**MSNCOA PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT 2023-03**

**Article IV:** Officers

**Proposed Change**

The following proposed By-Laws change is hereby submitted for the 54th NCO Conference at Natchez, MS to add the Junior Enlisted Committee Chairman to the Board of Directors.

**Page Number/Section:** Page 4, Article IV

**As Reads:**

Section 1. The Association shall have a Board of Directors, which shall be constituted by the six officers and fifteen directors.

Section 2. There shall be two directors elected from the membership of the Association Districts 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 and 8 (one director shall be elected in even numbered years and one shall be elected in odd numbered years to cause a Senior Director and a Junior Director from each of these districts) and one director shall be elected from the membership of the Association District 6 for a period of two years (in even numbered years and an Alternate Director shall be elected every year from District 6).

1. Directors shall be elected at conference in a caucus of the membership of each district chaired by the Senior Director;

2. Nominations shall be from the floor and voting shall be by ballot or be acclamation should there be only one nominee;

3. The director’s term of office shall begin on the first day following the day elected;

4. Should a vacancy occur, the appointee shall serve the remainder of the incumbent’s term;

5. The Continuity Chairperson will be a member of the Executive Board and shall be elected by the retirees present at the annual conference.

6. Should any director fail to attend two consecutive called meetings, without valid excuse, the office shall be deemed vacant.

**Is amended to read:**

Section 1. The Association shall have a Board of Directors, which shall be constituted by the six officers and sixteen directors.

Section 2. There shall be two directors elected from the membership of the Association Districts 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 and 8 (one director shall be elected in even numbered years and one shall be elected in odd numbered years to cause a Senior Director and a Junior Director from each of these districts), one director shall be elected from the membership of the Association District 6 for a period of two years (in even numbered years and an Alternate Director shall be elected every year from District 6), and one director of the pay grade E-6 and below shall be elected to chair the Junior Enlisted Committee.

1. Directors shall be elected at conference in a caucus of the membership of each district chaired by the Senior Director;

2. Nominations shall be from the floor and voting shall be by ballot or by acclamation should there be only one nominee;

3. The director’s term of office shall begin on the first day following the day elected;

4. Should a vacancy occur, the appointee shall serve the remainder of the incumbent’s term;

5. The Continuity Chairperson will be a member of the Executive Board and shall be elected by the retirees present at the annual conference.

6. The Junior Enlisted Committee Chairperson shall be a member of the Board of Directors and shall be elected by Junior Enlisted members present at the annual conference.

7. Should any director fail to attend two consecutive called meetings, without valid excuse, the office shall be deemed vacant.

**Justification/Rationale:**

The mission of this association is to strengthen the Mississippi National Guard through improved personnel benefits, better equipment, modern facilities, and increased relevance. A majority of the members of the Mississippi National Guard are Junior Enlisted Soldiers and Airmen, and they offer a substantive and unique perspective which is invaluable. With the recent choice to suspend the automatic membership of Soldiers and Airmen E-4 and below, we will have a greater responsibility to promote membership activity and interest among Junior Enlisted Soldiers and Airmen.

Making the chairman of the Junior Enlisted Committee a member of the Board of Directors will show Junior Enlisted Soldiers and Airmen that their perspective is valued by the Association and ensure their voices are heard at a state and national level. This committee will be instrumental in helping to establish programs and events specifically for Junior Enlisted members, thus improving our ability to engage and support those we endeavor to serve.

Respectfully,

SSG Brian C. Stroka

Army VP, MS NG NCO Assn