

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

October 18, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT:

COL Jody Mike Smith
COL Rodney Harris
Lt Col Joe Lee Sessions
LTC Ashley Sullivan **via call-in**
COL (MS) James Jackson
COL (R) W. David Barton
COL Mark Kleinpeter
Lt Col Doug Manley
LTC Deidre Smith
Lt Col Jeff Wyatt
MAJ Michael Bradley
CPT Marcus Parker
1LT David McRae
CW5 Gerald Manieri

NONVOTING MEMBERS:

Director Allen McDaniel
Deputy Cris Crisler

MEMBERS ABSENT:

MG J. Durr Boyles
Maj Gen (R) Erik Hearon
COL Michael Honeycutt
LTC Martin Fox
Lt Col Lee Miller
CPT Martini Ford
CPT David Morris
CPT Veronica Peppers
CW4 Tommy Smith
CW4 Mark Stevens

COL Smith led the board in prayer prior to lunch.

The meeting was called to order by COL Smith at approximately 11:45 am. He welcomed everyone and COL (MS) Jackson led the board in Prayer the Pledge of Allegiance.

COL Smith requested that everyone review the minutes from the last meeting. There was no discussion. Motion was made, seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurers Report

Financial reports of the Association were handed out to everyone. Director McDaniel discussed different aspects of the reports and the difference in the National Guard Association report and the National Guard Association Insurance Trust report. Director McDaniel discussed specific line items in the reports and there were no extraordinary items other than the large amount of death claim payments the Association was due from AFBA. There were no questions following Director McDaniel's financial report.

At Ease Gang Report

COL Jim Jackson reported that the seven At Ease Gangs were all up and running and invited everyone to please attend one of the breakfasts. He thanked Director McDaniel for coming and speaking at the 31st Dixie Division meeting. COL (MS) Jackson spoke about the "disappearance" of members of the 31st Division and stated he was the youngest member who attends. He stated that the unit was dissolved in the early 60's so there are no new members of the group.

Investment Report

Director McDaniel described the two investment accounts (Trustmark and Pinnacle Trust). He showed charts of how the funds fairly parallel each other. He stated that both were performing fairly stable and that he had no concerns over their performance.

Insurance Report

Director McDaniel reported that fiscal year 2017 saw a high rate of death claims and the 2018 was trending to be lower both in numbers and the amount of death claim benefits paid. The slides showed an overall participation rate in the NGAMS Insurance program (SSLI) at 59.9%. The Army guard was at 66.5% and Air Guard was at 35.7%. Director McDaniel discussed our increase was in a large part due to our participation in the SRP's and Yellow Ribbons and thanked the G-1 for allowing us to be there. He further talked about our need to keep the growth rate in our coverage increasing and providing a path forward to ensure it does. COL Smith spoke about our need to find the key to ensuring all Soldiers and Airmen are aware of the insurance program and the benefits it provides them. Discussion ensued about the enhanced insurance coverage the Association offers and the need to better publicize.

Active Life Memberships

Director McDaniel discussed the success we have had attaining 641 Active Life Members (ALM). He discussed the great success the Association has had with the program and what a very good value this is to our members. He stated that the Board decided to offer this program for a period of three years and that it would be coming to an end on December 31, 2018. He asked the Board for ideas on the possibility of retaining part of the program for newly commissioned officers for a period of one year from the date of their commissioning. Discussion ensued on this point. Some spoke to the need to end the program completely and bring this newly commissioned officer program about later. Several other Board members spoke of the success of the program and felt it was a good idea to continue it as it related to newly

commissioned officers. A motion was made and seconded to allow the current ALM program to be extended to allow only newly commission officers (within one year of their commissioning) the ability to join the Association as Active Life Members at a cost of \$750 with payment options similar to those currently in place now. The program in the current form would end December 31, 2018 at midnight. Discussion ensued about how the newly commissioned officers would know about this program and it was generally agreed that recruiters and commanders needed to speak about it. The motion passed unanimously. Further discussion ensued about the cost of the program and the need to establish an end date for the newly commissioned officer program. A consensus was reached that the Board would take up that matter later and there was no motion in that regard.

Patriot Partner Program

Director McDaniel discussed the Patriot Partner Program and showed a chart reflecting the growth that the program has had since 2014. He talked about how this program benefits our members by offsetting costs for our state and national conferences. He also discussed the three patriot partner investment levels and how we have seen growth in the top level (Patriot) program. He gave a breakdown of some larger expense items for the state and national conference to convey to the Board how expensive these conferences are and that we are utilizing all Patriot Partner proceeds to cover these expenses. He stated that this money allows us to have an excellent conference at an affordable price.

Legislative Report

Director McDaniel discussed the success for the MS National Guard and the Association at the last Legislative session with the passage of the Bond Bill. He stated he had already met with the Governor and Lt Governor's staff and has a meeting scheduled with the TAG to determine his legislative priorities. From these discussions, the Legislative Committee will begin to formulate the Association's legislative priorities for next year in conjunction with those of the MS Military Department. He talked about two pieces of federal legislation sponsored by Congressman Kelly and Palazzo that would reduce the time for officer promotions in the Army Guard and would provide a tax credit to employers who hire Guard members with additional incentives if the member deploys. Director McDaniel discussed the legislative luncheon which will be held at Old Capitol Inn on January 9, 2019 at 11:00 am. He also stated that the Association Board meeting will be held that day prior to the luncheon at 9:00 am.

NGAUS Conference

Director McDaniel stated that he has received confirmation from NGAUS that the Mississippi delegation to New Orleans (170 member & 135 spouses and guests) was the largest delegation in the history of NGAUS conferences.

New Business

Veterans Day Program – Director McDaniel discussed some communication he had received from the MS History and Civil Rights Museum expressing a desire to have a Veteran’s Day program at the Museums. The Veterans groups and support organizations that put on the Veterans Day program at the War Memorial Building have agreed to have the program at the Museums on November 9, 2018. The reception will begin at 10:00 am, followed by a program, the laying of the wreath and gun volley. The goal is to try and improve attendance at this ceremony by having it on Friday prior to Veterans Day when more people can possibly attend. He stated that military members and their guests will have free admission to the Museums the weekend of Veterans Day.

COL Rodney Harris stated he had some new business and COL Smith requested Director McDaniel to leave the room. COL Harris stated that the Association’s Executive Director’s contract was originally for a three-year period and that it would be ending in Jan of 2020. He read the By-Laws which stated that the Board has the authority to contract with the Executive Director for a period of three years and not to exceed five years. Discussion ensued regarding the need to extend the contract four or five years. The prevailing view was that the contract should be extended for five years from the date the existing contract ends and a motion was made by MAJ Bradley and seconded and unanimously approved to that regard. Director McDaniel was invited back into the room and told of the Board’s decision and he thanked the Board for their confidence in him in being the Association’s Executive Director.

There being no further business, COL Smith asked for a motion to adjourn, which was made, seconded and approved.

C. ALLEN MCDANIEL II
Director, NGAMS