



National Sojourners Inc.

Old Dominion Chapter #364

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President's Message

Brother Sojourners,

First, I hope you all had a very happy and safe celebration of our Nation's Independence! And, I hope that this note finds you well and enjoying the (so far) pleasant DC summer.

Last month, I sent you a rather blunt "President's Message". My message was about "renewal"...a theme that I will continue through the year. We must address our commitment to OD 364 through a focus on renewal...of participation, of service and of membership.

I was greatly pleased to see the membership respond to this call. At our meeting in June we had 27 Sojourners, Ladies and guests 27 in attendance. That is more than double what we had the month before. 27 is a good start, but with the size of our membership, we can do better!

In my message last month I mentioned a number of leadership/committee positions that need to be filled. I am pleased to announce that we have a relief for our webmaster, Handley Ward. Bro. Mark Harford, 3rd VP,

has stepped up to the plate and agreed to take this on. We continue to have vacancies in the Americanism/Bridge of Light Committee, Membership/Calling Committee, and Program Committee chairs.

This month our 1st VP has arranged for a great program. We will be honored to have a presentation on "Midget Submarines at Pearl Harbor" by CAPT John Rodgaard, USN (Ret), a former Naval Intelligence officer and currently with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. I think you'll find this a fitting program to accompany our "Hawaiian Shirt Night". I hope to see you there!

Bring a friend. Even better, bring a potential candidate for membership! Remember...renewal is also about finding our reliefs!

Again, I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, July 15th.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Joe Spruill

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Commander's Message

First, let me extend my appreciation to all for allowing me to serve as Commander, Light Horse Harry Lee Camp, for the ensuing year. Nothing will be accomplished except as a group endeavor and to this end I earnestly solicit your help and assistance.

Our Bivouac's are scheduled for Wednesday 29 July, Wednesday 30 September, Wednesday January 27, 2010 (moved from Dec) and Wednesday 31 March 2010. Meetings to be held at Collingwood pending their approval.

I also encourage you to support the Seth Warner Camp, Heroes of '76 of Arlington Hall 440 Chapter. N.S. They meet at 1130 hours on the 3rd Tuesdays of the month at the Old Country Buffet 9650 Main St. Fairfax (across from W.T. Woodson High School). By joining forces we can accomplish many of our goals that would otherwise be out of reach.

Now, return with me to the month of July in the year 1776 and recall the following: "During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the American colonies from Great Britain occurred on July 2, 1776, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a Committee of Five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the Declaration, finally approving it on July 4. A day earlier, John Adams had written to his wife Abigail:

"The second day of July, 1776, will be the most

memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

Adams' prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.

One of the most enduring myths about Independence Day is that Congress signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The myth had become so firmly established that, decades after the event and nearing the end of their lives, even the elderly Thomas Jefferson and John Adams had come to believe that they and the other delegates had signed the Declaration on the fourth. Most delegates actually signed the Declaration on August 2, 1776. In a remarkable series of coincidences, both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, two founding fathers of the United States and the only two men who signed the Declaration of Independence to become president, died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the United States' 50th anniversary. President James Monroe died exactly five years later, on July 4, 1831, but he was not a signatory to the Declaration of Independence." - wikipedia

IEAR

Ralph W. Smith Jr.

17 June 2009 Meeting Minutes

I. Opening / Call to Order

The June 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 Mexican food with apple pie for dessert and most of all the fellowship that surrounded our membership.

The Chapter was called to order by President Joe Spruill

at 1930 hours followed by the Posting of the Colors by Marshall Woody Bentley and color bearers Ray Whitney, Howard Sobel, Dan Levin, and Les Albers and the Pledge of Allegiance. Brother Scotty Cameron delivered the Toast to the Flag and Chaplain Bill Turner offered the opening prayer. The Purposes of National Sojourners was delivered by President Spruill.

Correspondence (Reviewed by Secretary Les Albers):

1. \$100 check from Anacostia Lodge #21 for the Building of the Flag Program presented on 1 June by Heroes Jerry Kunkle, Buddy Wagner, and Les Albers.

2. Notice from National of two Sojourners who they recommend we should contact.

Secretary: Minutes of the last meeting (May 20, 2009) were approved by acclamation (printed copies were available.)

Treasurer: Reported \$3,775.92 in the checking account and \$8,910.95 in the CapitolOne Money Market account.

Commander LHHL (Commander Ralph Smith):

1. Heroes Bivouac dates at Camp Collingwood: July 29, September 30, December 30, 2009 and March 31, 2010 .

2. Commander Smith is working with Arlington 440 to combine our Bivouacs.

Introductions and Welcome : Bro. Bill Turner, National 2nd Vice President, Past National Commander and Lady Patti; Potentate Howard Sobel; Brother Ed Arndt, Emeritus, PP, PC; Bro. Woody Bentley, NASOCCO; CLMA; Chapter Trustee, PP, PC and Lady Claire; Bro. Scotty Cameron, Emeritus, PP, PC; Bro. Kent Webber, National Trustee; Bro. Bill MacBrayne, PP; Bro. Thomas Little, Past President and Lady Margaret; Commander Ralph Smith, PP, Chapter Trustee and Lady Dorothy; Bro. Dan Levin, PC; Bro. Les Albers, PC; Bro. John Mayers, Treasurer.

Committee Reports:

1. ROTC (Commander Smith): Chapter presented 17 Americanism Awards and four Excellence in Patriotism Awards.

2. Sick and distressed: Chair, Lady Patti Turner & All

a. A remembrance card will be sent to Janet Duckworth upon the passing of her husband John.

b. Bro. Smith described the Masonic funeral for Bro. John Duckworth.

c. Bro. Bentley provided an update on the status of Bro. George Harrington.

d. Bro. Johnny Mayers requested two Thinking of You cards to Bea Warner and Charlotte Craig for their medical problems.

3. Collingwood (Bro. Mayers): Activities are scheduled through October. HBO used the Library as a set for a program. The fund drive is approaching. Please come and visit.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Webmaster – Bro. Mark Harford has volunteered to replace Bro. Handley Ward, who has done a yeoman's job as the webmaster.

2. American Youth Leadership Conference, Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, July 16 – 19, 2009, cost per

student is \$430. The actual fee is \$420 with Americanism Committee providing the additional \$10. A voice vote approved three candidates that were recommended by Brothers Bob Elliott, Ralph Smith, and Woody Bentley. Bro. Smith submitted a packet for his candidate.

3. Bro. Bill Turner: A voice vote approved the sequestering of \$200 to cover the costs of replacing the boxes for the Historical Flag Program kit.

4. Bro. Woody Bentley reported on the 2009 National Sojourner Convention.

5. Bro. Bill Turner reported on Dean Malissa's 13 June presentation and recognized the color guard efforts of Bro. Ralph Smith and Bro. Buddy Wagner. He described the Building the Flag Program presented by Bro. Bill Turner, Bro. Bob Bartruff, and Lady Patti Turner at the Martha Washington Chapter of the Eastern Star.

6. Bro. Bill Turner announced the Historical Flag Ceremony scheduled for Wednesday, 24 June at the Kena Temple. Bros. Turner and Ed Arndt will present He solicited color guard support.

Program (President Spruill):

1. The President discussed his email message concerning his theme of Renewal.

2. He solicited the attendees for suggestions about recruiting and retention.

3. Ideas included: Phone trees, Blue Lodge visits, theme months, programs of interest to the Ladies, Sojourners presenting to their Blue Lodges, Sojourner display at conventions, automated calling, and locating the Sojourner display formerly displayed at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. (Bro. Ralph Smith stated he would check on that display.)

4. Bro. Joe Spruill requested that volunteers step forward for three committees by the July meeting: Membership, Bridge of Light, Programs.

Commander's remarks (President Joe Spruill):

Upcoming activities: July: Hawaiian shirts. Pictures of officers.

Closing:

1. The gavel was passed to all.

2. John Schroeder: He announced that the Civil War Lodge of Research has a program on 11 July focusing on the West Virginia Campaigns.

3. Chaplain Pro Tem, Les Albers, gave the closing prayer and the Chapter closed at 2125.

4. Donations to Collingwood totaled \$39.

5. Marshall Woody Bentley and the color guard retired the colors.

At your service, Les Albers

Meeting Announcement

NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next Chapter Meeting is on
Wednesday, 15 July 2009, 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: Hawaiian Shirts
Social Hour at 1830 hrs. Dinner at 1900 Hours

Please make reservations through Brother Joe Spruill
at 703-615-6275 or joe.spruill@yahoo.com
by the end of the day on Sunday, 12 July.



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