

NATIONAL SOJOURNERS, INC.

# Old Dominion Chapter #364

February 2007



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## President's Remarks

February is going to be Masonic Family month at Old Dominion, No. 364. But before we get to hear our inspirational speaker we will first need to conduct some business. I need to know the preference of the Chapter with regard to the continued meeting at the American Legion Post in Springfield. This answer may be influenced by the quality of the meal this month. The Legion is shifting to using an in house chef rather than a caterer this month and additionally has stated that the minimum cost they can accept is \$17 per person in order to not lose money. All of us recognize that there has been a jump in costs for food recently resulting from the impact of increased fuel charges. The question then is to continue at the \$20 per person with a reduced margin, which may ultimately impact our budgeted expenditures, or to increase the cost for our member attendees? If we increase should it be the \$2 difference between the new and old cost maintaining our margin or should it be more or less? Never a lack of issues to deal with. If we decided to move where would we go? We are on a month to month basis at Springfield, without a current contract. Once we make a decision I recommend we initiate a contract and lock in our status, wherever we are. My personal view absent any additional facts, is to stay where we are, increase to \$22, and move on. We still are not paying a parking expense and do not have a separate room rent. I encourage anyone with comments on this subject to attend the February meeting. As I say every month, we are looking for new members as well as encouraging our current members to come out to the monthly meeting. We miss seeing our members who we have not seen in

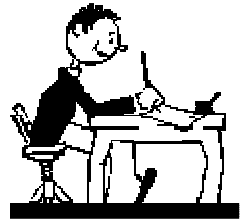
a while. If we could be sure of a larger attendance we could forgo increasing our cost, but then we might have to move for need of a bigger room, oh to have such concerns! See you on February 21<sup>st</sup>.

Your President,  
Bill Sanner

### The Annual George Washington's Birthday Recognition and Wreath Laying!

Sojourners, Heroes, guests and companions, please remember the honoring at Mount Vernon on February 25<sup>th</sup>. We will gather at the gate to Mount Vernon starting at 8:30 AM, stepping off in formation at 9:00 AM and processing to the George Washington Gravesite led by Heroes of '76 in uniform, followed by the Sojourners and guests. Once there the Grand Master of Virginia and your President will have a few words to say before laying the ceremonial wreath in honor of our Brother and Father of our Country, George Washington. At the completion of this brief ceremony we will again process back to the main gate where we will disperse. Those who wish are invited then to attend the morning service at Pohick Church where Brother George Washington attended when he was in the area. This is a proud tradition that has been followed for many years by Old Dominion Chapter and I hope you will join with us in continuing this tradition this year. See you on the 25<sup>th</sup>!

## Light Horse Harry Lee Camp, Heroes of '76 COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



### FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK...

#### Minutes of the Meeting, January 17, 2007

President Bill Sanner sounded the dinner gavel of attention at 1900 hours and Bro. Les Albers, Acting Chaplain, offered grace. We were served meatloaf with sides and baklava for desert. So So!

Again, at 1945 hrs, Pres. Sanner sounded the gavel calling the meeting to order with 37 members and guests present. The Colors were in place and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Bro. Albers attended the Bible and presented the Opening Prayer. Bro. Scotty Cameron recited the Toast to the Flag and Bro. Ralph Smith, 1st VP, presented the Purposes of the National Sojourners.

Pres. Sanner then introduced special guests MW George Bernard Dungan, Grand Master of Virginia, and RW Bro. Ed Cohen (Judge Advocate for OD 364), Deputy Grand Master of Virginia, DDGM's Bill Mitchell (1A), Kevin Davidson (3), and Masters Joe Bongiovi (Daylight 1752), Blane Adcock (Andrew Jackson 120), and Bro. Doug Jordan (TD Smith, Research1949). All VIP Chapter members present were introduced accordingly, and all our ladies stood and were applauded enthusiastically.

**Secretary:** The minutes for the December meeting were unanimously approved.

The Secretary reported the passing of Bro. Earl R. Smith, DOB 8/26/1913, MIP on 12/17/2006. A letter was read from Bro. Tom Copes concerning monetary and other assistance needed for the National Convention 6/13-17/2007...any questions pertaining to same please contact Bro. Tom at 757-833-6227. A letter was mailed to Mrs. Mary Strehle thanking her for the Bethel 1 choir presentation at our December meeting. An invite letter was sent (with a newsletter) to Bro. Charles Stafford who just moved to the area. An email was sent notifying all that Bro. Dan Levin underwent a hernia operation on 1/15/07 and is doing well at home. There were no petitions and no actions.

**Treasurers Report:** As of 1/17/07, we have \$2568.25 in the account...and \$8192.43 in savings. Report made by Bro. Ron Dooley for John Mayers, Treasurer.

**Essay Contest:** Bro. Dooley reported we have one application from one of the Jobs Daughters from Bethel 1...it was mailed directly to National Headquarters last week for action.

On January 30th we found two suspicious characters lurking around Camp Collingwood and found them to be desirous of becoming Heroes. We found that they were in fact, Rekruits and therefore they did conform to the necessary requirements and had no trouble in crossing the "D". Brothers Ormsbee and Silver did well and were made Heroes. Brother Silver was a courtesy from Seth Warner Camp #440. big thanks to all who participated.

We have been requested to provide the Color Guards for the upcoming wreath layings at Mt. Vernon on February 25th by our Chapter and also the Tall Cedars requested our assistance on March 18th at the same location. More details at the Chapter meeting on February 21st..

Please make a note in your calendar that our next Bivouac will be on Thursday, March 29th. Libations at 6 PM and dinner at 6:30 PM

Just in case you't read this notice before, I will give it out again:  
The Annual Spring Work Day at Collingwood is on Saturday, April 7th commencing at 0830. If we do good, I understand there will be an outstanding lunch provided. Please make every effort to come out and help.

Dan Levin, Commander



Pres. Bill Sanner presenting Certificate Of Appreciation to MWor. George B. Dungan, Grand Master of Virginia

**Heroes:** Commander Dan Levin asked that the Bivouac at Ft. Collingwood on 1/30/07 be announced and that we do have a recruit. By popular demand, we will have Chinese food again and the costs will be \$15.00 per person. Spaghetti will return next January when Dan Levin is out of office...he finds it too much to prepare dinner and conduct a meeting.

**Announcements:** Bro. Harry Sanders asked that we all mark our calendars for April 7, 2007 for the annual Spring Work Day at Collingwood. Start time is 0830 and steak will be served for lunch.

**New Business:** Pres. Sanner announced that when he took office he signed a proposed contract with the food manager at the American Legion Hall, which apparently never materialized and now does not exist. We now have new management, and of course, no contract, and they claim they cannot break even at the \$15.00 per meal we have been paying and want \$20.00. Pres. Sanner refused this offer and it was agreed to continue meeting there at \$17.00 per plate using the Legion's chef. In addition, we will be assigned the smaller room because the larger room was given to a bingo group. Our maximum capacity in the small room will be around 48 people. Pres. Sanner will bring this up for thorough discussion at the next meeting.

Further business...Pres. Sanner suggested that the Chapter make a donation to the Masonic Home in honor of our visiting guest, MW George B. Dungan, Jr., Grand Master of Virginia. There was no objection to this and a hat was stationed in the back for that purpose.

**Program:** Pres. Sanner introduced MW G.B. Dungan who thanked the Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro. Ed Cohen, and all the DDGM's and Masters for attending, and he especially thanked all the ladies. The theme of MW Dungan's talk was, in his words, "Masonic Greatness." He said in part..."Although it is a natural thing for any individual to aspire to greatness in any endeavor, success in Free Masonry is a unique attainment. Leveling in the Masonic sense does not mean stepping down from any professional or social position, but it simply means there is no graduating scale of importance in Free Masonry. Every Mason should aspire to Masonic greatness...every initiate is equal to any other who makes the same journey...We are all guilty of paying too much honor to the achievements of man in secular rights and too little to the daily demonstrations of Masonic living that makes for the kind of greatness that forever lives in humans... I've noticed that in most cases the noble sacrifices and good deeds of the average Mason go unnoticed and unsung...all too often the flowers of recognition to give go up to those that the world calls famous...and forget the ones who persevere against the greatest odds. I'm simply trying to point out to you that worldly success does not make a Mason great, it merely humbles him."

The Grand Master was applauded with a standing ovation and all came to order. Pres. Sanner then presented MW

Dungan with a Certificate of Appreciation, and a donation will be made to the Masonic Home.

**Closing:** There being no further business the President passed the gavel. Bro. Bill Williamson announced that if all goes well construction should start on the new building at Collingwood in September and be ready a year from April. He said the building would hold 200 people for a dinner meeting. Bro. Bill Simmons asked that God continue to bless America and look over our troops. Bro. Joe Spruill, 3rd VP, thanked all for their patience with him as stand-in treasurer...and he thanked all who called and emailed early to reserve for dinner as it really helped.

Acting Chaplain Bro. Les Albers presented the Closing Prayer and closed the Bible. The meeting was officially closed at 1940 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Dooley  
Secretary/Adjutant

**Wisdom**

The lodge treasurer phoned the Master late one night and excitedly reported that the Audit Committee had found that the Charity Fund was \$3000.00 short. "What shall I do?" he asked. The Master, as the true representative of Wisdom, calmly replied... "Put it back!"

*The Lighter Side of Masonry*  
by Stewart M.L. Pollard

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OLD DOMINION CHAPTER #364**

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## **February Meeting Information**

The next chapter meeting is on **Wednesday, February 21, 2007**, at 1830 hours at the American Legion Post 176, located at 6520 Amherst Avenue in Springfield.

**Make your reservations through Brother JOE SPRUILL**, Chairman of Membership/Call Committee, at: [J\\_S22309@yahoo.com](mailto:J_S22309@yahoo.com) or cell: 703-615-6275. Or notify your Calling Committee Member. Dinner cost: \$20.00 per person.

**DEADLINE IS 1200 HOURS, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2007!**

The next Heroes Bivouac will be held at Collingwood on Thursday, March 29, 2007.  
Dinner will be served at 1830 hours.