

NATIONAL SOJOURNERS INC.



Old Dominion Chapter

February 2008

CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Ralph Smith

Ralph.Smith35@verizon.net

CAMP COMMANDER

Woody Bentley

Ciddad@aol.com

SECRETARY

Ronald A. Dooley

703-250-3402

patrond@earthlink.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Janine Chatfield

jchatfield@cox.net

WEB MASTER

H. Handley Ward, Jr.

handley.millie@aeitv.net

Chapter Home Page

<http://olddominionno364.net>

President's Comments

First let me reinforce the Commander's tug on the cabletow of our Sojourners and Heroes in support of the Bivouacs and ceremonies scheduled as noted in his comments elsewhere in this news letter.

Second, let us return once again to that bleak month of February in the year 1776 where our Brother, General George Washington had noted the month before that "The reflection upon my situation and that of this army produces many an uneasy hour when all around me are wrapped in sleep. Few people know the predicament we are in."

The strength of the army was still deficient, the situation so serious, Washington confided, that he was "obliged to use art to conceal it," even from his officers....

.....A British raiding party had crossed the ice to Dorchester and burned several farmhouses. On the February 16 Washington convened his council of war for what he hoped would be unanimous agreement that the time had come to attack....The council of war marked the fourth time Washington

had called for an attack on Boston, and once again, wisely, the generals said no.....The preceding excerpts were taken from David McCullough's "1776" and it is highly commended to your reading.

All of us are familiar with the days and months that followed to finally witness victory at Yorktown. What was the reaction of the populace as a whole since only about a third endorsed the revolution, while another third would have been happy to remain under the rule of king George and the remaining third willing to drift with the wind?

Let us be the one-third who set and stay the course using as our compass the Declaration and the Constitution which were made possible by our Brethren in 1776 and the years that followed.

Ralph W. Smith, Jr.
President

February Meeting Information

The next chapter meeting is on **Wednesday, February 20, 2008** at the Arlington-Fairfax BPO (US 50), Fairfax, VA 22031.

Uniform of the Day: **Business Attire/Uniform for officers**

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, February 18, 2008.**



Inside this issue:

- President's Message 1
- Commander's Message 2
- From the Secretary 3

Old Dominion Chapter #364

Commander's Message



Brethren:
FRATERNAL GREETINGS TO ALL.

The next few months, will be busy for all of us, getting ready for our Spring and Summer activities and getting our tax papers ready for our annual submission to the IRS. Certainly there must be an easier way.

Our Sojourner/Hero schedule will be busy as well. I hope that everyone has our Sunday, February 24th date together at Mt. Vernon to honor our fellow Mason and first President, George Washington. Gathering time at the front gate will be 08:30AM. This will be followed by a church service at Pohick Church and hopefully, fellowship over a lunch gathering. Please let me know if you plan to be there. Our Heroes bivouac scheduled for April 30 may morph into the Federal Area Encampment now scheduled for May 17 at Camp Collingwood. There we would 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. There will be more on that in my next newsletter.

At the last couple of meetings, I have put out a plea for those who wish to participate in uniformed ceremonies for Masonic or

other groups. To date, my only positive responses have come from President Ralph Smith, PP/PC Bill Sanner, Scotty Cameron, and Frank Dunaway. We have had a request from AW 22 to 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 am responding positively to the request with hope that I will not be disappointed by a lack of participants. Please let me know if you wish to assist in this event or any later request. Again, I wish to express my concern about the overall level of support from our members and their participation in our scheduled activities.

Please also remember that on Saturday, April 4, Collingwood Library and Museum on Americanism is hosting ROTC day for both Junior and Senior units served by the local Sojourner chapters. We will need Sojourners and Heroes to assist in managing this event. Please volunteer to me by telephone or email. You will be needed from 11AM to 4:30PM.

Thanks again to all of you for your support of the Light Horse Harry Lee Camp.

Woody Bentley
Commander

Brethren...

It has been a long while since we have asked those members receiving the Newsletter in hard copy if they should be receiving it via electronic means on the Web site.

Prior to a recent email announcement we were mailing 192 hard copies at 41 cents each totaling \$78.72 per month...this is before editor/copy expenses. We pay 5 cents per side to print and copy, and we have been averaging four pages in the newsletter totaling \$38.40 per month.

We had a known total of 40 members, who have email, who were receiving hardcopies, which represents \$16.40 each month, which totals \$196.00 per year we could be saving on costs. I have not included the costs per page/copy we pay for printing to National. As a result of the announcement, and some unfortunate circumstances, we have been able to remove 24 names...a whopping total savings of \$175.68 per year to the Chapter.

I realize there are those members who do not have printers or who just don't use their computer due to poor eyesight etc., no problem...otherwise, please let us know one way or the other ASAP if you could access the Web site just as easy, and save the Chapter further costs.

A BIG THANK YOU TO THOSE BROTHERS WHO RESPONDED.

Sincerely and Respectfully,
Ron Dooley
Your Secretary/Adjutant

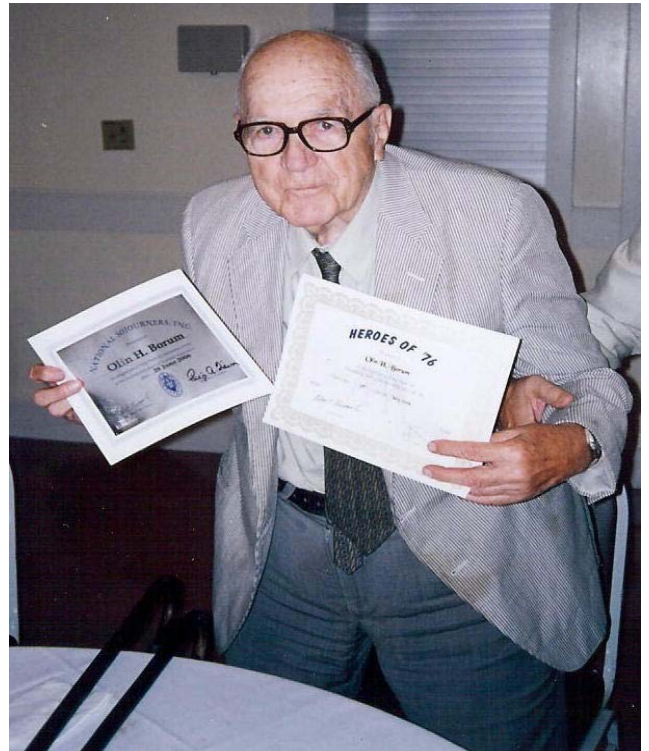
IN MEMORIAM

Bro. John C. Werner 11/12/21/2007

Bro. David C. Warburton 01/16/2008

Lady Margaret Webber 01/17/2008

Bro. Olin H. Borum 01/22/2008



M:W: Bro. Edmund Cohen, Grand Master in Virginia (08), receives the book *1776* by David McCullough, (Illustrated Edition) from Pres. Ralph Smith at the Old Dominion 364 business/dinner meeting on January 23, 2008.

Brethren...it is my very sad duty to report the discovery in this mornings Washington Post the death of Brother Olin Borum on January 22, 2008.

Bro. Borum was born 11/3/1917. He was a retired Lt. Col., USAF, with 31 years service. He joined the National Sojourners in January, 1955 at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Bro. Olin was an MIP and Hero of 76. He was recently honored by Old Dominion Chapter No. 364 for his continued 50 year service to the NSI and Heroes of 76. (Above) Bro. Borum was very active and served in several offices in the Chapter, and served on the National level to include the Committee of 33 as Chairman in 1969-71.

Bro. Olin is survived by three children and one granddaughter. Unfortunately there was no announcement of his services which were held on Saturday, January 26, 2008 at Everly Wheatly Funeral Home in Alexandria. Interment will be held on February 4 at 9:00 a.m. at Arlington National Cemetery with full Military Honors.

Regretfully,
Ron Dooley
Secretary/Adjutant

February 2008

From the Secretary's Desk

Minutes of the Meeting, January 23, 2008

Old Dominion Chapter No. 364 held its January dinner/business meeting at the Elks Lodge No. 2188 in Fairfax on Wednesday 1/23/08. Social hour began at 1800 hours and dinner was served at 1900 hours. Bro. Bill Sanner offered Grace and 26 members and guests enjoyed Chicken Cordon Bleu and sides with dessert.

Pres. Ralph Smith called the business meeting to order at 2000 hrs. Bro. Woody Bentley led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Bro. Bill Sanner Attended the Bible and presented the Opening Prayer. Bro. Scotty Cameron recited the Toast to the Flag in his normal excellent fashion, and Bro. Joe Spruill, 2nd VP, presented the Purposes of the National Sojourners.

Pres. Ralph Smith introduced all VIP members and ladies present, and this list will be filed with the minutes. Pres. Smith recognized M.:W.: Edmund Cohen, Grand Master in Virginia, and member of OD 364, speaker for the evening, and stated he would introduce him appropriately later.

Secretary's Desk: The minutes of the December 19, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved. The Secretary then cleared his desk with the following; a year-end report from the Web master, Bro. Handley Ward, indicated there were 2,374 accesses to the Old

Dominion web site for 2007, 616 of which were for the Newsletter, and 543 to view photos. Interestingly, there were 91 queries for the 2007 Essay Contest. A full access summary is on file and may be seen on the web site. A note (email) from Bro. Roy Ota, Past National Commander, reported that Bro. Leon Fleisher has relocated from Hawaii to Virginia due to health

problems. You may write or call him at the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington, The Wasserman Bldg, Room 216 West, 6121 Montrose Rd., Rockville, Md. 20852, phone 301-998-3936. His daughter, Jackie Wood, said this would mean a lot to him. We have numbers and an email address for Jackie should you need them. An email was received from a Miss Carla Cartagena who resides in North Pole, Alaska, via the OD 364 web site requesting information concerning the 2008 Essay Contest. In contacting Miss Cartagena, she was assisted in contacting the Polaris Chapter No. 369 where Pres. Paul Brodale received her Essay and filed it with National Headquarters. We all wish her luck. Bro. Dan Levin underwent knee surgery on 1/18/08 and we wish him quick recovery. An email was received from Bro. Kent Webber reporting that his wife, Margaret, passed away on 1/17/08 from (ALS) known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Pres.

Ralph Smith and Lady Dottie attended the afternoon viewing on 1/23/08. Lady Webber will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery on 2/25/08 at 1500 hrs. Several email pictures, one of which was of Bro. Bill Ellenberger, OD 364 MIP), were received from Bro. Jim Helt, California Area, South Regional Representative South in San Diego, CA, taken by his wife Sandy during Bro. Bill's 100th birthday celebration, and the presentation of the Legacy Brick purchased by OD 364 and Walter Reed 303. Please see the web site for those photos. An email was read from Bro Stavrakos requesting assistance from the brethren concerning his brother relocating to Colorado. Bro. Grant Graessle sent mail from Iraq advising he has been there four months and has met several PHA Masons and requested info regarding the recognition of PHA by the Grand Lodge in Virginia. He was advised GL of Virginia does recognize PHA, Inc. Pamphlet info has been received reference the 2008 Spirit of America Conference, 7/17-20/2008. Tuition is \$420.00 this year. Please contact the Secretary or National Headquarters for further information. National Regulation, No. 12.8, as amended, was received prescribing procedures for forming a "National Sojourners Club" for subsequent expansion into a Chapter. For full account of this Regulation,

please contact the Secretary or National. Notice was received of the passing of Bro. David C. Warburton, National Commander 2007-2008, on 1/16/2008. His wife Beth, 834 Lordshill Street, St. Louis, MO 63119-5457, survives him. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Sojourner's Endowment Memorial Fund at 8301 East Blvd. Dr., Alexandria, VA 22308. Total cost for the OD January Newsletter was \$204.31. The Secretary emailed a message to forty-one members who have email and asked whether they needed hard copies of the Newsletter. So far, twenty-three members have been removed for various reasons at a savings of \$168.36 a year. Please contact the Secretary if you do not require a hard copy. A message was sent out to all brethren announcing the passing of Bro. John C. Werner on 12/21/2007. Bro. John, DOB 7/20/1928, retired from the USN as a Captain. He joined the National Sojourners on 10/18/1982, was an MIP and Hero of 76. His lodge was Sharon Lodge #327, Mclean, Virginia. A letter of invitation was sent to a Bro. Robert McMurray, who was reported to have located in Fairfax Station, to attend our meetings. It was discovered on 1/27/08 that he now resides in South

Carolina and is not doing well. Finally, a check for \$148.00 collected by the members at the December meeting was sent to the Fisher House along with a letter.

Treasurers Report:

Bro. Ron Dooley reported we currently have \$1,393.30 in the regular account, and \$8,570.87 in savings.

Sick and Distressed:

Pres. Smith welcomed Bro. Ray Whitney back who has been suffering with leg ailments. Bro. Ray had to go to Hawaii to walk the sands for rehabilitation. Bro. Ray will undergo surgery in March. Bro. Bill Turner's mother, 94 years young in May, was admitted to the hospital in an exhausted state...they installed a pace maker and she contracted MYRSA infection plus additional staff infections and is now under treatment and observation. Bro. Howard Sobel announced he had spoken with Bro. Dan Levin and reported that Bro. Dan had a bad night after his knee surgery but is coming along. (Note: the Secretary spoke with Bro. Dan 1/29/08 and he is repairing well and looks forward to seeing all at the next meeting). Bro. Howard Sobel also visited Bro. Leon Fleisher (his 1st cousin) and reported that he is doing fine considering his age (90). Lady Pattie Turner reported cards sent for Bro. Webber, Lady Warburton, Lady Werner, Bro. Dan Levin, and Leon Fleisher.

Heroes: Commander Woody Bentley reported the January Bivouac has been cancelled. He further

reported we will honor Bro. George Washington on Sunday, 2/24/08 and all should report to the gate at Mt. Vernon at 0830. Once the wreath is laid, we will then retire to the Pohick Church on US Route 1.

New Business: Bro. Bill Turner reported that the Mid-winter meeting was very productive and progress was made. The one major item settled was the passing of a regulation permitting National Sojourners, Inc. to accept applications from PHA Masons who are recognized in the jurisdiction where the chapter resides if the Grand jurisdiction recognizes that particular PHA Grand Lodge as regular. It is important to understand that the Grand Lodge of Virginia recognizes only "PHA Inc.," thus regular. For further clarification on this issue, see *The Sojourner* magazine issue for Mar-Apr.

Program: Pres. Smith introduced MW Bro. Ed Cohen and invited him to the podium. MW Bro. Ed has selected his theme as "Virtue and Honor" this year and spoke to that theme stating he feels those are the two core values of Free Masonry. MW Bro. Ed asked the question "who among us exemplifies this any more than our veterans who serve our country?" He said these veterans have been away from their homes, separated from their families, and serving in grueling conditions and in too many cases paid the ultimate price. MW Bro. Ed asked that we never forget our veterans and their sacrifices. He further stated he

was proud to say the National Sojourners promote the needs of these veterans and keep alive the memory of our heroes. MW Bro. Ed then commented on leadership and its important role in Masonry, and the importance of having a vision, goal, and plan. "We must have these virtues in order to be an effective leader...Skill and talent are needed, along with trust to be effective...Trust must be a two-way street". Further, he said, a good leader will delegate and motivate others. Finally, a good leader shows character and courage by sharing the credit for good work and shouldering the blame when it goes bad. MW Bro. Ed's vision is for forty thousand Masons in Virginia to demonstrate "Virtue and Honor" through strengthening lodges, "and take a stand and do what is right."

Pres. Ralph Smith then thanked MW Cohen and presented him with the book *1776* by David McCullough, (Illustrated Edition). Pres. Smith also presented him with a check from the Chapter for \$100.00 for the Masonic Home. (See photo)

Pres. Smith passed the gavel and there were several comments. Bro. Frank Dunaway stated that Bro. Probyn Thompson is not doing well and we should keep him in our prayers. Bro. Joe Pruitt thanked the Secretary for saving the Chapter money regarding the Newsletter hard copies vs. electronic. Many thanked MW Bro. Ed Cohen for coming.

Closing: Bro. Bill Sanner Attended the Bible and presented the Closing Prayer. The meeting was closed at 2110 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Dooley
Secretary/Adjutant

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

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

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

