

NATIONAL SOJOURNERS INC.



Old Dominion Chapter #364

March 2008

CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Ralph Smith

Ralph.Smith35@verizon.net

CAMP COMMANDER

Woody Bentley

Ciddad@aol.com

SECRETARY

Ronald A. Dooley

703-250-3402

patrond@earthlink.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Janine Chatfield

jchatfield@cox.net

WEB MASTER

H. Handley Ward, Jr.

handley.millie@aeitv.net

Chapter Home Page

<http://olddominionno364.net>

President's Comments

Although a foreboding inclement weather forecast brought about the cancellation of our February meeting, the Light Horse Harry Lee Camp, Heroes of 76, brought our Chapter recognition last month having participated in the Wreath Laying Ceremony with the Grand Master, MW Edmund Cohen, at the Tomb of Wor. Bro. George Washington at Mt. Vernon on Sunday 2/24/2008, and a combined Color Guard with Chapters Arlington Hall 440 and Fredericksburg 545 in support of La France Lodge No. 93 (District of Columbia) on Wednesday 2/27/2008.

You have previously heard me speak of how the Grand Architect plans for propagation of certain seeds: in particular the cocklebur. (Also known as the VELCRO seed which inspired the invention of that material.) There being two seeds in each pod, the likelihood of survival is well assured.

This month I ask you to review two associated plant phenomena: Phototropism, the process of directed growth with respect to light and Heliotropism, the dynamic tracking of light such as by the sunflower.

It should not be a great leap to visualize the symbolism and how it relates to our fraternity. Regarding the three, we only face and follow Light because of "our own free will and accord." But what about the dual seeds? When reviewing our attrition it becomes painfully evident that we must "plant two" new members in order to replace ourselves and see the Chapter grow.

Our "Blue" Lodges are beginning to enjoy petitioners at a rate not seen for years, however, due to our unique Sojourner qualification requirement the proportion of those new Masons who meet our standards is not what it was thirty or forty years ago. Thus, we need to keep an ear to the ground regarding our newest Masons and be certain that we have not overlooked the qualifications of our "old timers"...this is the month of the "Crow Moon", the beginning of Spring to the American Indian, time to plant.....let us implant the idea of the Sojourner in the minds of those qualified and rebuild our Chapter.

Ralph W. Smith
President

March Meeting Information

The next chapter meeting is on **Wednesday, March 19, 2008** at the Arlington-Fairfax BPO (US 50), Fairfax, VA 22031.

Uniform of the Day: **Business Attire**

Social one hour before dinner. Dinner at 1900 hours in Fairfax Room (on Lower Floor of Lodge). Dinner is \$20.00 per person. **Make your reservations through Brother Joe Spruill, 2nd Vice President, at Joe.Spruill@yahoo.com or call: 703-615-6275.**

Deadline for reservations: Monday, March 17, 2008.



Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Commander's Message	2
From the Secretary	3



Commander's Message

FRATERNAL GREETINGS TO ALL.

I sincerely regret the cancellation of the January 30 Bivouac followed by the cancellation of the February 20 Old Dominion Chapter meeting. Do not think your President and I are not concerned about maintaining a strong schedule of activities and interesting programs for you. The Bivouac was cancelled due to the level of activities in January and the lack of a rekrut for initiation. Weather forced the cancellation of the Chapter meeting. In both cases, your time, interest, and safety were paramount in our minds.

I want to thank everyone who participated in our George Washington celebration on Sunday, February 24th at Mt. Vernon to honor our fellow Mason and first President. We were delighted that the Grand Master of Virginia and fellow Sojourner Most Worshipful Edmond Cohen was able to attend and share some very thoughtful words about the character of George Washington. Also in attendance were: Virginia Grand Marshal David Morris and Lady Linda, Chapter President Ralph Smith, LHHL Camp Commander Woody Bentley, VP Tom Little, Secretary/Adjutant Ron Dooley and Lady Pat, PNC Bill Turner, Steve Brundage (who helped make the arrangements), Howard Sobel, David Keithley, and Don and Jennifer (Daughter of Ralph Smith) Lee and daughters Madison and Alexandra. After the ceremony, some were able to attend the church service at Pohick Church, sitting in George Washington's pew.

Our next scheduled events are the Heroes bivouac scheduled for April 30 followed by the Federal Area Encampment scheduled for May

17 at Camp Collingwood. There we will join with our area Camps and enjoy a short day of fellowship and enjoyment along with a good meal hosted by our Chapter and our Federal Area Representative Jerry Kunkle. LHHL Camp will be the host camp. Come and enjoy the day's festivities with your Lady.

We are still being asked to perform ceremonies for Masonic and non-Masonic groups. Unfortunately we had to disappoint our fellow masons in AW 22 in their request that we provide an honor guard for the presentation of the Colors on Feb. 23 at 6PM for their annual George Washington Dinner for approximately 100 guests. I hope that we do not have to turn down an important function like this again. We do have enough volunteers to support the opening of the Washington Area Square and Round Dance Cooperative Association on March 13 in Alexandria. I appreciate the support of Ron Dooley, Ralph Smith, Bob Elliot, and Les Albers for that event.

The support of our members for our regularly scheduled events – chapter meetings and bivouacs as well as supporting special ceremonies which demonstrate our commitment to promote Americanism and Patriotism by putting on ceremonies such as honor guards and flag ceremonies is critical to our continued good health as an organization. Please remember our commitment, if it is within the length of your cable tow.

Thanks again to those of you who support the Light Horse Harry Lee Camp.

Woody Bentley

Wreath Ceremony at Mount Vernon

On a cold and frosty morning at 0830 hours on February 24, 2008, several members and their ladies of Old Dominion Chapter No. 364 and it's Light Horse Harry Lee Camp-Heroes of 76, met at Mount Vernon on the Potomac to pay homage to our Worshipful Bro. George Washington on the Anniversary of his 276th birthday. M.W. Bro. Ed Cohen, Grand Master in Virginia, placed a beautiful wreath in the tomb with the assistance of O.D. No. 364 President Bro. Ralph Smith, and LHHL Commander Bro. Woody Bentley. After the ceremony, several retired to the historical Pohick Church, attended services, and socialized with the church members.

Those brothers in the photo L-R are Bro. William G.L. Turner, PP, PC, PNC, and 3rd Nat. VP, Bro. Ralph Smith, Pres, MW Bro. Ed Cohen, Grand Master in Virginia, Bro. Woody Bentley, PP, Commander LHHL, Bro. Ron Dooley, Secretary/Adjutant, and Bro. Steve Brundage, PP, PC. (Thanks to Bro. Steve for ordering the wreath and arranging the Pohick church services.)



March 2008

From the Secretary's Desk

February 20, 2008 Meeting

It was necessary to cancel the February Old Dominion No.364 Dinner/Business Meeting due to the threat of inclement weather with ice and snow. At the noon weather report by the NASA weather radio, a winter advisory was issued with the possibility of sleet, freezing rain, and snow on top by the evening hours. President Ralph Smith and the Secretary consulted and made the decision shortly after noon due to the distance some folks had to travel.

Unfortunately, we were not able to contact Ms. Sheila Lloyd, the general manager at the Elks Lodge until 1400 hours by which time the dinner had been prepared. The Elks Lodge also serves its members every Wednesday night, and adds food according to the number we call in on Monday. We had called in 32 for this meeting. After reflecting on our decision it was decided to pay the Elks Lodge half of the number called in minus the prepaid bar tab, which came to \$160.00. A letter of explanation and apology on behalf of the Chapter

with attached check was sent to Ms. Sheila Lloyd on 2/26/2008. We sincerely hope this is accepted in good faith.

Correspondence Received: Correspondence received during the months of January and February will be read at the March meeting...but you should know we did receive a letter of appreciation from our Grand Master, MW Bro. Ed Cohen, for inviting him to our Jan.. meeting. We received a letter from MW James D. Cole thanking the Chapter for the donation to the Masonic Home in January. We also received a nice letter from the Fisher House in appreciation for our donation to them.

Sick & Distressed: In May, it was reported that Bro. Bill Turner's mother, age 94 years young, was admitted to the hospital in an exhausted state. A pace maker was installed and the latest report is that she is repairing well considering. Our own S&D Chairperson, Patti Turner, was down with a bug on the weekend of the Wreath Laying Ceremony and therefore had to miss it. We missed her immensely in her usual colonial attire. Latest

report is she is fine now and back to work. Sadly, a noticed was sent out reporting the passing of Lady Cheryl Houston, wife of Bro. Gerald Houston, on 2/13/2008. Our prayers and thoughts go out to Bro. Gerald, and a card has been sent to him and family.

Treasury: Bro. Johnny Mayer reports we are *solvent* and he will make his full report in March.

Program: Our scheduled speaker for the February meeting, Daniel W. Kriss, will be with us at the March meeting. I am sure this will give him more time to *practice* his autobiography.

Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony: Officers, Members, and guests, along with the Grand Master, MW Bro. Ed Cohen, met at Mount Vernon at 0830 hours on Sunday, 2/24/2008 and placed a beautiful wreath at the Tomb of our Brother, Wor. George Washington. Please see the accompanying photos in this Newsletter.

Newsletter News: Brethren I am happy to report that through much cooperation and dedication to your Chapter, we have managed to save over



\$225.00 per year at this point by adding more members to the electronic newsletter list. Brethren...it could not be easier if you are on line. You simply go to <http://olddominionno364.net> and you have the Web site. All newsletters, current and past, many articles, issues, photos etc. are at your fingertips. Join the crowd and save even more money for your Chapter...simply let your Secretary know your desire. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ron Dooley
Secretary



A Cold Morning March

Officers of LHHL Camp and other members and guests walking to the Tomb at Mount Vernon on the morning of February 24, 2008.

Change of Address

Gisela Chesebro (Widow of Bro. John)
The Fairfax
9160 Belvoir Woods Parkway
Room 214 - Assisted Living
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060
703-781-2560

**NATIONAL SOJOURNERS, INC.
OLD DOMINION CHAPTER #364**

SGT Ronald A. Dooley, Secretary
6822 Jeremiah Court
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION



Wreath placed in Wor. Bro. George Washington's Tomb by MW Bro. Ed Cohen, Grand Master in Virginia, Pres. Ralph Smith, and Cmdr. Woody Bentley on Feb. 24, 2008.