

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING  
January 10, 2019

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairman Allison called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner John Allison, Chairman  
Commissioner Jane Christenson, Secretary  
Commissioner Bob Burns, Vice-Chairman  
Commissioner Neff Basore  
Commissioner Bill Benton  
Commissioner Steve Edwards  
Commissioner Jeffery Teague

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL ATTENDING:

Colonel Bill Bryant	Lt. Colonel Tim K'Nuckles
Major Mark Hollingsworth	Major Charles Hubbard
Major Forrest Marks	Major Jeff Drew
Jackie Baker	Elizabeth Johnson
Emma French	Jenna Castleberry
Lieutenant Brad Lann	Lieutenant Jamie Gravier
Captain David Cooper	Captain David Moore
Lieutenant Kyle Drown	Captain Jason Aaron
TFC Derek Nietert	Lieutenant Chris Goodman
Trooper Jonathan Bass	Lieutenant Matt Miller
Sergeant Chris Waters	Captain Brady Gore
Captain John Carter	Sergeant Jake Bartlett
Sergeant Joe Carter	Sherry Woods
Sergeant Aaron Easley	Captain Barry Saffold
Lieutenant David Lafferty	Sergeant Russ Rhodes
Robin Gifford	Sergeant David Williams
Sergeant Bobby Clemence	Sergeant David Outlaw
Sergeant Jack Young	Corporal Greg Dycus
Lieutenant Dennis Overton	Captain Paulette Ward
Bridget White	Captain Dale Saffold
Captain Todd Shaw	Sergeant Tiffany Dycus
Elaine Lee	Bill Sadler
Jonathan Nettles	Donna Humphries

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tonya Easley

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Basore led the pledge of allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on January 02, 2019.

ELECTION OF ASPC OFFICERS FOR 2019:

Commissioner Basore made a motion that Commissioner Bob Burns be elected Chairman for 2019. This motion was seconded by Commissioners Teague/Christenson and passed.

Commissioner Basore made a motion that Commissioner Jane Christenson be elected Vice-Chairman for 2019. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Benton and passed.

Commissioner Christenson made a motion that Commissioner Neff Basore be elected Secretary for 2019. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Benton and passed.

PASSING OF THE GAVEL:

Commissioner Allison passed the gavel to the new Commission Chairman Bob Burns.

Commissioner Allison stated he has been the Chairman for the last year, I have been with you 14 years and it has been great. I have been reappointed to the ASP Commission. I actually look forward to that and enjoy working with you all, it's been great.

Commission Chairman Burns stated John we appreciate your service to the State of Arkansas and your leadership to the Arkansas State Police and the best thing we have you around for a while longer.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Teague made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2018 monthly Commission Meeting. Commissioner Christenson seconded and the motion passed.

PROMOTION CERTIFICATES:

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Captain David Moore promoting him to Captain in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop D.

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Lieutenant Christopher Goodman promoting him to Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop H.

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Aaron Easley promoting him to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop C Clay, Greene, & Randolph Counties.

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Russ Rhodes promoting him to Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division, ICAC.

OFFICIAL COMMENDATION:

Sergeant Joe Carter gave an overview of the nomination of Sergeant Jake Bartlett for an Official Commendation.

Sergeant Joe Carter stated on January 16, 2014, the Pope County Sheriff's Office and the Arkansas State Police responded to a camper fire on State Highway 7 north of Dover. When the investigators arrived the bodies of two burned individuals were discovered. The two bodies were sent to the Medical Examiner's Office for an autopsy to be performed. An investigation of the fire started but not much could be told. The next day, January 17, 2014, three investigators traveled to the Medical Examiner's Office for the autopsy. It was learned the two individuals had died of gunshot wounds prior to the fire. A homicide investigation was then opened. Through the next four years several investigators with the Pope County Sheriff's Office, the Arkansas State Police, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations Behavior Analysis Unit worked on this case. Leads, interviews and evidence were all looked at to seek justice for the two victims in this case. As this case progressed, it was eventually handed to Special Agent Jake Bartlett and Investigator Chris Ridenhour of the Pope County Sheriff's Office. Through tireless efforts, in this case with several suspects, Special Agent Bartlett and Pope County Investigator Ridenhour developed two main suspects in this case. On March 12, 2018, Special Agent Jake Bartlett and Investigator Ridenhour conducted an interview with one of the main suspects. Although this individual had been interviewed on three other occasions, Special Agent Bartlett was able to get this individual to come clean on their role in the homicide. Special Agent Bartlett and Investigator Ridenhour also convinced this individual to tell the other suspect in this case, their role as well. This case involved thirty-four interviews that had been conducted. Through the buffet of suspects, Special Agent Bartlett was focused in on the right individuals that committed this crime. This case would not have come together without the tireless efforts and dedication of Special Agent Bartlett. Special Agent Bartlett needs to be commended for his hard work in this case. As a result of the work he did both suspects in this case took negotiated pleas of guilty for their role in this case.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Sergeant Jake Bartlett

Sergeant Chris Waters gave an overview of the nomination of TFC Derek Nietert for an Official Commendation.

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Sergeant Chris Waters stated TFC Derek Nietert was nominated for his cumulative efforts and results in the area of Criminal Interdiction for the year 2017. I also think it is noteworthy to mention that Derek was deployed to Iraqi for the majority of 2018 and we are glad he is back safely. TFC Nietert is assigned to Crawford County in the Highway Patrol Division and is a member of the Interstate Criminal Patrol Team. Over the course of 2017, TFC Nietert has seized over 482 pounds of marijuana, over 20 pounds of methamphetamine, nearly 7 pounds of heroin, 1 stolen firearm, 1 ounce of kratom, and \$336,919 U. S. Currency in drug proceeds. TFC Nietert has an infectious can do attitude and is quick to assist his fellow troopers. While TFC Nietert plays a critical role on the Interstate Criminal Patrol Team, he also fulfills his other duties, which include traffic enforcement, investigating vehicle crashes and assisting area agencies as necessary. TFC Nietert makes every effort to pass on his training, experience, and knowledge to young troopers who express an interest in Interstate Criminal Patrol. TFC Nietert is worthy to receive an Official Commendation.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to TFC Derek Nietert.

Captain Jason Aaron gave an overview of the nomination of Trooper John Bass for an Official Commendation.

Captain Jason Aaron stated I am here today to recognize Trooper John Bass for his actions on August 15, 2018. August 14, 2018 the Washington County Sheriff's Office responded to a domestic battery in which the suspect had beaten and stabbed a mother of a 2 month old child. The suspect then kidnapped the child and was on the run. The Washington County Sheriff's Office along with the Arkansas State Police issued an Amber Alert for the suspect with the vehicle description. The Amber Alert investigation took place throughout August 14 and carried over into the morning of August 15 in which the U. S. Marshal's Office had established contact with the suspect and arranged a meeting location just south of Fayetteville on Highway 71 along with the Washington County Sheriff's Office. Once they got to their prearranged location, the suspect fled in his vehicle and the U. S. Marshal's Office and the Washington County Sheriff's Office pursued after the suspect southbound on Highway 71. This particular day the weather conditions, it was pouring down rain, torrential downpours all morning long. The Washington County Sheriff's Office and the U. S. Marshal's Office ended up terminating their involvement in the pursuit due to weather conditions and the roadway conditions. By this time, all law enforcement agencies in Northwest Arkansas began a manhunt in the area of Mountainburg, which is there on the east side of Interstate 49 just south of the Washington County line. Law Enforcement agencies from the FBI, U. S. Marshal's Office, Washington County Sheriff's Office, Fayetteville PD, Crawford County Sheriff's Office, Mountainburg Police Department, about every law enforcement agency in that part of the state was involved in this manhunt. About 11:00 a.m. that morning, Troop H Dispatch received a phone call from a traveler traveling southbound on 49 about an individual standing on the bridge hitchhiking with his shirt off. Trooper John Bass was the closest law enforcement officer to the area and responded to the scene. Trooper Bass determined the subject on the bridge was the suspect that everyone was looking for. The suspect was standing out in the rain with his shirt off and a pair of pants on, standing in the middle of Interstate 49 trying to flag traffic down. What his intentions were at that time, whether to carjack or get hit by a car was unknown. Trooper Bass responded, first one on scene and made contact with the suspect, began talking to him and the suspect ran to the edge of the bridge and Trooper Bass ran after him. The suspect hung off the side of the bridge and Trooper Bass along with two Washington County Deputies were able to pull the suspect back over the bridge, back on the interstate and take him into custody without incident and for these actions, I would like to recognize Trooper John Bass.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Trooper John Bass.

Commission Chairman Burns stated thanks and congratulations to all of those receiving both promotion certificates and Official Commendations. It truly is the highlight of our meeting, to see those things happen.

DIVISION REPORTS:

Fiscal Section – Emma French

Ms. French gave an overview of the reports which were distributed to the Commission.  
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Ms. French stated we are about half way through the year and we are spending some time figuring out how we want to end this year, getting things in line. We are spending some time, since the session starts next week, trying to figure out where we want to be financially when we come out of that session and how we want to look. That is kind of where our focus is right now.

Administrative Services – Major Charles Hubbard

Major Hubbard presented an oral summary of the written report distributed to the Commission. He began by reporting the Human Resources/Personnel transactions for the month; the civilian transactions include three new hires, two voluntary resignations, one promotion, three retirements, and one transfer. The commissioned transactions included three lateral transfers, three retirements, one voluntary resignation, and one disciplinary. We currently have two military deployments.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, December paid claims were \$919,193 an increase of \$89,639 from last month and the fund balance is \$150,038 lower than last month for a total fund balance of \$6,092,161.41. The average discount savings for the month was 79%.

We just finished up the interview process for the 2019 troop school and we will be meeting with Colonel Bryant in the very near future to begin the selection process for our school which will begin February 24.

Commissioner Allison asked so how many applicants do you have. Major Hubbard stated we had 411 applicants. Commissioner Allison asked and you are going to take how many? Major Hubbard stated we are not sure yet, we will discuss that with Colonel Bryant in the very near future and a decision will be made. Commissioner Allison stated it doesn't have to be specific, 50 maybe, Colonel is that a good number.

Commissioner Basore asked what the minimum is. Colonel Bryant stated that would be the maximum and we anticipate hopefully in the range of 35 – 50, depending on the different variables that we have to look at.

NEW BUSINESS:

STIPEND AND MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT:

Commission Chairman Burns asked for a motion to approve the stipend of \$60.00 per meeting. Commissioner Teague made the motion to approve the stipend payment and it was seconded by Commissioner Allison. The motion passed.

Commission Chairman Burns asked for a motion to approve the mileage reimbursement. Commissioner Allison made the motion to approve the mileage reimbursement and it was seconded by Commissioner Christenson. The motion passed.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES FOR 2019:

Commission Chairman Burns stated that the Health Insurance Committee at this time is composed of Commissioner Allison, Commissioner Burns, Commissioner Basore, and Commissioner Benton. Commission Chairman Burns asked for amendments or changes to that committee. Commission Chairman Burns asked for a motion to approve those members. Commissioner Allison made a motion that the above commissioners would continue to serve on the Health Insurance Committee, Commissioner Basore seconded and the motion passed.

Commission Chairman Burns stated on the Arkansas State Police Foundation, all commissioners would serve on the Foundation as nonvoting members. Commission Chairman Burns asked for a motion to approve all commissioners to serve on the ASP Foundation as non-voting members. Commissioner Benton made a motion that all

commissioners would serve as non-voting members of the Foundation, Commission Edwards seconded and the motion passed.

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Commission Chairman Burns asked Colonel Bryant if he needed to discuss personnel matters today. Colonel Bryant stated we have a couple of promotions for the Commissioners to consider.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commission Chairman Burns asked if there was a motion. Commissioner Basore made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of considering employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of employees, Commissioners Christenson/Edwards seconded and the motion passed. The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:29 a.m.

Commission Chairman Burns called the meeting back to order at 11:23 a.m.

Commission Chairman Burns asked Colonel Bryant if he had any recommendations. Colonel Bryant stated the first position would be ASP Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop D. My recommendation to the Commission would be Sergeant David Williams for the position of Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop D. Commissioner Edwards made a motion that Sergeant David Williams be promoted to Lieutenant, Commissioner Basore seconded and the motion passed.

Colonel Bryant stated the next position is the Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop J. My recommendation to the Commission would be Corporal Brenda Stephenson for the position of Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop J. Commissioner Teague made a motion that Corporal Brenda Stephenson be promoted to Sergeant, Commissioner Christenson seconded and the motion passed.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Burns stated the February Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. and the March Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 07, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

With no more business, Commission Chairman Burns asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Allison made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Basore seconded and the motion passed. Commission Chairman Burns adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

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Commission Chairman

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Commission Secretary