



The National Guard Association of California

2024 Voting Ballot

Instructions:

1. Thank you for taking the time to vote for the next Executive Council leadership of NGAC. The voting period will commence on 19 February and will end 19 May (90 days voting period in accordance with Association bylaws).
2. Please complete the ballot below and return via mail to: **Election Committee, P.O. Box 3150, Citrus Heights, CA 95611** or complete and attach to an email to: **ngac2024elections@gmail.com**.
3. If you are not currently an active member of the association, you will be extended a complimentary one-year membership at no expense which will make you eligible to vote.
4. In order to ensure each member votes only once, you must include your full name and current contact information on this ballot. Your ballot will handled only by the elections committee and will remain confidential.

POSITION	NAME	VOTE (X)	
PRESIDENT	BILAL, RASHEEDAH		Select one
	CROSS, PETER		
	WRITE-IN NAME: _____		
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT	SUMMERALL, SEAN		Select one
	WRITE-IN NAME: _____		
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT	HAMBURGER, JAMES		Select one
	MURILLO, DAVID		
	WRITE-IN NAME: _____		
TREASURER	GRGURICH, MARK		Select one
	WRITE-IN NAME: _____		
SECRETARY	HUEY, KHRISTEN		Select one
	WRITE-IN NAME: _____		
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	ACIDO, CELIA		Select up to seven
	COULOMBE, ANDRE		
	DELWICHE, ZAC		
	LOESCH, RICHARD		
	SEBBY, DAN		
	STRAUSS, ANDY		
	WRITE-IN NAME: _____		
WRITE-IN NAME: _____			
WRITE-IN NAME: _____			

NAME AND RANK: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ OR EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

**NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION
OF
CALIFORNIA**

2024 CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

FOR PRESIDENT:



RASHEEDAH BILAL

Dear members of the National Guard Association of California, I am honored to announce my candidacy for the position of President of the National Guard Association of California. As a life member of the National Guard Officer Association since 2016 and having served as the Company Grade Officer Director from 2019 to 2023, I have developed a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our organization.

Throughout my tenure as a board member, currently serving as the Army Area VI representative, I have been dedicated to building strong relationships and fostering collaboration among my peers, subordinates, and superiors. I firmly believe that effective leadership requires the ability to connect with individuals at all levels, and I have consistently demonstrated my capacity to do so.

Additionally, my experience in navigating the legislative process has equipped me with a unique understanding of the importance of advocacy and the ability to influence policy decisions. I understand the complexities of our organization and will work tirelessly to ensure that our interests are effectively represented, and our voices are heard.

One of my primary goals as President will be to deliver on a comprehensive strategic plan for NGAC. Drawing upon my previous experience, I will work collaboratively with the NGAUS board and our members to develop and implement initiatives that address the diverse needs of our organization.

Furthermore, I am proud to have an established, influential, and respected position with the NGAUS board of directors. This connection will be invaluable in advocating for the interests of NGAC at the national level.

I humbly request your support in my bid for the presidency of the National Guard Association of California. With my proven track record of leadership, ability to build cross-functional relationships, understanding of the legislative process, and established position within the NGAUS board of directors, I am confident in my ability to effectively serve as your President, advocate for our collective interests and build for a better future. Thank you for considering my candidacy, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve and represent you all.

FOR PRESIDENT:



PETER CROSS

The purpose of this correspondence is to announce my intention of running for president of the National Guard Association of California. I would like your vote.

The primary mission of the National Guard Association of California, as I see it, is to support the men and women of the California National Guard. As such my number one priority is to establish a relationship between NGAC and the California Military Department. This relationship is pivotal to achieving my goals. Without this relationship it is impossible for NGAC to fulfill its mandate.

I am a 37-year veteran of the California National Guard and the California State Guard who has served in Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Resolute Support (Afghanistan). I have deployed on multiple state emergencies. These experiences make me qualified to understand what our servicemembers need.

My goals as President:

- * Develop and foster a relationship with the California Military Department
- * Eliminate state tax for California veteran's retirement pay
- * Eliminate state tax from Emergency State Active Duty (ESAD) pay
- * Increase federal and state benefits to members of the California National Guard and California State Guard
- * Increase membership in the National Guard Association of California and National Guard Association of the United States

Please gauge your continued membership on our success.

**FOR FIRST VICE
PRESIDENT:**



SEAN SUMMERALL

My name is Sean Summerall and I have been a member of the California Army National Guard for 16 years. I'm an Aviation Officer/UH-60 Pilot and full-time employee of the California Military Department. During my career I have lived and worked in Orange County, Fresno, San Luis Obispo, and most recently, Sacramento. My wife, Kimberly, is also a full-time officer in the California Army National Guard. We have an 11-month-old daughter and enjoy getting outside as often as possible.

I'm running for the position of 1st Vice President to focus on building NGAC membership and connecting with our current force. I've seen the amazing things that NGAUS can do and want to be a part of strengthening our own organization to best represent the California National Guard and advance its interests.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Let's build something great together.

FOR 2ND VICE PRESIDENT:



JAMES "DJ" HAMBURGER

I am honored to present my candidacy for the role of 2nd Vice President of the National Guard Association of California (NGAC). My extensive experience in the California National Guard has given me an intimate understanding of soldier care needs, allowing me to address the unique challenges faced by our dedicated members.

My proficiency in the intricacies of nonprofit organization management, derived from my role as a board member for the iLEAD Charter Schools District, further strengthens my candidacy. I possess a keen awareness of how effective organizations are structured and operated, providing a solid foundation for enhancing the NGAC's strategic initiatives.

My primary goal is to bring tangible value to our members. Drawing upon my firsthand knowledge of soldier care requirements, I aim to implement targeted programs and resources that prioritize the well-being of our National Guard community. Additionally, my strategic approach to recruitment and retention involves proactive outreach, emphasizing the advantages of Association membership and fostering a sense of community and support.

As 2nd Vice President, I am dedicated to collaborating seamlessly with the First Vice President and President. My commitment to supporting their initiatives and providing assistance as needed will contribute to the overall success and cohesion of the Association. I am excited about the opportunity to leverage my unique skill set to elevate the National Guard Association of California, ensuring it remains a dynamic and responsive advocate for our esteemed members.

Respectfully submitted,

James "DJ" Hamburger

FOR 2ND VICE PRESIDENT:



DAVID MURILLO

I have had the opportunity to serve two terms in the NGAC as a member at large. It has been very rewarding learning new skills in the association. Some of those skills that I have learned and acquired are how to write to your senators and leaders of the state. They also include working effectively with clients and team members. Identifying individual needs, knowledge with various needs and services, organizing, solving problems, meeting goals and deadlines. Most importantly building and developing rapport. As a former member of the SMR I understand the importance of being part of a team. The mission comes first! Some other things about myself, I am a current student that enjoys studying medicine. I am currently working to further my education. I know I can be a key player and I would love to be given that opportunity to prove that. Thank you for your time and consideration. AA "Liberal arts and Sciences CSU Social and Behavioral Science" College of the Canyons Valencia Ca AA "Liberal arts and Sciences CSU Health Science Emphasis" College of the Canyons Valencia Ca NSLS National Society of Leadership and Success.

FOR TREASURER:



MARK GRGURICH

Personal Goal: To serve as Treasurer for the National Guard Association of California in order to influence the civilian interaction with members of the California National Guard, to teach the community how to cherish and support their Guardsmen and to provide a safe place to create community and camaraderie among members of the CNG.

LTC Mark J. Grgurich (Ret) lives in the Sacramento Area and served in the Active Army, Guard and Reserves for 31 years before retiring in 2011. He hails from Lincoln, Nebraska and graduated from the Seminary of St Pius X in Erlanger, KY with a BA in Philosophy. He served for 31 years in the Army starting in the Nebraska Army National Guard as a Chapel Activities Specialist in 1980, commissioned in the Signal Corps in 1983 and ending as a Civil Affairs Officer from 2002 until his retirement. Mark deployed twice to Iraq and has served in Europe and the Pacific. Mark also worked for Wells Fargo for 17 years in telecommunications and network engineering. Mark earned his MBA in 2016 from the University of Phoenix.

Mark is a member of several Veteran organizations. He currently serves as Commander, 115th Support Detachment, California State Guard and as a Trustee for VFW Post 67 in Sacramento. Mark is passionate about Veteran causes, and he is particularly focused on transition from active duty (or combat deployment) to the "new normal" of civilian life. He specializes in mentoring returning Veterans and he hopes to challenge more Veterans and supporters to volunteer with ESGR, AUSA and other "Veteran-centric" organizations. He engages community leaders and proposes projects and events that will welcome Veterans home and create a support system to help Veterans transition into full engagement in their communities. He encourages employers to support their Veteran employees and to hire more Veterans and their spouses. Finally, he wants to ensure that all Veterans have the support they need to create meaningful lives for themselves and their families. Mark is married to the former Linda Retter and they have 4 children and 7 grandchildren. Mark and Linda live in Roseville, CA and they look forward to serving with their Veteran colleagues to improve our Nation's Defense by supporting our National Treasures, our Military Veterans.

FOR SECRETARY:



KHRISTEN HUEY

My name is 2d Lt Khristen Huey, and I am excited to announce my candidacy for the position of NGAC Secretary.

If elected as NGAC Secretary, I will bring dedication, organization, and a collaborative spirit to the role. I understand the importance of maintaining accurate records and ensuring the timely distribution of meeting minutes and other relevant documents. I will strive to streamline communication channels and foster open dialogue among members, allowing for a more efficient and transparent decision-making process.

Moreover, I am committed to representing the interests and concerns of NGAC members. I will actively seek feedback, suggestions, and ideas from all of you and work towards incorporating them into our discussions and initiatives. Your voices matter, and I believe in creating an inclusive environment where everyone feels heard and valued.

I have a proven track record of successfully managing multiple projects simultaneously, ensuring deadlines are met, and delivering high-quality work. I am confident that these skills will enable me to fulfill the responsibilities of the Secretary role effectively.

I am passionate about NGAC's mission and vision, and I am dedicated to contributing to its growth and success. I believe that as Secretary, I can make a positive impact by improving communication, fostering collaboration, and advocating for the needs of our members. I kindly ask for your support in this campaign.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any ideas or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Together, let's continue to make NGAC a thriving community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE
(not to exceed seven)



CELIA ACIDO
FOR MEMBER AT
LARGE

With a steadfast commitment spanning over two decades, I am honored to present my candidacy for Member at Large of the National Guard Association of California (NGAC).

Since joining in 2004, I've diligently served in multifaceted roles, including Treasurer, Elections Committee member, Scholarship Committee member, and Conference planning committee member. My extensive experience showcases a deep understanding of the association's intricate workings.

Currently, I spearhead the day-to-day operations, demonstrating my dedication to the NGAC's mission. My proven track record speaks to my ability to navigate the complexities of leadership roles within the organization.

Beyond my contributions to NGAC, I currently serve as the President of the Women's Council of REALTORS®, another nonprofit association in Sacramento. This dual leadership role underscores my commitment to community service and organizational excellence.

If entrusted with the position of Member at Large, I pledge to bring unwavering dedication, diverse experience, and strategic vision to further elevate NGAC. I am ready to contribute actively, ensuring the association continues to thrive and serve its members effectively.

Respectfully,

Celia Acido



ANDRE COULOMBE
FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE

My goal if elected will be to strengthen the bonds between all components of the Military Department, Army and Air National Guard, State Guard, the Naval Militia and California Youth Programs active and retired. We need to re-establish local chapters of NGAC as well as develop the social side of military life. Members need to see NGAC not just for legislative advocacy but as an ongoing educational, fraternal, and professional unity. We need to do a better job of providing information about the National and State Guard.

Our organization should work to enhance professional development and provide many networking professional opportunities, but we must develop the social and networking side. I would invite members to provide educational events as well as outreach to the community. We can do a much better job. The California State Guard has a critical role to play in lightening the Civil Support side of the National Guards duty in both training and operations.

The National Guard in turn needs to both insist on high training standards as well as ensure high training standards are met. This will mean funding for training and equipment to fulfill that Direct Support role.

NGAC must be in the forefront of that advocacy. "One team One Fight". We need to show value for the dues. NGAC must become the forum for the advancement of military science among our members. It is not a forum for personal issues with the Military Department.



**ZAC DELWICHE
FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE**

My 35-year career in the California National Guard provided me with a well-rounded experience by being at all levels of the organization. I started as a traditional enlisted Soldier in 1986. I wanted to do more, so I received my commission through the California Military Academy in 1991.

Throughout my career, I have responded to multiple state emergencies, deployed overseas to Iraq and Afghanistan, commanded units from Company to Brigade, and worked as a Detailed Inspector General reporting to TAG and the US Army IG.

I attended multiple standard military courses, such as Officers Basic and Pre-Command Courses, plus multiple specialty courses, such as the IG School and the Civil Support Specialty Course. I graduated from the US Army War College in 2016. I finished my civilian education with a Master of Science in Emergency Management.

I was in countless meetings, interviews, and situations where I gained a collective image of the behavior of the California National Guard as an organization. I understand the numerous challenges that our citizen soldiers face every day.

As an NGAC board member, I will work to further the protection and needs of the Soldier and strengthen the organization. I believe in the NGAC capability that can propose and support legislation that creates, and protects, the rights of our soldiers and their families.



**RICHARD LOESCH
FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE**

I seek your vote as a Member-At-Large. I have the time and willingness to devote my efforts to this position. A bit about myself:

I retired from the ARNG on January 1, 2009. My last assignment was at the Pentagon as a LNO from the NGB Joint Operations Staff's Counterdrug Division to the Joint Chiefs' J-5 in the Deputy Directorate for Politico-Military Affairs Western Hemisphere's Homeland Defense Division as Branch Chief for CD and CNT.

I was formerly Commander of the CNG's Counterdrug JTF. I enlisted in 1967. I completed the SF Qualification Course. Served tours of duty in Panama with the 8th SFG (Abn) and Vietnam with the 5th SFG (Abn).

I joined the CA ARNG in 1977 and obtained my commission through CMA. I commanded an AR Company and a MI linguist battalion. Follow-on assignments were as G-2 for the 40th ID, Course Manager of Terrorism Consequence Management at NICI, and after September 11, 2001, XO for CNG's JTF AEROSAFE.

I am a graduate of the CGSOC, JMIG – PGIP, and the Army War College.

In 2001 I retired, after 25 years, from Santa Cruz County. I served as a Deputy for nine years and investigator with the DA's Office for sixteen. In 1993 I graduated from FBI's National Academy.

I received my BA in Politics from UCSC and have a Masters in Strategic Studies from the Army War College. I married Stephanie in 1971. We have two grown children. Stephanie and I live in Arizona.



**DAN SEBBY
FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE**

Greetings fellow NGAC members:

Let me introduce myself. My name is Dan Seby, and I am a Sergeant Major in the California State Guard. I am also a candidate for the position of Member-at-Large for the National Guard Association of California. Many of you know me and my history, but for those of you who don't, let me tell you about myself.

I am one of the longest, if not the longest serving member of the California Military Department having been in the California Cadet Corps from 1971 to 1977, the California Army National Guard from 1976 to 1998 and the California State Military Reserve/California State Guard since 1998. I have served numerous leadership positions in all three of those components.

I have also been heavily involved in preserving the history of the California Military Department and am currently serving as the Director and Chief Curator of the California Military Department's Military History and Museums Program under the Joint Staff.

I have also served as an officer in the Sacramento Historical Society and have served as an officer in two chapters of the Association of the United States Army.

I feel the association needs to return to its roots, serving as the voice of the of all the members of the department across all the components of the department, working closely with The Adjutant General and the leadership of the department. Frankly, the association needs to work on that relationship, and I think we have an opportunity to repair and move that relationship forward.

Thank you for taking the time to read this candidate statement and I hope you choose to vote for me.



**SGM(R) ANDREW STRAUSS
FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE**

I have worked with NGAC for many years now as an advisor from the Enlisted side, as well as being a Life Member. I hope to continue working with the Officers to develop a "new" NGAC to support California.

I am a past President of Cal-EANGUS, as well as a past National Director of EANGUS for 6-years. I am a past president of Sergeant's Major Association of California and a Gold Card Member. I am also a member and on the Board of 40th Division Alumni Association. I would desire to continue working with NGAC to establish a meaningful organization for the Officers in the California Army and Air National Guard.