

THE VOICE



# DADDY'S HOME



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OHIO NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION  
FALL 2011, VOLUME XXXVIII, ISSUE III

## Fall celebrates recent ONGEA successes

Greetings from the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association! I hope you are doing well during this fall season. Your Enlisted Association has had an exciting year in 2011. Starting with the Legislative Workshop in Washington DC in March, the state legislative breakfast in May, the ONGEA Awards Banquet in July, and finishing with the EANGUS National Conference in August, the Association has had a productive year. Along with that, we have also been engaged on current legislation at the state and national levels. We now have many of our committees up and running and, our membership has increased from 695 in fall of 2010 to over 1,200 in the fall of 2011!

Right now is an important time to be a member of our Association. The U.S. military and the National Guard are facing the backlash of the budget crisis with proposed cuts in defense spending. It is more important than ever that our Director of the National Guard Bureau have a seat at the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). Right now, the director can only advise the chairman of the JCS, but through the proposed 2011 National Guard Empowerment Act, our director will have a voice and vote on the JCS. With all of the proposed cuts looming, it is imperative that the Director of the NGB be at the table when decisions are made! Another huge issue for our members is the proposed change to our military retirement system. The Defense Business Board is recommending that we go from a defined benefit plan to a deferred compensation plan – much like a 401K plan where the government will put money into an account for you that you can then tap when you are age 60 and older. They believe this will save billions of dollars for the military and more closely resemble what people get in the civilian world. The current Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta, has come out opposed to this plan for current members, however it remains to be seen what actually happens. Members in the National Guard are not just civilians. We are Citizen-Soldiers



Mike Schaefer  
President, ONGEA

who have volunteered to put our lives on the line for our country. We deploy to foreign lands in the name of freedom, and spend months and even years away from our loved ones. It is a small price for our country to pay to take care of its current military members and our retirees.

It is important that we stay engaged in these issues and the ones that will be coming in the future. Simply go out to [www.EANGUS.org](http://www.EANGUS.org), log in, and set up your account. You will then begin to receive all of the news and legislative updates from the Association. This will keep you up-to-date and informed on the various issues facing the National Guard.

Ohio had a strong delegation at the EANGUS National Conference in West Virginia this year; we had over 25 members attend. Later in this issue of The Voice, you can read about the conference experience from one of our members who went on professional development orders. Next year, the EANGUS conference will be in Long Beach, Calif. If you would like to go on official TDY orders, put the bug in your Command Chief or CSM's ear now!

On the membership front, ONGEA will continue to offer the 2-for-1 membership. Any new or renewing E6 and above, retiree, associate, or new life member can sponsor a new or renewing E5 and below for a free one-year membership in the Association. In addition, we are offering the "ONGEA Referral Program" in an effort to boost membership. See the article on page 10 detailing the particulars of the program. Right now, Ohio is ranked 8th in total membership numbers in the nation. That is great, however, we are ranked 24th when it comes to our membership numbers based on our state enlisted strength.

I thank each one of you for your membership in our Association! If we all went out and just got one more person to join, we would double in size. Do it again and we would be over 4,000 members strong!

Mike Schaefer

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Message from the President
- 3 ONGEA Banquet
- 4 EANGUS National Conference
- 7 News and Information
- 8 Legislative Update
- 10 Association Briefs
- 11 Membership Application
- 12 ONGEA Events Calendar

**ON THE COVER:** Returning home from a yearlong deployment to Iraq with A Battery, 1-174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Ohio Army National Guard, Staff Sgt. Chris Conley from Anderson, Ohio, embraces his son Joseph at a welcome home ceremony Friday, Sept. 9, 2011, in Fairfield, Ohio. Photo by CPT Matt Molinski, State PAO.

## ONGEA REGIONS / DIRECTORS

**Area I - AIR (VACANT)**  
180th FW and 555th AF Band

**Area II - AIR (EFREM SWOOPE)**  
179th AW and 200th RHS

**Area III - AIR (NELSON SPITLER)**  
121st ARW; 164th WF; and 220th EIS

**Area IV - AIR (PAUL WILLIAMS)**  
178th FW; 251st CCG, 269th CCS & 123rd ACS

**Area I - ARMY (KELLY SELLERS)**  
37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

**Area II - ARMY (RICARDO ARREGUIN)**  
16th Engineer Brigade

**Area III - ARMY (VACANT)**  
174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

**Area IV - ARMY (VACANT)**  
73rd Troop Command

**Area V - ARMY (VACANT)**  
371st Sustainment Brigade

**JFHQ - JOINT (VACANT)**  
Comprised of ANG HQ and Army JFHQ units, to include the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, 147th RTI, and Camp Perry Training Site.

## MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

ONG ENLISTED MEMBERS: 13,381

ONGEA MEMBERS: 1,217

OHARNG: 382

OHANG: 835

# Servicemembers, scholarship recipients honored at annual ONGEA Awards Banquet

20  
11

ONGEA  
AWARDS BANQUET



The ONGEA hosted its annual Awards Banquet at the Longaberger Alumni House on the Ohio State University campus on Saturday, July 16.

With nearly 100 guests this year, the Enlisted Association honored both the Ohio Army and Air National Guard Servicemembers of the Year and recipients of the ONGEA/ONGEA Auxiliary Scholarship. Much of Ohio's senior leadership team helped with this year's recognition, including Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Debbie Ashenhurst, Assistant Adjutant General-Air BrigGen Mark Bartman, State Command Sgt. Major Al Whatmough and State Command Chief Tamara Phillips.

Guest speaker U.S. Representative Jim Jordan spoke on the importance of family and service during opening remarks. Other special guests included AmVets Executive Director George Ondick and AmVets Commander James Graham, who presented sabers to Army National Guard Soldier and NCO of the Year, and swords to Air National Guard Airman and NCO of the Year. Representing contributors to the scholarship fund, retired CSM Nate Monastra, 1st Cleveland Cav Association, and retired CMSgt Blaine Ross, USAA, also attended the banquet.



**TOP:** Flanked by AmVets reps George Ondick and James Graham, SGT Jesse Hawkins, SSG Pat Helderman, SrA Lauren Dortmund and SSgt Charles Holloway pose with newly awarded sabers and swords. **LEFT:** Scholarship recipients Jeremy Grove, Tisha Grove, Kaitlyn Koby, Jackie Farrow, Meredith Dortmund, MSgt Wendy Atwell, SMSgt John Gibson and SrA Lauren Dortmund pose for a group photo.



**FAR LEFT:** ONGEA President Mike Schaefer presents US Representative Jim Jordan with an award to thank him for his support in securing the C-27J mission for the 179th Airlift Wing. **LEFT:** Flanked by BG Mark Bartman and CCM Tamara Phillips, MG Debbie Ashenhurst congratulates MSgt Troy Siebenaler, 200th RHS, who was selected as the Ohio Air National Guard Senior NCO of the Year for 2010.

# ONGEA travels to West Virginia for conference

The 40th Annual Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) National Convention was held in Charleston, West Virginia, Aug. 14-17. The four-day convention brought nearly 1,600 National Guard members, families and supporters to the Charleston Civic Center.

EANGUS and Auxiliary members from all states and territories attended the convention to receive updates on the latest military issues from senior military leaders. In addition, influential military leaders of the National Guard, U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force and Department of Defense were in attendance to address the guardsmen and women. EANGUS represents more than 400,000 enlisted National Guard Soldiers and Airmen throughout the United States.

Representing ONGEA as delegates at the national conference were President Mike Schaefer, VP-Army Tony McGraw, VP-Air Deb Clifford, Area 3-Air Regional Director Nelson Spitler, as well as Standing Committee members Chase Szente, Patricia Robinson and Fred Ford.

Command Sgt. Major Al Whatmough and Command Chief Master Sergeant Tamara Phillips attended to represent our state-level leadership.

Attending on professional development orders were representatives from all four Ohio Air National Guard Wings, including TSgt Jason Ault, SSgt Michael McQuillen, and TSgt Nate Lautzenhiser (179th Airlift Wing); TSgt Jenna Palmer, SSgt Desiree Miller, and



SSgt Logan Fuller (178th Fighter Wing); TSgt Lewis Smith and TSgt Bruce Hedrick (180th Fighter Wing), and TSgt Yvette Worstall (121st Air Refueling Wing). Army Guard representatives included SSG Ricardo Ar-

reguin and SFC Ray Kraft, both from HHC, 216th Engineer Battalion.

One of the hottest topics of discussion during the conference was securing a seat at the table of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for the

ONGEA delegates pose for a group photo after an Area caucus meeting at the national convention in W.Va. last

Chief of the National Guard Bureau. While Gen. Craig McKinley works regularly with the Joint Chiefs and the Secretary of Defense, he does not have a vote in final decisions, nor can he nominate Guard officers for positions that require Senate confirmation.

National issues dealing with the current force-shaping actions were discussed, and general lobbying also took place. Next year's annual EANGUS conference will take place in Long Beach, Calif., Aug 26-29, 2012.

## 2011 EANGUS RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions are passed each year by the EANGUS membership at the annual conference. From these resolutions come the issues that EANGUS will pursue in Congress and in the Department of Defense.

Resolutions stay in place for two years.

- 11-01 Pertaining to POST-9/11 GI Bill transfer of entitlement
- 11-02 Pertaining to the continued production of the C-17 Globemaster and its deployment to replace aging C-5S in the Air National Guard
- 11-03 Pertaining to Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for mobilized AGRs
- 11-04 Pertaining to the National Guard Empowerment and State-National Defense Integration Act of 2011, S. 1025
- 11-05 Pertaining to modernization and recapitalization requirements of the entire Air National Guard fleet in order to remain a viable fleet.
- 11-06 Pertaining to Congressional intent relating to qualified military buglers in a retired status
- 11-07 Pertaining to designating "Taps" as the national song of remembrance
- 11-08 Pertaining to H.R.811 providing military honors for our Nation's Heroes Act
- 11-09 Pertaining to support of the structure and equipment issues endorsed by the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) and the Adjutants General Association of the United States (AGAUS) that contribute to the accomplishment of the purposes and goals of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS)
- 11-10 Pertaining to appreciation for the hospitality and efforts by the state of West Virginia, the city of Charleston and the West Virginia National Guard Enlisted Association and Auxiliary



Mansfield airmen TSgt Nate Lautzenhiser, TSgt Jason Ault and SSgt Michael McQuillen, pose with LtGen Harry Wyatt, director of the Air National Guard (second from left).

## FIRST-TIMER'S POINT OF VIEW

By SSgt Michael J. McQuillen \*\*\* 179th MXS, Mansfield

Before this year, I had never heard of EANGUS or what the organization did. All I knew was that I was supposed to be a member of a professional organization, so I joined just a few short months ago. I expected to pay my yearly dues and sit quietly in the background, EANGUS being nothing more than a bullet on my resume. When I was asked to attend this year's conference, I was slightly anxious about what to expect, but agreed to go nonetheless. My Professional Development (PD) orders came, and I traveled to Charleston, W.Va. to see what this EANGUS organization was all about.

Sunday started by getting oriented with my PD schedule and introductions to some of the other PD members from Area II. One of the best things I brought back from the conference was meeting all the people from outside my base in Mansfield - members of both the Army and Air Guard whom I otherwise would probably never have met. The conference offered us first-timers the opportunity to interact both professionally and socially with Soldiers and Airmen of all ranks - relationships that will hopefully continue as our careers progress. Throughout my education, I have often heard from professors that a strong organizational culture will both attract and retain members. EANGUS certainly has a strong, positive culture that will contribute to a growth in membership. The hospitality rooms, social events, and banquet created a friendly atmosphere that eased some of the anxiety that is commonly associated with such events.

It probably goes without saying that the speakers at the conference were great and made an impact on myself and the other PD members. Hearing from leaders such as LtGen Wyatt, Command Chief Master Sgt Muncy, and other distinguished guests and speakers was inspiring. Every speaker that addressed the PD group spoke of issues that were both current and of high priority to the National Guard. Many of us now want to step up and get involved in promoting and participating in EANGUS. Beyond being motivated to help out at my base, I also came away from the conference with a few more tools to put in my tool bag that will help in continuing my Air National Guard career.

The four days of the conference went by too fast. My attitude had changed in that short week from apprehensive and uncommitted, to wanting to actively participate and being excited about the future of EANGUS. By the end, I heard from nearly everyone of their intentions to get involved and specifically to attend 2012's conference in California. Back at my home station I look at all the pamphlets and business cards I brought back and can see the huge potential of an organization that can bring together such a diverse crowd of people with a common goal. As we have all heard this year so often, I plan on "telling my story" and showing others the capabilities of the National Guard.





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## Severe Loss in our EANGUS Family

It is with heavy hearts that we report the passing of Dorrie Hagan, wife of EANGUS President Roger Hagan. Dorrie died in a car accident in Montana on Oct. 18. She was the sole occupant of the vehicle, and no other vehicles were involved.

Dorrie Hagan was 59 and preparing to retire from the Montana Air National Guard. She was assigned to the 219th Red Horse and had served in Afghanistan. She was a tireless advocate for the National Guard Associations and was a Life Member of EANGUS, the EANGUS Auxiliary, and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Montana.

Memorials, in lieu of flowers, may be dedicated by sending checks made payable to the: "We Care for America Foundation." Mail to: Dorrie Hagan Memorial, Russell Country Federal Credit Union, P. O. Box 2605, Great Falls, MT 59403.

Cards to Roger Hagan may be addressed to: Roger A. Hagan, 1224 Stuart Street, Helena, MT 59601-2139.

We humbly ask all members of EANGUS, NGAUS and AGAUS to encourage Roger Hagan and his family in the wake of this tragic and untimely loss.

## Emergency grants, insurance exclusive to EANGUS

The We Care For America Foundation, administered by the Enlisted Association of the National Guard (EANGUS), offers emergency grants to any member of the Army or Air National Guard. Grant applicants do not have to be members of EANGUS for eligibility in this program.

Emergency grants are for those who have experienced a catastrophic financial hardship and/or personal loss. Grants may be used for financial hardships related to events such as mobilization, natural disasters, fires and other catastrophic losses. The grants are intended for expenses due to these events and include medical bills, utility bills, rent or mortgage payments, groceries, relocation, shelter due to loss of residence and funeral expenses. Other expenses not listed here may be deemed appropriate and approved. Only one grant will be awarded to an eligible Guard member within a 12-month period. For more information and/or to apply for a grant, visit <http://www.eangus.org/resources/wcfa.asp> or call 1-800-234-3264.

## VA's telephone service helps family members encourage Veterans to seek medical care

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has launched a telephone service, Coaching into Care, to provide assistance to family members and friends trying to encourage their Veteran to seek health care for possible readjustment and mental health issues.

"Those closest to Veterans are often the first to recognize when Veterans are having difficulties," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "Family members and friends may not know what to say to encourage their Veterans to seek much-needed readjustment and health care. The Coaching into Care line will help them find the right words."

To help Veterans address problems and support Veterans in making decisions about getting care, the Coaching into Care program offers unlimited, free coaching with family members or friends over a series of telephone calls.

The priority is connecting Veterans with VA care in their community through the family member's help and encouragement. Callers receive professional coaching on solving specific logistical obstacles and encouraging sometimes reluctant Veterans to seek care while still respecting the Veteran's right to make personal decisions.

Coaching into Care, launched in March 2011, is connected to VA's Veterans Crisis Line, Caregiver Support Line, and the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans. This way, if the caller or Veteran is in an immediate crisis, or has concerns regarding caregiving for a disabled Veteran, or seeking assistance regarding homelessness, there is no wrong number for families to call.

Callers can reach VA's Coaching into Care program at the toll-free number 1-888-823-7458, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, and online at <http://www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/>. As always, Veterans can reach immediate help at the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255, press 1 for Veterans.

## National Guard Soldier named Army NCO of Year

For the second time in three years – and for only the second time in history – a National Guard member has been named the U.S. Army's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. The Utah Army National Guard's Sgt. Guy Mellor was named NCO of the Year at the Association of the U.S. Army's annual meeting and exposition in Washington. The first Guard member to receive the honor was the Montana Army National Guard's Staff Sgt. Michael Noyce Merino in 2008.

## New TRICARE Prime Enrollees Pay Adjusted Fees

In accordance with changes authorized in February 2011, the Department of Defense announced military retirees enrolling in TRICARE® Prime after Oct. 1, 2011, will begin paying an additional \$2.50 per month for individual members and \$5 per month for members and family. This change does not affect any retiree currently enrolled and only affects future enrollees. Active duty service members will continue to receive health care with no out-of-pocket costs.

## Secretary of State Programs

OhioMilitaryVotes.com is a one-stop shop to support and honor Ohio service men and women on Election Day. Or call 877-767-6446.

Military Ready-to-Vote program provides voting materials, information and assistance to Ohio service members ensuring they have all they need to participate in Ohio elections while they are serving on active duty.

Vote in Honor of a Veteran initiative allows Ohio voters to pay tribute to the service of individual service members, past and present, by dedicating their votes to them on Election Day.



Avi Zaffini, Director of Constituent Affairs and Military Outreach for Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted, at ONGEA September meeting.



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSES TWO VETERANS BILLS, H.R. 2433 & H.R. 1025

Under suspension of the rules, the House of Representatives finished consideration of six veterans related bills on the evening of Oct. 11. These bills included H.R. 2433, the Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) Act championed by Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Congressman Jeff Miller, and H.R. 1025 Veterans Status for Title 32 Guardsmen. Both pieces of legislation have been endorsed by the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States. In addition, EANGUS Executive Director Al Garver testified in favor of H.R. 1025 in early July.

The VOW Act will create the most qualified, skilled workforce since World War II by providing veterans with training benefits, ensure all transitioning service members have access to a 21st Century Transition Assistance Program (TAP), move toward a uniform credentialing and licensing standard for personnel transitioning to civilian jobs, and strengthen the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act for National Guard and Reserve.

"The objective of the VOW Act is to use a comprehensive approach to help a broad cross-section of veterans obtain or retain meaningful employment, but to do so in a fiscally responsible manner that doesn't create permanent new programs," stated Rep. Jeff Miller, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Sponsored by the most senior enlisted guardsmen ever to serve in Congress, Representative Tim Walz, H.R. 1025, the Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act of 2011, will amend Title 38, to recognize the service in the reserve components by honoring them with the status as veterans under law.

It may come as a surprise to most that a Guardsman who serves 20 years in uniform is not automatically considered a veteran. Currently, if members of the National Guard and Reserve have not served a qualifying period of active duty service, they are not considered to be veterans under federal law. Just one of the requirements barring many Title 32 Guardsmen from being recognized as veterans is that they did not serve at least 180 continuous days on federal status.

House passage lines up these bills for consideration by the Senate. EANGUS looks forward to working with members of the Senate in order to pass both bills. As always, membership of EANGUS is vital to ensuring that such legislation is not only brought to the attention of their elected officials, but also passed into to law in a timely manner.

## ONGEA Legislative Initiatives

Ohio earned two state legislative victories thanks to the leadership of the Adjutant General's Department and timely responses from ONGA and ONGEA



**H.B. 121.** The bill protects the custody rights of deploying service members was signed into law June 10, 2011. ONGA and ONGEA leadership attended the Governor's Bill signing ceremony alongside the Adjutant General's department representatives (inset photo).

**H.B. 153.** The Senate increased funding for the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program and included language that substantially reformed the scholarship program. The new language essentially holds Guard members harmless if there is a shortfall in state funding. This effort to revise the scholarship program means that we will not have to deny any scholarships this biennium; this will also protect future Guard members from having to pay their tuition.

The bill requires the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, when appropriations and reserves are not adequate to fully fund scholarships for all eligible applicants, to do both of the following:

- ▶ Notify private institutions of higher education where a scholarship recipient is enrolled that, by accepting the Ohio National Guard Scholarship program as payment for all or part of the institution's tuition, the institution agrees that, if the chancellor reduces the amount of each scholarship, the institution agrees to provide each scholarship recipient a grant or tuition waiver in an amount equal to the amount the recipient's scholarship was reduced by the Chancellor.

- ▶ Reduce the amount of each scholarship, for recipients enrolled in state institutions of higher education, proportionally based on the amount of remaining available funds. Requires each state institution of higher education to provide each scholarship recipient, whose scholarship amount was reduced due to lack of funding, a grant or tuition waiver in an amount equal to the amount the recipient's scholarship was reduced by the Chancellor.

**NOTE:** Guard members who are seeking conditional release to join another branch of the armed services should be aware that the state will now recoup money from them for the scholarship funds they use. The bill establishes that a scholarship recipient who fails to complete the recipient's term of enlistment because the recipient enlisted in the active component of the United States armed forces or the active reserve component of the United States armed forces is liable to the state for repayment of a percentage of all Ohio National Guard Scholarships paid on behalf of the recipient plus interest at a rate of 10% per year. Under current law, a recipient may enlist in the active components of the United States armed forces or active reserves without penalty.

## COSPONSORS GROW FOR NATIONAL GUARD EMPOWERMENT BILL

U.S. Senators Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) announced they now have 61 Senate cosponsors of their latest “Guard Empowerment” effort, the National Guard Empowerment and State-National Defense Integration Act of 2011 (S.1025), which Leahy and Graham introduced in May.

The legislation — known as Guard Empowerment II — builds on reforms made in 2008 by giving the Guard and Reserve a seat at the Pentagon’s budget and policymaking tables and updating jurisdictional and operational lines of authority. Among other changes, the bill would make the Chief of the National Guard Bureau a permanent member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; reestablish the position of the Vice Chief of the Guard Bureau at the three-star level; enhance the Guard’s representation at the senior levels of U.S. Northern Command; and help clarify the disaster response command relationship among the Guard and the U.S. military commands. The legislation is endorsed by the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the National Governors Association, the



The Ohio National Guard helped fix a 65-foot-deep highway washout that followed Tropical Storm Irene in Vermont. Ohio has been supporting the Vermont National Guard’s Joint Task Force Green Mountain Spirit under a state Emergency Management Assistance Compact. SSG Jim Greenhill / NGB

## SecDef remarks on defense cuts

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta told top Army officials to resist “parochialism” as the Pentagon seeks to cut costs and told Soldiers to expect a future with a smaller force in which reserve components play a vital and operational role.

Speaking to the annual meeting of the Association of the United States Army in Washington, Panetta spoke directly to Soldiers about their role in a future military that many experts say will be dominated by naval and air power. “The budget and the drawdowns that we are facing obviously are going to impact the size of the military, there is no question about it. ... We will need to sacrifice some capabilities and curtail some commitments,” Panetta said.

“We absolutely cannot allow budget pressures to force the service into parochialism and program-survival mode. Going forward, it is my expectation that our military leaders will work with me to do what is best for the entire force, not just what is best for their service,” Panetta said.

Panetta vowed to fight the severe cuts under discussion on Capitol Hill, specifically the provision passed into law in August that will force large automatic cuts if lawmakers fail to reach a new debt-reduction deal this fall. Panetta said the Army should expect reserve-component troops to be a vital part of the future force.

“As we draw down from these wars, we need to keep the Guard and the Reserve operational and gaining experience. This is the best investment we’ve made over the past 10 years,” he said. “We need to continue to be able to maintain that as a valuable asset because the reserve force has a special role to play as a force that gives the nation strategic depth in the event of crisis, access to unique civilian skill sets that can be useful in modern conflicts and as the Army’s bridge to a broader civilian population.”

Panetta also vowed to fight to protect troops’ benefits, such as health care and retirement pensions.

“Given the steep rise in personnel costs we’ve seen over the past decade, we are going to have to make efforts to control costs in this area or else we will be forced to make deeper cuts in force structure and modernization. But my approach will be, to say to those that have served, that have been deployed time and time again: ‘We will stand by the promises made to you.’ If there are to be changes, you are going to be grandfathered in terms of the benefits that were promised to you. That’s a pledge that we all need to stand by.”

National Guard Association of the United States, the Adjutants General Association of the United States, and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States.

Leahy said, “Today, at home and abroad, we are asking the Guard to take on more responsibilities than ever. The Guard has grown to become a front-line, 21st Century force, but it is trapped in a 20th Century Pentagon bureaucracy. We need to clear away those cobwebs and give the Guard a voice in the Pentagon that is commensurate to the scale of its missions here and overseas.”

“Guardsmen and Reservists are Citizen-Soldiers. During the War on Terror, they have been called up to duty, taken away from their work and families, and sent to far-away lands for long tours in protection of our nation,” Graham said. “We need to ensure the Guard and Reserves have a seat at the table when the important decisions affecting our national security are made.”

## MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY AT RISK

On July 21, the Defense Business Board (DBB) Task Group published its recommendation to eliminate the current military retirement pay benefit as the way forward in “optimizing the Department’s military retirement system” which it criticized as being “more generous and expensive compared to the private sector.”

In lieu of the current military retirement pay benefit for both active and reserve military members, the DBB Task Group is recommending a mandatory Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) program that would vest after 3 to 5 years, and be payable at age 60 to 65. The Task Group touts its TSP recommendation as one that “will enable the system to be fiscally sustainable and recruit and retain the highest personnel required for our nation’s defense” by allowing military retirement funds held in a TSP to be “invested in higher yielding equities and bonds.”

Recommendations regarding recruitment and retention were based on corporate budget cutting principals from the private sector that knows little about military service, and is dangerously out-of-touch with the realities of those who serve. If these recommendations were to be endorsed by Defense Secretary Panetta and subsequently enacted into law by Congress, the effect on military recruitment and retention would be devastating.



### ONGEA welcomes new office manager

ONGEA would like to welcome SrA Lauren Dortmund to our staff as our new Office Administrator! Lauren was trained by the "best of the best," Tom Foster, long-time office manager and past ONGEA president, who recently departed for his winter home in Florida.

Lauren comes to us from the 121st Air Refueling Wing where she is a traditional guardsman in the Medical Group. She enlisted in the Air Guard in 2007 and is currently enrolled in Airman Leadership School. She was named Ohio's Outstanding Airman of the Year for 2010 and was recognized at the ONGEA Awards Banquet this past July. In February 2010, she deployed with the 121st to Turkey. On the civilian side, she is a junior at the Mount Carmel College of Nursing in Columbus. She is a member of the student nursing association and is also a student ambassador where she gives tours and helps coordinate alumni and donor events.



Thank you Lauren for coming onboard with ONGEA! She can be reached at the ONGEA office at [ONGEA71@gmail.com](mailto:ONGEA71@gmail.com).

### Scholarship aps due March 1

Both our State and National Enlisted Associations offer scholarships to deserving individuals who are enrolled in institutions of higher learning.

**ONGEA/ONGEA Auxiliary Scholarship.** A minimum of five and maximum of 10 scholarships valued at \$500 and \$1,000 are awarded every academic year. Sons and daughters of ONGEA and ONGEA Auxiliary

## ONGEA MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVES

2-for-1 Membership Program Continues  
Membership Referral Initiatives Begin: cash, trips available

**ONGEA 2-for-1 Membership Program** - Any new or renewing E6 and above, retiree, associate, or life member can sponsor an E5 and below for a free one-year membership. The E5 and below can also be either a new or renewing member in the Association.

**ONGEA Referral Program** - The 2012 EANGUS Annual Conference will be held in Long Beach, Calif., Aug. 26-30, 2012. ONGEA has decided to sponsor this trip for both the top Army Guardsman and Air Guardsman who can refer the most members into the Enlisted Association between Sept. 15, 2011, and March 31, 2012. The paid trip will include airfare, lodging, and the respective registration fee.

▶▶ To qualify, you must refer at least 25 new or renewing Airmen/Soldiers into ONGEA during the set time-frame. For example, if you get an E6 or above to sponsor someone, that would equal TWO memberships into the Association that are counted for the referral.

▶▶ In addition, for every 25 new or renewing members that you refer to ONGEA, you will receive a check for \$50. Checks will be dispersed at the end of December and March.

▶▶ To get credit for the referral, you simply need to put your name at the top of the membership form. If your name is not at the top, then the referral will not be counted.

▶▶ If you would like to attend an Ohio National Guard event to solicit memberships from our Soldiers and Airmen, feel free to contact your Regional Directors to assist in getting a table top display and/or any other necessary material. ONGEA will even pay your mileage to and from the Ohio National Guard event.

▶▶ ONGEA Executive Board members are not eligible for this referral program.

As of mid-October, our enlisted association membership is over 1,200 members strong. We have an available enlisted strength in Ohio of over 13,000 Soldiers and Airmen – this does not even count our retired members! For us to have an effective voice on legislative issues, we need a large membership. This is your opportunity to get people into the Association and for us to give you something back for your efforts. Thank you for all that you do in supporting the Enlisted Association!



Fred Ford presents Marsha Smith with a Certificate of Appreciation for donating 1,500 candy Buckeyes to ONGEA to share at the 2011 EANGUS conference in West Virginia.

members, dependent children of deceased ONGEA members and ONGEA members themselves are eligible to apply. First Cleveland Cavalry-Norton Memorial Fund, USAA and individual contributors make these scholarships possible. Due **March 1, 2012**, applications for the 2012/2013 ONGEA/ONGEA Auxiliary Scholarship can be found at [www.ongea.org](http://www.ongea.org).

Additional scholarships are being accepted by EANGUS until **June 30, 2012** (postmarked by that date). Applications can be found on the EANGUS website under the "Forms and SOP" link in the "Resources" tab. Available scholarships include the following:

**CSM Virgil R. Williams Scholarship.** EANGUS will award two or more \$2,000 scholarships. EANGUS members, their spouses and their unmarried, dependent sons and daughters are eligible, as are the listed family members of deceased EANGUS members in good standing at the time of their death.

**EANGUS Auxiliary Scholarship.** The EANGUS Auxiliary will award five \$500 scholarships, as funds are available, and one \$1,000 scholarship donated by USAA will be presented to the top-ranked applicant. EANGUS Auxiliary members, their spouses and their unmarried, dependent sons and daughters are eligible.

# Membership Drive: 2-for-1 Special

## MEMBER INFO (New or renewing E6 and above, retiree or associate can sponsor an E5 or below for FREE)

Name (first, middle initial, last) \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Air or Army? \_\_\_\_\_ Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Guard Status (Traditional, AGR, Technician, Retired) \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

\_\_\_ Annual (E5 & below) .....\$15

\_\_\_ Annual (E6 & above, sponsors welcome) .....\$30

\_\_\_ Associate .....\$25

\_\_\_ Retired .....\$25

\_\_\_ \*Life .....\$350

*\*plus \$15 each year under age 50.*

\* Birthdate (life members only) \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT TYPE:

\_\_\_ Cash

\_\_\_ Check (payable to ONGEA)

\_\_\_ \*VISA/Mastercard

\* Card # \_\_\_\_\_

\* Expires \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP COST: \$** \_\_\_\_\_ Please make payment to "ONGEA," and mail application and payment to ONGEA, 1299 Virginia Ave., Columbus, Ohio, 43212; email applications with credit card information to [membership@ongea.org](mailto:membership@ongea.org); or fax applications with credit card information to 419-520-6146.

## SPONSORED MEMBER (E5 or below)

Name (first, middle initial, last) \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Air or Army? \_\_\_\_\_ Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Guard Status (Traditional, AGR, Technician, Retired) \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

## ONGEA Auxiliary Membership Application

Auxiliary Member \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\* DUES - \$15 \*\*\***  
(checks payable to ONGEA Auxiliary)

\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_ New

\_\_\_ Associate

**Mail Application and Payment to:** ONGEA Auxiliary, Sondra Monastra, 2941 Chaucer Dr. NE, N. Canton OH 44721

**OHIO NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION**  
**1299 Virginia Avenue**  
**Columbus, Ohio 43212**  
**1-800-642-6642**

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**ATTENTION:** Serviced by the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), annual memberships are based on membership anniversary dates. Join online at [www.eangus.org](http://www.eangus.org) or complete an application form (on the inside back cover of this newsletter) and mail together with payment to: **Membership, 1299 Virginia Ave., Columbus, OH 43212**. Online membership will be processed immediately, other means as time allows.

**Is your membership expiring soon? Check your expiration date in the mailing address block. Your membership number is also displayed.**

## ONGEA EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Nov. 17, 2011	ONGEA Board Meeting	ONGEA Office
Jan. 19, 2012	ONGEA Board Meeting	ONGEA Office
March 15, 2012	ONGEA Board Meeting	ONGEA Office
<b>April 20-21, 2012</b>	<b>ONGEA State Conference</b>	<b>Fawcett Center</b>
May 10, 2012	ONGEA Board Meeting	ONGEA Office
July 12, 2012	ONGEA Board Meeting	ONGEA Office
<b>July 28, 2012</b>	<b>ONGEA Awards Banquet</b>	<b>Longaberger Alumni House</b>
<b>Aug. 26-29, 2012</b>	<b>EANGUS Conference</b>	<b>Long Beach, Calif.</b>

Event dates/locations are subject to change. ONGEA meetings take place bi-monthly to encourage major command representation and involvement, and to reinstitutionalize the Association into the Ohio National Guard. We do the business of the Guard...we need to be in the line of communication with the command structure. Ensure your MACOM representative attends.

ONGEA Board Meetings are conducted at 1299 Virginia Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43212, unless noted otherwise. A light meal is served at 5:30 p.m. and the meetings begin at approximately 6:00 p.m., adjourning at or before 8:30 p.m. We hope that you will join us to help with the enlisted business of Ohio and our Great Nation. All members are welcome.

**President Mike Schaefer** / [president@ongea.org](mailto:president@ongea.org)  
**VP-Army Tony McGraw** / [vp-army@ongea.org](mailto:vp-army@ongea.org)  
**VP-Air Deb Clifford** / [vp-air@ongea.org](mailto:vp-air@ongea.org)  
**ONGEA Office** / [ongea@ongea.org](mailto:ongea@ongea.org)  
**The Voice** / [voice@ongea.org](mailto:voice@ongea.org)  
**ONGEA Website** / [www.ongea.org](http://www.ongea.org)  
**EANGUS** / [www.eangus.org](http://www.eangus.org) or 1-800-234-3264

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President** / MICHAEL SCHAEFER  
**Vice President, Army** / TONY MCGRAW  
**Vice President, Air** / DEB CLIFFORD  
**Secretary** / YVETTE WORSTALL  
**Treasurer** / TOM JONES  
**Regional Directors**

AREA I-AIR: VACANT  
 AREA II-AIR: EFREM SWOOPE  
 AREA III-AIR: NELSON SPITLER  
 AREA IV-AIR: PAUL WILLIAMS  
 JFHQ: VACANT  
 AREA I-ARMY: KELLY SELLERS  
 AREA II-ARMY: RICARDO ARREGUIN  
 AREA III-ARMY: VACANT  
 AREA IV-ARMY: VACANT  
 AREA V-ARMY: VACANT

### ONGEA AUXILIARY

**President** / VACANT  
**Secretary** / VACANT  
**Treasurer** / SONDR MONASTRA

### STANDING COMMITTEES

**Army Guard** / STATE CSM AL WHATMOUGH  
**Air Guard** / STATE CCM TAMARA PHILLIPS  
**AGR** / RAYMOND KUNKLER  
**Awards** / VACANT  
**By-Laws** / DEB CLIFFORD  
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**Membership** / MICHAEL SCHAEFER  
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**Retiree Affairs** / THOMAS FOSTER & RODNEY NEWELL  
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**Insurance/Facilities** / E. WALLACE & M. SCHAEFER  
**Ways and Means** / VACANT