



NATIONAL SOJOURNERS INC.

Old Dominion Chapter #364

September 2007

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President's Message

In July the question was raised in the President's column: "How Long do we have?" This was precipitated by the reflection of Alexander Tyler on the fall of the Athenian Republic nearly 2000 years earlier.

In a lengthy letter to John Hancock dated September 25, 1776 Bro. George Washington had this to say: "Unless some speedy, and effectual measures are adopted by Congress, our cause will be lost." He listed a plethora of requirements to forge the fledgling Continental Army into a true and accomplished fighting force not knowing that Congress had already acted on most of what he wanted due largely to the efforts of John Adams as the head of the Board of War and in floor debate.

Are we the 'Adams' of our time? Do we with military background past and present let Congress know through our representatives that the Commander in Chief must have their support in order that the "cause will not be lost?" Do we stand mute in social circles where the Armed Forces are denigrated? Do we let pass without com-

ment those frequently forwarded emails that heap abuse on the troops as well as the President?

How long do we have?

Ralph W. Smith, Jr.
President

Bro. Phil Tilson Update

Bro. Phil Tilson, PNP 06-07, has been diagnosed with an anaplastic astrocytoma (brain tumor). Information on 8/31/07 from Bro. Phil is that surgery is too risky, and he will begin chemo and radiation treatments as soon as possible. He gives his love to all.

Let's pray for his quick recovery.

September Meeting Information

The next chapter meeting is on **Wednesday, September 19, 2007**, at the Arlington-Fairfax BPO Elks Lodge located at 8421 Arlington Blvd (US 50), Fairfax, VA 22031.

Make your reservations through Brother JOE SPRUILL, Chairman of Membership/Call Committee, at: J_S22309@yahoo.com or cell: 703-615-6275. Or notify your Calling Committee Member. Dinner cost: \$20.00 per person.

NEW DEADLINE IS 1200 HOURS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2007!

UNIFORM OF THE DAY: Business Attire

Social one hour before dinner. Dinner at 1900 hours in Fairfax Room (on Lower Floor of Lodge).

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Old Dominion Chapter #364

Commander's Message



Brethren:

FRATERNAL GREETINGS TO ALL. I especially want to thank those of you who came and participated in the August 29 Bivouac. It is always great to have the opportunity to share in fun and fellowship with our fellow Heroes.

Our Federal Area Encampment for this year will be held on November 17, possibly in the Baltimore area. We are still awaiting the final word from our Federal Area Representative and Collingwood Manager Jerry Kunkel. Let us all attempt to be a part of this Heroes activity if it is within the length of our cable tow.

Our future Camp schedule remains the same, however, we have been asked to support a special ceremony in honor of Brother and General Lafayette at Masons Hall in Richmond on Sep. 8. Harry Sanders is organizing our support of this event.

Tuesday, Oct. 30 - bivouac at Camp Collingwood

Saturday, Nov. 17 - Federal Area Encampment

Wednesday, Jan. 30 - bivouac at Camp Collingwood

Sunday Feb. 24 - George Washington Ceremony

Wednesday, Apr. 30 - bivouac at Camp Collingwood

There are several issues of concern to me which I wish to share with you. As all of you know, the Heroes of '76 exist for the fun and fellowship of the members and the opportunity to serve in a uniformed capacity for Americanism and Bridge of Light ceremonies. Participation in uniform in these events advertises the goals of National Sojourners to promote Americanism and Patriotism, and reminds the observers of our great American heritage. To be able to perform these functions, we need an active band of Heroes in the Light Horse Harry Lee Camp.

First, we do not have a large pool of potential Rekruids and future Heroes. While we have identified approximately 10 members who are not Heroes, most of them are not actively participating in

OD364 meetings and several have advised that they are not able to participate with us. We need all Heroes to identify and talk to prospective members and get them interested. Then let me know and I will contact them.

Second, our level of Hero participation at bivouacs has dwindled somewhat. Part of the reason is that we have not been adding new members at an adequate pace. However, there may be other reasons that some members are not participating. One area of particular concern to me is our outreach to newer and less frequently attending members. While we all have close friends with whom we always have much to discuss, are we being careful to welcome and bring into our conversations those whom we do not know as well. I speak from personal experience of being at Sojourner and Hero functions where I knew few members well, and found myself on the outside while others were busily engaged with one another. We must always make it our first priority to welcome and include those with whom we are less familiar.

Another aspect is reaching out to those we know who have not been attending regularly. May I ask each Hero to reach out and call someone that you know has not been attending and invite him to join us at our next Bivouac? It does seem to make a difference when someone reaches out to you and specifically invites you to participate.

Finally, if there is anything that I can do as Commander to improve participation and enjoyment of Heroes activities this year, please feel free to contact me.

Saturday, October 27 will be the Collingwood Work Day. I would invite our Heroes to make a good showing to help with this important work.

Woody Bentley
Commander



The above picture is that of our RW Delbert E. (Bill) Sheads, PDDGM, guest speaker at the Aug. 15, 2007 O.D. 364 meeting. Bro. Bill, born and raised in Fairfax County in the Burke area, spoke on the changes he has seen and lived in 84 years. It was a walk through another era that many would like to return to. Thank you Bro. Bill.

September 2007

From the Secretary's Desk

Minutes of the Meeting, August 15, 2007

Old Dominion Chapter No. 364 met at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge No. 2188 on August 15, 2007. Thirty-one (31) members and guests were present. Chaplain Bro. Dan Clark offered Grace and we enjoyed a delicious chicken cordon bleu with spaghetti and green peas. Great homemade pie followed for dessert.

At 2000 hours, Pres. Bro. Ralph Smith called the meeting to order for business and Bro. Sanner led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Bro. Dan Clark attended the Bible and gave the Opening Prayer. Bro. Scotty Cameron presented the Toast to the Flag in his usual patriotic way. Bro. Tom Little, 1st VP, presented The Purposes of the National Sojourners. Pres. Smith recognized all VIP's and ladies present for the evening.

Minutes: The minutes for the July meeting were unanimously approved. The secretary then cleared his desk with the following letters; A thank you note was read from a LTC Keith Samuels, along with a donation for \$200.00, in appreciation for assisting his daughter Samantha attending Freedoms Foundation. Bro. Frank Dunaway reported that Lady Connie took a fall in July, and then sent a second letter on 8/1/07 reporting she is recovering. Bro. Phil Tilson

asked for assistance for a funeral on 9/21/07 for Bro. Garrett Collins of Chapter 494. PP Bro. Hans Pawlisch sent a note from South Africa wishing Lady Connie best wishes. Bro. Ed Arndt reported things took a turn for the worst on his eye after cataract surgery. Bro. Harry Sanders reported he had foot surgery on 8/8/07. Bro. Bill Turner sent an email for Bro. Israel Romero in Puerto Rico wishing all well, and that he is working on starting a Sojourner chapter there. And finally, Bro. Bill Turner announced the upcoming *DCJROTC* Program on 10/20/07 and needs volunteers. One letter was sent out to Donald L. Mc Andrews thanking him for his July presentation as George Mason.

A **petition** was read for Honorary Membership from a William James Stavrakos, USA, and a member of Cherrydale Lodge No. 42. This petition was tabled for one month.

Treasurers Report: Bro. John Mayers reported we have \$995.61 in the account as of 8/14/07, and \$8442.86 in savings (Capitol One) as of 7/31/07.

Committee Reports:

Sick & Distressed: Cards have been sent to Bros. Woody Bentley (who is recovering from pneumonia), Ed Arndt, Phil Tilson, Harry Sanders, Grant Graessle, good will and God speed, deployment to Iraq, and to Lady Connie

Dunaway, and Lady Beverly Baker (recovering from a heart attack), wife of Bro. Joseph Baker, National President Elect.

ROTC: Bro. Ralph Smith is trying to get someone to speak on the Ft. McHenry event inspiring the National Anthem, for October. He will notify the membership via the Newsletter.

Heroes: There will be a bivouac on August 29, 2007, 1830 hours. Italian sandwiches and dessert are on order...and there will be no Rekrut. Camp Followers are invited.

Program: There being no old or new business Bro. Smith called Rt. Wor. (R:W:) Delbert E. "Bill" Sheds, PDDGM, to the podium. Bro. Bill is an MIP member of O.D. No. 364 since Nov. 1999, (Sponsor, Harry Sanders) and a member of Henry Lodge No. 57. Bro. Bill has a colorful personal history, which may be read in last month's newsletter under "Presidents Message." Bro. Bill was born in a farmhouse on "old muddy" Guinea Road and raised in the Burke area of Fairfax County. He is able to speak with authority on the history of the entire Northern Virginia area having seen it progress from rural farm country to the present urban sprawl. Bro. Bill likes to think of his talk as simply, "Come walk with me in my 84 years." And we did, and we enjoyed every minute of it. Thank you Bro. Bill for taking us

back to an era we wish we could return to, as many of us knew it.

Closing: Bros. Tom Little and Ralph Smith reminded all that we return to our business attire with the September meeting and it is expected that we wear our Sojourner and Hero medals, preferably with name tags. The Marshal will be checking for violators. There being no further business, the gavel was passed. Lady Connie Dunaway thanked all for their good wishes. Bro. John Mayers announced there is a dinner at the Shrine on 9/10/07, at 1800 hours, ten dollars a head for members and free for non-members. Bro. John also invited all to stop in at Collingwood when down that way. Our petitioner Bill Stavrakos thanked all for their friendliness and he looks forward to being a member. The Chaplain then Attended the Bible and presented the Closing Prayer. The Colors were retired in place and all sang the Closing Song. The Chapter officially closed at 2110 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald A. Dooley
Secretary/Adjutant

**Remember to wear
Business Attire to
the September
Meeting.**

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

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

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION



**Brother Marquis de Lafayette
Happy Birthday September 16
1757 – 1834**

When Lafayette learned of the struggle of the Americans in their endeavor to secure their independence he resolved to come to the colonies to aid them in their efforts as a volunteer. He also persuaded several French officers to come with him. Eventually he landed near Charleston, South Carolina, June 13, 1777, and when the leaders learned of his mission, they welcomed him very hospitably. Later in the summer, he came to Philadelphia and the Congress welcomed him as he came to serve without pay and as a volunteer. Since he represented the highest rank of French nobility and his motives were so patriotic in the American cause, the Congress commissioned him a Major General on the 31st of July. Later in the summer, he met General Washington and a friendship developed between the two men, which lasted as long as Washington lived. He was not even 20 years old! During Lafayette's life, he never forgot the great American. Lafayette was a member of Washington's staff and during the Battle of the Brandywine; Lafayette participated in the closing part of the battle when he was wounded. Later in the autumn, he rejoined the American forces since he had recovered from his wound.

To the end of his life, Lafayette held firm for representative government in his country. The great general died in 1834. His fine work for American independence will never be forgotten and his name will always shine out on the pages of our history.