



National Sojourners Inc.

# Old Dominion Chapter #364

## President's Message

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Thank you one and all for attending the last meeting of Old Dominion Chapter No. 364, National Sojourner's. Lady Margaret and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meeting on September the 17th, 2008. As usual we will meet at the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge located at 8421 Arlington Blvd. (Route 50). The Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge is less than a mile west of Interstate 495. This month we will return to our usual uniform, Coat and Tie for our members. If you haven't been to a meeting in a long time, this is the time to come back. If you come to each and every meeting, thanks for your participation and we'll see you on the 17th.

I appreciate our Brother John Shroeder giving his program on "The Faith of Washington". Being a Past Master of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, the life of General Washington has always been one of my favorite subjects of study. The painting of the General at prayer at Valley Forge has always impressed me. That prayer and that painting are my favorite images of the General. As we find young people to send to Valley Forge, and as we raise money to send those young people to Valley Forge, I always hope and pray that those young people, the future leaders of our country will somehow pick up some of the spirit of Washington. Whether General Washington prayed out loud, our silently, whether beside his horse, or in the stable as some have suggested, that image should help to inspire us to follow the vows that we have taken as Masons and Sojourners.

This month we hope to have a visit from a member of the Colony at Jamestowne. Come out, listen and learn about the lives of the people who helped settle this great Commonwealth. It is one thing to research and write a paper to read to a group, it is something entirely different to not only acquire the knowledge but to prepare to take on the character of that person from another era. These opportunities don't come along often so this shouldn't be missed. Also, I would like to give the recently earned Awards and Certificates to our members. I would like the Officer's to come prepared for a picture this month.

To all who have taken the time to come and support your Chapter and Camp this year, thank you. If you haven't been to a meeting yet, please come out and support your Chapter. We need you, and we need each other. Every month we hear about another Brother or Lady who has been taken from us. What we will remember is not the titles we have earned, or the awards that were presented to us, what we will remember, and what we will miss the most is the time that we spend together. There is a reason that so many Masonic functions have a meal included. That is when we bond together, and get to really know one another. Thanks for all your help and support.

"Thomas"

### Inside this issue:

President	1
Commander	2
Minutes	2
Upcoming Events	4

## Commander's Message

Brothers, we encourage your participation at the Wednesday, 29 October Bivouac at Camp Collingwood as we examine another Recruit. This is the time to start putting your uniform together and prepare your tricorn. We are planning an activity for the Camp Followers. The meal will be Italian food, cost \$15. Social time begins at 6:30 PM, dinner at 7 PM, and the meeting commences at 7:30 PM. Watch for the e-mail alert.

This month we recall September 1776:

On August 27-30, Brother George Washington's army was beaten in the Battle of Brooklyn, but made a miraculous escape to Manhattan (this was described by Brother John Schroeder at our August Chapter meeting).

On the 7th, the American submarine, Turtle, failed in the first attack on a British warship.

Brother Benjamin Franklin, on the 11th, rejected British offers to revoke the Declaration of Independence.

On the 15th, British forces landed on Manhattan, forcing Washington to abandon New York City, but he held along Harlem Heights.

One quarter of the city burned down on the 16th.

Washington had been beaten, lost the premier American city, and lost over 3000 men.

The future looked bleak, yet Washington was still able to write:

"The General hopes the justice of the great cause in which they are engaged, the necessity and importance of defending this Country, preserving its Liberties, and warding off the destruction mediated against it, will inspire every man with Firmness and Resolution in time of action, which is now approaching - Ever remembering (sic) that upon the blessing of Heaven, and the bravery of the men, our Country only can be saved."

EIAR

In Brotherhood, Les Albers

## 20 August 2008 Meeting Minutes

### Opening / Call To Order

Following a delicious dinner preceded with fellowship and the members relaxed in the uniform of the day (Golf Shirts), President Tom Little called the Chapter to order at 2005 hrs. at the Arlington - Fairfax Elks Lodge No. 2188. Chaplain Dan Clark offered the opening prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. President Tom delivered the Purposes of National Sojourners followed by A Toast To The Flag by Bro. Scotty Cameron.

Introductions of VIP's and guest were completed followed by a list of those on the binnacle list (that's Navy talk for sick and distressed)

as follow: Ed Arndt recovering from colon surgery, Gene Sizemore with a broken leg, John Cole at the Overlook Rehab Facility where his wife Betty has been for several years, Phil Tilson at the Martinsburg VA Medical Center (Nursing Home), National President Joe Baker nursing a bad back. Get well cards were circulated and signed by all. On the upbeat side, Bro. Grant Graessle is home safe and sound from Iraq / Baghdad and is now residing in California.

The Secretary attempted to read the Minutes of the previous meeting but was overwhelmed with a call to accept them as published fol-

## 20 August 2008 Meeting Minutes (Continued)

lowed by a unanimous viva voce vote.

The Treasurer, being in absentia let us know that regarding funds, we had taken some in, spent some and had some left. The following check book balance was on record at the start of the meeting: \$2,170.71 with \$8,758.65 in our money market account.

A donation from all totaled \$14.00, and a check was received in the amount of \$25.00 designated for Collingwood.

There were 13 members present contributing at total of \$260.00 for the meal. One compensated guest (Speaker).

Committee Reports were addressed.

Under Americanism, Military Night was announced to be observed at our November 19 meeting. Bro. Ralph Smith reported that invitations would be posted to the schools and colleges supporting the JROTC / ROTC programs prior to our September meeting.

Commander Les Albers, Light Horse Harry Lee Heroes of '76 Camp, announced that a BIV-OUAC will be held on Wednesday October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 to dispense justice to the miscreant found lurking near the camp. Camp Followers are urged to attend.

The Program was presented by Bro. John Shroeder, Past President of Arlington Hall Chapter 440, and entitled "George Washington's Faith" which he had developed personally and has presented on numerous occasions for the A. Douglas. Smith, Jr. Lodge of Research No. 1949. Numerous eye witness accounts recorded from circa 1776 leaves little doubt that our Brother's cabletow was well connected to his maker.

Old Business:

A thank you letter was read from Ms. Nicolle Hansen Middleman for the Chapter's assistance in notifying our Brethren of the death of

her grandfather, Bro. Jack Hansen, MIP. A tip of the hat to our Secretary.

A courtesy Masonic Funeral Service was conducted by Henry Lodge No. 57 on August 7, 2008 for Brother William Roy Bearden, an Old Dominion Chapter 364 MIP who was called to the Celestial Lodge on July 31, 2008. In addition to numerous others present, President Tom Little headed a contingent of six Old Dominion Brethren with Past President Ralph Smith performing the service.

Our Web Master, Bro. Handley Ward, who has brought "More Light" to our web page and has performed a yeoman task, has asked that a replacement be found. Well done thou good and faithful servant.

New Business

President Little announced that Military Night is scheduled for our November 19 meeting. Ralph Smith will get invitations out to the ROTC / JROTC Units in the area.

Next meeting, the uniform will shift back to coat and tie.

Good of the Order

The Gavel was passed and with nothing further claiming the attention of the Chapter, President Little saw it closed in due form at 2110.

Ralph W. Smith Jr., P.P.  
Secretary Pro Tem

# September Meeting Announcement

The next Chapter Meeting is on  
Wednesday, 17 September, 2008, at the  
Arlington-Fairfax BPO Elks Lodge  
located at 8421 Arlington Blvd (US 50), Fairfax, VA 22031.

## Business Attire

Program is on Jamestown, Virginia

Social hour before dinner. Dinner is at 1900 Hours  
in Fairfax Room on lower floor of Lodge at \$20.00 per person.  
Please make reservations through Brother Joe Spruill  
at 703-615-6275 or [joe.spruill@yahoo.com](mailto:joe.spruill@yahoo.com)  
by the end of the day on Sunday, 14 September.



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