

National Sojourners Inc.

# Old Dominion Chapter #364

## President's Message

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**Chapter Home Page**

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I would like to thank everyone for attending our February meeting of Old Dominion Chapter No. 364, National Sojourner's. Lady Margaret and I hope to see you at our upcoming meeting on March the 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Thanks to one of our members Brother Howard Sobel I have been able to work in the Potentate's office at Kena Shrine and use the computer there. This has enabled me to catch up on my emails and even write a few letters. Thanks Illustrious Sir, I greatly appreciate your assistance.

While I'm on talking about appreciation, I want to thank each and every one of you who came to the Wreath Laying at Mt. Vernon to honor Illustrious Brother George Washington. We came out to honor his 277<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was a cold morning but the turnout was terrific. We were honored to have Most Worshipful Jeffery Eugene Hodges, Grand Master of Masons in the Commonwealth of Virginia in his Heroes of '76 Uniform in attendance. We were honored to have visiting Heroes from other Heroes Camps.

During our February meeting Lady Nancy Jordon came and read from her Great-Uncle's letters from the Civil War. She read to us about his capture, imprisonment, and release from prisoner of war camp. He was in one of the last groups released while the war was still in progress. These were some of the best letters that I have heard from a Civil War soldier. It was noted by many in attendance that we hope she has all of these letters put into a book. Her Great-Uncle wrote so many letters covering the entire period of the war it would become a very complete personal history.

In March, we are looking forward to hearing from Col. Michael Jaffee, MD, the National Director of the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The work that they have done for the members of our Armed Services has been truly amazing. Please come out on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 and listen to his presentation.

If you can join us for our meeting we still meet at the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge located at 8421 Arlington Blvd. (Route 50). The Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge is less than a mile west of Interstate 495. Our uniform is Coat and Tie for our members. If you haven't been to a meeting in a long time, please come back. If you have been a regular attendee at our meetings, thanks for your participation and loyalty to the unit we will see you once again on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

My lady and I want to thank each and every one of you who have taken your time through all these months to come and be with us at Old Dominion Chapter No. 364 of the National Sojourners. Our chapter is a great organization. It is great because of one important factor that ranks above all others, and that factor is its members. I am honored to come together with you for meetings, meals, and moments of friendship. If you have been kept from our meetings because of poor health please know that you remain in our thoughts and prayers. Come out to your meeting. We hope to see each of you soon.

"Thomas"

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## Commander's Message

Thank you all for your continued support for the Heroes and Americanism activities. Special thanks to Brothers Bill Turner, Ralph Smith, Thomas Little, and Woody Bentley for their excellent support for the George Washington Birthday wreath laying ceremony at Mount Vernon on Sunday, 22 February.

Our next Bivouac will be Wednesday, 29 April. The agenda will include organizing our Americanism programs. This month we recall the salient contributions of our Heroes of 76 in February 1776. Brother Benedict Arnold's forces maintained their siege at Quebec, Canada. Brother George Washington continued his siege of the British garrison in Boston. On 27 February Brother Richard Caswell

shared command in the defeat of British forces at Moore's Bridge, North Carolina. This victory encouraged the Patriot movement in the Carolinas. Brother Caswell is noteworthy in that he was appointed brigadier general of the New Bern District by the Provincial Congress in 1776. He later led troops at the Battle of Camden, has a county named for him, is remembered by Caswell Brotherhood Lodge #11, and in 1788 was the Grand Master of the Grand Masonic Lodge of North Carolina. These Heroes established the blessings of Liberty we enjoy today.

EIAR

Les

## 18 February 2009 Meeting Minutes

Opening / Call to Order: The February stated meeting of the Chapter was held in the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge No. 2188 at 8421 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax, VA 22031. A hearty meal of Beef Stroganoff set the stage for an enjoyable meeting.

The Chapter was called to order by President Tom Little at 1940 hours followed by 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.

Introductions included Most Worshipful and Brother Sojourner Edmund Cohen, PGM, Scotty Cameron, Emeritus, PP, PC; Woody Bentley, NASOCOCO; CLMA, Chapter Trustee, PP, PC; Thomas Little, President and Lady Margaret, Bro. Bill MacBrayne, PP & PC, Ralph Smith, PP, Chapter Trustee and Lady Dorothy, Bro. Doug Jordan PP & PC Arlington Hall 440 and Lady Nancy, Les Albers, Commander Light Horse Harry Lee Heroes of '76, Danny Levin, PP, PC and Lady Ruth.

Correspondence: Brother Captain Charles L. Moore, Jr., USN Live 365 Club Member.

A Happy Birthday was extended to Bro. Ralph Smith.

Secretary: Minutes of the last meeting (01/21/09) were approved as recorded in the News Letter.

Treasurer: Reported \$2,228.97 in the checking account and \$8,871.84 in the Capitol One Money Mar-

ket account. Invoices for payment: January News Letter postage & printing - \$99.02 paid. Invoice for January News Letter layout - \$85.00 paid. Chapter dues received from Brothers Moore and Carter. A check was delivered to the Elk Lodge for seventeen (17) in attendance (guest speaker compensated).

Program: Lady Nancy Jordan, wife of Brother Doug Jordan, held our rapt attention with her program: Letters From Long Ago and Far Away, A Civil War Ancestor. She read from a collection of some 300 letters written by Charlie Holbrook Prentiss, a great uncle by marriage (born 1830 died 1924) of his observations as a soldier during the Civil War. A member of the Ohio 19<sup>th</sup> Infantry Volunteers, he was captured on March 25, 1863 at Brentwood, Tennessee his camp having been overrun by about 1500 Confederates. On a forced march they moved through Columbia, TN 3/27 (where they signed a Parole of Honor not to take up arms or otherwise cause trouble for the Confederate forces), Shelbyville 3/30, Farmington, TN and Tullahoma, TN 4/1 where they boarded a train for Chattanooga, TN 4/2, Knoxville 4/4, Bristol TN-VA 4/5, Lynchburg, VA 4/7, Franklin, VA 4/9, Richmond, VA where they disembarked were placed in Libby Prison where they were searched and robbed of anything that remained of value, then by train to Petersburg and off loaded at

City Point. Boarded a Northern Ship and headed for Baltimore via Annapolis. It was interesting to note that on several occasions Charlie made special note that the Rebel soldiers were kind and treated them fairly....a marvelous account of American History as seen through the eyes of one who had been there.

Old Business: Secretary's position still in need of a permanent occupant....Our Web Master, Bro. Handley Ward who has done an outstanding job must step down. Replacement sought.....Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference to be held at Valley Forge Freedoms Foundation July 16 – 19 2009 with tuition remaining at \$420.00 (National Americanism Committee is picking up the extra \$10.00 for at total of \$430.00). We need nominees! Brother Woody Bentley pointed out that if sponsorship contributions are made to CLMA by check and in the memo section annotated Freedom's Foundation / OD-364, it would be tax deductible but a donation directly to the Chapter would not.

New Business: A Building the Flag Program for the Martha Washington Chapter of the Eastern Star is scheduled for Tuesday June 16, 2009.

A Nominating Committee was announced for next year's Chapter and Camp slate of officers composed of Brothers Woody Bentley, Johnny Mayers

An email was received by your ROTC Coordinator Ralph Smith, from Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Kurt Berry, Senior Army Instructor, Edison High School JROTC regarding Mr Khalil Siddiqi, a cab driver murdered in Alexandria about two weeks ago whose two children attend Edison High School. The family is in extremis and Col. Berry is asking all of those who interact with his JROTC Unit to contribute what ever they can for the family whose income now

will be about \$900.00 per month from Social Security (which has not yet started). Old Dominion 364 approved a donation of \$50.00.

Next Months Speaker: LCol Jaffee from the Brain Injury Clinic, Walter Reed Army Hospital.

Commander LHHL: Commander Les Albers brought us up to date on the following: Wreath Laying at Mt. Vernon on Sunday, 22 February 0830 followed by services at Pohick Church – coffee at 1015 – services 1115... Washington's pew and two others reserved for participants... Grand Master Jeffery Eugene Hodges is expected to attend in Colonial Uniform. Guest are welcome.

The January BIVOUAC was cancelled due to weather. The next Bivouac - 04/29/09 at Collingwood.

Wellness and Sadness: Thanks to Lady Patti Turner for the input.

Congratulations to Brother John and Melissa Clair on the birth of their daughter Lillian Susanna Clair 12/10/2008. Lady Bren Brundage was admitted to Fairfax Hospital for testing. Lady Debbie Keithley has been released from the hospital.

Closing:

The gavel was passed to all, Chaplain Pro Tem, Les Albers, gave the closing prayer and the Chapter closed at 2053.

Donations to Collingwood totaled \$41.00 and an additional \$21.50 for the Chapter was received after the Chapter was closed.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Ralph W. Smith Jr., P.P.  
Scribe

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

**WHO:** All High School Sophomores and Juniors  
**WHAT:** 2009 National Sojourners Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference  
**WHERE:** Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge (FFVF), Valley Forge, PA  
**WHEN:** July 16-19, 2009  
**HOW:** Make application to a National Sojourners Chapter ... see details on the National Sojourners website at: [www.nationalsojourners.org](http://www.nationalsojourners.org)  
**COST PER STUDENT:** \$430, but ask about the Sojourner's Scholarship Program, where Chapters subsidize tuition and sponsor students.

# Meeting Announcement

The next Chapter Meeting is on  
Wednesday, 18 March 2009, at the  
Arlington-Fairfax BPO Elks Lodge  
located at 8421 Arlington Blvd (US 50), Fairfax, VA 22031.  
Uniform of the Day: Business Attire

Social hour at 1830 hrs. Dinner at 1900 hrs in the Fairfax Room  
On the lower floor of Lodge at \$20.00 per person.  
Please Reply All to the "Invitation & Reservation" email 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, 15 March.

## LIGHT HORSE HARRY LEE CAMP

Last Bivouac before the change of officers.  
29 April 09 at Fort Collingwood on the Potowmack.  
Muster and social at 1830 hrs., Dinner at 1900 hrs., and work at 1930 hrs.



**National Sojourners Inc.**

## **Old Dominion Chapter #364**

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