

***52th Annual Mississippi Air National
Non-commissioned Officers Association Conference Minutes***

24 April 2021

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** At 0900 hours the 52th Annual Noncommissioned Officers Association meeting was called to order by President 1SG Tommy Morgan at the Auditorium, Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

- 2. POSTING OF COLORS:** The 41st Army Band performed as the colors were posted by the 154th RTI. The Army Flag was posted by SSG Stanley Powell III. The Air Force Flag was posted by SMSgt Melissa Herron. SSG Jonathan Chigges posted the POW/MIA Flag to honor those who have been Prisoners of War or who are Missing in Action.

- 3. NATIONAL ANTHEM:** Performed by Vice President Air MSgt Charles “Hank” Fairchild.

- 4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by President 1SG Tommy Morgan.

- 5. INVOCATION:** The chairs located on the front row with the white covers represent our deceased Past Presidents. Moment of silence for our deceased presidents and our guard members on active duty and their families. Invocation was led by Chaplain CSM James M. Hollings.

- 6. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Recognition of guests was conducted by Vice President Army SSG Shayne Burns. Distinguished guests were Major General Janson D. Boyles (Adjutant General, State of MS), MG Mike Nabors (Chief of Staff), The Honorable Steven M. Palazzo (Representative for the 4th Congressional District of Mississippi), MG (Ret) Chris Crisler, Brigadier General Barry A. Blanchard (Chief of Staff), Brigadier General Cleveland (Commander 66 Troop Command), Colonel Richard L. Weaver (Commander Camp Shelby), Lt Col Cager (168th Engineer Brigade Commander), Lt Col Jason “Dick” Holms (890th Engineer Battalion Commander), Colonel Tommy Tillman (Commander 172nd AW), Lt Col Teresa Plotts (186th ARW), Colonel Billy Murphy (President NGAM), CCSM John Raines (outgoing Command Senior Enlisted Leader, State of MS), CSM Silvester Tatum (incoming Command Senior Enlisted Senior Leader), State CSM Christopher L. Young, CCMSgt Lynn Cole (Command Chief, State of MS), CW5 Tommy Smith (State Command Warrant Officer), past presidents of the Association, the retirees, and the members of the NCO Auxiliary.

- 7. RECOGNITION OF PAST-PRESIDENTS:** Vice President Air MSgt Hank Fairchild read out the names of the Past-Presidents of the Association that were present at the meeting. CMSgt Ricky Myers, CMSgt Charlie Carrigan, CMSgt Bill Stephens, MSgt Gail McKinion, CMSgt Scotty Cole, CSM Larry Odom, CMSgt Terry Hill, CMSgt Robbie Knight, SFC Leroy Matthews, and SFC Nickie White.

- 8. ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Secretary McKinion made administrative announcements. If you have any announcements, please bring them to Secretary McKinion. Motion sheets are on the corner of the rostrum by the secretary. If you make a motion, please fill one out. There are also sheets for newly elected area directors that are selected in the breakouts to fill out. Speakers/committee chairs, please leave a copy of your report with the secretary for the minutes. Please visit the vendors during breaks.

9. ADDRESS: The Adjutant General of the State of Mississippi, MG Janson Durr Boyles. He stated that he was glad to be here and it is a place to break down barriers and get to know each other. He discussed all of the deployments/exercises the guard has going on at this time. We have this local Covid Response that is currently being performed. Several things going on this year but year 2023 will be a big year. Thanked Congressman Palazzo being here and his participation and interest in our organization. Wished CSM Raines the best in his new position at the Guard Bureau. Thanked everyone for attending and their commitment to the uniform and this great nation.

10. ADDRESS: Outgoing Senior Enlisted Leader of the MS National Guard Command CSM John Raines and Incoming Senior Enlisted Leader of the MS National Guard CSM Silvester Tatum: CSM Raines thanked several people and groups for the things they had done to support the officers and enlisted. Have had a 100% change in command in the Air National Guard and have had many changes in the Army National Guard. Thanked Executive Director Myers and his wife Connie Myers for all they have done over the years. Thanked everyone for what they do for their country every day. CSM Tatum thanked the NCO Association for what they have done before. Charged all E-9s to help the NCO Association grow. Help our soldiers/airmen learn about what the association is all about.

11. ADDRESS: Mississippi National Guard NCO Auxiliary President Mrs Connie Myers. She thanked us for this time to address the body. 51st Anniversary of the Auxiliary. She discussed the ones that they had lost and introduced the auxiliary past presidents in attendance today. They were Ann Hart, Vivian Taylor, Paula Carrigan, Pat Burchfield, and Billy Davis (last remaining charter member). They have some younger members taking some offices but they need help in getting new members for the auxiliary. Please donate to the Veterans Project they are sponsoring. Think about what you would do if you were in charge and what you can do to make it better. President Morgan gave them a \$750.00 donation for helping the Association. .

AUXILIARY MEMBERS DISMISSED at 0949 hours

12. ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS: Secretary McKinion reminded everyone to purchase tickets for the cruise/trip in the back if you have not done so. Will be given out at the banquet. Please visit our vendors in the back, they have some great information.

BREAK: 0950 HOURS

BUSINESS SESSION RECONVENED: 1015 HOURS

13. ADDRESS: Honorable Steven M. Palazzo, Representative for the 4th Congressional District of Mississippi. It has been an unprecedented year for the country. The National Guard has dropped everything and headed to many areas they have never been before to carry out their missions. The enlisted force is the backbone of the military. The enlisted force holds tremendous responsibility in the completion of the mission. One of his top priorities is to give the military the tools they need to accomplish the mission. Although it may seem that congress cannot get anything accomplished, the military is important to all, republican and democrat. He is the co-chair of the National Guard and Reserve Caucus in congress. Today, I am leading the charge so that guardsmen who have deployed will get health and education benefits they deserve. National guard members do not receive the same benefits as their active duty counterparts when the guardsman performs active duty. He has introduced a bill to correct this matter. He strives to continue to give guardsmen the benefits they deserve. Introduced The Recruit Act which rewards employers that prioritize hiring and retaining our guard

members. We are actively looking at new threats to our democracy and nation. The guard has been very important in protecting our interests at home and abroad. He believes China remains our number one threat. He will continue to be the Number One advocate for the guard. Promotes the guard being able to continue their missions and come back home safe.

14. ADDRESS: Colonel Billy Murphy, President National Guard Association of Mississippi. The full time staff of both associations are the link to the legislators. Our associations have been set up for success because of the personnel who have gone on before us in both of these organizations. Both associations hold the highest membership in the nation. The officers association pays the dues for E1-E4 and feel this has been beneficial. Our insurance program has grown but we still had 7 deaths this year that did not have the insurance. Received additional funding from the legislature for the MS National Guard. Remember everyone who is not here because they are deployed, remember their families also.

15. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: With your help we have led in attendance at the national level. Invite everyone to attend EANGUS Convention in Albuquerque this year. The more you get involved at the state level, the more understanding you will have about what goes on at the national level. In the last three years we have giving out \$18,000.00 in scholarships. Scholarships have been moved to being on line. We have incentives to EANGUS where you can also apply for scholarships. Working on pushing Professional Development so that our soldiers/airmen can get more training. I learned from my mistakes and feel like I have become a better leader.

16. ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS: Secretary McKinion asked for everyone to please visit the vendors because they help us carry on our business.

17. ROLL CALL OF UNITS: Secretary McKinion performed the Roll Call of Units. All units were present and/or accounted for. A quorum was determined to be present.

18. READING AND/OR APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Secretary MSgt (Ret) Gail McKinion stated that the 2019 MS NG NCO Conference minutes had been published on the MSNGNCOA website. Due to not having a annual meeting last year, they had not been approved. She requested that the minutes be accepted as published on the website. Treasurer CSM (Ret) Keith Ales made the motion to accept the 2019 minutes as published on the website. Past President Larry Odom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

19. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

(1) NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: Chairperson Gregory S. Lackie gave the report. The nominations committee met on 23 Apr 2021 and had reviewed and verified the nominations that had been submitted. He stated that he had received the following nominations for office for 2021 to 2022:

Treasurer: CSM (Ret) Keith Ales
Secretary: MSgt (Ret) Gail McKinion
Vice President Army: SFC Marcus Padgett
MSG Robert J. Short
Vice President Air: MSgt Charles "Hank" H. Fairchild II
President: SSG Shayne Burns
SMSgt Melissa Herron

This is a committee report and needed no motion. The Nominations Committee Report was approved by the membership.

President Morgan opened the meeting to nominations from the floor:

Treasurer: No motions from the floor. Motion to close nominations and accept CSM (Ret) Keith Ales as Treasurer by acclamation was made by Past President CMSgt Terry Hill and seconded by Past President Larry Odom. Motion passed.

Secretary: No motions from the floor. Motion to close nominations and accept MSgt (Ret) Gail McKinion as Secretary by acclamation was made by CMSgt (Ret) Ricky Myers and seconded by MSgt Hank Fairchild. Motion passed.

Vice President Army: No motions from the floor. No motions from the floor, motion was closed. The two individuals already nominated will be voted on later.

Vice President Air: No motions from the floor. Motion to close nominations and accept MSgt Charles "Hank" H. Fairchild for Vice President Air by acclamation was made by SFC (Ret) Nickie White and seconded by MSG Robert Short. Motion passed.

President: No motions from the floor. Motion to close nominations from the floor was made by SFC (Ret) Nickie White and seconded by Member SGM Newman. Motion passed.

Nominees for Vice President Army and President were given 3 minutes to speak and spoke in alphabetical order. After speeches, the chamber was cleared of all non-voting members and sealed. Ballots were distributed and taken up for counting. The chamber was then unsealed.

(5) TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer CSM (Ret) Thomas "Keith" Ales stated that he appreciated everyone's support through the years. Treasure Ales briefed his report to the membership. He briefed that we currently have a positive balance and would like to keep it that way. He briefed on our income such as AFLAC, vendors from Best Warrior, MS State Fair. We gave 6 scholarships of which 3 are funded by donations. We had 7715 members as of 30 Dec 2020. Would like to thank NGAM for funding E1-E4 which amounted to 5152 soldiers and airmen. Thank the Sonny Montgomery Foundation for their \$5000.00 contribution and we will announce the winners later this afternoon. We have 212 people registered for this conference. Would like to thank everyone again for elected me and I enjoy serving. Treasurer Ales asked for acceptance of his report. Vice President Air MSgt Hank Fairchild made the motion to accept the report and Director MSG Robert Short seconded the motion. Motion passed.

(6) ARMY MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Vice President Army SSG Shayne Burns. The Army currently has 7620 eligible personnel of which 567 are currently paid members. Last year in 2020 we had 582 members. This was a committee report and needed no motion. The Army Membership Report was approved by the membership.

(7) AIR MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Vice President Air MSgt Charles "Hank" Fairchild gave the Air Membership report. Thanked the area directors, Lisa Oliver, Melissa Herron, Joey Dearman, Joel Jones, and Reggie Saxton for their hard work. Thanked the local chapters for their hard work. He challenged everyone for 100% membership. Currently District 6: Team Gulfport has 268 eligible

personnel and 67% are members. This is a 16% decrease from 2019. District 7: The 172nd AW has 882 eligible personnel and 51% are members. This is an INCREASE of 2% from 2019. District 8: Key Field (The 186th ARW/238 ASOS/248 ATCS} has 884 eligible personnel and 62% are members. This is a 20% decrease from 2019. The overall eligible membership for the MS Air National Guard is 2034 with a 57% membership. This was a committee report and needed no motion. The Air Membership Report was approved by the membership.

(8) BY-LAWS COMMITTEE REPORT: SMSgt Reggie Saxon gave the By-Laws Report. . The By-Laws Committee met on 23 April 2021 to discuss the by-laws change. The By-Laws change met all time frames in our by-laws and and was posted on the web site. The by-law change is to change the name of the association from “the Mississippi National Guard Noncommissioned Officers Association” to the “Mississippi National Guard Enlisted Association.” Rational behind this change is the normally an association's name represents the personnel it is representing. For many years the association has had membership in E-1 through E-9, not in just the non-commissioned officers. We feel that time has come to change the name to reflect all enlisted members. Our enlisted members in the ranks of E-4 and below do not feel that they are members because they are not yet non-commissioned officers and this may encourage younger members to join the association. Committee recommends approval of the proposed amendment to the by-law. This is a committee report and requires no motion. The By-Laws Report was approved by the membership.

President asked for all non-voting members to leave the room. Sergeant at Arms cleared the room and sealed the chamber. By-laws change will require a 2/3 vote to pass.

CMSgt (Ret) Ricky Myers made the motion to change the name of the association to the Mississippi National Guard Enlisted Association. CMSgt Scotty Cole seconded the motion. Discussion was held. After much discussion CMSgt Scotty Cole called for the vote. The call for the vote was seconded by MSgt Mandie Ponder. The vote was taken on the original motion to change the name of the association. Motion did not pass. The name remains the same.

President asked for the chamber to be unsealed.

(6) RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: There were no resolutions submitted; therefore, there is not a report

20. ELECTION RESULTS: Treasurer: CMS (Ret) Keith Ales, Secretary: MSgt (Ret) Gail McKinion, Vice-President Air: MSgt Hank Fairchild, Vice-President Army: MSG Robert J. Short, and President: SMSgt Melissa Herron. Motion was made by Past-President CMSgt Terry Hill to destroy the ballots and the motion was seconded by CMSgt (Ret) Ricky Myers. Motion passed. Ballots were destroyed.

21. ARMY MEMBERSHIP AWARDS: Four Army Membership Awards for the Battalion SGM's and higher, for reaching the highest membership in 3 divisions (light, medium, heavy) and the highest membership in the Brigade division. The CSM's will keep these awards until next year and either retain them or hand them over to the CSM that beats them in membership.

Vice-President Army SSG Shayne Burns presented the awards to the CSMs of each division.

Light Division: 0-250 Enlisted Members
CSM Ricky Wilson

Recruiting and Retention Battalion
91% Membership

Medium Division: 251- 500 Enlisted Members
CSM James Hollings
1-98th Cavalry
90% Membership

Heavy Division: 501-1300 Enlisted Members
CSM Joseph Cook
223rd Engineers Battalion
93% Membership

Army Guard Brigade Division
CSM Richard E. Davis
168th Engineer Brigade
88% Membership

22. ANNOUNCEMENTS: We will be breaking for lunch. Need all of the Best Warrior Competitors to meet in foyer at 1300. The hospitality houses do have some lunch available in some of the houses. The All Ranks Club is open. Reconvene at 1300 hours.

BREAK FOR LUNCH 1152
RETURN FROM LUNCH 1300

President Morgan turned the rostrum over to Vice-President Hank Fairchild for the Air National Guard Awards Ceremony

23. AIR AWARDS PROGRAM: President Morgan, Command CMSgt Lynn Cole, and MG Mike Nabors handed out Air Awards. All of the winners will receive a trophy, a certificate, a check from the Chiefs Group, coins from MG Nabors and Command Chief Cole.

Airman of the Year 2021 (E1-E4) – SRA Hayden H. Adelman, 255th Air Control Squadron

NCO of the Year 2021 (E5-E6) – SSgt Justin D. Reynolds, 172nd AW

Senior NCO of the Year 2021 (E7-E9) – MSgt Jody B. Walker, 172nd AW

First Sergeant of the Year 2021 – 1st Sgt Rodgrick L. Anderson, 186th CE Squadron

Vice President Air MSgt Hank Fairchild relinquished the rostrum back to President MSG Tommy Morgan

24. G.V. “SONNY” MONTGOMERY PATRIOT LEADERSHIP AWARDS (ARMY and AIR):
The G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Foundation makes this prestigious award possible and its purpose is to recognize a Soldier and an Airman within the Mississippi National Guard that has epitomized the professional NCO not only while serving his or her country in uniform, but also by service to the community. Many of our young Soldiers and Airmen do not realize the impact that Sonny Montgomery had on the Mississippi National Guard and the U.S. Military as a whole. Without his

efforts, our education programs within the military would probably not exist. There is a reason why it is called the Montgomery GI Bill. He was instrumental in assisting our association to get off the ground in its infancy. You can look through the historical pictures and find him throughout attending our conferences. Sonny Montgomery had a vision of what our Association could and should be. I believe our growth last year and our new growth this year would have made Sonny Montgomery smile. He would have encouraged us to keep up the fight and continue to work on our benefits. With all of this in mind, the Sonny Montgomery Foundation Patriot Leader Award is one of the highest awards given within our state that is not based on achievements, but leadership within your unit and your community. Only one award is given to the Army Guard and one award is given to the Air Guard. These two individuals have quite simply exemplified the best leadership in the state for their component.

Introduced Maj (Ret) Fred Sullivan, board member of the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Foundation, and gave him a few minutes to speak.

Maj (Ret) Fred Sullivan stated it was a great honor for him to be at the conference representing the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Foundation. There is not much I can add to your comments about Sonny Montgomery. I know that some of you have seen it first hand when he was in office and even after he retired he still checked in with armories/air bases to see what he could do to help. His name is still living on and he is proud to address us and tell us how proud they are of us. He would also like to present the Mississippi National Guard Association with a check for \$5000.00 to continue to support the good work you are doing for the NCOs from Mississippi. He then presented the awards to the winners. The winners are going to receive an eagle award, a crystal with Sonny's bust in it, a Sonny Montgomery coin.

President MSG Tommy Morgan relinquished the rostrum to Vice President Army Shayne Burns.

G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Patriot Leadership Award Air is awarded to MSgt Lisa Oliver, CRTC.

G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Patriot Leadership Award Army is awarded to SFC Jamie L. Grammar.

Vice President Army SSG Shayne Burns relinquished the rostrum back to President MSG Tommy Morgan

25. SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS:

Scholarship Chair MSgt Lisa Oliver gave the report. Twelve applications were submitted. Three applications were incomplete. Six scholarships were given at \$1000.00 each. The winners are listed as follows:

<u>WINNER</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>SCHOLARSHIP</u>
Rebecca Sudduth	1SG Jacob Sudduth	CSM James E. Mask Memorial
Emma Uithoven	CMSgt George Uithoven	CMSgt David D. Hart Memorial
Ross James	SGM James Clifford	USAA
Emily Easterling	CMSgt David Easterling	Memorial (CMSgt Will D. Mackey, CMSgt James A. Knowles, CMSgt Adrian L. Pierce)
Emily Ponder	1SG Thomas Ponder	Memorial (CMSgt Billy J. Allen, CMSgt Robert F. Gavin, CMSgt Thomas E. Slade)
Bayleigh Morgan	1SG Tommy Morgan	Memorial (SFC Jerry W. Taylor, CMSgt

Joseph E. Jackson, CMSgt Charles E. Geary, Jr.)

This report requires no motion to approve. The Scholarship Report was approved by the membership. Scholarships were presented to those who could attend: Emma Uithovan, Emily Ponder. President Morgan stated that some could not attend due to Covid issues, other issues, and he had asked his daughter to work the Brandon Amphitheater. He thanked those that attended for supporting the association by applying for the scholarships. He asked everyone to give a round of applause to all the recipients.

26. BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION: State Command Sergeant Major Christopher Young was introduced to recognize the competitors in the Mississippi National Guard Outstanding Warrior Competition. The competitors were SSG Brown (BRAVO Company, 111th), SPC Byrd (HHC, 106th), SSG Chigges (154th RTI), SSG Minor (HHC, 223rd), SPC Moody (3656th), SGT Odom (150th), SFC Odom (Camp Shelby Force Strength Center), SSG Powell (JFH), SSG Robertson (154th RTI), SPC Shaw (1st 204th), TSgt Wentworth (CRTC).

He stated it had been a great week. There were over 15 events. Twenty-two miles altogether in about 2 and ½ days. There were 11 competitors and the winners will be announced tonight at the banquet. They do a lot of physical activity, on their feet a lot. Perform Army warrior tasks and perform mental tasks. There is a lot to being a warrior. They are well rounded.

Command SGM Raines and Command SGM Tatum were brought forward to award the medals to the competitors.

The following competitors were awarded the Army Achievement Medal and the Soldier of the Year Award Ribbon during the 2021 State Best Warrior Competition: SSG Brown, SPC Byrd, SSG Chigges, SSG Minor, SPC Moody, SGT Odom, SFC Odom, SSG Powell, SSG Robertson, SPC Shaw, TSgt Wentworth.

27. ARMY AND AIR BREAKOUTS AND DISTRICT CAUCUSES: President Morgan emphasized the importance of the District Caucuses. The soldiers and airmen you elect, as Directors in your Caucuses, are your voice in the Association. It is imperative that you elect someone that is willing to give of their personal time to visit units and speak on behalf of the Association. Our Association will rise and fall on the efforts of these individuals. These are not appointments of honor, but positions of service. Please choose your Directors wisely. This year directors in areas 1B, 2B, 3B, 4B, 5B, 6, 7B, and 8B will be elected and Directors 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 7A, and 8A will become the Senior Directors. After you elect your Directors make sure you give the names to Secretary McKinion. Ensure to put the Rank, Name, District, and phone number of the individual selected. Army Guard will remain in the auditorium, Air Guard will move to the building next door.

**RELEASED TO ARMY AND AIR BREAKOUTS/DISTRICT CAUCUSES AT 1400
RETURN FROM DISTRICT CAUCUSES AT 1520**

28. SWEARING IN OF NEW OFFICERS:

President	SMSgt Melissa Herron
Vice President Army	MSG Robert J. Short
Vice President Air	MSgt Charles H. "Hank" Fairchild

Secretary:	MSgt (Ret) Gail McKinion
Treasurer:	CSM (Ret) Thomas "Keith" Ales
Continuity Chair	SFC (Ret) Leroy Matthews
District 1B	CSM James M. Hollings
District 2B	MSG Gregory S. Lackie
District 3B	SSG Julius B. Johnson
District 4B	MSG William Stone
District 5B	MSG Dennie A. Mason
District 6	MSgt Lisa Oliver
District 7B	MSgt Marquis Arterberry
District 8B	SMSgt Reginald B. Saxon

Past President SFC (Ret) Nickie White performed the swearing in of the new officers of the Association.

29. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

30. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

31. ANNOUNCEMENTS: For all of the board members (including the new), there will be a board of directors meeting tomorrow morning at 0900 in the All Ranks Club. Attire is civilian clothes. In addition, would like to remind everyone Church Service will be held by Chaplain Partin in the Post Chapel starting at 0730. Anyone who is interested can attend both the church service and the board meeting. The No Host social will be tonight at 1800 in Bldg 1408, there will be a cash bar. The unit's dinner will be held in Bldg 1406. The unit's dinner will be followed by a dance in the All Ranks Club.

32. BENEDICTION: Chaplain CSM James M. Hollings

33. RETIREMENT OF COLORS: Retirement of the colors was conducted by the 154th RTI.

34. ADJOURNE SINE DIE: Motion to adjourn was made by CSM Young and seconded by Member Newman. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 1540 hours by President Morgan.

Respectfully submitted
MSgt (Ret) Gail McKinion