MG Charles M. Kiefer, President, NGAUS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AN OUTSTANDING NGAUS GENERAL CONFERENCE COMING UP

With the dog days of summer upon us, it is pleasant to contemplate an excellent 111th NGAUS General Conference coming up in less than two months in Detroit.

The Association’s leaders and the NGAUS staff in Washington have lined up an outstanding agenda, and our Michigan hosts are laying on an attractive array of outside activities to make our stay in Detroit very pleasant. Here are a few of the highlights we can discuss to date.

Several of our first choices as potential major speakers at the Conference already have accepted and are scheduled. Among these are GEN Cook, a possible commander-in-chief of U.S. Forces Command at Fort McPherson, Georgia. As most will recall, GEN Cook was the guest speaker at the Detroit Air National Guard Auxiliary’s 21st Birthday Brick Dinner in May.

Another outstanding opportunity to hear from a powerful player in the national defense equation will be the message from Representative Les Aspin (D-Wisconsin), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. Congressman Aspin will be attending and speaking to our Conference in a unique new role. The NGAUS has created a new award this year to honor the leaders of the outstanding Army and Air Guard units. It is called “The Chairman’s Award” and it will be presented by Chairman Aspin at the Conference.

One of the best features of the NGAUS Conference each year is that each host state tries to lend its own unique flavor to the event. Last year in Texas, we had the Latin American flavor during our evening at the La Villita grounds with many kindness of Mexican-American and Texas foods and drinks.

This year, we will be in Motor City. The presence and effect of the major automobile manufacturing companies on Detroit is so pervasive that it would be impossible and foolish to try to ignore or forget that. Why would we?

We won’t because General Motors will be a major factor in producing the first evening’s social event at Greektown, a Detroit ethnic neighborhood located near the Renaissance Center, our headquarters. We will travel to Greektown on the People Mover, downtown Detroit’s little railroad. There, we will sample ethnic foods and have a chance to check out some of Detroit’s ethnic heritage.

Roger Smith, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of General Motors, will be one of our major main business session speakers. As senior leader of one of the world’s largest and most successful companies—including the Defense equipment field—we look forward to hearing from him.

As those who have attended the last two General Conferences will know, since the 109th General Conference, the NGAUS has encouraged Defense contractors and other businesses selling products to the Army and Air Force to have booths and display their wares to the Guardmen in attendance. This year, we are having particular success in marketing these booths, which will be located within the Ontario Exhibit Hall, directly below the ballroom where all the main business sessions will occur.

We will be holding a special open day reception to introduce the industrial exhibits this year on Wednesday, September 20 (arrival day) from 4-8 p.m. This will be an outstanding opportunity for delegates, members and guests to visit the displays sponsored by industry, meet the representatives and get more acquainted with the products being produced by the Army and Air Force of the Guard.

Of course, the reason why NGAUS calls its annual meeting possible is not and not a convention that we conduct very important business at our gathering. By the time you read this, we will be publicly discoursing the resolutions process that determines our legislative agenda. The NGAUS Executive Council will review the resolutions submitted by the states at its regular Annual Meeting. The Resolutions Committee, composed of two members from each state, will convene the day before the meeting begins to sift the written resolutions of the states and by individuals—perhaps the hardest working of all. We are pleased to be able to report that our process of pose Comitatus get reviewed as well. MJ Trueman, Administrator, a JAG officer at the Pentagon, explains the Comitatus Act.

The Guard Expands Drug War Role

In such, the Guard has been involved in fighting the war on drugs. But this year the Guard received $40 million from DoD to do its role in the drug war. NATIONAL GUARD Magazine seeks to save those states that are actively involved in the fight.

The Limits of Pose Comitatus

In the Guard gets called on more and more to fight the nation’s drug war, a function of Pose Comitatus get reviewed as well. MJ Trueman, Administrator, a JAG officer at the Pentagon, explains the Comitatus Act.

One Shot...One Kill!

It is a bit of an error at the Minnesota National Guard’s Gun School and Counterterror School. Author Reed Spenser spends a few days at the school and recalls his impressions.