



THE WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD FOUNDATION, INC.

Annual Report 2021

Wisconsin National Guard Foundation, Incorporation

January 2021 saw the forming of the long-envisioned Wisconsin National Guard Foundation as the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin National Guard Association provided initial funding of \$5,000 and a core group formed to begin putting concept to paper.

WINGA Executive Director COL (Ret.) Mike Williams served as chair of a three-person steering committee appointed by WINGA President COL Eric Leckel that included COL (Ret.) Peter Fox, who has significant 501(c)(3) nonprofit management experience and LTC DJ Klauser, WINGA Treasurer and private-sector attorney who brought legal acumen and fund-raising experience to the group. Beginning in late January, the work began on developing draft by-laws and articles of incorporation with the assistance of Scholz Non-Profit Law, LLC, as well as recruitment of potential directors of the new organization.

Other military-oriented nonprofit organizations were studied and queried about their operations as a way of gaining valuable “lessons learned” advice and recommendations.

Volunteers were recruited among Wisconsin Air and Army National Guard officers, non-commissioned officers and civilians. Officers and Directors elected are:

President: Brig Gen (Ret) Gary Ebben, Sun Prairie, WI

Vice President: TSgt Libby Schmiedlin, Deforest WI

Secretary: CPT Alicia Dorsett, Waupaca, WI

Treasurer: LTC DJ Klauser, Madison, WI

Executive Director: COL (Ret) Michael Williams, Fort Atkinson, WI

Directors

CSM (Ret) Rafael Conde, River Falls, W

COL (Ret) Peter Fox, Big Timber MT

COL (Ret) Bob Klinger, Florence, AZ

COL (Ret) Terry McArdle, Baileys Harbor, WI

SMSgt Jamie Mills, Lake Geneva, WI

Lt Col Dan Statz, Waunakee WI

Ms. Renee Simpson, Camp Douglas WI (Veteran)

Timeline of Activities

1. Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws were formalized and adopted by the Board on April 26, 2021. As stated in Article 3 of the Articles of Incorporation, the specific purposes of the Foundation:

“ . . . Shall include to provide scholarships and leadership development opportunities for National Guard members and their families, to support National Guard members in need, and to raise public awareness of the valuable role the National Guard plays in assisting and protecting Wisconsin residents following natural disasters, humanitarian missions and civil unrest.”

Article I of the Foundation’s Bylaws titled “Purpose” also contain that language.

2. The Internal Revenue Service provided the Foundation with a Letter of Determination dated 15 November 2021 establishing its 501(c)(3) nonprofit status and tax-exempt identification number.

3. The Board established three Operating Committees consisting of Directors and non-board and volunteers:

- Communications and Marketing, Peter Fox, Chair
- Donor Identification and Development, Dan Statz, Chair
- Grants and Scholarships, Renee Simpson, Chair

4. A Foundation website was established at [www. https://www.wi-ngfoundation.org/](http://www.https://www.wi-ngfoundation.org/).

5. The memorial service for Major General (Ret.) Albert Wilkening, former Wisconsin Adjutant General who passed in April 2020 after a long illness, was held in August 2021. Major General Wilkening’s wife Pat approached the Foundation to create and manage the Al Wilkening Memorial Scholarship Program, formed with memorial gifts to the Foundation for this Scholarship Program from friends and family.

6. Following the passing of Brigadier General Charles F. Scharine in September 2021, his family established a Legacy Fund from memorials made in his name to be held by the Foundation.

Submitted 12 March 2022

Communications and Marketing Committee