

NGAMS ZOOM Board of Directors Meeting Friday, April 17, 2020, 1000 Hours

BOARD MEETING

The meeting came to order by COL Harris and COL McDaniel.

Those Board members in attendance were: COL Rodney Harris, Col Billy Murphy, COL Sean Klahn, Lt Col Wyatt Rives, Major Rob Mayhue, COL Jody Mike Smith,, COL (Ret) David Barton, COL (Ret) Jim Jackson, Lt Col Jeff Wyatt, Lt Col Doug Manley, Maj Donna Phillips, LTC Thomas Howell, CPT Jeremiah Malmberg, CPT Martini Ford, 1LT Doug Estes, LTC Andrew Ratcliffe, COL Michael Honeycutt, CPT Amanda Woods. Also attending were: MG Janson Boyles, Maj Gen Mike Nabors, COL Joe Hargett, Lt Col Laura Odom. NGAMS staff attending were COL Allen McDaniel and Maj Gen (Ret) Cris Crisler.

COL Harris thanked everyone for being at the meeting and stated that he would like COL McDaniel to update everyone on where we are.

COL McDaniel began by reminding everyone that due to the COVID-19 virus, we changed the dates of our State Conference to June 19-21, 2020. The location will remain the Golden Nugget Resort and the Margaritaville Resort in Biloxi. May 18, 2020 is the date we must commit to either having the conference or not to avoid contract penalties. The Association will continue to evaluate this and keep everyone notified. He stated that since changing the date, we have had a good response to new registrations for the conference and for new hotel rooms. That if we are not able to have our conference in June, the backup date will be August 28-30. The State NCO conference date has been moved to June 12-14, 2020. The location will be Camp Shelby. He stated that the EANGUS conference is still scheduled for August 8-13, 2020 in Little Rock Arkansas. June 15, 2020 is their date to determine if the EANGUS conference will go forward. The NGAUS conference which was planned for Boston, MA this year, has been cancelled. He discussed that he has several concerns about not having our annual conference. One concern was that he has received some calls for other states that have cancelled their conference, who relayed to him that several of these states Patriot Partners had ask for their contributions to these Associations to be returned.

COL McDaniel then asked for comments from everyone present.

MG Boyles thanked the Association for making the effort to continue to try and have our State Conference. He said he felt it was particularly important to try and have the conference for everyone in our Association.

COL Hargett reinforced the comments made by MG Boyles and supported the course of action.

Col Murphy stated that we need to continue to reassess the viability of having our Conference as we move forward. He stressed that the Association Committees needed to continue to work and in particular, mentioned the Resolutions Committee. He is hopeful each committee can meet via ZOOM or other virtual means.

COL Klahn stated that his committee set up to look at the new dues structure has not met and that he knew this recommendation to the Board was something they needed very soon. COL Klahn stated he would try to get the committee together virtually and bring a recommendation to the Board by May 1,

2020. It was noted that this would be a change to the By-Laws and be required to be submitted to our membership at least 30 days prior to our State Conference.

COL JM Smith stated that he was working with a number of state agencies and believes that the process of getting things back to normal will be a slow roll out here in Mississippi.

COL Barton stated that he was concerned as to whether we have enough reaction time.

CPT Woods stated they had excellent attendance at the Company Grade Luncheon and Meeting on February 28, 2020 at the Association office. She thanked COL Harris and COL McCullough for attending and the discussion they brought to the meeting.

Maj Gen Nabors asked if the August dates could become the primary date for the State Conference. COL McDaniel responded that the Association had already signed the contract for the June dates prior to NGAUS announcing this week that their conference was cancelled. The August 28-30 dates will be our fall back dates we will use if the conference is not possible in June.

COL McDaniel discussed the Association's staff current tele-work status. He stated we continue to be quite busy and have had a number of death claims we are currently working. He stated that he is in and out of the office throughout the week and may return full time next week. He stated that at this time, it was unclear when the MS Legislature would return, but he thinks it will be 1 June 2020 and that the MS Military Department and Association continue to meet to discuss their legislative priorities. He stated that the nominating committee had completed its process and gave everyone the names of those nominated for office:

VP Army - Tommy Smith & Brandon Haynie

VP Air – Jeff Wyatt & Donna Phillips

Treasurer – Amanda Woods & Jay Young

Secretary – Martini Ford & John Cochran

COL McDaniel noted that we have set the next Board of Directors meeting for May 29, 2020 at 1100 hours at the Association office. Board of Directors and other personnel will do a walk through of the business session on following the Board of Directors meeting at 1200 hours.

COL Harris concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for participating.

COL Jackson closed the meeting with prayer.