



National Sojourners Inc.

# Old Dominion Chapter #364

April 2010

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Chapter Home Page  
<http://olddominionno364.net>

## President's Message

Brother Sojourners,

It's hard to believe it's already April and we're preparing for another Sojourner year. We will hold elections this month. I encourage all of you to come out and be part of this important event.

Last month we had a wonderful presentation. A rousing "Bravo Zulu" to our Secretary, Les Albers, and his partner, Mark Ragan, for their wonderful Irish history reenactment/discussion. They were in character and gave a very informative presentation. A very appropriate program considering our meeting was on St. Patrick's Day!

Our meeting last month the Nominating Committee, led by Bro. Woody Bentley, presented the slate of proposed officers for next year. They include:

•Old Dominion Chapter #364, National Sojourners, Inc.

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| ○ President      | Kent Weber    |
| ○ Vice President | Mark Harford  |
| ○ Secretary      | Les Albers    |
| ○ Treasurer      | Johnny Mayers |
| ○ Trustee        | Joe Spruill   |

•Light Horse Harry Lee Camp, Heroes of '76

- |                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| ○ Commander          | Woody Bentley |
| ○ Chief of Staff     | Ralph Smith   |
| ○ ACOS               | Tom Little    |
| ○ Officer of the Day | Rick Abell    |
| ○ Adjutant           | Les Albers    |

As you can see, there are vacancies in the Vice President positions. Nominations from the floor will be in order and your participation will be welcome. We must find willing volunteers for these elected positions and our Committees to remain a viable organization.

I look forward to seeing you on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Joe Spruill

Let us remember what Theodore Roosevelt said: "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." It is time for us as a Chapter and as individuals to follow his great advice.

## Adjutant's Message



Although still on the binnacle list, improvement being measured in small steps while regaining a sense of balance and learning to walk, there has been plenty of time for reflection. Consideration of where I fit into the scheme of things and contemplation of the stand our forefathers might take in today's America.

Let me begin with Light Horse Harry Lee Camp coupled with Old Dominion Chapter 364, National Sojourners: My thanks to all who have stepped forth to see that our Camp continues to function properly and there is little embellishment that give more of an endorsement. My Chapter and Camp were and are participants in a war that is described in the next paragraph:

During those serene forty five nights in the hospital I finally recognized that there were literally hundreds of men and women who touched my life on a daily basis. From bedside there was the opportunity to observe what could be construed as a major war. One being fought on a multitude of fronts. One demanding precise communications and logistics on a daily basis. One where each of the participants discharged their duties in an outstanding manner seldom knowing the name of those whose lives were held in the palm of their hands. I stand in awe of these hero's who are seldom identified.

**Now back to Light Horse Harry Lee:** - During his years as a soldier, Light Horse Harry Lee had come to believe that the country could be safe only so long as the people possessed enough virtue to subjugate voluntarily their private interests to some conception of the public good. He had hoped that Americans would be inspired to emulate the patriotism of the early Romans by what they had accomplished in the Revolution. With Shays' Rebellion, these hopes began to fade. To friends Lee predicted

that the Confederation would have a "mob government for a time, which will terminate in despotism among ourselves or from abroad." Too much talk about the "exuberantly false and aborescently fallacious preamble" to the Declaration of Independence would transform democracy into mere leveling, with which "the reign of violence and anarchy would return." Demagogues might with political profit ring the changes upon the theme of equality. But (according to a paraphrase preserved by his eldest son, Henry Lee IV) he was convinced that institutions founded on such generalities and abstractions... "[were] like a splendid edifice built on kegs of gunpowder." Democracy when flavored by envy would strangle the Republic. Which is what his youngest son, Robert E. Lee, meant when he observed in disgust at the election of Abraham Lincoln that the country was "doomed to run the full length of democracy. To what a fearful pass it has brought us."

As a correction to the evident lack of public spirit in the population of his newly independent country, Henry Lee hoped for an energetic government resting upon the authority of a fundamental law and administered by a cadre of disinterested patriots who had proven up their character in war. Lee welcomed the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia as a step in the right direction. For it might produce a means of restraining the nation's drift toward disorder and disunion—the greatest threats to the public liberty. From the time when he first examined it, Lee supported the revision of fundamental Law proposed by the Great Convention.

At your service,

Ralph Smith

# 17 March 2010 Meeting Minutes



**Opening / Call to Order:** The February stated meeting of Old Dominion Chapter 364 National Sojourners was held in the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge No. 2188 at 8421 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax, VA 22031. We enjoyed an excellent dinner of corned beef and cabbage with lemon cake and most of all the fellowship that surrounded our membership. Attendance: 24. The Chapter was called to order by President Bro. Joe Spruill at 1950 hours. The Colors were posted by Brothers Woody Bentley, Mark Harford, Bill Sanner, and Les Albers, and our guest speaker Mark Ragan. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted. Brother Scotty Cameron delivered the Toast to the Flag and Chaplain Bro. Bill Turner offered the opening prayer. The Purposes of National Sojourners was delivered by Bro. Joe Spruill.

**Correspondence (Secretary Les Albers):** Mail received: Invoice for dues: LTC Loomis Dement. Invoices for: February newsletter, \$85; March newsletter, \$85; Feb/Mar newsletter Postage, \$80.98. Dues checks from: Gary Misch, Eugene Hastings, Ennis Vierick. Annual Convention Packets and attendance applications. Updated Roster Packet. South Johnston HS, AF Junior ROTC requested the NS award for their May ceremony. Email: Howard University requested a presenter at their award dinner.

**Secretary:** Minutes of the last meeting (17 February 2010) were approved by acclamation.

**Treasurer:** Checking account: \$2,716.45; Capitol One Money Market account \$8,981.10.

**Introductions and Welcome:** Members: Bro. Bill Turner, National 1st VP, Emeritus, PNC-Heroes ('03-04), Houghton Award ('99), Vandeventer Award ('09), PP, PC; Bro. Kent Webber, National Trustee; Bro. George Swick, National Officer, PP, PC; Bro. Scotty Cameron, Emeritus, PP, PC; Bro. Woody Bentley, NASOCOCO; CLMA; Chapter trustee, PC, PP; Past Presidents: Bill Sanner, Bill MacBrayne, Tom Little (Potentate); Past Commanders: Dan Levin, Les Albers.

**Program (2025-2110):** Bro. Les Albers and National Park Ranger Mark Ragan taught about the Irish War of Independence, 1919-1922. Les was dressed as a Black and Tan while Mark portrayed the West Cork Flying Column. The presentation included a host of uniforms and artifacts supplemented by a power point lesson.

**Commander LHHL (for:Woody Bentley):** Next Heroes Bivouac at Camp Collingwood: 31 March 2010. Social time: 1830, Dinner at 1900. Program: Woody will discuss military history.

## Committee Reports:

ROTC: Awaiting more responses for the National Sojourners Award. Americanism and BOL: Received invita-

tions for "Building the Flag" presentations: 23 March, Boy Scouts; 20 May, Thursday, 1800, Cherrydale Lodge; 12 July, Monday, with dinner, Haymarket Lodge.

Patti Turner briefed on the 1 May 2010 Camp Follower degree to be held at Fredericksburg's Washington's Cruiser Camp. Point of contact: Steve Sanford: [sanfordpm4@verizon.net](mailto:sanfordpm4@verizon.net).

**Programs:** No report.

Wellness and sadness: Ralph Smith: home and recovering from his procedures; Buddy Wagner. Recovering from surgery, George Harrington, Claire Bentley.

Collingwood (John Mayers): Facility clean up was scheduled for Saturday, 27 March. They are considering a "Donate a tree or shrub" program to compensate for storm damage. They are working with the National Park Service to install a street sign for CLMA. \$4,000 has been spent on storm related repairs. Open invitation to visit CLMA.

**Old business:** None.

## New Business:

1. Bro. Woody Bentley presented the results of the nominating committee:

President	Kent Webber
Vice President	Mark Harford
Secretary	Les Albers
Treasurer	Johnny Mayers
Commander	Woody Bentley
Chief of Staff	Ralph Smith
A/Chief of Staff	Tom Little
Officer of the Day	Rick Abell
Hospitality Chair	Joe Spruill
Americanism/	Ralph Smith
ROTC Chair Marshal	Woody Bentley
Chaplain	Les Albers

2. Woody Bentley: Its time to: Consider candidates for the CLMA medals. Consider rising Sophomores and Juniors for this summer's Freedom Foundation.

**President's remarks (Bro. Joe Spruill):** Next meeting: Wednesday, 21 April. Read the Monthly Sojourners magazine about the June Convention.

## Closing:

1. The gavel was passed to all.
2. Collection for Collingwood: \$28.
3. Chaplain Bro. Bill Turner gave the closing prayer, 2115.
4. The colors were retired in place.
5. Meeting closed at 2115.

At your service,

Les Albers

## Meeting Announcement



The next Chapter Meeting is on  
Wednesday, 21 April 2010, at the  
Arlington-Fairfax BPO Elks Lodge  
located at  
8421 Arlington Blvd (US 50), Fairfax, VA 22031.  
See the President's Memo regarding the location, or see  
map and driving directions on "Contact Us" page.

**Uniform of the Day: Casual**

Social Hour at 1830 hrs. Dinner at 1900 Hours

**The guest speaker will be Dennis Johnson who will discuss New Technologies being imported from Korea. It should prove to be a very interesting and exciting session.**

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, 18 April.



**National Sojourners Inc.  
Old Dominion Chapter #364**

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