

***53th Annual Mississippi Air National
Non-commissioned Officers Association Conference Minutes***

26 March 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER: At 0900 hours the 53th Annual Noncommissioned Officers Association meeting was called to order by President SMSgt Melissa Herron at the Sheraton Flowood Hotel, Flowood, MS.

2. POSTING OF COLORS: The 41st Army Band performed as the colors were posted by the 172nd AW. The Army Flag was posted by SSG Matthew Grammar. The Air Force Flag was posted by SRA Michael Reid. MSgt Joey Dearman 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 41st Army Band.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by President Melissa Herron.

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 MSG Robert J. Short. Distinguished guests were Major General Barry A. Blanchard (ATAG Air), BG Joe Hargett (Director Joint Staff), Col Britt Watson (Comdr, 172nd AW), Col Berry McCormick (Comdr Gulfport CRTC), Col Allen McDaniel (NGAMS Executive Director), Col Brad Haynie (NGAMS President-Elect), CW5 Tommy Smith (State Command Chief Warrant Officer), CW4 Pres Foster (State PBO), Chief MSgt Maurice L. Williams (13th NGB Air National Guard Command Chief) and the members of the NCO Auxiliary. **Auxiliary Guests:** CSM (Ret) Dale Putman and his wife Judith from Kansas. Judith is the EANGUS Auxiliary Area IV Director from Kansas. SGM (Ret) Lynn Holt and his wife Andrea. Andrea is the Interim EANGUS Auxiliary Area IV Director from Kansas. Dorthy Ingelese from California. Dorthy is an EANGUS Auxiliary Past President. Also, a special thanks for their attendance and their support goes to CSM Silvester Tatum (Command Senior Enlisted Senior Leader), CSM Darren Masterson (State CSM), CCMSgt Lynn Cole (Command Chief, State of MS), senior leaders, past presidents of the Association, and the retirees,

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, SFC Nickie White, MSG Timothy "Bo" Plunk.

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: CSM Silvester Tatum (Senior Enlisted Leader of the Mississippi National Guard. CSM Tatum briefed the body on the deployments of the MS Army and MS Air National Guard during the past year. He briefed on some of the current deployments and on-going activities of the guard. He stated that if there was anything he could do to help the Association, to please let him know.

10. ADDRESS: Mississippi National Guard NCO Auxiliary President Mrs Connie Myers. She thanked us for this time to address the body. You were already introduced to some of our special guests and you really need to get to know them. She stated she had struggled with what to say today because you know it will be a plea for membership. You have already heard me say this so many times. But if she doesn't tell us about the Auxiliary who will. She discussed the two scholarships they give. No special paperwork is needed to compete for theirs. They take the next two that didn't win the NCO Scholarship. That money was left sitting on the table because the spouse was not a member of the Auxiliary Association. Spouse has to be a member for two years at \$13.00 a year. We don't demand your time and participation if you join but we would love to have your time and participation if you wish to give it. They are taking memberships today or you can go on www.eangusauxiliary.org and join. She wanted to take the time today to extend an invitation to join. Please visit our Silent Auction. They lost Brooks Mars and Pat Burchfield this past year. Thanked President Herron and the Association for their support. Stated she would like to talk to anyone about the Auxiliary and the future of the Auxiliary.

AUXILIARY MEMBERS DISMISSED at 0935 hours

11. ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Herron asked for everyone to please visit the sponsors in the back, they have some great information.

BREAK: 0935 HOURS

BUSINESS SESSION RECONVENED: 0953 HOURS

12. ADDRESS: Colonel Brandon Hayie, President-Elect National Guard Association of Mississippi. Thanked us for having him. He will be President of the National Guard Association of Mississippi next year. He stated that they have been having meetings about Ukraine and Russia. Need to keep facilities up to date and training up to date so you want have to worry about those things. Want everyone to keep up their academic training as well. Our two organizations work great together. President Herron reminded everyone that E1-E4 were members of the Association thanks to the Officers Association paying their dues.

13. ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS: Secretary McKinion asked everyone to please support the Auxiliary Silent Auction. The Hospitality Rooms are open after the meeting and are closed during the banquet and reopen after the banquet. Please purchase your raffle tickets outside. Please visit our vendors because they help us carry on our business. Directors for Area "A" are up for election today. When you hold your area caucus, please put some thought into who you elect for these positions because they are important. Talk about it during lunch and get some really good people in these positions. I have sheets on the corner of the table to be completed by the individuals who you elect as your directors. Please "Answer the Call" about legislative issues that are important to all. Go on eangus.org and follow the steps to set up where you receive the calls and you can answer the calls. It will help you set it up to go to your representatives so that you answer them without having to figure

out who to send the call to. Need to get everyone to do this because we do not have enough people answering the calls. There is also some talking points for drills and it is actually called “talking points for drills”. Please go online and use these tools to help your fellow guardsmen and yourself.

14. 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.

15. READING AND/OR APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Secretary MSgt (Ret) Gail McKinion stated that the 2021 MS NG NCO Conference minutes had been published on the MSNGNCOA website. She requested that the minutes be accepted as published on the website. Past President 1SG Tommy Morgan made the motion to accept the 2021 minutes as published on the website. Vice President Air MSgt Hank Fairchild seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Professional Development Attendees were released to their classes at 1000, their meeting starts at 1015.

16. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

(1) NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: Chairperson Tommy Morgan gave the report. The nominations committee met on 25 Mar 2022 and had reviewed and verified the nominations that had been submitted. He stated that he had received the following nominations for office for 2022 to 2023:

Treasurer: CSM (Ret) Keith Ales
Secretary: MSgt (Ret) Gail McKinion
Vice President Army: SSG Brian Stroka
Vice President Air: MSgt Charles “Hank” H. Fairchild
President: SMSgt Melissa Herron

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

President Herron 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 Timothy “Bo” Plunk. 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 Past President CMSgt Terry Hill. Motion passed.

Vice President Army: No motions from the floor. Motion to close nominations and accept SSGT Brian Stoka by acclamation was made by SGM Newman and seconded by Vice President Air MSgt Hank Fairchild. Motion passed.

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 Past President 1SG Tommy Morgan and seconded by Secretary MSgt (Ret) Gail McKinion. Motion passed.

President: Motion was made from the floor to nominate Past President CSM Larry Odom for the office of President by SFC Marcus Padget and the motion was seconded by MSG Ricky Tyler. Motion passed. President Herron asked for other nominations from the floor. No other nominations were made from the floor. The motion to close nominations from the floor was made by Past President 1SG Tommy Morgan and seconded by Member SGM Newman. Motion passed.

Nominees for President were given 3 minutes to speak. Voting will be held after lunch when the the Junior Enlisted return so they can participate in the business of the Association.

(2) TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer CSM (Ret) Thomas “Keith” Ales stated that he appreciated everyone's support through the years. Treasurer Ales briefed his report to the membership. He briefed that we currently in good shape, cash flow has been good. We received money for scholarships; \$1000 from USAA, \$1000 for Maske sholarship, and the Dave Hart endowment memorial scholarship (third year this has been given). Want to thank the contributors to our scholarships. Our annual audit was completed and if anyone would like a copy, please see him. The Executive Board all have a copy. Financial statements are printed and on the table outside if you want a copy. We have a gain of \$33,000.00 this year. This amount will go down after we pay the bill for this conference. That is normal procedure for that. We received money from AFLAC Insurance. USAA always supports us with a \$1000.00 scholarship and they are also a corporate sponsor. The State Fair Project brought in \$17,765.00 last year. Please contact Ricky Myers and help work that fundraiser this year. Brandon Amphitheather Project has brought in \$18,650. We currently have 7797 membership. This is down a little bit and we need to work on that. Thanks to NGAM for their support in membership of E1-E4. This year we have a membership of 4744 in that category. Thank the Auxiliary for their help during the state fair and we will vote on giving them a donation tomorrow. Ales asked for acceptance of his report. This is an annual report and requires no second. Motion passed.

17. ARMY MEMBERSHIP AWARDS:

A. 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 MSG Robert Short presented the awards to the CSMs of each division.

Light Division: 0-250 Enlisted Members
CSM Stephen Simmons
1/180th Aviation
78.8% Membership

Medium Division: 251- 500 Enlisted Members
CSM John Gist
1-98th Cavalry
89% Membership

Heavy Division: 501-1300 Enlisted Members
SGM Ronald Howell
223rd Engineers Battalion

93% Membership

Army Guard Brigade Division
CSM Joseph Cook
168th Engineer Brigade
89% Membership

B. RETENTION AWARD: The Retention Award is awarded annually to the Major Subordinate Command with the highest retention rate for the year. This year's winner is: 66 Troop Command, CSM White and CSM Huff were asked to come to the rostrum for presentation of the award.

18. BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION: This event will be held during the banquet tonight.

19. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please visit the vendors especially since you have extra time during lunch. CSM Tatum and CSM Williams will be holding a special event after the meeting this afternoon for all Senior Enlisted Members. They are working with professional development and would like you to receive this benefit also.

BREAK FOR LUNCH 1030

RETURN FROM LUNCH 1200

20. ELECTIONS: President Herron explained the voting procedures to the main body. Each candidate running for President, Melissa Herron and Larry Odom, were given time to speak. Sergeant at Arms cleared the chamber of non-voting members from the chamber, voting slips were handed out and collected. The chamber was reopened to all.

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

21. AIR AWARDS PROGRAM: President Herron, MG Blanchard, CSM Tatum, and CCM Cole handed out Air Awards. All of the winners will receive a Silver Eagle Trophy, an OAY Certificate and Ribbon, a \$100.00 check from the MS ANG Chiefs Group, Coins from MG Blanchard, CSM Tatum and CCM Cole.

Airman of the Year 2022 (E1-E4) – A1C Janet E. Vital, 186 ACOS – Escorted by CMSgt Michael Lee (186 AOG Chief)

NCO of the Year 2022 (E5-E6) – TSgt Joshua R. Anglin-Bodenhamer, 248th ATCS – (He is deployed, accepting on his behalf, CMSgt Jason Mitchell (248 ATCS Chief)

Senior NCO of the Year 2022 (E7-E9) – MSgt Sean J. Curtis, 255 ACS – Escorted by CMSgt Daniel Blethen (255 ACS Chief)

First Sergeant of the Year 2022 – MSgt Daniel L. Ward, 209 SOCES – Escorted by CMSgt Rita Fetzer (172 Support Group Chief)

Vice President Air MSgt Hank Fairchild relinquished the rostrum back to President SMSgt Melissa Herron

22. 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 Mr. Hayes Dent, board member of the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Foundation, and gave him a few minutes to speak. He presented their annual award to the Association. He presented a check to our Treasurer Keith Ales. He stated that he learned early on that the enlisted members were the backbone of the military. He was an officer candidate and was given an assignment and he was amazed how the members took over and performed the mission. He was also amazed how some of them had served in Vietnam many years before performing the same jobs so he knew they were very capable of completing their jobs. He stated he had the privilege of knowing Sonny Montgomery in his lifetime. He had the privilege of working for him. He was a head turner. People looked at him differently. He was a leader.

He then presented the awards to the winners. The winners are going to receive an eagle award, a trophy from the “Sonny” Montgomery Foundation and Montgomery coin, a framed Heritage print, \$100.00 from the ANG Chiefs to the ANG recipient, and coins from Maj Gen Blanchard, CSM Tatum, and CCM Cole.

President SMSgt Melissa Herron relinquished the rostrum to Vice President Army Robert Short.

G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Patriot Leadership Award Air is awarded to MSgt David A. White, CRTC. Accepting on his behalf was CMSgt Michael Cooper (CRTC CEM).

G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Patriot Leadership Award Army is awarded to SGT Liliana Torija, .

Vice President Army Robert Short relinquished the rostrum back to President SMSgt Melissa Herron

23. SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS:
Scholarship Chair MSgt Lisa Oliver gave the report. Nine applications were submitted. Four were ineligible because of incomplete applications, Five scholarships were given at \$1000.00 each. The winners are listed as follows:

WINNER

SPONSOR

SCHOLARSHIP

Michaela Acord	Michael Acord	CSM James E. Mask Memorial
Cassie Barnes presented this scholarship	Waylon Barnes	CMSgt David D. Hart Memorial (Ann Hart)
Gabrielle Hutchinson scholarship	Taurus Hutchinson	USAA (Craig Howell presented this)
Ashton Shelton Jakobi Walton	Tangela Shelton Jessica Patterson	MSG Paul Young Memorial SGM Glen White Memorial

This report requires no motion to approve. The Scholarship Report was approved by the membership. Scholarships were presented to those who could attend: Cassie Barnes (Ann Hart presented the scholarship which is in honor of her husband to the winner), Gabrielle Hutchinson, Ashton Shelton.

24. ELECTION RESULTS: Past President 1SG Tommy Morgan presented the results of the election for President of the Association. Melissa Herron won the election. Past President CMSgt (Ret) Ricky Myers made the motion to destroy the ballots and the motion was seconded by Director SSG Brian Stroka. Motion passed.

25. ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS: Treasurer Ales stated that we were running close on our banquet tickets. Anyone who had not picked up their tickets needed to immediately when we break because we have a waiting list for tickets.

26. ARMY, AIR, AND RETIREE BREAKOUTS AND DISTRICT CAUCUSES: President Herron 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 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6, 7A, and 8A will be elected and Directors 1B, 2B, 3B, 4B, 5B, 7B, and 8B 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 Junior Ballroom A and B which is around the corner.

BREAK FOR CAUCUSES: 1250
RETURN FROM CAUCUSES: 1340

27. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

28. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

29. SWEARING IN OF NEW OFFICERS:

President	SMSgt Melissa Herron
Vice President Army	SSG Brian Stroka
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 1A	1SG Christopher Berry
District 2A	Vacant
District 3A	SSG Matthew Grammar
District 4A	SSG Christopher Mitchke
District 5A	MSG Ricky Tyler
District 6	TSgt Jemeshia Gray
District 7A	MSgt Joseph M. "Joey" Dearman
District 8A	SMSgt Joel S. Jones

Past President 1SG Tommy Morgan performed the swearing in of the new officers of the Association.

30. ANNOUNCEMENTS: For all of the board members (including the new), there will be a board of directors meeting tomorrow morning at 0900 in Junior Ballroom D. Attire is civilian clothes. In addition, would like to remind everyone Church Service will be held in Junior Ballroom B 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 the Pre Function Hall, There will be a cash bar. The unit's dinner will be at 1900 in this room. The unit's dinner will be followed by a dance at 2100 hours next door in Grand Ballroom C. Does anyone have any other announcements? Treasurer Ales called out the names of people who had not picked up their tickets. Senior Enlisted Members please go to Junior Ballroom D for meeting with CSM Tatum.

31. DRAWINGS FOR RAFFLES: If the person is here, they get to pick which one they want.

32. BENEDICTION: Chaplain CSM James M. Hollings

33. RETIREMENT OF COLORS: Retirement of the colors was conducted by the 172nd AW.

34. ADJOURNE SINE DIE: Motion to adjourn was made by Past President Terry Hill and seconded by Member Sgt Holmes. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 1355 hours by President Herron.

Respectfully submitted
MSgt (Ret) Gail McKinion