

***54<sup>th</sup> Annual Mississippi Air National  
Non-commissioned Officers Association Conference Minutes***

**25 March 2023**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** At 0900 hours the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Noncommissioned Officers Association meeting was called to order by President SMSgt Melissa Herron at the Natchez Grand Hotel, Natchez, MS.
  
- 2. POSTING OF COLORS:** The 41st Army Band performed as the colors were posted. The Army Flag was posted by **SPC Sheldon**. The Air Force Flag was posted by SSgt Bounds. SGT Watson 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 41<sup>st</sup> 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 SSG Brian Stroka. Distinguished guests were Major General Janson D. Boyles (Adjutant General, State of MS), Major General Barry A. Blanchard (ATAG Air), BG Michael Cleveland (Comdr, 66th Troup Command), Col Tommy F. Tillman (MSNG Chief of Staff), Col Britt Watson (Comdr, 172<sup>nd</sup> AW), Col Brad Haynie (NGAMS President), Lt Col David Kendricks (255<sup>th</sup> ACS Commander) CW5 Donald R. Dukes (State Command Chief Warrant Officer), and the members of the NCO Auxiliary. Also, a special thanks for their attendance and their support goes to CSM Silvester Tatum (Command Senior Enlisted Leader), CSM Darrell Masterson (State CSM), CCMSgt John W. Myers (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 asked all of the Past-Presidents of the Association that were present to stand. Thanked all of them for what they had done in the past and their support to the Association.
  
- 8. ADDRESS: MG Janson D. Boyles, The Adjutant General of MS.** Thanked everyone for him being here. He noticed we had a sparse group but a lot of it is due to so many being deployed or in the process of deploying. A lot of the leadership is not able to be in attendance because of preparations being made. Some had to leave due to the Tornado Disaster. NGAUS just had a board meeting last week and they are looking at their leadership at the national office level. Got a lot of good programming we are employing going forward and everything is very healthy at that level. I enjoy serving and representing you at the NGAUS level as well as working with the EANGUS representative we have. Thanked us for having him here and stated he was looking forward to talking to members individually while he was here.

**9. ADDRESS: CSM Darrell Masterson (State Command Sergeant Major):** CSM Silvester Tatum (Command Senior Enlisted Leader) could not be here. He is in Rolling Fork checking on his family because of the tornado that hit the area. Would like everyone's thoughts and prayers to the people in that area. Amory Armory took a direct hit. Several members had to leave because of this disaster. We are continuing to build our recruitment numbers and must push to keep this happening.

**10. ADDRESS: Mayor of Natchez, Don Gibson.** Since he could not attend because he was in meetings in Washington, DC, the mayor sent a video that was played for the attendees welcoming them to Natchez. He thanked the military and their families for the sacrifices made for the country. He hoped we would have a wonderful time in Natchez.

**11. ADDRESS: Mississippi National Guard NCO Auxiliary President Mrs Connie Myers.** Welcome to everyone. She thanked EANGUS Area IV Director Ashley Brodnax for attending our conference. She told how last year at National Conference, Ashley decided to have a membership drive for the Auxiliary in Area IV. She donated \$100.00 for the prize and others heard about it and contributed also. So thanks again to her. At the 49<sup>th</sup> EANGUS Auxiliary Conference last year, Mississippi Auxiliary received The EANGUS Auxiliary Outstanding State Award in the "76 plus" Members Category. Vivian Taylor received a certificate for Legislative Efforts and The EANGUS Auxiliary Torch Award, and the Recruiter of the Year. Your Auxiliary donated \$300.00 to the EANGUS Auxiliary Philanthropic Project which was the McDonald House of Arkansas. The Auxiliary decided years ago to no longer give out door prizes but collect donations for "We Care for America". The MS Auxiliary newsletter, Mississippi Strong, received 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the newsletter competition. It is very good and if you are an Auxiliary Member, you automatically get it. but they would not hold it back from anyone who would like to receive it. If your spouse wishes to join as a member, we have forms with us or they can go to [www.eangusauxiliary.org](http://www.eangusauxiliary.org) and take care of it online. She wanted to thank someone who has supported the Auxiliary for some time. They have never asked him to do this. He just shows up with really nice donations for the Silent Auction. Asked for NCO Past President CSM (Ret) Bo Plunk to come to the front where she gave him a Certificate of Appreciation from the Auxiliary for all the work he had done for them.

President Herron stated that the Auxiliary was really helpful to the Association. There were things they can do that we can not because of the uniform. Mississippi won the Award at EANGUS for the most "Call to Actions" submitted. Part of this was due to the Auxiliary. We were awarded with the "Legislative Hammer" which she gave to the Auxiliary in appreciation for their support.

#### **AUXILIARY MEMBERS DISMISSED at 0920 hours**

**12. INTRODUCTION OF VENDORS:** President Herron introduced the vendors that were at the conference. 5<sup>th</sup> Squad, ESGR, Workforce for Warriors, State Safety Office, National Guard Association Insurance, Humana Insurance. Mississippi VA, and Military OneSource. Please stop by their booths on breaks and thank them for their support by visiting with them. She let the Vendors come forward and introduce themselves and explain what they do.

**BREAK: 0925 HOURS**

**BUSINESS SESSION RECONVENED: 0940 HOURS**

**13. ADDRESS: Colonel Brandon Haynie, President National Guard Association of Mississippi.**

Appreciated being here. Last year I stood up here and the Ukraine War had kicked off and I told you how much I appreciated the NCO board just because we saw what happened when you don't take care of your equipment and you don't take care of your soldiers. There is that void of lack of leadership amongst your personnel. Now we are here a year later, it's still going on but we see what happens when you have a professional NCO core doing the training, instructing the Ukrainians actually how to fight the Western way where you have a very good leadership core that starts at the bottom and goes all the way to the top. Now we are seeing the two ideologies basically blending with each other, basically fighting with the same equipment the Russians are using yet they are using them the Western Way with that strong NCO core. We have been training them since 2014 in Germany, Poland, and elsewhere. So we are really seeing this come through. I want to take this moment to thank each and everyone of you for doing your job and making us the Army that we are and the Air Force that we are today. Without that leadership, without that support, we would look just like the Russians did. So I really appreciate that. That's personally from me. As President of NGAM we work with Legislation and with you to get it through the State level and through the National level. Mississippi is the largest state organization in the nation so that gives us a lot of power. That gives us a lot of voices that we can go forward with on the "Calls to Action" to get the message through. That means we get the money we need to train, we get the equipment parallel with the Active Duty Forces. We know without that we wouldn't get the updates. On the state side, they realize what we bring to the table and they have been increasing our budget yearly. We had a soldier killed in a head-on collision and his spouse was only 20 years old. Her age in the state of MS made her ineligible for the benefits. We did not realize there was a problem until that happened. We got to work on that and passed the Legislation where that will not happen next time, they can receive the benefits without a problem. We try to work together so that we have one voice going forward. Really appreciate you being here today. Thanks for having me and I am enjoying my time with you.

**14. ADDRESS: MSgt Ashley Brodnax, Chairperson of EANGUS Area IV and TSgt Bush, Co-Chair of EANGUS Junior Enlisted Committee.**

MSgt Brodnax is from Arkansas but her Mom lives in Brandon, MS. Area IV consists of the states of Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. Even though we are in the same District, some of the states are similar and some are not. We work together to get things we need. It is your guys' jobs to go back and inform your units and squadron and share with them what the Association is about. One of the legislative issues we are trying to get is Tricare for Life. It is eventually coming to the Technicians but we would like traditional guardsmen as well to receive Tricare. These are things we are fighting for you guys. Another issue we are currently working on helping small businesses get a tax credit for hiring actively serving guardsmen. Small businesses are left in bind when they hire actively serving guardsmen and they have to deploy. They are willing to hire veterans but we need them to employ current guardsmen also. This legislature will help the small businesses and encourage them to hire actively serving guardsmen. "We Care for America" is available at the national level for guardsmen who need help. We have grants and zero interest loans that are available up to \$2500. They are available for help with funerals, new water heater, house fire, disasters, etc. The application is on the EANGUS website under "We Care for America". TSgt Bush spoke next: He thanked us for having him and he stated this was his first State Conference to visit in his new position. He is a member of the Louisiana National Guard and is Co-Chair for the Junior Enlisted Council at EANGUS. He is here to highly encourage the Junior Enlisted to get more involved. In his state they have a Junior Enlisted Committee and then they have an Army and Air Junior Enlisted Director and have people underneath them to get the word out. That structure helps them to pass information along. The national level has quarterly meetings to discuss information and try and get it out. Working on trying to get a Junior Enlisted Legislative Workshop to get people more interested. Also trying to get an award to be given at

the national conference for the Junior Enlisted individuals that are working hard out there.

**15. ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Secretary McKinion made administrative announcements. If you have any announcements, please bring them to Secretary McKinion. Please visit the Auxiliary Auction. They have some wonderful items for you to bid on. The Auction closes at 1300 hours and pickup of items deadline is 1500 hours. You can pay by Cash or Check, no credit cards. If you have already registered and have not picked up your meal tickets, please go to the Registration Table outside and pick up your tickets. We have to determine who is going to the banquet or not. Please do that ASAP on break. 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.

**16. 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.

**17. READING AND/OR APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Secretary MSgt (Ret) Gail McKinion stated that the 2022 MS NG NCO Conference minutes had been published on the MSNGNCOA website. They were also published in the program that you can get by using the scan code. She requested that the minutes be accepted by the membership as published on the website. Vice President Air MSgt Hank Fairchild made the motion to accept the 2022 minutes as published on the website. Past President MSG Tommy Morgan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**18. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**(1) NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Chairperson Tommy Morgan gave the report. The nominations committee met on 24 Mar 2023 and reviewed and verified the nominations that had been submitted. They received the following nominations for office for 2023-2024 Board:

Treasurer: CSM (Ret) Keith Ales  
Secretary: MSgt (Ret) Gail McKinion  
Vice President Army: SFC Julius Johnson  
Vice President Air: MSgt Charles "Hank" H. Fairchild  
President: SSG Brian Stroka

This was 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 CMSgt (Ret) Ricky Myers and seconded by Director Area 4A Christopher Mitchke. 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 Director Area 4A Christopher Mitchke. Motion passed.

Vice President Army: No motions from the floor. Motion to close nominations and

accept SFC Julius Johnson by acclamation was made by Treasurer Keith Ales and seconded by CSM Newman. 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 Treasurer Keith Ales and seconded by Past President Tommy Morgan. Motion passed.

President: No motions from the floor. Motion to close nominations and accept SSG Brian Stroka as President by acclamation was made by CMSgt (Ret) Ricky Myers and seconded by Director 4A Christopher Mitchke. Motion passed.

**(2) BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT:** ByLaws Chair SSG Brian Stroka read the committee report. The following ByLaws were submitted to the committee and were placed on the Association website. They will have to be voted on and will have to receive two thirds vote for approval. ByLaws Chair Stroka read each of them and stated the following recommendations of the committee that met on 8 Dec 2022.

MSNCOA ByLaws Amendment 2023-01 (Name of the Association Change): Committee (The Board) recommended approval.

MSNCOA ByLaws Amendment 2023-02 (JEC): Committee (The Board) recommended approval.

MSNCOA ByLaws Amendment 2023-03 (JEC Director Seat): Committee (The Board) recommended to NOT approve.

MSNCOA ByLaws Amendment 2023-04 (Digital Membership): Committee (The Board) recommended approval.

This was a committee report and required no motions. Report was accepted by the membership.

**THE FOUR BY-LAW AMENDMENTS ARE INSERTED BELOW:**

## **MSNCOA PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT 2023-01**

**Article I:** Name

**Page Number/Section:** Page 1, Article I

### **Proposed Change**

The following proposed By-Laws change is hereby submitted for the 54<sup>th</sup> NCO Conference at Natchez, MS.

### **As Reads:**

The name of this Association shall be the Mississippi National Guard Noncommissioned Officers Association, hereinafter referred to as the Association.

### **Is amended to read:**

The name of this Association shall be the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Mississippi, hereinafter referred to as the Association.

### **Justification/Rationale:**

The name of an organization reflects its membership. The Mississippi National Guard Noncommissioned Officers Association has membership for all enlisted ranks, to include junior enlisted Soldiers and Airmen. By excluding junior enlisted from our name, we are excluding over half of the enlisted force we serve. In addition, there is great interest to engage junior enlisted members and develop a Junior Enlisted Council. However, excluding junior enlisted Service Members from the name of our organization is detrimental to this growth. With immeasurable respect to the NCOs who have contributed countless hours to the development, sustainment, and growth of this organization, I submit the time has come to change the name of our Association to reflect all of those whom we tirelessly serve. Countless junior enlisted members have voiced they do not feel they are full members because they are not yet Noncommissioned Officers. Including all Soldiers and Airmen in the name of our organization will promote growth and engagement of junior enlisted members, and in so doing, we will display solidarity in our unwavering support of them.

With great respect,

SSG Brian C. Stroka

Army VP, MS NG NCO Assn

## **MSNCOA PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT 2023-02**

### **Article X: Committees**

#### **Proposed Change**

The following proposed By-Laws change is hereby submitted for the 54<sup>th</sup> NCO Conference at Natchez, MS to establish a Junior Enlisted Committee.

**Page Number/Section:** Page 10, Article X

**Insert** after Section 4

The Junior Enlisted Committee shall:

1. Be composed of junior enlisted members (E-6 and below) of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard;
2. Have a chairman and vice-chairman elected by the committee at annual conference, one who is a junior enlisted member of the Army National Guard, and the other who is a junior enlisted member of the Air National Guard;
3. Advise and recommend to the Executive Council policies which will increase the efficiency and promote the welfare of all Junior Enlisted Soldiers and Airmen;
4. Promote a general understanding between Junior Enlisted personnel of the Army and Air National Guard;
5. Render a report to each quarterly Board of Directors meeting and to the annual conference.

**Renumber** Section 5 to Section 6

#### **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.

Implementing a Junior Enlisted Committee will be a great opportunity to engage the Junior Enlisted members of the Association, and for such members to increase their involvement in the Association. 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

## **MSNCOA PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT 2023-03**

### **Article IV: Officers**

#### **Proposed Change**

The following proposed By-Laws change is hereby submitted for the 54<sup>th</sup> 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

## **MSNCOA PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT 2023-04**

**Article III: Membership**

**Page Number/Section:** Page 1, Article III

### **Proposed Change to Article III**

The following proposed By-Laws change is hereby submitted for the 54<sup>th</sup> NCO Conference at Natchez, MS to incorporate the EANGUS Enlisted “New to The Guard” Digital Annual Membership.

**Insert** after Section 5.

Upon application, a complimentary, 12-month, Enlisted Digital Annual Membership, may be issued to an enlisted member who enlisted or transitioned into the Mississippi National Guard within the previous 12 months and whom has never been a previous member of the Association, provided they are a voting enlisted member of one of the categories of Section 1 of this Article. A New to the Guard Enlisted Digital Annual Membership holder may hold office and be entitled to vote. This membership will entitle the member to only digital access to EANGUS publications.

### **Justification/Rationale:**

During the 51<sup>st</sup> EANGUS Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, a bylaw change was approved to allow an Enlisted “New to The Guard” Digital Annual Membership to enlisted members who have enlisted or transitioned into the National guard within the previous 12 months and whom has never been a previous member of the Association. This bylaws change will align the Association bylaws with EANGUS bylaws.

Respectfully,  
SSG Brian C. Stroka  
Army VP, MS NG NCO Assn

The chamber was cleared of all nonvoting attendees and sealed. Ballots were passed out and then each ByLaw was discussed by the membership and then voted upon. Ballots were taken up by the ByLaws Chair and another committee member. The body was released for lunch and the results of the vote will be declared when the body returns from lunch.

**RELEASED FOR LUNCH 1100**  
**RECONVENE FROM LUNCH AT 1200**

**(2) BYLAWS CONT'D: (BYLAW ELECTION RESULTS):** The results of the election on ByLaws were as follows:

MSNCOA ByLaws Amendment 2023-01 (Name of the Association Change) : Amendment Passed  
MSNCOA ByLaws Amendment 2023-02 (JEC): Amendment Passed.  
MSNCOA ByLaws Amendment 2023-03 (JEC Director Seat): Amendment DID NOT Pass.  
MSNCOA ByLaws Amendment 2023-04 (Digital Membership): Amendment Passed.

Secretary MSgt (Ret) Gail McKinion made the motion to destroy the ballots. Motion was seconded by SGM Newman. Motion passed.

**19. AIR AWARDS PROGRAM:** President Herron, MG Blanchard, CSM Tatum, and CCM Myers handed out Air Awards. All of the winners will receive a NCO Lifetime Membership, Silver Eagle Trophy, a monetary gift MS ANG Chiefs Group, Coins, etc.

**President SMSgt Melissa Herron turned the rostrum over to Vice-President Army Brian Stroka for the Air National Guard Awards Ceremony**

**Airman of the Year 2023 (E1-E4)** – A1C Mark A. Gutierrez, Jr., 186<sup>th</sup> ARW/SFS

**NCO of the Year 2023 (E5-E6)** – TSgt William A. Smith, 186<sup>th</sup> ARW/MXN – Escorted by CCMSgt Darren McMullen (186<sup>th</sup> Wing Command Chief).

**Senior NCO of the Year 2023 (E7-E9)** – MSgt Charles “Hank” Fairchild, 186<sup>th</sup> ARW/LRS - Escorted by CCMSgt Tony Grice (186<sup>th</sup> ARW/MSG SEL)

**First Sergeant of the Year 2023** – MSgt Deidri R. Reliford, 172<sup>nd</sup> AW/183 AES – Escorted by CMSgt Jessica Green (172<sup>nd</sup> AW/MXN SEL)

**20. 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.

**Vice President Army Stroka relinquished the rostrum back to President Melissa Herron**

**Introduced Mr. Hayes Dent, board member of the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Foundation,** and gave him a few minutes to speak. Thanked us for letting them be here today. The Foundation Board wanted to know if anyone here was from Sharkey or Monroe County. He is sure people are headed in that direction to do the work that the guard does so well. On behalf of the foundation, our thoughts are with you because of the tornado. He has their President Bob Bailey with him today and this is the second time that he has gotten to do this. I cannot do Sonny justice but you just did a good job describing him. When you have a slow moment, Google him. It is amazing to see the career and life he had. He loved the military and he loved the Mississippi Guard. We were able to give Gen Boyles our Board of Directors Leadership Award at our annual meeting earlier in the year. So we are tied to the guard as good as any outside group and we look forward to giving these awards. He then presented the awards to the winners.

**President Melissa Herron relinquished the rostrum to Vice President Army Brian Stroka.**

The winners are going to receive an eagle award, a trophy from the “Sonny” Montgomery Foundation and Montgomery coin, a Lifetime Membership in the NCO Association, \$100.00 from the ANG Chiefs to the ANG recipient, and coins.

G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Patriot Leadership Award Air is awarded to MSgt Jamie R. Woodall, 172<sup>nd</sup> AW/255 ACS.

G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Patriot Leadership Award Army is awarded to SSG Lisa Nunley.

He presented their annual award to the Association. He presented a check to President Herron.

**Vice-President Army Stroka relinquished the rostrum back to President Melissa Herron**

**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 Brian Stroka presented the awards to the CSMs of each division.**

Light Division: 0-250 Enlisted Members  
CSM Douglas Krol  
1/185<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment  
66% Membership

Medium Division: 251- 500 Enlisted Members  
CSM Christopher Stein  
2-20<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group  
79% Membership

Heavy Division: 501-1300 Enlisted Members  
CSM Ronald Howell  
223<sup>rd</sup> Engineers Battalion  
93% Membership

Army Guard Brigade Division  
CSM Joseph Cook  
168<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade  
75% Membership

**22. BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION:** The Best Warrior competitors and winners will be conducted tonight during the Awards Banquet.

**23. SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS:** Scholarship Chair Jameshia Gray gave the report. Three applications were submitted. Two were ineligible because of incomplete applications, One scholarship was given at \$1500.00. The winner is listed as follows:

<u>WINNER</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>SCHOLARSHIP</u>
Cay Davis Cooley		CSM James E. Mask Memorial

This report requires no motion to approve. The Scholarship Report was approved by the membership.

**24. ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Treasurer Ales called out the names of the five people who had not picked up their Banquet Tickets and either gave them to them or found out who was absent. He also wanted to make sure that all the Best Warriors had their tickets. Please go see the Auxiliary Silent Auction, they close at 1300 hours.

**BREAK AT 1232**  
**RETURN FROM BREAK AT 1250**

**25. 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 1B, 2B, 3B, 4B, 5B, 7B, and 8B will be elected. Also Director 2A needs to be elected. No one is in that position. 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, personal email and phone number of the individual selected on the forms located on the corner of the stage.

**BREAK FOR CAUCUSES: 1255**  
**RETURN FROM CAUCUSES: 1320**

**26. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

**27. NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**28. SWEARING IN OF NEW OFFICERS:**

President	SSG Brian Stroka
Vice President Army	SFC Julius Johnson
Vice President Air	MSgt Charles H. "Hank" Fairchild
Secretary:	MSgt (Ret) Gail McKinion
Treasurer:	CSM (Ret) Thomas "Keith" Ales
District 1B	SSG Lisa "Michelle" Nunley
District 2B	1SG Walton Woods
District 3B	SPC Logan Sheldon (swear in at board meeting tomorrow)
District 4B	SFC Marieka Thompson (swear in at board meeting tomorrow)
District 5B	SPC Marissa Senter
District 7B	SSgt Jonnequia Cavett
District 8B	SMSgt Reggie Saxton

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

**29. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** For all of the board members (including the new), there will be a board of directors meeting tomorrow morning at 0900. Attire is civilian clothes. In addition, would like to remind everyone Church Service will be held in 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 Convention Center, There will be a cash bar. The unit's dinner will be at 1900 in the Convention Center. The unit's dinner will be followed by a dance at 2100 hours across the street in Community Center. Does anyone have any other announcements? A Questions and Answers Session with the Senior Enlisted Leadership in here immediately after we adjourn.

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

**31. BENEDICTION:** Chaplain CSM James M. Hollings

**32. RETIREMENT OF COLORS:** Retirement of the colors was conducted..

**33. ADJOURNE SINE DIE:** Motion to adjourn was made by Past President Tommy Morgan and seconded by Director 4A Christopher Mitchke. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 1336 hours by President Herron.

Respectfully submitted  
MSgt (Ret) Gail McKinion  
MS National Guard NCO Assn Secretary