



National Guard Association of California

PO Box 3150
Citrus Heights, CA 95611

Fellow Members:

May 17, 2023

As many of you may know by now, the National Guard Association of California has had a turbulent two years. To recap beginning in June 2021 and in the months after NGAC experienced the resignation of our President Mike Mattoch. This triggered a special meeting of our Executive Council where we learned our primary source of funding, the insurance carrier Armed Forces Benefit Association (AFBA), was no longer working with us, thus depriving us of most of our revenue. Our full-time employee Jim Lubey, was directed by President Mattoch to close the office, store the records (now in a Public Storage facility,) and shut down the website.

Our First Vice President Dwight Sterling then assumed the Presidency. This led to various attempts to re-organize and find replacement officers. This year Dwight Sterling departed his Presidency of NGAC. I assumed my current position to prepare for new elections. Members desiring a more detailed history are welcome to call me.

My goal is to take NGAC towards a new direction. We are supposed to be a fraternal and professional organization focused on over 24,000 men and woman of the Army, Air and State Guard components of the California Military Department. Their welfare must be the primary concern of our Association. We cannot accomplish that mission in an adversarial relationship with those organizations. It has been a long time since we have operated within our Bylaws in support of that mission.

If NGAC is to continue, we need to return to what we once were. This will be a product improved NGAC, getting back to basics, or we need to shut down. I believe as a team we can put our Association back on the map in support of the Guard. There are new sources of revenue to be tapped and we have a robust bank balance. This is a much stronger position than many. The Executive Council has also elected to extend all members from 2022 a renewed membership (at no charge), to 31 December 2023. This is due to incomplete records as to whom has paid.

It is also necessary to expand the vote, which is our next step. I plan to mail out a call for candidates for office. Here is where I need your help. All offices and the board will stand for election.

If you want your Association to continue it will need leadership. I will also need five, preferably life members, to sit as an Election Committee. We may have an observer from NGAUS Region XI to assist in ensuring the process is above reproach.

Feel free to call me with your questions.

Very Truly Yours:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andre N. Coulombe', written in a cursive style.

Andre N. Coulombe
Brigadier General (CA)
Acting Executive Director
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