NEWSLETTER
NATIONAL SOJOURNERS, INC.
FT SAM HOUSTON CHAPTER #17
ALAMO CAMP HEROES OF '76

SEE OUR WEBSITE AT
http://www.ftsamhoustonsojourners.txmasons.org
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ISSUE 16-04 April 2016

Minutes of Business Meeting 2 March 2016

The Monthly Business Meeting of the Chapter was held on 2 March 2016 at The Barn Door. The meeting was preceded by lunch which was ordered from the menu provided. President, H. Nelson Dunn opened the meeting at 1205 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by President. Dunn; Toast to the Flag was given by Brother PNP Elliott Samuels, and the prayer by Chaplain Roger Hopkins.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes were approved as published in the Newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer's report was approved as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Annual National Convention Souvenir Book add info is on the website and the Chapter input has been sent in for publication.

REFERRAL OF APPLICATIONS: Bro Bruce George Dickinson and Bro Armando Soto

APPLICATIONS VOTED ON: Both were approved and will be contacted for initiation.

INITIATION OF NEW MEMBERS: None.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

AMERICANISM: Bro Elliott Samuels deferred to the committee chairs.

ROTC: Bro Dennis reported that all is on track and we are beginning to receive information from schools about their ceremonies and provided a signup sheet for presenters for the schools that we have provided data on ceremonies.

FREEDOM FOUNDATION: Bro McConnell stated that the 2016 brochure will be provided to the Masonic Youth Organization for nominees.

MOWW YLC. Bro McConnell received flyers for the YLC's and will be looking for students to send to the USS Lexington in the latter part of June. The fee for the two students who will attend has been sent to MOWW.

ESSAY: Bro Hopkin stated that the next Essay Contest letters will be sent to schools using the ROTC listing.

FLAG PROGRAM: A Color Guard will be conducted for the Grand Masters walk to the Alamo on Saturday 5 March 2016. The next one, Building the Flag, will be presented on 7 April 2016 at the DAR SA de Bexar Chapter of the DAR. Two more are currently projected for November 2016. Others are pending.

BY LAWS: Nothing new.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: No report.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Bro Sid Shaenfield was not in attendance. Just keep looking for new members.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE: None presented this month.

PROGRAMS: The next dinner meeting is on 9 March at the Ft Sam Houston Golf Course and we will initiate the two new members.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Bro Bob Cox is now back home and doing therapy. Bro Sid Shaenfield is at home doing rehab and doesn't think he is progressing. Elizabeth Samuels is in Heartland Health Care Center on Heartland Drive and is holding her own. Bro Jim Jensen is now at home and is still not up to speed. He has several issues which keep him close to home and currently is unable to

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drive. Bro Paul Adkins is now home. Bro Dan Mason is now home. Bro Lee Leopard is recouping from his surgery. He would have liked to attend but is just not quite ready. Bro Dock Dixon's wife Virginia is recuperating from knee surgery. R:.W:. Kirby, Deputy Grand Master's wife Susanne possibly had a light stroke which caused her blindness and is slowly getting better. Bro Tom Mote's wife passed away 19 Feb and no services were scheduled. Bro Art Polsey reported that his Secretary of Patterson Lodge, Bro Alfonso Martinez passed away and funeral information will be forthcoming. . Keep these Brothers and their families in your prayers.

BRIDGE OF LIGHT: Bro McConnell reported that the Bridge of Light came out in the black this year and thanked all the members. We had 120 attendees and the Grand Master's presentation was excellent.

COMMANDER OF HEROES: Commander, Brother Putnam, announced that the next Bivouac will be on 30 March 2016.

CLMA: Nothing to report as CLMA has been sold.

OLD BUSINESS: The South Central Area Conference and Encampment is still on our list but we have only three signed up at the present time. All Chapters have again been asked to get the information out to the members and send in any information that they have on the number of attendees from their Chapter. There is a conflict with another Masonic function that weekend.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: April 2016 Conference and Encampment is in the works.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The dinner meeting will be held on 9 March 2016. Don't forget the Grand Masters Walk to the Alamo followed by the Masonic Youth Luncheon and the Grand Masters Conference.

CLOSING: There being no further business, President Dunn closed the meeting, at 1305 hours. Peace and harmony prevailing.

MONTHLY BIRTHDAYS !!!	
Max Harvey	4/4
Rowland Tessier	4/6
William White	4/6
James Potter	4/7
Lester Notbohm	4/13
George Kawanami	4/19
Robert Tench	4/19
Roger Hopkins	4/22
Hilario Carreon	4/23
Harold Gellert	4/27
Robert Van de Riet	4/30

FT. SAM HOUSTON CHAPTER 17 DEATHS

Hazel Lucille Mote
19 February 2016

Elizabeth Samuels
18 March 2016

Minutes of the Dinner Meeting 9 March 2016

The monthly Dinner Meeting was held on 9 March 2016 at the Barn Door Restaurant. An enjoyable social hour beginning at 1800 hours was held. President Bro Dunn welcomed those present at 1830 hours, and had Pro Tem Chaplain, Brother Freddie Freeland give the blessing on our endeavors and meal.

INTRODUCTIONS: Bro McConnell introduced attending dignitaries and guests: R:.W:. T. K. Anthony, Committee on Work, Grand Lodge of Texas, Bro Paul Adkins, District Instructor, District 35B, Bro David Wolfe, District Instructor, District 40A and lady Ruth Mary, Bro Elliott Samuels, Past National President and Recipient of the Legion of Honor, 2011, Bro James R. (Bob) McConnell, Past National President and National Trustee, and Bro James N. Higdon, National President. Other Bodies: Bro James N. Higdon, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of TX and Bro Nick Ramos, Most Illustrious Past Most Illustrious Grand Master, Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Tennessee. Sweethearts attending were: Helen Kelly, Jackie Purvis, and Betty Sanders. Chapter officers in attendance were Bro Dennis Lafferty, Past President and Flag Bearer and his lady Tina, Bro Bob McConnell, Secretary/Treasurer, and his lady Pat, Bro Nick Ramos, 2nd Vice President and Bro H. Nelson Dunn, President. Two quests were in attendance for a short period of time. Bro Bruce Dickinson and Bro Armando Soto, Sr., and his lady Guadalupe.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Bro Sid Shaenfield is home and receiving assistance and gets around in a wheel chair. Brother Elliott Samuels reported on Elizabeth. She is still in the long term care facility. Bro Jim Jensen is at home and is having his difficulties. Bro Dan Mason is in room 312 in NE Methodist undergoing tests. Bro Lee Leopard is recuperating from his surgery and should be back soon. Bro Gene Culp is house bound, Bro Wayne Gallion is not doing well and Bro William Mullins just got out of the hospital. Keep all of them in your prayers.

OPENING: President Dunn opened the meeting at 1940 hours with the pledge and prayer. Brother Elliott Samuels gave the Toast to the Flag. There were two initiates awaiting initiation

PROGRAM: Since there was no speaker for the evening we initiated the two. Bro McConnell read off the names and vital statistics of the two and President Dunn called upon the Marshal Pro Tem, Bro Al Putnam to bring them forward for initiation. Bro Dickinson and Bro Soto stood before National President Bro James N. Higdon who gave the lecture.

(Bros Dickinson, Soto and Hidgon)

The Sojourner Obligation was given by President Nelson Dunn and the Medal Lecture by Bro Bob McConnell assisted by Bro Al Putnam. At the conclusion of the initiation the new members were asked if they had anything to say. Bro Dickinson stated that he had attended our Bridge of Light as the Worshipful Master of Brahan Lodge and immediately asked Bro Al Putnam how he could go about joining Sojourners. Bro Al took care of his request. Bro Soto said that he had heard about all the things that the Sojourners do and always wanted to become a member and our National President Bro Jim Higdon accommodated him with an application. Both will be assets to the organization.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Brother Dunn called upon the Alamo Camp Commander, Brother Al Putnam who announced that the next Heroes degree will be on 30 March at Grady's. He also stated that Alamo Camp would be holding a South Central Area Encampment on 8-9 April 2016 and solicited assistance from all so that we would have a good showing for all in attendance. Brother Dunn then announced that the next Business Meeting will be on 6 April 2016 and the next Dinner Meeting will be on 13 April 2016. National President Bro Jim Higdon discussed the upcoming Annual National Convention to be held in Greensville, South Carolina from the 15th to the 19th of June 2016 and encouraged all to think about attending. He discussed the tours that will be available and the hotel accommodations. Bro Lafferty discussed the upcoming ROTC presentations and that the sign up roster was on the back table. He also discussed the upcoming Flag Programs. Bro Higdon thanked all the members of the Flag detail that presented the flags at the Alamo during the visit of the Grand Master. Bro

McConnell gave a rundown on the outcome of the Bridge of Light Dinner and the status of funds for Freedom Foundation and the MOWW Lexington.

DRAWING: Drawing resulted in the following individuals going home with a prize. Pat McConnell, Zola Dunn, and Julie Perkins.

CLOSING: Without further ado the meeting was officially closed at 2030 hours by President Nelson Dunn. Peace and harmony prevailing.

SEE YOU NEXT MONTH

UPCOMING MEETINGS

BUSINESS MEETING: We will again be at **the Barn Door, 8400 North New Braunfels, (Inside Loop 410), 6 April 2016.** Come early get your lunch with the meeting to begin at 1200 hours. It will be order from the menu. Come prepared to take a part in the meeting. South Central Conference and Encampment discussion will be on the agenda. Come and enjoy the fellowship.

THE MONTHLY DINNER MEETING is scheduled for **13 April 2016** at the **Barn Door, 8400 North New Braunfels, (Inside Loop 410).** Social at 1800 hours with dinner at **1830 hours** (**NOTE CHANGE**). Come and enjoy the fellowship. Dinner will consist of Salad, 6 oz. Filet, or Salmon, Baked Potatoes, Vegetable, Dinner Rolls/Butter, Iced Tea and Water, Coffee by the cup and Complimentary dessert. Price of the meal – Steak $25.00 Salmon $30.00... Make check payable to Ft Sam Houston Chapter # 17. Reservations to Bob McConnell, 210-659-6813 or JMcconn529@aol.com or Lee Leopard 210-434-7429 **not later than 11 April 2016.** Sign up early; come and enjoy the fellowship.

This Month in History
(Chronologically by day)

April 1, 1865 – American Civil War: Battle of Five Forks. Union Army led by Philip Sheridan decisively defeated Confederate States Army led by George Pickett, leading to Breakthrough at Petersburg and Appomattox Campaign.

April 3, 1942 – World War II: Japanese forces begin an assault on the United States and Filipino troops on the Bataan Peninsula.

April 4, 1973 – A Lockheed C-141 Starlifter, dubbed the Hanoi Taxi, makes the last flight of Operation Homecoming.

April 6, 1862 – American Civil War: The Battle of Shiloh begins: In Tennessee, forces under Union General Ulysses S. Grant meet Confederate troops led by General Albert Sidney Johnston.

April 9, 2003 – Iraq War: Baghdad falls to American forces; Iraqis turn on symbols of their former leader Saddam Hussein, pulling down a grand statue of him and tearing it to pieces.

April 12, 1945 – U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt dies while in office; Vice President Harry Truman, becomes President upon Roosevelt's death.

April 15, 1922 – U.S. Senator John B. Kendrick of Wyoming introduces a resolution calling for an investigation of a secret land deal, which leads to the discovery of the Teapot Dome scandal.

April 20, 1916 – The Chicago Cubs play their first game at Weeghman Park (currently Wrigley Field), defeating the Cincinnati Reds 7–6 in 11 innings.

April 27, 1805 – First Barbary War: United States Marines and Berbers attack the Tripolitan city of Derna (The "shores of Tripoli" part of the Marines' Hymn).

This Months ROTC Uncles

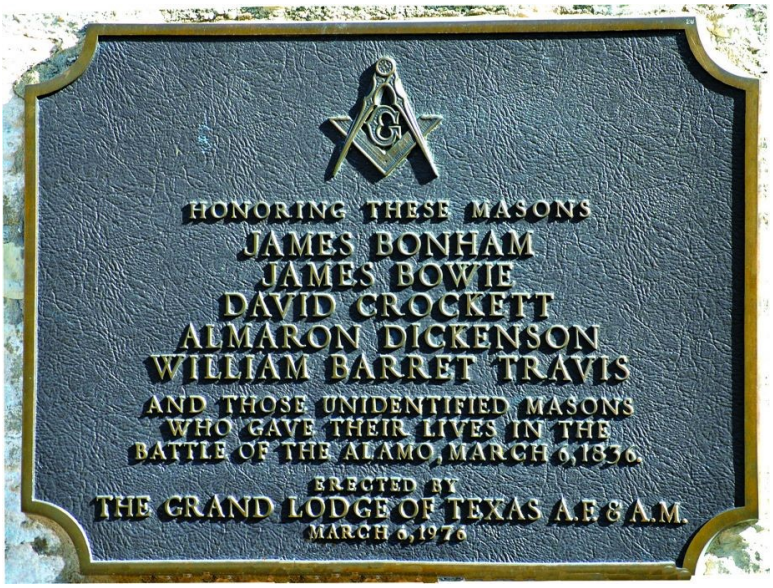
Sid Shaenefield

Paul Adkins

Dennis Lafferty

T.K. Anthony

Betty Sanders



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Bob McConnell
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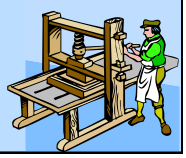
Return Service Requested

If you are receiving this newsletter by US mail and have email, please send your email address to FtSamChapter17@kestler.org. Each printed copy costs your chapter more than $1.50 to produce and mail; the only cost for email is my time.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER
BIVOUAC OF ALAMO CAMP
HEROES OF 76

Attention all Heroes: A bivouac is scheduled for Wednesday, **30 March 2016** at Grady's BBQ, 6510 San Pedro. Put it on your calendar. Dine at 1700 hours.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS: Please keep our Military Forces and their families in your prayers. Take the time to stop them and thank them for their service to our country. We can't thank them enough for their dedication and sacrifice to maintain our freedom and liberty.

They are the finest and best this country has to offer, and we, as citizens, need to express our gratitude to them at every opportunity.

SUPPORT YOUR BLUE LODGE. THEY NEED US AND WE NEED THEM! CONTACT A BROTHER WHO HASN'T BEEN TO LODGE AND ASK HIM TO GO WITH YOU.

SECRETARY NOTES: If you have a change in your address or phone number, please send a note to Bob McConnell, 134 Rhonda Dr., Universal City, TX 78148, or call 210.659.6813. If you have a change in your email address, please send an email to FtSamChapter17@kestler.org or call 830.368.4071 with the new information.