

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING  
September 20, 2018

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, September 20, 2018 at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairman Allison called the meeting to order at 9:58 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Commissioner John Allison, Chairman  
Commissioner Jane Christenson, Secretary  
Commissioner Neff Basore  
Commissioner Steve Edwards  
Commissioner Jeffery Teague

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Commissioner Bob Burns, Vice-Chairman  
Commissioner Bill Benton

**STATE POLICE PERSONNEL ATTENDING:**

Colonel Bill Bryant	Lt. Colonel Tim K’Nuckles
Lt. Colonel Shawn Garner	Major Lindsey Williams
Major Jeff Drew	Major Mark Hollingsworth
Major Charles Hubbard	Captain John Carter
Captain Jason Aaron	Captain David Cooper
Sergeant Philip Hydron	Corporal Rockey Rapert
Trooper Steven Payton	Jenna Castleberry
Lenore Paladino	Robin Gifford
Phillip Warriner	Elizabeth Johnson
Lieutenant Stacie Rhoads	Sherry Woods
Garry Glisson	Captain David Lafferty
Drew Childers	Sergeant Tiffany Dycus
Bridget White	Corporal Brandon Margis
Bill Sadler	Jonathan Nettles
Mary Claire McLaurin	Elaine Lee
Greg Downs	Donna Humphries

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Joshua Hoelzeman	Ayla Hoelzeman
Laura Hoelzeman	Katie Bellott
Sarah Payton	Andres’ Rhodes, Governor’s Office
Jack Webb	Jill Davis
Charles Easley	Sara Farris, Asst. Attorney General
Corrie Beaman, Homeland Security	Chris Dishman, Homeland Security

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Commissioner Christenson led the pledge of allegiance.

**NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:**

The media was notified of this meeting on September 19, 2018.

**MINUTES:**

Commissioner Basore made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2018 monthly Commission Meeting. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed.

**WEAPON RESOLUTIONS:**

Major Forrest Marks presented the following resolutions for consideration by the ASP Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Robert N. Gault efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty years, four months, and thirty days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Robert N. Gault retired from this department July 31, 2018;

WHEREAS: His departure creates a vacancy that will be most difficult to fill, which is recognized by each and every member of the Arkansas State Police Commission;

WHEREAS: Corporal Robert N. Gault has made formal request that his service weapon be retired with him and remain in his possession;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: The Arkansas State Police Commission, in its regular meeting at Arkansas State Police Headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas on Thursday, September 20, 2018, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 21, Serial Number PKS373, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

Commissioner Christenson made a motion to approve the above weapon resolution presented to the Commission. Commissioner Basore seconded and the motion passed.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Robert N. Gault efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty years, four months, and thirty days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Robert N. Gault retired from this department July 31, 2018;

WHEREAS: His departure creates a vacancy that will be most difficult to fill, which is recognized by each and every member of the Arkansas State Police Commission;

WHEREAS: Corporal Robert N. Gault has made formal request that his shotgun be retired with him and remain in his possession;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: The Arkansas State Police Commission, in its regular meeting at Arkansas State Police Headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas on Thursday, September 20, 2018 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number PC622756, that Corporal Robert N. Gault has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal Robert N. Gault be permitted to purchase the shotgun for his personal use.

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the above weapon resolution presented to the Commission. Commissioner Teague seconded and the motion passed.

**MEDALLION PRESENTATION:**

Chris Dishman and Corrie Beaman from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security presented a medallion to Jill Davis in memory of Richard Davis. Mr. Dishman stated on behalf of the Department of Homeland Securities, Office of Intelligence and Analysis, we would like to present Ms. Davis with a medallion for the service of Richard Davis. Richard was a trusted partner to our office, he was a dedicated public servant to the State of Arkansas and to the Country. He was a dear friend to the Office of Intelligence and Analysis and the National Network of Fusion Centers, so it is with our deepest sympathies and profound gratitude for his service that we present this medallion to you, Mrs. Davis. I will read the medallion, in recognition of tireless service and dedication to the mission, Director Richard Davis.

2018 NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY POSTER CONTEST WINNER:

Lenore Paladino stated it is her pleasure to introduce Ms. Ayla winner of the 2018 National Missing Children's Day poster contest. Under the guidance of her art teacher, Katie Bellott, Ayla created a poster that illustrated the loss a family feels when a child is missing. Ms. Paladino read a letter from Karen Harp of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; On behalf of the U. S. Department of Justice, I would like to thank you for participating in the 2018 National Missing Children's Day poster contest. This year we received more than 2000 entries from students across the country, so picking a National Winner was especially difficult, the hard work, creativity, and originality expressed in each poster was overwhelming.

Ms. Paladino stated with Ayla today are her parents, Joshua and Laura and her art teacher Katie Bellott. Ms. Bellott facilitated the student's participation in the poster contest from Sacred Heart Catholic School in Morrilton. Ms. Paladino showed the art that Ayla created and congratulated her.

OFFICIAL COMMENDATION:

Sergeant Philip Hydron gave an overview of the nomination of Trooper Steve Payton for an Official Commendation.

Sergeant Hydron stated in presenting this official commendation there are two terms that come to mind for this trooper and that is warrior and guardian. Warrior is defined as a person who fights in battles and is known for having courage and skill. Guardian is defined as a keeper or protector who looks after the welfare of other people and their property. Trooper Steven Payton displays both of these characteristics. His warrior spirit is displayed in his work ethic. In a 12 month period, Trooper Payton made over 60 DWI arrests and over 200 criminal arrests, 23 which were for felony charges. Trooper Payton is very passionate about making his run a safer place for the citizens that travel Arkansas's highways. In addition to this warrior mind set established by the high number of significant arrests, he finds a way to display the guardian mindset as well. Trooper Payton met a special young man identified as 11 year-old Braden Lambert. Braden is a triplet who suffers from a terminal illness called cystic fibrosis. Trooper Payton has made it his goal to make sure that Braden would always have a friend in the Arkansas State Police. Shortly after Trooper Payton met Braden, Braden's mom called to let Trooper Payton know that he was being placed in the hospital due to a severe infection in his lungs. Trooper Payton would travel to Children's Hospital in Little Rock to visit Braden and most of these visits were done on his off time. During one of the hospital stays, Braden asked to meet an Arkansas State Police K9. Trooper Payton reached out to Captain Roby Rhoads and arranged for this meeting to take place. Arkansas State Police K9 "Pavatt" went to visit Braden and the unique thing about this was that "Pavatt" was from his area. Trooper Payton arranged another visit for Braden one that took place at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters in Little Rock where Braden got to meet several of the Arkansas State Police Drill Instructors, I believe he even got to yell at some of the recruits. He got to ride in the Arkansas State Police Swat Team's armored vehicles and he even got to meet Colonel Bill Bryant.

But, Braden is not the only child that Trooper Steven Payton had went the extra mile for. Levi Fraley is a 7 year-old boy from Crittenden County. Levi's father suffers from a terminal brain tumor and cannot participate in many of Levi's activities at school. Levi's mother mentioned to Trooper Payton one day that Levi was really disappointed because his dad couldn't come to school and be a Watch Dog Dad like all of the other little kids fathers were doing. After receiving this information, Trooper Payton took it upon himself to reach out to Levi's school counselor who authorized him to be Levi's Watch Dog Dad for the day. During that visit Trooper Payton played on the playground, passed out stickers and pencils and met their class pet. On October 30, 2017 while off duty, Trooper Payton had the opportunity to watch Levi play in the peewee Super Bowl football game in Marion, Arkansas. I also attended this game and personally witnessed the excitement on Levi's face when Trooper Payton and his wife Sarah were there to support him. Trooper Payton conducts himself in a professional and exemplary manner, he takes extraordinary steps in going above and beyond the normal call of duty to make a difference in the lives of those

that he comes in contact with. Trooper Payton is more than just a man with a badge, he is a man who has recognized

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that with great power comes great responsibility. There is more to law enforcement than just making the streets safer, sometimes we can actually enrich the lives of the citizens we serve through gentle acts of kindness. It is my great pleasure to present Trooper Steven Payton for an Official Commendation.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Sergeant Steven Payton.

PRESENTATION TO CORPORAL ROCKEY RAPERT:

Captain John Carter stated he will give a brief overview of the death of K9 Hemi. On July 30 of this year at approximately 7:00 p.m. Corporal Rockey Rapert initiated a pursuit of a fleeing suspect on I-55 south of Blytheville, Arkansas. Spike strips were deployed and successful and the suspect's vehicle came to rest in the median and the suspect fled on foot. Corporal Rapert chased the suspect with his K9 and at that time the only hazard was trying to cross two lanes of I-55 without getting hit. There was no signs of a weapon on the suspect. The suspect crossed a wire fence and fled into a bean field with high beans. Corporal Rapert, Corporal Bennett and another Deputy were able to follow on foot across the field and they engaged Hemi to find the suspect. Hemi did his job, he took off after the suspect and when he got to the suspect the suspect pulled a gun and shot Hemi. At that time was the first known time that there was a gun on the suspect. Hemi lost his life, but I truly believe that the dog saved one of these officers from getting killed, at the very least getting shot. So with that said, Hemi served 5 years and I was told that he loved to work, loved to do his job and he served well.

Commission Chairman Allison read a letter from Governor Asa Hutchinson to Corporal Rockey Rapert. The letter read I would like to send my sincere condolences on the loss of K9 Hemi. Hemi went above and beyond the call of duty in his life and his legacy will remain in the hearts and minds of all who knew him. Hemi was a fearless officer, his noble courage in the face of danger is commendable and we will learn from his bravery. For 5 years he protected the citizens of Arkansas with the Arkansas State Police, the Second Judicial District Drug Task Force, the Blytheville Police Department, the Jonesboro Police Department, the Mississippi County Sheriff's Office and the Poinsett County Sheriff's Office. The people of Arkansas were safer because of his service and loyalty, he was a beloved member of the Arkansas State Police and I know his memory will be cherished and honored by his fellow officers. Please accept my deepest sympathy and know that Susan and I are praying for the family.

Colonel Bryant presented the framed letter to Corporal Rockey Rapert.

DIVISION REPORTS:

Fiscal Section – Jenna Castleberry

Ms. Castleberry gave an overview of the reports which were distributed to the Commission. She stated these reports reflect two months' worth of revenue and expenditures. We are watching things closely and everything appears to be right on track. We are working currently on preparing, actually finalizing the biennial budget and are close to having that completed and turned in. We will be presenting that in our budget hearing next month on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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 five new hires, six voluntary resignations, one termination, one lateral transfer, two retirements, two promotions, one voluntary demotion, and one extra help end assignment. The commissioned transactions included thirty-two lateral transfers, two voluntary resignations, and two promotions. We currently have four current military deployments.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, August paid claims were \$763,385 which is a decrease of \$604,965 from last month and the fund balance is \$593,799 higher than last month for a total

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fund balance of \$6,310,382.00. The average discount savings for the month of August was 79%.

We are continuing with our campaign for recruit school for 2019 which we are going start February of next year. Currently we have about 250 applicants that have put their applications in and are in the screening process.

Commissioner Teague asked how many will be in the school? Major Hubbard stated we do not have a confirmed number for the school yet. We are certainly looking at the budget to see what we can put in the school and hope to be able to fill the attrition for what we have lost the past year.

Commission Chairman Allison stated that is as good a month as we have had on the health care side in some time, is that just an anomaly. I mean we have been running a million plus. Major Hubbard stated we have had some big claims and may have some still pending that may wash out, but this was one of the better months we have had in quite some time. Commission Chairman Allison asked do you feel it is headed in the right direction or you think it is just a one off month. Major Hubbard stated he is not real sure, you know it is up and down as you have seen, so it just depends on what claims are out there that are still pending. I know we have had some big ones that had potential to bring in some large costs but we don't know what those are yet until that washes out, but we are hoping the trend continues obviously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commission Chairman Allison asked Colonel Bryant if there was a need to go into Executive Session and Colonel Bryant stated we have personnel matters to discuss. Commission Chairman Allison 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, Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed. The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:20 a.m.

Commission Chairman Allison called the meeting back to order at 10:45 a.m. and stated we have been in executive session discussing personnel matters.

Commission Chairman Allison stated he would turn it over to Colonel Bryant for any recommendations. Colonel Bryant stated the position is a Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop H Sebastian County. My recommendation to the Commission would be Corporal Brandon Margis for the position of Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop H Sebastian County. Commissioner Christenson made a motion that Corporal Brandon Margis be promoted to Sergeant, Commissioner Basore seconded and the motion passed.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Allison stated the October Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 11, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

With no more business, Commission Chairman Allison asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Basore made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioners Christenson/Edwards seconded and the motion passed. Commission Chairman Allison adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

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Commission Secretary