Vice President (Membership)**

**Carl Holcomb,
2nd Vice President (Legislative)**

**Gavin McClung,
3rd Vice President (Financial)**

Timothy White, Treasurer

Tanya Conrad, Secretary

Henry Motley, Financial Secretary

Arthur Morrill, Sergeant at Arms

Matt Ritchie, Executive Director

Jay Ellis, Administrator



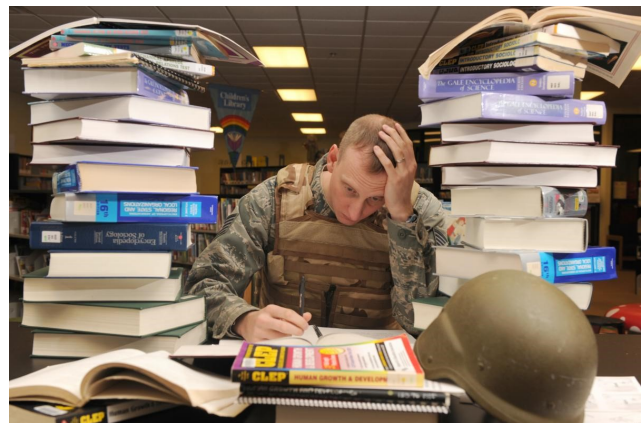
Listen: EANGUS Podcast

Providing news and updates from the national headquarters of [EANGUS](#), this podcast keeps you up-to-date on legislation, services, and events from Washington, D.C.

GRE Required for Army Captains Course

A new Army policy requires officers enrolled in Captains Career Courses to take the [Graduate Record Exam \(GRE\)](#). The computer-administered test is used by many universities to assess applicants for graduate studies.

Most Guardsmen are eligible for military education benefits to pay GRE exam fees. Speak with your chain of command, or contact the [State Education Office](#).



What Has NGAUS Done For You Lately?

Adapted from an article in [National Guard magazine, April 2018](#).

2017

Bringing the benefits National Guardsmen receive under [12304b](#) in line with other mobilization authorities.

2016

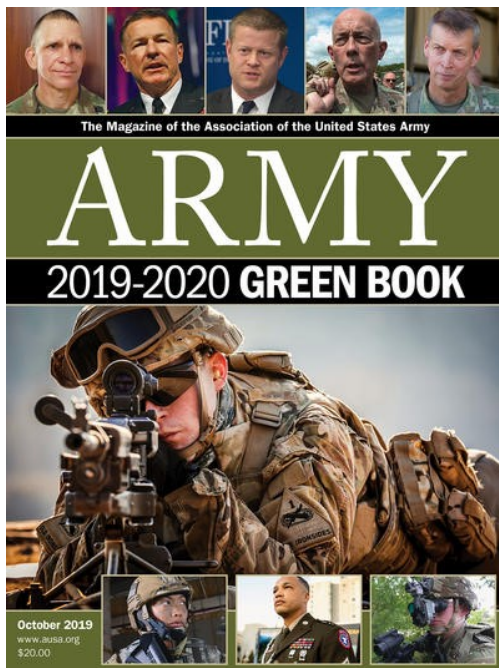
Among the association's victories is a change in the federal definition of veteran to include all Guard retirees. The old definition limited veteran status to those who served more than 179 days on federal active duty for other than training.

2015

The association joins with other veterans and military service organizations to win congressional passage of the military's [Blended Retirement System](#), which combines the traditional legacy retirement pension with a defined contribution to service members' 401(k)-style [Thrift Savings Plan](#) account. BRS will provide benefits to roughly 85% of service members. Only 17% of service members benefited from the traditional pension.

2013

The fiscal 2014 NDAA also includes increased procurement of UH-72 Lakota helicopters, requires a Defense Department report on the Guard's role in Cyber Command and cyber operations, and places limits on cancelling Guard deployments.



AUSA Army Green Book

The Army 2019-2020 Green Book is a free resource, published annually, which provides detailed information about the strength, capabilities, and current posture of all three components of the US Army.

To view, click the cover image below or copy and paste the following link into your browser: <https://lsc-pagepro.mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?i=620995>

Note: [AUSA](#) is an independent organization, and neither the VNGMG nor any of its constituent organizations have any direct relationship to it. This link is for informational purposes only, and does not constitute an official endorsement.

Virginia National Guard Association (VNGA)

From the President's Desk
CPT Adam Provost
adam.c.provost@gmail.com

The 141st National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) General Conference and Exhibition was held August 30 – September 2, 2019 in Denver Colorado. Virginia had a great delegation this year with a wide range of officers from our newest 2nd Lieutenant to the Adjutant General in attendance. With speakers from the top echelons of the Army and Air Force it's a unique opportunity to hear from them and ask questions directly affecting the Army and Air National Guard broadly and in our Commonwealth. You can find videos and articles from this year's conference here: <https://www.ngaus.org/about-ngaus/newsroom>.

With the NGAUS Conference complete we set our sights on our own Annual State Conference hosted by the Virginia National Guard Management Group (VNGMG) at the end of February. This is a significant departure from our normal end of April schedule. Planning efforts are currently well underway and more details along with registration information will be available in our next newsletter.

Our next Executive Council meeting will be held at 0900 on October 19th at the Joint Forces Headquarters and by teleconference. If you are interested in becoming your unit's representative or joining one of our standing committees please contact our Executive Director at vanguardgroup@gmail.com.

Finally, I will continue to appeal to you all to help with our efforts to increase membership. Without your continued support and the support of our fellow Guard members who aren't currently members the Association would cease to exist. Please encourage your fellow officers (active and retired) to join/renew their membership. A simple text/email with the following link will make a difference: <https://www.ngaus.org/membership>.

See you all at the Annual Conference!

CPT Adam Provost
President, [Virginia National Guard Association](#)

Virginia National Guard Foundation, Inc.

Emergency financial assistance to Virginia National Guard service members, employees, and families.

Key Fact

- **Combined Virginia Campaign Code: 8376**
- **Combined Federal Campaign Code: 46732**

Email: vangfinc@gmail.com Phone: (434) 264-4945

VFW Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition

This year's topic is: "What Makes America Great"

Entry deadline: October 31, 2019

The Voice of Democracy Program is open to students in grades 9-12, who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school, or home study.

Grand prize: \$30,000 paid directly to their American college, or vocational/tech school.

Download the application and share

Note: VFW is an independent organization, and neither the VNGMG nor any of its constituent organizations have any direct relationship to it. This link is for informational purposes only, and does not constitute an official endorsement.

2020 Annual Conference and DMA Military Ball



Save the Date: 27 Feb - 1 Mar 2020

The VNGMG Annual Conference will take place at the [DoubleTree Midlothian](#), 27 February - 1 March 2020. The [Virginia Department of Military Affairs](#) will host the Military Ball on Saturday, 29 February 2020 at the same location. Registration information for these and other events coming soon, on the [VNGMG website](#).

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