



National Sojourners Inc.

Old Dominion Chapter #364

President's Message

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Chapter Home Page

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Brother Sojourners,
Welcome to another year in the life of Old Dominion No. 364. I thank Brother Thomas Little for his leadership and dedication over the past year as our President. I thank each of you for the confidence you've placed in me to relieve him and guide us through the coming months. I look forward to the adventure! Now, a few words about the coming year...

Gentlemen, this will be a different kind of "President's Message". It may be one you find difficult to digest, but one I need each of you to hear. Rather than dwell on the wonderful attributes of our order, and reflect on the accomplishments of the past, I am going to use this space to discuss our future...a future that is uncertain and needs your attention.

Change is a constant in life...some good, some not so good, but a constant nevertheless. One change that has been difficult to watch over the last few months is the continual erosion of participation within OD 364 and LHHL. It wasn't that long ago that our typical meetings drew 35-40 brothers and guests. Today, we are lucky to muster 15 on any given evening. As of this writing, we will have only 12 at the June meeting. This trend is troublesome, and a harbinger of an organization that is dying...one that can not sustain itself.

Gentlemen, it is not my intent to preside over the "decommissioning" of OD 364. Rather, this year, I will focus my energies, and that of the Chapter on reversing this trend. This year our Chapter will focus on RENEWAL.

We must renew our resolve to our ideals, we must renew our commitment to this Chapter, and we must renew its ranks with fresh blood. We must renew, else we perish as an organization.

Renewal of commitment: We have a great start here. With this meeting we have all our key leadership positions filled. I'm very thankful that we now have a Secretary – Bro. Les Albers.

We also have a Chaplain and Marshall, thanks to Bros. Bill Turner and Woody Bentley for stepping up to the plate. I'm also appreciative that Lady Patti Turner will remain our Wellness and Sadness committee chair, Bro. Johnny Mayers continues as our Collingwood rep., and that Bro. Ralph Smith will do double duty as LHHL Commander and continue as our ROTC/JROTC coordinator.

However, we have more work to do. Our Webmaster, Bro. Handley Ward has done invaluable yeoman work...and continues to request relief. Who will help and take this vital communications job? We also continue to have a vacancy in the Americanism/Bridge of Light Committee chair. Gentlemen, Americanism/BOL represents the singular purpose for our existence...the propagation of Patriotic ideals. Without a vibrant Americanism/BOL program, we are merely a monthly supper club. I challenge you to help us fill this void.

Renewal of ranks: I know many of those who no longer attend don't because of personal hardship and physical constraint. Growing older is a fact of life. Although we cannot change the aging of our bodies, we CAN change the aging of our Chapter. Now is the time to RECRUIT for National Sojourners. We must become active in finding our own reliefs. There is no "Bureau of Personnel" or "Recruiting Command" that will go and find the conscripts for us...no one magically appears with orders from headquarters to relieve the watch. WE must scour our Blue Lodges and appendent bodies for those eligible Masons to renew our ranks. This will be the constant call from this desk for the remainder of the year!

To help with this renewal, I believe we must also change how we do business in OD 364. We need a better connection to those already members, and good reasons for future members to want to come. To assist with this I'm sending the call for two committees: A



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President's Message (continued)

"Program Committee" to help me put together a plan for exciting monthly programs that will create greater interest in attendance, and a "Membership Committee" that, in addition to calling our membership, will lead our recruiting efforts. Who can I count on to take the lead for renewing our order?

For those of you who are offended by this message, I regret so, and ask if you have feedback to deliver it personally. Come to the meeting on 17 June and I'll be glad to discuss it! To those of you, the faithful few who attend each meeting, and participate in the various activities, I am truly appreciative. But, frankly, without increased participation from the rest of the Chapter and new recruits, your work may not be enough to sustain us at a level appropriate for the Chapter that affiliates so closely with Mt. Vernon, and our Bro. George Washington.

20 May 2009 Meeting Minutes

Opening / Call to Order: The May 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 pasta with cake for dessert and most of all the fellowship that surrounded our membership.

The Chapter was called to order by President Tom Little at 1955 hours followed by the Posting of the Colors by Commander Les Albers and Brother Ralph Smith and the Pledge of Allegiance. Brother Scotty Cameron delivered the Toast to the Flag and Chaplain Pro Tem Les Albers offered the opening prayer. The Purposes of National Sojourners was delivered by President Little.

Correspondence (Reviewed by President Little):

Email: Death of Bros. Brian Wells Galusha & Gordon Phillip Ayers

Email: Inurnment date for Bro. Brian Galusha, 18 June 2009 @ 1300, Arlington National Cemetery, report to Administration Building at 1230.

Email: 251st Birthday Celebration for Jas Monroe at Monroe Hall, VA on 25 April.

Email: Bivouac on 29 April 2009 at Fort Collingwood

Email: Cadet Lindsey Cooper, presentation of ROTC Award from Sojourners at Howard University.

Email: Attendance at Monroe Birthday Celebration

Email: Historical & Chapter Flags returned to CLMA

Email: Chapter invited to Masonic Family Night at Kena Shrine

Email: Dues payment from Bro. LTC Walter R. Limbach, (again) – check returned with letter of thanks.

Email: Muster Report reminder for Commander, also, Building the Flag Program Kit in need of repair.

Email: Bivouac Thanks for attendance

Email: President can't be contacted, phone out, need for cell phone number.

Email: Request for Building the Flag Program from Anacostia Lodge No. 21 for 1 June 2009.

Gentlemen, we can do this. It will take planning and commitment...by more than just the leadership...it will require the entire membership. To help with this, the program for June and July will be strategic planning... After dinner each of these two months, we will discuss what we need to do in the area of Program and Recruiting for the remainder of the year. I hope to see you there, ready to work!

Today, I have reservations for 12. Let's get back to the good times with 30 or more! Get your golf shirt ready to wear and send me your RSVP for dinner! We hope to see you on Wednesday, June 17th!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Joe Spruill

Email: Secretary Elect working with prior Secretary to review duties and responsibilities.

Email: Chapter Annual Report – start prepping for input.

Email: Dinner Announcement Reminder

Email: Dinner Announcement

Email: Bro. Bob Klementz sends regrets, out of town for Granddaughter's Graduation

Email: Bro. Bob Mason, new email address; use M6244@verizon.net not hardly74@hotmail.com

Email: Bro. James N. Coates; remove from distribution list.

Email: Another Dinner Announcement – trying to create more attendance for installation.

Email: US, Bennington, and Chapter flags will be returned to the meeting.

Secretary: Minutes of the last meeting (April 15, 2009) were approved by acclamation (printed copies were available.)

Treasurer: Reported \$3,663.92 in the checking account and \$8,901.57 in the CapitolOne Money Market account. Bills that were passed to the Treasurer had been paid by the end of April.

Commander LHHL (Commander Les Albers):

1. Described the Color Guard for the DAR on April 18, 2009 at Congressional Cemetery, DC.

2. Thanked the attendees and Brother Bill Turner for presenting the procedures for the Building the Flag Program Bivouac at CLMA on 4/29/09 at 1830 hrs. Sub sandwich dinner at 1900 cost \$15. Work from 1930-2100.

3. Announced the Historical Flag Ceremony to be presented Friday, 22 May at Aurora Hills Senior Center, Arlington, VA.

4. Announced the National Sojourner & Anacostia Lodge #21 ~ Building the Flag Program - 01 Jun 09. Brothers Les Albers, Buddy Wagner, and Jerry Kunkle will make the presentation.

5. Brother Bill Turner related the activities at James Monroe, 251st Birthday Celebration.

Introductions and Welcome : Bro. Bill Turner, National 2nd Vice President, Past National Commander and wife Patti;

Past President and Past Commander Scotty Cameron, Emeritus, PP, PC; Thomas Little, President and Lady Margaret; Ralph Smith, PP, Chapter Trustee and Lady Dorothy; Les Albers, Commander Light Horse Harry Lee Heroes of '76; Bro. John Mayers, Treasurer.

Committee Reports:

1. ROTC: Brother Ralph Smith: Read the number of awards presented, a letter of thanks from the Professor of Military Science at JMU. Brother Bill Turner: ROTC Award presented to Cadet Cooper at Howard University

Sick and distressed: Chair, Lady Patti Turner & All

President Little discussed the Masonic Services for Bro. Brian Galusha; Sunday, May 3rd. Thanks to all who attended.

Brother Johnny Mayers: Brother Woody Bentley was in the hospital for unknown reasons. A card will be sent.

The attendees offered their support for Ruth Levin, Brother Danny and their family.

Old Business (President Little):

Webmaster – Bro. Handley Ward, who has done a yeoman's job wishes to step down. He'll work with new person, but wishes timely replacement.

American Youth Leadership Conference, Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, July 16 – 19, 2009, cost per student is \$430. Brother Kent Weber spoke on behalf of his organization's support for this program.

New Business: A nomination for Brother Kent Weber for a trustee for National Sojourners was approved by a vote.

Brother F.J. Pepper inquired about any Masonic recognition for the birthday of Brother Harry S. Truman. No one had any knowledge of such an activity.

President Little: Thanks to all for their support during the past year. He gave special thanks with presentations of books to: Les Albers, Bill Turner, and Ralph Smith.

Brother John Schroeder spoke of the Grand Master's presentation at Henry Lodge. The subject was Bother Douglas MacArthur's Duty, Honor, Country Speech which is available on the web. He also announced the Grand Master's visit to the Scottish Rite Temple on 13 June. Dinner is \$25.

Program: President Little conducted the Candlelight Memorial Service. He recognized the losses of our Bretheren and their families. Blue candle: President Little; White candle: Ralph Smith; Blue candle: Thomas Little; Chaplain: Les Albers.

Installation of Officers: Installation Officers: Brother Bill Turner, Installing Officer; Brother Scotty Cameron, Chaplain; Brother John Schroeder, Chaplain.

The slate of officers and their stand-ins follows:

Chapter:

President	Bro. Joe Spruill, Sr.
1 st Vice President	Bro. Kent Webber
2 nd Vice President	Bro. John Clair (Scotty Cameron)
3 rd Vice President	Bro. Mark Harford (Tom Essex)
Secretary	Bro. Les Albers
Treasurer	Bro. Johnny Mayers
Marshall	Bro.
Chaplain	Bro.
Trustee	Bro. Thomas G. Little

Note – Current Trustees (Bros. Bill Sanners, Ralph Smith)

Camp:

Commander	Bro. Ralph Smith
Chief of Staff	Bro. Woody Bentley (F.J. Pepper)
Asst. Chief of Staff	Bro. Bob Elliott (John Schroeder)
Officer of the Day	Bro. Thomas Little
Adjutant	Bro. Les Albers

Commander's remarks (President Joe Spruill):

The theme for the next year will be Renewal. He stressed that we must energized those members who have not been attending. He remarked that perhaps we could have Arlington Hall 440 join with us from time to time.

Upcoming activities: June: Pictures of officers. Dress will be golf shirts. July: Hawaiian shirts.

Closing:

1. The gavel was passed to all.
2. F.J. Pepper: Happy to be here. All are invited to a special program on Saturday, 30 May, 10 AM, Lodge of Research at George Washington Memorial, topic: The Spy of Lodge of 9 Muses in Paris during the Revolutionary War.
3. Ralph Smith: Thanks to Les Albers for his term as Commander and Bill Turner for his support while he was acting secretary.
4. Thomas Little: Thanks to all for their support during the past year.
5. Margaret Little: Thanks to all for their support during the past year.
6. John Schroeder: On 6/13/09 the D.C. Scottish Rite will host a catered dinner at 1800 (no charge) with Dean Malissa to follow at about 1915 until 2100. In both cases, if you desire to attend please notify Bro. Bill Turner or John Schroeder.
7. Patti Turner: Thanks to Thomas and Margaret Little for their efforts the past year.
8. Bill Turner: See Page 4 of the next Sojourner magazine which discusses an important issue. He announced the Historical Flag Ceremony at Acadia Lodge on 24 June. He needs a color guard for that event. He still needs color guard members for the 13 June event. Bro. Bill Turner announced that Dean Malissa, historical interpreter of George Washington and only the 2nd to be approved by the Mt. Vernon Ladies Association will be at Fredericksburg No. 4 on 6/12/09. Dinner at 1830 followed by a 30 – 40 min. program by Dean and that followed by Lodge.
9. Tom Essex: Good to back.
10. Les Albers: Thanks to all for their support while he was Commander. Best wishes to the new officers.
11. Johnny Mayers: Best wishes to the new officers. He encouraged all to visit Collingwood.

Chaplain Pro Tem, Les Albers, gave the closing prayer and the Chapter closed at 2118.

Donations to Collingwood totaled \$19 and an additional \$16 was received after the Chapter was closed.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
 Lester Albers, PC
 Secretary

Meeting Announcement

NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next Chapter Meeting is on
Wednesday, 17 June 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: Golf Shirts
Social Hour at 1830 hrs. Dinner at 1900 Hours

Please Reply All to the "Invitation & Reservation" E-mail from the president to
make your reservation-- or if you did not receive said email,
please make reservations through Brother Joe Spruill
at 703-615-6275 or joe.spruill@yahoo.com
by the end of the day on Sunday, 14 June.



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