

NATIONAL SOJOURNERS INC.



Old Dominion Chapter

January 2008



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Chapter Home Page

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President's Comments

Who are these Sojourners that left the West and Traveled East?

Returning by car one day to Fairfax, just east of Paris on Route 50 starting abeam of Snake Den Road and on toward Middleburg, I began to look for the stone walls that had been erected along the farm frontage so many years ago. There are no two stones in them that are the same and yet they form a useful, beautiful and complete whole.

The thought came to my mind that our Sojourners membership is much like those stone fences – no two members are alike and yet that which each contributes to our Chapter and society of friends and Brothers combines to make an outstanding organization. Just as the Mason who constructed those stone fences saw something useful in each and every stone, large and small, so has the Supreme Architect implanted in each of us a unique talent that can be applied to the tenant of Brotherly Love which admonishes us to aid, support and protect each other.

The day we quit learning is the day we start dying. Each of us has something to

contribute to the Chapter and I wonder how many of you, like myself, have had a problem solved, a fear put down or a day salvaged just by the casual communication enjoyed at a meeting. Come share your experience. As Bill Cosby says "Be careful. You might learn something."

Ralph W. Smith, Jr.
President

IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to report the death of Bro. John C. Werner II, on 12/21/2007. DOB 7/20/1928, Captain USN retired, joined National Sojourners 10/18/1982, MIP, Hero of 76. Bro. Werner's sponsor was Robert W. Thompson who passed away in 1999. Bro. Werner's lodge was Sharon Lodge #327 in Mclean, VA.

January Meeting Information

The next chapter meeting is on **Wednesday, January 23, 2007**, at the Arlington-Fairfax BPO Elks Lodge located at 8421 Arlington Blvd (US 50), Fairfax, VA 22031.

Make your reservations through Brother Joe Spruill, at Joe.Spruill@yahoo.com or call: 703-615-6275. Or notify your Calling Committee Member. Dinner cost: \$20.00 per person. **DEAD-LINE IS 1200 HOURS, MONDAY, January 21, 2007!**

UNIFORM OF THE DAY: Business Attire

Social one hour before dinner. Dinner at 1900 hours in Fairfax Room (on Lower Floor of Lodge).

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Old Dominion Chapter #364

Commander's Message



FRATERNAL NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS TO ALL. I pray that all brethren and their families had a joyful Christmas and are looking forward to a full and challenging new year. We were most fortunate to have active Old Dominion Chapter members and Light Horse Harry Lee Camp Heroes attend our meetings and assist in our programs. My deepest thanks and appreciation are extended to those who took the time to participate. Thank you for your support of both the President and me.

In my October newsletter column, I did express my great concern that the overall level of support from our members and their participation in our scheduled activities. I do not want to repeat the details. I simply want to again ask those of you who have not participated recently to take a hard look at your many commitments and try to find a way to support your Camp and Chapter when it is within the length of your cable tow.

Please schedule and place in your calendars three dates in the coming months, where your participation is vital:

The next Light Horse Harry Lee Camp bivouac will be held at Camp Collingwood at 6:30PM on Wednesday, Jan. 30. We do not have a rekrut as several candidates have advised us they do not wish to participate at this time. Please help me in identifying future eligible candidates.

The George Washington Ceremony at Mount Vernon is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 24, reporting time to the front gate at Mt. Vernon is 8:30AM. We will follow the ceremony with attendance at the Pohick Church service at 210:30AM, sitting in the George Washington pew. Perhaps we can all go to lunch together.

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.

As many of you know, we have lost many of the key Heroes who led and participated

in our Heroes ceremonies presented to fellow Masons and others. I need to have a list of those willing to assist in continuing the fine tradition of OD365 in providing these ceremonies. Please let me know if you will volunteer in the future. We need help.

I look forward to working with all of you in 2008 and will appreciate your support of the Light Horse Harry Lee Camp.

Woody Bentley
Commander



L-r: Pres. Ralph Smith, Bro. Bill MacBrayne, Bro. Nelson Newcombe



The New Horizons: 1st Violin – Madison Lee, 2nd Violin – Shannon Hemmer, Viola – Zachary Thayer, Cello – Alexander Scheetz, Harp – Katherine Scheetz. Music Teacher and Mom – Mrs. Amana Scheetz.



L-r: Janine Chatfield ,Bro. Nelson Newcombe

January 2008

From the Secretary's Desk

Minutes of the Meeting, December 19, 2007

Thirty-two members and guests, plus five young musicians, came together on Wednesday, December 19, 2008 in the Fairfax Room of the Elks Lodge in Fairfax to enjoy an evening of good food, good music, and goodwill. The dinner bell was rung at 1900 hours, Chaplain Bro. Dan Clark offered Grace, and all enjoyed a meal of beef stroganoff and sides with great desserts, all while listening to a beautiful young string ensemble, The New Horizons. Pres. Smith's granddaughter, Madison Lee, was the 1st Violin. Others ere...Shannon Hemmer - 2nd Violin, Zachary Thayer - Viola, Alexander Scheetz - Cello, and Katherine Scheetz - Harp. Mrs. Amanda Scheetz is the music teacher and - MOM. (See photo)

President Bro. Ralph Smith called the business meeting to order at 2005 hours. Bro. Woody Bentley led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Bro. Dan Clark attended the Bible and presented the Opening Prayer. Bro. Bill Sanner did a great job reciting the Toast to the Flag, and Bro. Tom Little, 1st VP, presented the Purposes of the National Sojourners.

Pres. Smith introduced all VIP's and ladies present, including newly installed Wor. John P. Clair, Master of Cherrydale No. 42, 2008, and Ms. Janine Chatfield, our Chapter newsletter editor, and secretary for Na-

tional Headquarters at Collingwood. He also introduced the New Horizons ensemble at this time. (See above)

Secretary's Desk: The minutes of the November meeting were unanimously approved. The Secretary then recognized the following mail etc: An invitation from John Clair for his installation on 12/14/07. A thank-you card (11/26/07) from Mrs. Renee Malzahn, Secretary from National Headquarters, for inviting her and husband Dave for the Nov. meeting. A letter (11/06/07) from James E. Vann, National President, re: a special meeting for 01/19/08, at the Mid-Winter meeting in Texas, for the purpose of a report from the Special Commission on the relationship of NSI and Prince Hall Masonry. A follow-up letter (11/26/07) from Nat. Pres. James Vann re: an opinion of the National Judge Advocate ordering that the NSI will follow the lead of the Grand Lodge having jurisdiction over its location concerning PHM. (Order expires 6/21/08) We have a new MIP, LTC Bro. Kenneth M. Elliott, Jr. The costs for the Newsletter for November were \$210.28. A letter from our newest honorary member, Bro. William Stavrakos, advising us he has relocated to Colorado and wishing the best to all. A letter from the National Secretary 12/05/07 announcing the resignation of Larry Lisle from NSI and demit from all Masonry. A

letter was sent (11/20/07) to Bro. Bruce Nelson, Secretary for Walter Reed Chapter No. 303, with a \$100.00 check to be used for the purchase of a CLMA brick in honor of Bro. William Ellenberger. Finally, a letter was sent (12/06/07) via email re: Larry Lisle's situation to all brethren.

Treasurers Report: Bro. Johnny Mayer reported that we have \$1294.73 in the regular account, and in the saving account, we have \$8570.87.

Committee Reports:

Americanism Reports: The officers will decide how we are going to proceed with that function without the Chairman, Larry Lisle, and let the body know later.

Membership: Bro. Joe Spruill, 2nd VP, reported there were no actions.

Programs: Pres. Smith reminded all that we have moved the January meeting up to January 23, 2008, to accommodate the Grand Master who will be our speaker. This also allows the info from the Mid-Winter meeting to filter in. In addition, for the February meeting we will have a WWII Veteran who is a member of the "Military's Youngest Warriors." Dan Kriss was 14 years old when he joined the Navy in 1943 and ended up on a destroyer. Very interesting story.

ROTC: Nothing to report until later in the Spring.

Sick and Distressed: Lady Patti Turner (not present) reported that she sent cards to Bro. John Mayers, and

Ladies Connie Dunaway and Ruth Harrington. Bro. Ralph Smith reported that Bro. Ray Whitney had pneumonia for two weeks and is recovering, and that Bro. Phil Tilson is doing better. Lady Lois Cameron had an episode on this evening and is in the hospital. (Later, tests/reports showed she was OK for now.) Bro. Harry Sanders announced that we should keep our National Commander in our prayers as he is fighting cancer at present.

Heroes: Bro. Commander Woody Bentley reported that our next Heroes meeting is on 01/30/08, and that 02/24/08 is the annual Wreath Laying ceremony at Mt. Vernon in honor of Bro. George Washington. Bro. Woody stated that any requests for participation in any future events should be directed to him in absence of Larry Lisle and he will reply accordingly. Bro. Pres. Ralph Smith asked if there were any items or accoutrements in the possession of Larry Lisle we need to retrieve...there were none noted with the exception of flags...that will be checked further.

New Business: The Secretary reported we have a 25 year Hero of 76 qualified for a certificate and pin...Bro. William U. MacBrayne. Bro. Bill joined NSI as an honorary member on 02/18/1981 (received 25 year certifi-

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SGT Ronald A. Dooley, Secretary
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cate and pin) and crossed the “D” for Heroes of 76 on 9/29/82. Bro. Bill is a Past President and Commander. His sponsor is Bro. Nelson Newcombe, National Secretary/Adjutant. Bro. Nelson presented Bro. Bill with his certificate and pin along with some comments. The president thanked Bro. Bill for all the dedication and years he has invested. All applauded. (See picture)

Bro. Bill Sanner made a motion we pass a hat around and collect a Christmas gift for the Fisher House. The motion was approved, and a collection was made. There is at least one Fisher House™ at every major military medical center to assist families in need and to ensure that they are provided with the comforts of home in a supportive environment. You may access their site at www.fisherhouse.org

There being no further business, Pres. Ralph Smith passed out Christmas song sheets, and all sang a few Christmas favorites while Santa came in (Bro. Bob Williams, Quantico Chapter #44) and passed gifts out to all. Bro. Ralph then told a story from 1955 when he was flying on a mission near Taiwan and had Santa in the back seat forty miles from the ship. Bro. Ralph radioed in that he was closing in on an unidentified craft and was charging his guns. When the ship called for further info Ralph informed them it was a sled with tiny reindeer...the reply was not printable.

Closing: The gavel was passed around and several Christmas wishes were expressed. All expressed a big thank-you to Santa for appearing and making our meeting appropriately festive. The Chaplain closed the Bible and presented the Closing Prayer, the Closing song was sung by all, and the meeting was adjourned at 2105 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ronald A. Dooley
Secretary/Adjutant

BRETHREN MASTERS

Congratulations to our Grand Master, M^Wor Edmund Cohen, installed Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, on November 10, 2007, and our Bro. John Clair, installed on December 14, 2007 as Wor. Master, Cherrydale No. 42, and Bro. Douglas Wood, installed on December 27, 2007 as Wor. Master, Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22.