

NATIONAL SOJOURNERS INC.



Old Dominion Chapter

April 2008

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Chapter Home Page

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President's Comments

"The Hour Glass is an emblem of human life. Behold how swiftly the sands run and how rapidly our lives are drawing to a close! We cannot without astonishment behold the little particles which are contained in this machine, how they pass away almost imperceptibly, and yet to our surprise, in the short space of an hour they are all exhausted." :- *Grand Lodge Presentation Volume.*

God has given each of us 8,760 hours each year (24 x 365) to dispose of as we see fit. Our Masonic ritual has provided broad guidelines regarding how each day should be divided and to what purpose it should be dedicated. I would further remind each of you that the hours belonging to and discharged by a Brother are no more or less important than those of another.

Over the course of the past year I asked that we reflect on how many of those hours we devoted to Old Dominion Chapter 364. Did we extend a hand to a Brother or widow who can no longer drive at night? Did we present a medal and certificate in support of the ROTC program? When the name of a member or spouse we once broke bread with was lifted regarding sick

and distressed, did we give them a call or drop a note? Obviously this list of questions can be expanded and I leave it to our individual imaginations to consider the possibilities.

April brings us to the eve of a full Chapter cycle. We will hold elections and prepare to install our newly elected officers at the following meeting in May. I earnestly hope that each of our members, reflecting upon the many ways in which we could have or did participate, select one or two areas of support or continued support within the Chapter and Heroes that will ease the burden of your officers while bringing "light" to our community.

Ralph W. Smith
President

IN MEMORIAM

Bro. William J. Ellenberger
01/14/1908 - 03/26/2008

Bro. Daniel G. Cook
09/04/1917 - 03/22/2008

April Meeting Information

The next chapter meeting is on **Wednesday, April 16, 2008** at the Arlington-Fairfax BPO located at 8421 Arlington Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22031.

Uniform of the Day: **Business Attire**

Social one hour before dinner. Dinner at 1900 hours in Fairfax Room (on Lower Floor of Lodge). Dinner is \$20.00 per person. Make your reservations through Brother Joe Spruill, 2nd Vice President, at Joe.Spruill@yahoo.com or call: 703-615-6275.

Deadline for reservations: Monday, April 14, 2008.



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Old Dominion Chapter #364

Commander's Message



FRATERNAL GREETINGS TO ALL.

I sincerely regret the cancellation of the January 30 Bivouac followed by the cancellation of the February 20 Old Dominion Chapter meeting. Do not think your President and I are not concerned about maintaining a strong schedule of activities and interesting programs for you. The Bivouac was cancelled due to the level of activities in January and the lack of a rekrut for initiation. Weather forced the cancellation of the Chapter meeting. In both cases, your time, interest, and safety were paramount in our minds.

I want to thank everyone who participated in our George Washington celebration on Sunday, February 24th at Mt. Vernon to honor our fellow Mason and first President. We were delighted that the Grand Master of Virginia and fellow Sojourner Most Worshipful Edmond Cohen was able to attend and share some very thoughtful words about the character of George Washington. Also in attendance were: Virginia Grand Marshal David Morris and Lady Linda, Chapter President Ralph Smith, LHHL Camp Commander Woody Bentley, VP Tom Little, Secretary/Adjutant Ron Dooley and Lady Pat, PNC Bill Turner, Steve Brundage (who helped make the arrangements), Howard Sobel, David Keithley, and Don and Jennifer (Daughter of Ralph Smith) Lee and daughters Madison and Alexandra. After the ceremony, some were able to attend the church service at Pohick Church, sitting in George Washington's pew.

Our next scheduled events are the Heroes bivouac scheduled for April 30 followed by the Federal Area Encampment scheduled for May

17 at Camp Collingwood. There we will join with our area Camps and enjoy a short day of fellowship and enjoyment along with a good meal hosted by our Chapter and our Federal Area Representative Jerry Kunkle. LHHL Camp will be the host camp. Come and enjoy the day's festivities with your Lady.

We are still being asked to perform ceremonies for Masonic and non-Masonic groups. Unfortunately we had to disappoint our fellow masons in AW 22 in their request that we provide an honor guard for the presentation of the Colors on Feb. 23 at 6PM for their annual George Washington Dinner for approximately 100 guests. I hope that we do not have to turn down an important function like this again. We do have enough volunteers to support the opening of the Washington Area Square and Round Dance Cooperative Association on March 13 in Alexandria. I appreciate the support of Ron Dooley, Ralph Smith, Bob Elliot, and Les Albers for that event.

The support of our members for our regularly scheduled events – chapter meetings and bivouacs as well as supporting special ceremonies which demonstrate our commitment to promote Americanism and Patriotism by putting on ceremonies such as honor guards and flag ceremonies is critical to our continued good health as an organization. Please remember our commitment, if it is within the length of your cable tow.

Thanks again to those of you who support the Light Horse Harry Lee Camp.

Woody Bentley
Commander



Ms. Beatrice Werner, widow of the late Bro. John Werner, receiving Bro. John's 25-year certificate and pin at the March 19, 2008 business meeting. Bro John joined OD 364 10/18/82.



Mr. Daniel W. Kriss receiving a U.S. flag flown over Fort McHenry in his honor from O.D. No. 364 President Ralph Smith. Mr. Kriss spoke at the March business meeting on his experiences in the U.S. Navy during WWII at the age of fourteen. His ship, a destroyer named the Chauncey, saw every battle in the Pacific except Iwo Jima.

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From the Secretary's Desk

Minutes of the Meeting, March 19, 2008

On Wednesday, March 19, 2008 thirty-four members and guests met at the Elks Lodge in Fairfax for the dinner/meeting of Old Dominion Chapter No. 364. The President, Bro. Ralph Smith, rang the dinner bell at 1900 hours, Bro. Dan Clark presented Grace, and all enjoyed a great meal of Chicken Marsala and sides.

At 2000 hours Pres. Smith called the business meeting to order and a Color Guard led by Bro. Bill Turner, Nat. 3rdVP, posted the flags in due form, and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Bro. Dan Clark attended the Bible and presented the Opening Prayer. Bro. Scotty Cameron again did a magnificent job of reciting the Toast to the Flag, and 2ndVP Bro. Joe Spruill presented The Purposes of the National Sojourners. Pres. Smith then introduced all VIP's, ladies, and guests welcoming all to the meeting.

Secretary's Desk: The secretary's report (no minutes) for February was accepted, and the Secretary then cleared his desk. Three members, George Hallanan, Jr., David G. Maylum, and Thomas W. Meissgeier have regretfully been purged and removed from the mailing list as of 01/16/08 for non-payment of 2006-2007 dues. Bro. Olin Borum passed away on 01/22/08. A letter from MW Edmund Cohen was received 01/24/08 thanking the chapter for our hospitality at the January meeting. An email letter was received from Bro Kent Webber reporting the passing of his wife Margaret on 01/17/08. A letter was received from Bro. James D. Cole thanking the chapter for

the contribution of \$100.00 to the Masonic Home of Virginia in honor of MW Ed Cohen. A letter was received from Bro. Gerald H. Houston reporting the passing of his wife Cheryl on 02/13/08 after a long struggle with diminishing lung capacity. A newsletter from Walter Reed Chapter No. 303 was received on 02/07/08 from Bro. John Cole with color photos of Bro. Bill Ellenberger receiving a certificate for the brick purchased by Chapters 303 and 364 in his honor for the Legacy Center, and the celebration of his 100th birthday. A memo from National Headquarters was received 02/11/08 clarifying the changes in the National By-laws concerning the recognition of Prince Hall Grand Lodges. (Please see *The Sojourner*) A thank-you letter was received from *Fisher House Foundation, Inc.* on 02/21/08 thanking the chapter for the donation of \$148.00. The dates for the 2008 *Spirit of America Youth Conference* and application have been received. (07/17-21/08) For information, call the Secretary. A letter was received on 02/27/08 with a donation from Lady Margaret Howell, widow of the late Bro. Odie Howell Jr., PP No. 364, PP of CLMA, and Chairman of the Bridge of Light Committee. A thank-you letter was sent to her on 02/29/08. An email letter was received 03/05/08 from Bro. Bill Turner reporting that Marian Harris, wife of Bro. Frank Harris, had been transferred to Walter Reed Hospital with severe internal bleeding. Current reports indicate she is home and doing better. An update was received 03/05/08 on Bro. Phil Tilson reporting he will undergo two more rounds of chemotherapy.

The registration form and schedule for the **30th Federal Area Encampment** slated for 05/17/08 has been received...contact Bro. Jerry Kunkle at 703-765-1652 or your Secretary. An email was received from Bro. Dale Goodson, Pres. of Tampa Chapter No. 252 requesting someone make contact with his nephew, Ret. Col. Terry Mitchell, regarding joining the NSI. The Secretary emailed Col Mitchell...talked to him on the phone...invited him to the March meeting...and sent him an application. He did not respond. Bro. Daniel Clark, our esteemed Chaplain submitted payment at the March meeting to become an MIP. Congratulations Bro. Dan. An application has been received and accepted for membership for an Omar Bracey, ILT. US Army, F&AM West Point Lodge No. 817. Sponsor is Bro. Jerry Kunkle. LT. Bracey is to be voted on and if accepted initiated in June. Forms and delegate credentials (11) for the **88th NSI Annual Convention** are in...The cut-off date for group reservations is 05/17/08...contact the Secretary. A letter was sent to Ms. Sheila Lloyd, general manager of the Elks Lodge, along with a check for \$160.00 resulting from the missed February meeting. All trustees, Pres. Smith and the Secretary agreed to this action to cover the food already cooked at the time of cancellation.

Treasurers Report: Bro Johnny Mayers reported we have \$659.01 in the regular account, and \$8650.55 in the savings account.

Americanism: Bro. Ron Dooley asked that if anyone participates in any form of Americanism program to



please contact him or the President so we may record the activity in the year-end report.

ROTC: Bro. Ralph Smith reported he expects to have eight colleges apply for awards. High schools will start in three to four weeks. Bro. Ralph needs help to cover all the requests and will be calling people.

Sick & Distressed: Lady Pattie Turner, Chairwoman, reported cards were sent to Bro. Scotty Cameron for Lady Lois and Bro. Frank Harris for Lady Marian, in addition to those sent in February. (see February newsletter)

Heroes of 76: Bro. Woody Bentley, Commander, thanked Bros. Scotty Cameron, Les Albers, Bob Elliott, and Ron Dooley for assisting him with the Washington Area Square Dancers Association Convention at the Mark Hilton in Alexandria, VA. On 03/13/08. There were over 900 contestants that night, and 1200 for the whole weekend. Bro. Woody again asks that Heroes don the uniform and come help in requested programs. Bro. Jerry Kunkle, Area Rep, announced forms have been sent out for the **30th Federal Area Encampment** scheduled for 05/17/08 at Collingwood. There are two "Rekruits." Reservations should be paid before 04/15/08 or you pay more...no cancellations after 05/10/08. Bro. Woody an-

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Secretary's Desk (continued)

nounced there would be a bivouac on 04/30/08 with a "Rekruit." Bro. Ralph Smith reported that on Saturday, 04/26/08 there will be a celebration of **James Monroe Day**, and assistance will be needed. **Please contact Harry Sanders, Nat. 2nd VP, National Sojourners, Inc. Cell: 703-926-2124 to sign up.** All Sojourners, Heroes, and Camp Followers are invited and encouraged to attend.

New Business: Ms. Bea Werner was asked to come forward and was presented a 25-year certificate and pin for her late husband Bro. John Werner. Lady Bea was quite moved and thanked the chapter. Bro. Dan Clark was also called forward and presented with his 25-year certificate and pin...congratulations Bro. Dan (see photos)

Program: The Secretary introduced Mr. Daniel W. Kriss, (see photos) a member of the *Veterans of Underage Military Service*, who presented his story of when he joined the U.S. Navy at the age of fourteen in December 1942. Dan was assigned to a destroyer, which saw every battle in the Pacific except Iwo Jima. Dan returned to the United States in December 1945, and was honorably discharged in January 1946, two weeks prior to his eighteenth birthday. Dan spoke of many experiences and fears that occurred during his service, to include being attacked by Japanese kamikaze fighter planes and surviving a monster hurricane. Dan was approached with many comments and questions after his talk, and President Ralph Smith presented Dan with a flag flown over Ft. McHenry in his honor.

The secretary has received numerous comments since the presentation. Dan's presentation was much appreciated by all.

The Gavel: There being no further business the "customary gavel" was passed around with several comments and thanks to Mr. Kriss. Chaplain Bro. Dan Clark attended the Bible and presented the Closing Prayer. The Colors were retired and all sang the Closing Song. The meeting was officially closed at 2130 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald A. Dooley
 Secretary/Adjutant



Bro. Daniel M. Clark receiving his 25-year certificate and pin from Pres. Ralph Smith at the O.D. March meeting. Bro. Dan joined the National Sojourners on 01/21/1983. Bro. Dan's wife, Lady Lynne, looks on.

Slate of Officers, 2008 - 2009

President:	Thomas G. Little	Commander:	Les Albers
1st VP:	Joseph Spruill	Chief of Staff:	Ralph Smith
2nd VP:	Kent S. Webber	Asst COS:	Stewart W. Bentley, Jr.
3rd VP:	John Clair	OODay:	Robert J. Bartruff, Sr.
Secretary:	Ron Dooley	Adjutant:	Ron Dooley
Asst Sec:	Steve Brundage		
Treasurer:	John Mayers	Trustee 3 years:	Ralph Smith (11)
Asst Treas:	Dan Levin		William Sanner (10)
			Woody Bentley (09)

**NATIONAL SOJOURNERS, INC.
OLD DOMINION CHAPTER #364**

SGT Ronald A. Dooley, Secretary
6822 Jeremiah Court
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

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