



LIUNA Nat'l Guard Council Local 1776 Testifies before Nat'l Commission on the Future of the Army

Tells panel technicians more experienced & affordable than active duty

July 16, 2015 (Arlington, VA) – Local 1776 Business Manager Ben Banchs appeared before the National Commission on the Future of the Army today on behalf of National Guard Technicians everywhere to let panel members know that the secret to the National Guard's success is the affordability and experience of its small yet knowledgeable technician workforce. To read more about this story and get involved go to our web site <http://www.liuna-ngdc.org>.



- stay informed
- take action
- make a difference

Engage is our new web-app designed to improve distribution of news, and enhance our ability to let Congress know what we think about important legislation affecting Technicians.

Welcome to FedTech Watch

The Official Publication of Local 1776

Fellow technicians, I'm proud to present the first of what we hope will be many editions of our new official publication: FedTech Watch.

There are many factors that contribute to the success of an organization like ours, and while the prime emphasis always seems to be total membership, we sometimes lose sight of the bigger picture. In reality, total membership isn't nearly as important as understanding the reasons why people joined in the first place and then chose to remain members.

While unions are traditionally seen as work place representatives, benefit providers, and issue advocates, the other role they fill is that of keeping members informed. That's where FedTech Watch comes in. With budget cuts, mission realignments, and a changing battlefield, it's extremely important for you to know how your job and career is affected, and what the union is doing to protect you. We hope you enjoy this and all our other products, and let us know how we can enhance your membership. Thanks!

Ben Banchs
Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer

NGC News

Reaction to Chattanooga Shootings

Several states have issued executive orders authorizing full-time NG members (including techs) to carry firearms in order to enhance force-protection. We are working with state reps to ensure safe implementation of these orders.

New Michigan Army National Guard Contract Nears Approval

A new collective bargaining agreement should be finalized any day now between LIUNA and the MIARNG. The new contract which is waiting on DoD approval will be a marked improvement over the previous agreement.

4Q Meeting Set For New Orleans

The 2015 4Q NGC Conference will be held in New Orleans 10 – 13 December. The meeting is mandatory for all E-Board, Delegates, and State Representatives. The meeting agenda includes rep and organizing training classes, team-building exercises, guest speakers, and planning activities for 2016.

Active Campaigns

Keep the AH-64 Apache In the National Guard



Full Arlington Honors for National Guard Members (full story on pg.2)



Members-Only Benefits

Are you maximizing your membership-dollars?

- \$20,000 Accidental Death Life Insurance**
Each member is covered automatically. Make sure your beneficiary information is up-to-date.
- Competitive Dental/Vision Plans**
Stay healthy with coverage offered by trusted names. Plans are available to members in most states.
- UnionPlus Discounts**
Exclusive discounts, services and scholarships for LIUNA members and their families.
- Unlimited Recruiting Bonuses**
Get a \$30 Amazon Gift Card for each new member you sign-up. Recruiting never stops!
- Unlimited Employment Advice**
Got questions about your technician career? We got answers.

"...a well-organized...militia." Thomas Jefferson

Scan the QRC Code to go to our web-site



LIUNA National Guard Locals Combined Into One Merger Sets Stage for Future Growth

On January 15, 2015, LIUNA issued a Charter officially recognizing Local 1776 – a.k.a. the National Guard Council (NGC) – as the exclusive representative of NG members nationwide. The new Local merged the 9 existing NG Locals into one, and simultaneously abolished the NG District Council (NGDC) which had only been in existence since 2010.

The merger proposal was spearheaded by Business Manager (BM) Ben Banchs as a way to streamline operations and consolidate the administrative functions of 10 separate entities. The merger is also the next step towards ensuring LIUNA is the premier NG technician advocate in the nation. The combined organization speaks and acts as one. Rather than having 10 isolated Locals staffed by part-time volunteers, the new Local has a full-time staff dedicated to supporting our members at the shop and state level, and making sure Congress hears about issues that matter to us.



At the state level the old Local structure was replaced with an executive delegation headed by State Representatives tasked with handling the day-to-day matters which affect our members. The next step will be to implement a robust steward program in each state in order to deploy trained and knowledgeable employee representatives everywhere, even in the most remote locations, so that technicians can easily seek the Union's help.

We're excited for what the future holds and we want you to be a part of it. Please make sure to visit our web site and take a look at the new LIUNA Local 1776. Our web site along with the engage app and this publication will be the three primary means of communicating with members. You can also stay up-to-date by liking our Facebook pages. There's plenty of different ways to get connected so stay tuned and stay informed.

Urge Congress to pass the FLORICH Act - HR 2852

The Founding Legacies of Reserve Integral Combat-training Heroes (FLORICH) Act



SSG Tom Florich was an Army National Guard dual status technician, and also a member of LIUNA Local 1776, with the 1-244th Assault Helicopter Battalion (AHB) in Hammond, LA. Tom died alongside three other Guardsmen, all part of MOJO 69, a Blackhawk helicopter crew that crashed into the Gulf of Mexico while on a joint training exercise

transporting 7 Operators with the 2nd Marines Special Ops Command (MARSOC); the crash killed all 11 men on board.

Upon his death Tom's family requested that he be buried at Arlington Cemetery, but the request was initially denied by the US Army because Tom was on Title 32 status at the time of his death, not Title 10. The Army did not want to grant an exception to the rules even though Tom died in the line of duty alongside seven Marine Special Operators, and even though the Marines were all eligible for an Arlington burial.

An exception was finally granted, but it should have never been an issue. When a National Guard member puts themselves in harm's way their risk is no less dangerous than their active duty counterparts, regardless of duty status.

To correct this technicality we're asking that you contact Congress and ask them to co-sponsor HR 2852, the Founding Legacies of Reserve Integral Combat-training Heroes (FLORICH) Act, introduced by Rep. Garrett Graves (R-LA). You can use our engage web app to send your Congressional rep a letter urging them to support this legislation. Let's honor Tom's memory by making sure grieving National Guard families don't have to deal with this technicality again.



MOJO69

LIUNA Local 1776 Web Site

Designed with ease of use in mind

One of the things you should instantly notice when visiting www.liuna-ngdc.org is the user-friendly layout and app-style button links on the home page. Here's a quick explanation of some of the buttons:



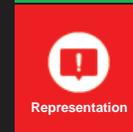
Takes you to our recruiting page for an explanation of membership benefits and to download the required forms.



Links to an online form where members can easily update their profile from their desktop or even their smartphone.



Takes you to our insurance information page to see what products are available to you as a Local 1776 member.



Links to a packet which employees must fill out whenever they need workplace representation.

Feel free to explore and don't hesitate to let us know what you think. Send questions or comments to website@liuna-ngdc.org.

Upcoming Events *

LIUNA Leadership Conference
San Diego, CA - August 9 – 12

Introductory Stewards Training
New Orleans, LA - Aug 12 – 13

Membership Drive
Northern California - Aug 17 – 21

Contract Negotiations
Little Rock, AR - Aug 31 – Sep 4

Membership Drive
Central California - Aug 31 – Sep 4

Introductory Stewards Training
Sacramento, CA - Sep 17

Membership Drive
New Mexico - Sep 21 – 25

Membership Drive
Southern California - Oct 5 – 9

Membership Drive
South Dakota - Sep 19 – 23

4Q NGC Local 1776 Conference
New Orleans, LA - Dec 10 – 13

* Events subject to change or cancellation without notice.



FedTech Watch

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"a well-organized...militia."

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SC Mark Albrecht
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