



National Sojourners Inc.

# Old Dominion Chapter #364

## President's Message

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Thanks for attending our October meeting of Old Dominion Chapter No. 364, National Sojourner's. Lady Margaret and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meeting on November the 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008. As usual we will 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 for this special one where we will welcome the R.O.T.C. members, their instructors and parents. If you come to all our meetings, thanks for your participation and loyalty to the unit we will see you on the 19<sup>th</sup>. At the October meeting our Commander, Brother Les Albers presented a program on "Freemasonry In The American Civil War". He appeared in the costume of a Zouave. His program covered many different aspects of the Civil War. He spoke about the battle of the Little Round Top, Masons at Gettysburg and the fairly recent monument to our brotherhood. He asked how many members had relatives who served in the Civil War and we heard some interesting stories of their participation. He covered the group of people who picked up and moved to Brazil and created the area called Americana, and how they still remember and honor that period of our history. One of the more interesting points for me was how the brothers would honor another brother's request for a Masonic funeral. Brother Les' program was very well received and had quite a number of questions at the end. Again, my thanks to Brother Les for such a fine program. As I mentioned earlier, this month our program will be our reception of the R.O.T.C. members. R.O.T.C. and J.R.O.T.C. students will someday be our future military and national leaders. Their instructors and parents are doing a great job guiding these young people on this path of leadership. Many thanks go to our Past President, Brother Ralph Smith for all he continues to do keeping the relationship going between our organization and today's youth. R.O.T.C. Appreciation Night is our small way of saying thank you as they continue to support our country and our patriotic way of life. Please come out and help support our youth. Next month we hope to have a very talented musician with us to celebrate the holiday season. I also have a short program on how our first president celebrated the holidays during certain years of his life. This program will be on December the 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008. My lady and I want to thank each and every one of you who have taken your time and invested it with our chapter of the National Sojourners. Old Dominion Chapter No. 364 is a wonderful chapter with a great history, but more than our history what makes Old Dominion so special is the 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. The weather may have cooled off but you still have a warm spot in our hearts. We hope to see each of you soon.

"Thomas"

## Commander's Message

My deepest thanks to all those who participated in the October Bivouac that brought Light Horse Harry Lee and George Washington Camps together, featured a wonderful meal and great fellowship, included an activity for the women, and welcomed two new Heroes. Well done. Our next Bivouac is scheduled for Wednesday, 28 January. I draw your attention to the Washington Cruisers Bivouac on Saturday, 22 November. This month we recall November 1776. Brother Washington's fortunes continued to fall as the British captured Fort Washington on Manhattan and Fort Lee in New Jersey. Washington had lost 2000 men captured, 146 cannons, and much irreplaceable weapons and equipment. The British army pursued him across New Jersey during "the times that try men's souls." Down to 5,000 men, with enlistments expiring, things looked bleak for Brother Washington and the Revolution.

EIAR

Thanks, Les

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## 16 October 2008 Meeting Minutes

### Revving Up the Engine & Opening / Call To Order

We gathered together about 1830 hours and enjoyed the company, fellowship, and libation. We had time to get together and talk about events in our lives since last we met. In addition to some of the ladies who grace us with their presence almost every month like Ruth Elliott, Ruth Levin, Margaret Little, Dotty Smith, and Charlotte Crane, we were fortunate to have with us this month Lady Dottie Smith's sister, Betty Harper, and Bea Werner. It was a pleasure to get to see and spend time with Bea again. We hope that all these ladies will come and be with us each and every time they get the chance. After our social time we had a very nice Oktoberfest meal. It put us in a great mood and reminded many of us of the celebrations that take place on bases around the world this time of year.

After spending time over dinner and drinks with plenty of conversation all around we prepared to get on with the business at hand. All members were in the uniform of the day (coat and tie), and what a smart looking bunch they are. The Chapter was called to order at 1950 hours by the President, Thomas Little at the Arlington – Fairfax Elks Lodge No. 2188. The President welcomed all to this month's meeting and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our country. Our Chaplain, Brother Dan Clark offered the opening prayer. The Purposes of National Sojourners was read by Brother Tom followed by "A Toast To The Flag" given by Brother Scotty Cameron.

### Introductions of VIP's

We welcomed our VIP's to the October Meeting and thanked them and their Ladies for their continued support. They have served our Chapter and Camp in years past and now are present with their advice and presence.

### The Secretary

The President noted the absence of our Secretary. He was sorely missed. The Assistant fell ill at the last moment so the President filled-in by taking notes of the meeting. The President started to make a motion to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting, but the call to accept them as published overwhelmed the motion. The call was immediately seconded and followed by a unanimous voice vote. The President called for the Treasurer's report.

### The Treasurer

And now, here's Johnny. Brother Johnny noted that we started with some money, spent a little, and still had a little left. To be slightly more specific, he noted that after paying the bills we still have \$2,034 dollars

and change in the Checking Account and \$8,801 dollars and change in our Capitol One Money Market Account.

The Secretary - continued  
See ... Back To The President for Announcements – just below.

### The Program

The President next called forth our Camp Commander, Brother Les Albers for his presentation on "Freemasonry in the Civil War". In walked Brother Les dressed as a Zouave with a helpful handout and a head full of knowledge that he presented in a most impressive manner. Brother Les started by finding out which members had relatives in the Civil War, and we heard a little about those veterans and their contributions. Our Zouave clad Brother covered quite a few topics in a short amount of time including the National Zouave Lodge, Armistead – Bingham – Hancock, the Grand Lodge of Virginia and many others. The idea that even though towns were sometimes taken to the ground while the opposing forces would leave the Masonic lodge and it's furnishings intact was quite amazing. The help that was given to an enemy soldier, getting messages to his family, a Masonic burial by soldiers from the other side, these were items that amazed me in theory and execution. The group of people who moved to Brazil and created a little area of the south or moved a little further south to carry on their Southern ways in Americana was fascinating. This was a really good program that had my interest the whole way. Wish you could have been there.

### From The Commander

Commander Les Albers, Light Horse Harry Lee Heroes of '76 Camp, reminded all Heroes that a Bivouac would be held on Wednesday, October 29th, 2008. Muster at Ft. Collingwood on the Potomack at 1830 hours. Camp Followers are welcome and encouraged to attend. A fine meal will be offered, and whilst the Heroes deal with the rapsallions in the Guard House – two – the Ladies will have a program.

### Committee Reports

Americanism & BOL/Chair Ralph Smith ~ Brother Ralph was ill this evening, so Military Night was announced, this time by our President. It will be observed at our 19 November meeting, where the JROTC / ROTC programs in the local area will be invited to be our guests.



## 16 October 2008 Meeting Minutes (Continued)

Wellness and Sadness/Chair Patti Turner ~ Lady Patti Turner was unable to be with us this evening but passed an email to the President stating that another card was sent to our Brother and Past National President Phil Tilton.

### Back To The President for Announcements

Next came the emails, messages, letters or notes that had been given to the President.

### Old Business:

Secretary's position – truly need a replacement. Volunteers soonest, please.

Adjutant position – the Camp also needs an Adjutant, again volunteer's soonest, please.

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

### New Business

Secretaries Position – Brother Ralph Smith, PP agreed to fill in when Brother Bill is unable to attend. This didn't work this evening do to Brother Ralph's illness. Get well quickly Brother Ralph. We miss you.

American Youth Leadership Conference – the date for our youth conference has been published. It will be July 16 thru 19, 2009 with a cost of \$430 per student. The American Youth Leadership Conference, Freedoms Foundation will be at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

DEA Agent Tom Byrne – Received an email about the family of this DEA agent. Tom Byrne, father to four boys (all under the age of 10) was robbed and murdered while at a work conference in New Orleans several weeks ago. He was from the Greenbriar area of the Fair Oaks District. While his wife and boys were in Northern Virginia mourning their loss they lost their home in suburban Houston as a result of Hurricane Ike. The Byrne's home has been declared uninhabitable. If any one would like to contribute to this cause the address is: The Thomas J. Byrne Memorial, P.O. Box 16105, Alexandria, VA 22302

Rekrut at Washington Cruisers Camp – our Brothers and fellow Heroes in the Fredericksburg area have discovered a Rekrut, Brother Jeffrey E. Hodges traveling under the title of Deputy Grand Master (to be changed very soon). The Bivouac will be on November the 22nd, 2008 at 1830 hours with dinner [Editor's Note ~ Patti is cooking lasagna and fixin's]. There is no cost to attend, but contact the Adjutant, [schandler@warbard.com](mailto:schandler@warbard.com), for reservations – food quantity.

Fraternal Greetings from Troy, Alabama – Our Brother Captain, Dave Barron, USN (ret.) sends his fraternal

greetings to the Chapter from his home in Troy, Alabama. He and his Lady Dianne are still working at Troy University. She is the Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School. He continues as the Executive Assistant to the Chancellor. He has been retired from active duty for eight years.

60 Years in Masonry!!! – Our Brother Admiral Gene Sizemore went to the Grand Lodge of Illinois to receive his award for having achieved 60 (sixty) years in Freemasonry. I had the privilege to speak to him at the Cornerstone Laying for the American Legacy Center at Collingwood and he reports to having been very well treated.

CLMA Cornerstone Laying & Dedication – The Cornerstone Laying & Dedication of the American Legacy Center of the Collingwood Library & Museum on Americanism (CLMA) was held on October 17th, 2008 at 3pm (1500 hours). By the way, the rain started, and so we went inside to check out the building for its first use. The building is great, the program was marvelous, and only thing better was the company.

Grand Annual Communication – The Opening Ceremony of the Grand Annual Communication of the Commonwealth of the Grand Lodge of Virginia will be held on the 7th of November 2008 at 8:30am. Heroes of '76 in uniform will conduct this ceremony. Please try to attend.

### Good of the Order

The Gavel was passed with the only thing noted being the excellent program conducted by our Commander, Brother Les. President Thomas G. Little Closed in Peace and Harmony at 2125 hours. Following the Closing, we received a donation in excess of \$70 for Collingwood.

Respectfully submitted,  
William G.L. Turner, T/A Thomas Little  
Interim Secretary/Pro Tempore



# November Meeting Announcement

The next Chapter Meeting is on  
Wednesday, 19 November, 2008, at the  
Arlington-Fairfax BPO Elks Lodge  
located at 8421 Arlington Blvd (US 50), Fairfax, VA 22031.

**ROTC/MILITARY NIGHT**

**Business Attire**

**Program is on Jamestown, Virginia**

Social hour before dinner. Dinner is at 1900 Hours  
in Fairfax Room on lower floor of Lodge at \$20.00 per person.  
Please make reservations through Brother Joe Spruill  
at 703-615-6275 or [joe.spruill@yahoo.com](mailto:joe.spruill@yahoo.com)  
by the end of the day on Sunday, 16 November.



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**Old Dominion Chapter #364**

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