



National Sojourners Inc.

Old Dominion Chapter #364

CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Thomas G. Little

703-550-7089

Thomas_little@cox.net

CAMP COMMANDER

Lester H. Albers, Jr.

703-455-1405

AlbersLH@aol.com

CHAPTER SECRETARY

Vacant

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Janine Kovack

nationalsojourners@cox.net

WEB MASTER

H. Handley Ward, Jr.

handley.millie@aeitv.net.

Chapter Home Page

<http://olddominionno364.net>

President's Message

I would like to thank everyone for attending our January meeting of Old Dominion Chapter No. 364, National Sojourner's. Lady Margaret and I hope to see you at our upcoming meeting on February the 18th, 2009. As I wrote earlier, my computer decided to give up on me. I still haven't been able to get any of my files back from the hard drive. I have been able to borrow an office and computer to get caught up on a few emails.

If you can join us for our meeting we still 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. Our uniform is Coat and Tie for our members. If you haven't been to a meeting in a long time, please come back. If you have been a regular attendee at our meetings, thanks for your participation and loyalty to the unit we will see you once again on the 18th.

At the January meeting we heard from a wonderful Soldier who told us of his recent trips overseas defending our country. Brother James Nelson Sparks, Jr. told us some of his exciting adventures during his three tours in Iraq. Brother Sparks is a recent Entered Apprentice at Haymarket Lodge. Thank God for today's heroes who stand in the gap for the United States of America and us. We welcomed a new Sojourner to our ranks in January. Thanks to their sponsors and welcome to our new Sojourners.

In February, Lady Nancy Jordon will read some of her Grandfathers letters from the Civil War. Her ancestor wrote throughout his entire time in the service. From training to map-making to capture to exchange, an amazing time spent in the service. He wanted to entertain as well as inform and his letters show this particular quality. Lady Nancy has some incredible stories to relate to us. Come out and hear her at this month's program.

My lady and I want to thank each and every one of you who have taken your time through all these months to come and be with us at Old Dominion Chapter No. 364 of the National Sojourners. Our chapter is a great organization. It is great because of one important factor that ranks above all others, and that factor is its members. I am honored to come together with you for meetings, meals, and moments of friendship. If you have been kept from our meetings because of poor health please know that you remain in our thoughts and prayers. Come out to your meeting. We hope to see each of you soon.

"Thomas"

Inside this issue:

President	1
Commander	2
Minutes	2
Upcoming Events	4

Commander's Message

Thank you for your continued support for the Heroes and Americanism activities. Our January Bivouac was cancelled due to weather concerns.

This month we recall the salient events of January 1776. Virginian Daniel Morgan was captured on January 1st, after the attack on Quebec, Canada failed the day before. Brother General Richard Montgomery, the first American general officer to die in battle, had been killed leading the attack. On 15 January the influential pam-

phlet Common Sense was published by Thomas Paine. The Masonic membership of Paine has never been confirmed despite the publication of his "Origins of Freemasonry" after his death, his close association with American and European Freemasons, and the establishment of several Lodges in his name.

EIAR
Les

21 January 2009 Meeting Minutes

The January stated meeting of the Chapter was held in the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge No. 2188 at 8421 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax, VA 22031. An excellent dinner with an entrée of chicken breast was served at 1900 preceded by an hour of fellowship. The Chapter was called to order by President Tom Little at 2000 hours followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Brother Scotty Cameron delivered the Toast to the Flag and Chaplain Dan Clark offered the opening prayer. The Purposes of National Sojourners was delivered by President Little. Introductions included Frank Harris, PNP, PP, PC, Now President of CLMA; Scotty Cameron, Emeritus, PP, PC; Woody Bentley, NASOCOCO; CLMA, Chapter Trustee, PP, PC; Herb Hollander – President Arlington Hall Chapter 440 (meets at the Old Country Buffet for lunch on the 3RD Tuesdays); Ralph Smith, PP & Chapter Trustee and Les Albers, Commander Light Horse Harry Lee Heroes of '76.

Correspondence: Newly promoted Brother Captain Charles L. Moore, Jr., USN postal address: CMR 480 Box 521, APO AE 09128. Email clmoore5@yahoo.com. Brother Major Israel Romero, newly assigned Chief of Plans, Division West HQ, Fort Carson, CO. (Email available upon request.)

The Secretary's minutes of the December meeting were hastily approved by voice vote as published in the news letter.

The Treasurer's report was delayed until the February meeting, he being absent following attendance at the Mid-Winter conference and extended travel.

New Member – Initiation: Brother Mark Harford, having been previously elected to Old Dominion Chapter No. 364 sponsored by President Tom Little, was escorted to the podium by Marshal Pro Tem Joe Spruill

where, the Purposes of National Sojourners having been delivered at the opening of the Chapter, the Sojourners Lecture given by Bro. Kent Webber and the Obligation administered by President Little. The American Creed was recited in unison with Bro. Harford led by President Little and Bro. Joe Spruill gave the Sojourner Medal Lecture following which President Tom extended the Right Hand of Fellowship to our newest member.

Program: By Brother James Nelson Sparks, Jr., E/A of Hay Market Lodge No. 313: Married, father of three, USMC 1983 – 1988, Fairfax County Police 1988 to present. In 2004 Voluntarily enlisted (C.O. wanted to know if he was on the run from the law.) in Army National Guard when the Marine Corps told him he was out too long to 're-up'. Completed two tours to the Mid-East – Afghanistan and Iraq. Shared with us insight into the two platoons he was with. The second tour where he had his own platoon of 24, the youngest was 17 and turned 18 when "in-country". His praise for the youth was evident throughout his stirring presentation. We were honored when he said that it was the service of the men of the Chapter present who inspired him to step forward and go the extra mile.

Old Business: Secretary's position still in need of a permanent occupant....Our Web Master, Bro. Handley Ward who has done an outstanding job must step down. Replacement sought....Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference to be held at Valley Forge Freedoms Foundation July 16 – 19 2009 with tuition remaining at \$420.00 (National Americanism Committee is picking up the extra \$10.00 for at total of \$430.00). We need nominees!

New Business: Wreath Laying at Mt. Vernon on

Sunday, 22 February 0830 followed by services at Pock Church – coffee at 1015 – services 1115... Washington's pew and two others reserved for participants... Grand Master Jeffery Eugene Hodges is expected to attend in Colonial Uniform.

Commander LHHL: Next BIVOUAC 01/28/09 at Collingwood. Program for the Camp Followers: Videos: a.) Deborah Sampson, Revolutionary War Hero and b.) History of Pocahontas.

Training program for the Heroes: Power point Biography of Harry Lee by Les Albers, Initiation by Woody Bentley, Building the flag, Patriotic flags and Red, White and Blue Ceremony by Bill Turner, Color Guard and Musket Drill, Les Albers.....Hoagies for the main course, dessert - RSVP alberslh@aol.com,

Wreath Laying at Mt. Vernon on Sunday, 22 February 0830. The next Bivouac - 04/29/09.

Note that Light Horse Harry Lee Camp received Kudos from AW-22 for participation as color guard for their installation on December 27. Thanks Cdr. Les Albers, Bro's. Scotty Cameron and Ralph Smith.

Mid Winter Conference - Interim Report by Bro. Woody Bentley: 1.) Next years Mid Year has been moved to Mobile, Alabama from Pensacola, FL due to hotel issues. 2.) The Mid Year Meeting operates as an informal business meeting almost no ceremonies and no formal events. Number of committees meeting is also reduced. Due to the limited numbers of attendees and difficulty in finding appropriate venues, there is a possibility that in 2011 the meeting site will be Collingwood, and the activities extremely limited to business only. The final decision will be announced at the annual convention. 3.) It has been recommended that the Bridge of Light (Masonic Presentations) and Americanism (Public Presentations) committees be combined. This is due to the similarity of functions, reporting issues, and some confusion of roles. Many Chapters have already done this including OD364. 4.) Future nominations to the National Line will include a number of prerequisites such as number of years in NSI, the participation in National Committees or leadership roles, and other criteria. 5) The 2009 Annual Convention will be held in Indianapolis, IN. Since we have a number of National Officers as members and they can not act as Chapter Delegates, it is necessary that we have rank and file representation. Members are encouraged to consider attendance at the National Convention, especially newer members to see the full scope of NSI ac-

tivities. See, call or write Bro. Woody for details. 5.) Following the lead of many of our Grand Jurisdictions, the Committee of 33 has recommended that the Nation Sojourners financially support the Masonic Service Organization with funds directed to support our veterans. An effort to set this in motion is under way.

Wellness and Sadness: Thanks to Lady Patti Turner for the input. Lady Ginny Harford, wife of our newest member, recovering from gall bladder surgery. Bro. Mark gave a quick run down on how the evolution progressed and relayed that his sense of humor is not what Ginny thinks it should be. She expects to be home by the end of the week. Lady Debbie Keithley recovering following a heart attack. Bro. Maj. Gen. James M. Roberts, USA deceased - Funeral at Ft. Myer 3/12/2009 at 1300 hrs. Mrs. Virginia Turner, mother of Bro. Bill Turner, died 01/11/2009. Bro. Phil Tilson, PNP, PP, PC died 01/18/09. Mr. Calvin S. Bene' Corporal, USMC (Reserve), April 1942-23 February 1946 Pacific Theater of Operations, father-in-law of Bro. Les Albers passed away. (Donations requested by the families to the SEM Fund for Mrs. Turner and Bro. Tilson) The Chapter voted to donate \$50.00 each in their names.

Closing:

The gavel was passed to all, the Chaplain gave the closing prayer and the Chapter closed at 2110.

There were twenty (20) in attendance of which two were compensated: (Brother Mark Harford initiated this evening and Bro. Jim Sparks, Entered Apprentice of Hay Market Lodge No. 313, guest speaker.) A check to the Elks Lodge in the sum of \$240.00 was delivered for dinner.

Donations to Collingwood totaled \$64.00 and an additional \$16.00 for the Chapter was received after the Chapter was closed.

All please note that subsequent to our January 21 meeting, I was "copy to" on an email from Bro. Bill Turner asking in essence that any sins of omission that may have occurred in his processing of previous Chapter Minutes be granted absolution. I would expect nothing less from the Masonic side of the House.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Ralph W. Smith Jr., P.P.
Secretary Pro Tem

Meeting Announcement

The next Chapter Meeting is on
Wednesday, 18 February 2009, at the
Arlington-Fairfax BPO Elks Lodge
located at 8421 Arlington Blvd (US 50), Fairfax, VA 22031.

Uniform of the Day: Business Attire

CIVIL WAR LETTERS by Nancy Jordon

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
by the end of the day on Sunday, 15 February.



National Sojourners Inc.

Old Dominion Chapter #364

MSGT Thomas G. Little
8315 Stationhouse Court
Lorton, VA 22079-1200

