

Memo to: National Trustees

Subject: Minutes of 18 January 2012 meeting of National Trustees

The meeting was called to order at 1300 on 18 January 2012 at the Mid-Winter meeting held at Tucson, AZ. in the Palo Verde Room of the Double Tree-Hilton Reid Park Hotel, by Brother Elliott Samuels, Chairman. Brother Samuels gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited in unison.

Brother Wayne Smith conducted the call of the roll. The following Trustees were present: Elliott Samuels, PNP, LOH; Andrew McVeigh, PNP; Harry Sanders, PNP; Joseph Baker, Jr., PNP; Kent Webber; E. Thomas Kuhn, Jr.; James Norris, PNC, LOH; Sid Shaenfield; Wayne Smith. A quorum was present. Other Sojourners present were William G. L. Turner, National President, PNC; Benjamin Yudesis, Judge Advocate, PNP, PNC, LOH; James R. McConnell, NPE,; Keye Perry, Sr., Nat. 1VP; Merlen Howe, Nat. 2VP; James Higdon, Nat. 3VP; Edward Nolte, PNC, C of 33; Clarence Nelson, PNC, LOH, Emeritus; Frederick Vihovde, PNP; Floyd Gilbert, PNP, LOH; Chuck Folsom, PNP, PNC, LOH; James Benson, Jr.

Brother Samuels welcomed all to this meeting of National Trustees and introduced our newest Trustee E. Thomas Kuhn, Jr. who has been appointed to fill the office until the 2012 ANC due the resignation and passing of Trustee Joseph Illes.

It was moved, seconded and passed that the minutes of the 14 June 2011 Trustees meeting and the minutes of the 19 June Trustees meeting, both at Richmond, VA, be approved as distributed.

Brother Samuels reviewed the income and expense report received from Nelson Newcombe for the period 1 July through 31 December 2011. Points of interest noted are the eight Chapter un-cashed MIP dividend checks and the amount of unpaid per capita for 33 Chapters. The un-cashed dividend checks were voided at the end of September 2011 and the appropriate amount will be included in their 2012 MIP dividend checks. Both items will be highlighted by the National Line officers in their visits to Chapters/Encampments/etc. It was Moved, Seconded and Passed to accept the National Secretaries report.

Brother Yudesis reported on the status of Spirit of America Education Foundation, a NSI 501 C (3) Foundation. We are allowed to accept tentative tax deductible donations however if our 501 C (3) status is not ultimately approved those donations will not be deductible. The Foundation has 27 months to gain compliance approval from IRS.

The meeting of the Trustees was called to refreshment.

A meeting of the Board of Directors for the Spirit of America Education Foundation was opened for the purpose of election of Officers. The following officers were elected by unanimous ballot: Elliott Samuels, Chairman; Joseph Baker, Vice Chairman; Wayne Smith, Secretary/Treasurer; Nelson Newcombe, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. All Trustees are Directors. The Annual Meeting of the Foundation is to be held at the end of the Annual Convention of National Sojourners after the election of new Trustees. The Foundation meeting was closed.

The meeting of the Trustees was called to back to labor.

The National President will query the Collingwood Library and Museum on Americanism to determine how much, if any, funds are in the Horton Memorial Fund for the use of sending deserving high school students to Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

Brother Samuels announced that he was formally withdrawing Resolution 2011-5 which had been tabled at the 2011 Annual Convention. He then moved that his action be approved by the Board of Trustees which was approved. The Chairman of the Resolutions Committee was been notified of this action.

By telephone Brother Newcombe explained a proposal to update the NSI office computer software. This upgrade will combine the three databases currently in use and provide much greater efficiency. Estimated cost of the upgrade is \$3000.00 and is expected to take 4 to 5 weeks. Funding for this upgrade is in available in the Thompson fund and will have no impact on National Sojourner budgets. It was moved, seconded and approved to make this upgrade.

A special election was held and Brother Joseph Baker was elected as Vice Chairman of the Trustees.

The National President spoke about the budget being very lean. He noted that it provided no pay raises for staff and has reduced their health benefits. He also noted that the updating of the Sojourner website was not included in the current budget and all of the costs associated with that had been by donations from a number of Brothers.

Brother Samuels discussed the current contract that NASOCOCO has for the 2012 Annual Convention in Burlington, VT. and that for the first time in anyone's memory, this contract requires advance "progress" payments to the hotel in the amount of \$10,000 per month for the months of February, March and April before any services have been

provided by the hotel. NASOCOCO and the Board of Directors will have to be diligent to insure that this does not occur in any future contracts.

Brother Samuels brought up the need for an inventory of all National Sojourner artifacts, books and other Sojourner owned materials at the Collingwood Library and Museum on Americanism to be accomplished. This is a priority function after having attended the CLMA Board meeting earlier today and having been advised of their financial position.

Brother McVeigh discussed the closing of Chapters and the transfer of their funds to Headquarters Chapter. Brother McVeigh also discussed the excess funds that may be remaining at the end of the fiscal year and how currently they were transferred into the General Fund and as such could possibly be obligated by the National Secretary without the input and direction of the Trustees. It is Brother McVeigh's position that any excess funds should only be obligated/spent after direction/approval of the Trustees. A discussion followed that explained this anomaly.

Brother Chuck Folsom spoke on the history and the current financial difficulties of CLMA.

Brother Clarence Nelson also spoke on the history and the current financial difficulties of CLMA.

It was Moved, Seconded, and Passed for the Trustees to purchase a full page ad in the upcoming Burlington, VT. National Convention Souvenir Book, with each Trustee to give Brother Samuels a check to cover their share of the expenses.

With no further business to come before this meeting of National Trustees, the meeting was closed at 1530, peace and harmony prevailing.

Fraternally,
Wayne Smith
Secretary, National Trustees