



LIBERTY CHAPTER



Volume 1, Issue 8

A Message From The President MG Joseph P. O'Leary (Ret)



The TN National Guard hosted the 131st National Guard Association of the US (NGAUS) convention in Nashville on 11 thru 13 Sep09. With over five thousand army and Air Guard members and their families in attendance it was one of the largest gatherings ever seen at a NGAUS convention. There were representatives from all 54 National Guard organizations. The TAG of NY, MG Taluto led the New York delegation of 42 members from the Army, Air, and Naval militia into Nashville. All convention activities - hotel rooms, exhibitor displays, business sessions, and social functions were conducted under one roof at the Gaylord hotel. The huge facility covers 54 acres. A glass dome covers most of the exposed area, giving plenty of light and a feeling of outdoors.

The Governor of TN, Phil Bredesen, welcomed the delegates as he addressed the convention on opening day. The program consisted of reports from association officers, committee reports and awards. The chair also recognized 19 states with 100% membership. in NGAUS (NY is at 26%) The Roll Call of states was particularly impressive. Each state is called in the order in which it entered the union, starting with Delaware. As each state is introduced the State Flag is carried in front of the Assembly as a spokesperson for the state extols its virtues and foibles. This continues for all 54 organizations. Some of the other presentors included: The Secretary of the Airforce Hon Michael Donley, The Chief of the National Guard Bureau, GEN Craig R. McKinley, GEN Norton A. Schwartz Air Force Chief of Staff, and Dennis McCarthy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. The president of the enlisted association, NGAUS, CSM (Ret) Frank Lever also addressed the membership pointing out the areas where NGAUS and EANGUS had worked together to further National Guard objectives in congress.

Janet Napolitano, Secretary of the Dept of Homeland Security gave the keynote address on the final day. There was also ample time in the schedule for break-out sessions for Army and Air members where branch specific subjects were discussed. There was plenty of time for social activities. Many states hosted Hospitality Suites where state food and drink were served, and a good time could be had by all visitors. On the final night the States dinner was served to the delegates and spouses. After the meal we walked to the Grand Ole Opry for a two hour show including music and other entertainment. This annual convention offers a unique opportunity for active and retired

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Thursday
15 Oct 2009
1930 Hrs
Polish C.C.
Yonkers, NY

Monday
11 Jan 10
1930 Hrs
Orangeburg
Armory

Monday
12 Apr 2010
1930 Hrs
Yonkers
Armory
Annual
Elections

Monday
12 Jul 2009
1930 Hrs
Yonkers
Armory

ANNUAL DUES ARE
\$12.00 E6 & Up
\$2.00 E-1 to E-5
Due in April
Each Year
Check Your Mailing Label
In Apr 08 for Expiration Date



Fall 2009

Presidents Message Cont'd

Army, Air and Naval Militia officers of all ranks to gather to hear from elected officials, senior military officers, and defense contractors. Every year the convention attracts officers from 2LT's to General Officer Rank and has information to interest them all. There is strength in numbers and NGAUS derives its ability to affect decisions in Washington by the strength of its membership. Should you belong to NGAUS? I think so. I urge you to enlist one more time. Enlist in NGAUS. Every year the NGAUS convention is convened in a different state. The next one will be held in Austin, Texas. The dates are 21 -23 August 2010.



On 2 Sep 09 at 0800 hrs the Fishing Boat Riptide II sailed from City Island into Long Island Sound for a day of fishing. Among those on board were 12 military personnel (Active and retired) and members of the Liberty Chapter, SCRA. COL George Desimone, the "King Fisher" was on hand to defend his title. Although General Foley gave him all he could handle, at the end of the day it was King Fisher Desimone on top. MAJ Frank Letizia had his son with him and was teaching him the finer points of angling. SFC Young and SFC Busse drove up from Brooklyn to join the cruise. It was a good day for fishing and a good day to spend with friends.

Upcoming events

The 101st Signal Battalion Annual Christmas Ball is scheduled for 5 Dec 09 at the Polish Community Center in Yonkers, NY. A flyer has been published on the Liberty Chapter web site at www.nysignal.org

The National Guard Association (NGAUS) will host its next convention in Austin Texas on 21-23 Aug 2010

Obituaries

CSM Dick Sill former CSM of the old 242nd Signal Battalion 42nd ID, Hemstead, New York passed away on 10 Jul 09.

SFC Robert F. Migliorato, a retired member of the Old Delta Company in Orangeburg, NY passed away Saturday, September 5, 2009

To Promote the Espirit de Corps and Fraternity of the Signal Corps

MEMBER'S NEWS ITEMS



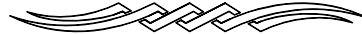
Reunited in Arms *By: LTC George T. Wilcha*

In November 1987, as a First Lieutenant, I was selected to be the Commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 187th Signal Brigade, at the Park Slope Armory in Brooklyn, NY by MG (Ret) Robert R. Rose, then Colonel and Brigade Commander.

Arriving at the armory for my first drill weekend was not only exciting, but full of uncertainty. I knew a few Soldiers at the Brigade, both Officer and Enlisted, but standing in front of the Soldiers of the Brigade HQs and the HHC in formation the first time was intimidating. One of my junior Soldiers at the time in the HHC was a young Specialist who had enlisted in the Brigade in 1985. He was the Brigade's Legal NCO during my tenure and rose to the rank of Sergeant in that position.

Several years later in 1990, now as a Captain in command of the HHC, I was introduced to a young Soldier wanting to transfer into the Brigade from the Puerto Rico Army National Guard. As with our current Finance units, I was fortunate to be at close to 125% of authorized strength and told the Soldier I can't take him in. Prior to leaving the armory, he spoke to my Readiness NCO, then SFC Betty Juarez, who challenged the Soldier to change his MOS to one that was vacant, thereby allowing him to enlist in the Brigade. The Soldier took up the challenge and became a Circuit Controller and a new member of the finest Signal Brigade in the Army inventory. Desert Shield and Desert Storm came and went, with the Brigade prepared, but never called to active duty for the War. Both Soldiers trained hard and were willing to answer the call, as were the rest of my unit.

Over the many years since all those mentioned above aged a bit, all that were able chose to remain in the New York Army National Guard. In 2008, I felt honored being appointed as Commander of the 27th Finance. I was also reunited with those two Soldiers I worked with 20 or so years ago. My Legal NCO is now Disbursing Manager, Sergeant First Class John R. T. Utsey, and my Circuit Controller is now Senior Financial Operations Advisor, Sergeant Major Ernesto Ramos. Just as in 1990-1991, these Soldiers answered the call. Brothers in Arms, reunited after twenty years. I am honored to serve with them again.



General Ferg Foley, Commander of the New York State Guard, was promoted to Major General in a short ceremony in which the Governor pinned on his two-star general rank. MG Foley was a former member of the 101st Signal Battalion and a member of the Liberty Chapter, SCRA.

The 101st Signal Battalion conducted a Change of Command Ceremony on 3 Oct 09 at Fort Dix LTC Thomas Kilmartin relinquished command, and passed the Battalion Colors to incoming commander, LTC Greg Dreisbach. We wish LTC Dreisbach the best of luck in his new assignment.

LTC Thomas Kilmartin, former Commander of the 101st Sig Bn, was presented the Bronz Order of Mercury in a separate ceremony following the change of command.

LIBERTY CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Joseph P. O'Leary
VICE PRES : Edward D'Anna
TREASURER: Carlos Rodriguez
AWARDS: Paul Suchanyc
MEMBERSHIP: Matt Bayless
EVENTS: George Desimone
SECRETARY: Gerald Steckmeister

Visit our Web Site at
www.nysignal.org

The e-mail address is:
nysignal@nysignal.org

If you are not receiving
e-mail notices, please
update your e-mail address.

The Liberty Chapter newsletter will be published 4 times a year prior to each scheduled meeting. Contributions, comments and suggestions should be e-mailed to: psuchanyc@yahoo.com or to nysignal@nysignal.org All Address corrections should also be forwarded to the above address.

**Liberty Chapter
Signal Regiment Assn
State Armory, Quincy Place
Yonkers, New York 10701**



Mailing Label



SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

101st Signal Battalion Association 5th Annual - Holiday Formal



Saturday, December 5th, 2009 - Time: 7 - 12 pm



At The Polish Center - 92 Waverly Street, Yonkers, New York 10701 - Telephone: (914) 965-2559
(www.ThePolishCenter.com)

Dress: Military: Dress Blues or Class A Uniform. Guests: Business or appropriate formal attire

Clip and Return this coupon with your check and indicated number of guests attending & dinner choice

Ticket Prices and Reservation

E1 - E4 and guest	\$ 40.00 per person	Number attending _____
E5 - E7 and guest	\$ 55.00 per person	Number attending _____
E8 - E9 and guest	\$ 75.00 per person	Number attending _____
WO - CPT and guest	\$ 75.00 per person	Number attending _____
MAJ/LTC/COL and guest	\$ 100.00 per person	Number attending _____
VIP's / Friends of the Battalion	\$ 75.00 per person	Number attending _____

Name _____ **Rank:** _____ **Telephone No:** _____

Guests Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____

Company: HHC _____ A _____ B _____ C _____ **VIP:** _____

Total # Dinner Choice: Chicken _____ Roast Beef _____ Salmon _____ Vegetarian _____

RSVP - Sunday, November 8, 2009: Checks Payable to: 101st Signal Battalion Association
Mail Checks to: 101st Signal Battalion Association - 2 Quincy Place, Yonkers, New York 10701-2708
Attn: MAJ Frank Letizia, Association Treasurer - POC Call - Frank Letizia (914) 375-2380 Ext 26