

NATIONAL SOJOURNERS, INC

2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORTS

96th ANNUAL CONVENTION
14 JUNE - 19 JUNE 2016
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA



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NATIONAL PRESIDENT, James N. Higdon

It has been another very busy and memorable year for me. In general, I have thoroughly enjoyed my functioning as your National President. It has been a distinct honor to have served you in this capacity and I hope that you believe that—for all my warts—I have properly and effectively served you well. I have continued to enjoy meeting and getting to know many new Sojourners on my trips, while also continuing to develop deeper friendships with so many of you that I already knew. Each year of service in the National Line continues to be a new and ongoing learning experience, trying to absorb the many changes that have occurred and are occurring, while also trying to take in and assimilate the many new responsibilities in fulfilling my new duties, this one was no different. As always, I have tried to build upon my past experiences in the Line, as well as on my prior and present service experiences in the many Masonic organizations of which I am a member and in which I continue to be as active as possible throughout this past NP year. My continuing to work full-time, I have learned that I have had two full-time jobs, rather than only one, together with a number of part-time Masonic jobs to which I have also continued to be elected. My NP job, however, has certainly restricted my prior somewhat routine attendance at my Lodge, Chapter, Council and Commandery, as well as Fort Sam Houston Chapter #17.

I continue this year to attempt, as much as possible, to maintain an active Family Law practice with our firm, *Higdon, Hardy & Zuflacht, L.L.P.*, this past year, although my frequent absences for Masonic trips, mostly for National Sojourners, has certainly restricted my timely deliverance of legal services to those relying upon me. And my frequent absences of partial, if not complete weeks, has certainly resulted in very significant reduction in my legal income. But, in general, it has been enjoyable and worth it.

Here are the legal and Masonic meetings I attended and/or participated in/at throughout my Presidential year:

June 19-26, 2015. Barbara and I participated in some down-time following the Omaha Convention, traveling to be with our Denver son (Andrew), his wife (Jake) and our two grandchildren (Riley (6) and Haddon (4)) there, seeing a lot of the area surrounding Frisco. On the way back to Denver from Frisco, I stopped and viewed the Buffalo Bill Cody Museum. I recommend it to each of you.

June 27, 2015. I attended the installation of PNP Bob McConnell as the Worshipful Master of Charles W. Anderson Lodge #1413, the Lodge at which my Chapter and Council meets. A wonderful time was had by all, including Pat.

June 29, 2015. I conducted the Fellowcraft Q&A for my legal assistant, Bro. Brent Bauer, and then conferred the Master's Degree on him, thereby having conferred all three Blue Lodge Degrees on him.

July 15-18, 2015. My wife having much earlier set aside this week to entertain our Denver grandchildren at the Corpus Christi North Padre Island home we share with two of my partners, we had a wonderful several days there with them and our daughter-in-law, Jake. As a result of that prior commitment, we were unable to attend Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, so I arranged to swap with my NPE, attending his year. But he and Kay had such a good time last year, they, along with us, are attending together this July. Following it, Barbara and I, plan to visit Gettysburg National Battlefield.

July 24-26, 2015. I traveled to Jacksonville, NC, where Denny and Sylvia Norris put me up in their home and, together, we attended, along with the Sortinos and National Commander Ray Vanden Berge, as well as others from at least three of the North Carolina Chapters, the North Carolina Regional Conference and Encampment at Moore's Creek National Battlefield, near Wilmington. I was allowed to speak to those in attendance, as well as the give the Monitor Lecture during the Heroes' Degree. While there, I was very well hosted by Denny and Sylvia, along with N1VP Ron, Barbara and Ronald Sortino, having two wonderful evenings of dinner and fellowship with them. The Friday night dinner event was attended by many who also attended the RCE at Moore's Creek.

August 1-6, 2015. Our firm hosted an event for out-of-town attendees at my partner, Charles E. Hardy's family ranch, the Poco Loco, outside of Boerne. I then attended the Advanced Family Law Course in San Antonio, Texas, sponsored by the State Bar of Texas Family Law Section, Monday through Thursday, along with some 1700-1900 family lawyers from across Texas. During that week, I also attended the annual

dinner of the Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists (August 5) of which I am a member of its Board of Directors.

August 8-12, 2015. Attended the Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the U.S.A. in Buffalo, NY, as a member, being a Past Grand Commander of Texas, where I was recognized and given an opportunity by M·E· Grand Master David Dixon Goodwin to address the assembled Sir Knights from around the world as the National President, National Sojourners. On that occasion, Bro. David J. Kussman, a PGC of California and member of Santa Ana/El Toro Chapter #250, was elected the Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment.

August 21-23, 2015. I traveled to Washington, DC, to visit the new Headquarters in Springfield, VA, and attend the Federal Area Conference and Encampment that was held at Kena Shrine. I was well cared for by Bro. Howard Sobel and our NST, Bro. Bill Sanner, as well as Bro. Randy Geck, the Area Rep, along with other Sojourners from the Federal Area. I was allowed to speak to those in attendance, as well as the give the Monitor Lecture during the Heroes' Degree.

August 29, 2015. As a Past Commander of Brownwood Commander #22, I was in charge of the conduct of an all-day Field Day at which I participated in the conferral of the Order of the Red Cross, Order of Malta, and was the Eminent Commander for the conferral of the Order of the Temple on the newly made Sir Knights, personally knighting most of them.

September 3-8, 2014: We traveled to and participated in a family reunion of our sons and their families in Culver City/Los Angeles over Labor Day at our oldest son's (Travis') home. All four of our grandchildren were in attendance. The LA son and family are Travis, Janet, Park (5) and Byrd (3).

September 23, 2015. I traveled to Austin, Texas, to attend Anson Jones Chapter #507, where PNP's McVeigh, Perry and Howe, along with NPE Baker were in attendance with their wives. I had the opportunity on this occasion to participate in the initiation of Bro. Joe Schriever, a long-time Masonic York Rite friend, as a member of our Order. He was a few weeks later elected as the Grand Scribe, Grand Royal Arch Masons of Texas.

September 25, 2015. I traveled to League City, Texas, to attend the Supreme Assembly, Social Order of the Beauceant (SOOB). Prior thereto, I met with Area Representative Tom Boone, at my motel, where we discussed the status of his Area, and more especially, Houston Chapter and its planned activities. At the installation meeting on the final night of the SOOB's Supreme Assembly, I met PNP Joe Ryland, his wife Katie, being a PSWP, and also saw Angelika Zita, but missed Joe, who had left the day prior to return to Arizona to attend a Masonic function there. I was present to observe Lynda Derby, wife of the SOCAL Area Rep, Tom Derby, be installed as Supreme Worthy President. Following her installation, she called on me and allowed me to be introduced twice, once as PGC of Texas and also as NP, National Sojourners. I also had the opportunity to visit with the Department Commander, Southwestern Department of the Grand Encampment, who, when he served as Deputy Grand Master of Arizona, convinced him to become a member of Grand Master's Chapter #996 in Kansas City at the Conference of Grand Masters. By attending this event, I was unable to do double duty and attend the TN RCE in Bartlett, TN, although NC Vanden Berghe did attend it.

October 1-3, 2015: I hosted and attended the National Sojourners ExComm Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, attending the meeting of the Trustees on the 2nd, along with the other National Line Officers, National Secretary-Treasurer, National JAG and the National Commander, followed by a dinner Barbara and I hosted at our home for all of the attendees and some of those of their wives in attendance. The following day, the National Line Officers held a very productive meeting, followed by a Mexican evening out for those staying over Saturday night.

October 11-21, 2015: I missed attending the Annual Communication of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas and Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Texas in Waco for the first time since becoming a member of those bodies, due to our being on a vacation Fall Foliage Cruise with two other couples from Bayonne, NJ up the east coast, down the St. Lawrence to Quebec, Canada, flying home from its airport. I celebrated my 71st birthday in Quebec City.

October 29-31, 2015. After traveling to Belton, Texas, to attend a trial for a client in Germany that was supposed to begin at 1330, I departed there at 1530, driving to Corpus Christi to join Barbara and NPE Jim and Kay Baker at the meeting of John J. Harris Chapter #397. Although the long drive—about 4 hours—delayed

my arrival, a grand time was had by all. The Bakers spent the weekend with us at our Corpus Christi North Padre Island home, and we all had a grand time, and, of course, ate too much.

November 7, 2015. Attended my UT NROTC Alumni Foundation meeting in Austin where I was privileged to present The Four Chaplains scholarship (\$1,000.00) that Barbara and I had funded to a UT NROTC Midshipman, while also fellowshipping with many of my NROTC classmates who were present. I was also instrumental in procuring and then delivering baseball hats bearing the UTNROTC logo for sale as a fundraiser for the UTNROTC Alumni Foundation, some of which were additionally monogrammed with the 75th Anniversary logo and other special identifying stars and lettering for delivery to our Flag Officers, one of whom is ADM Bill McRaven, now Chancellor of the UT System, and our UTNROTC plankowners from 75 year ago.

November 20-25, 2015. Flew to Savannah, GA, to attend the Middle Atlantic ACE, where I was joined at the hotel aboard Hunter Army Air Field by several of my 2016 Greenville ANC Team members. On the evening of the 20th, Area Rep Bro. Wayne Barnes took several of us, including NC Vanden Berghe, to a very nice restaurant, where a grand time was had by all at the dinner. The following day, the Conference commenced at the Savannah Scottish Rite, followed by lunch in the building, followed by the conferral of the Heroes Degree upon Bro. Buddy Jones of John Sevier Chapter #548, Treasurer of my ANC Team. I was allowed to speak to those in attendance at the conclusion of the Conference portion, as well as the give the Monitor Lecture during the Heroes' Degree. That evening, a banquet was held in the Scottish Rite, followed by a Camp Followers Degree led by Sister Patti Turner as Den Mother.

On Sunday morning, I departed for Greenville with Bro. Lewis Langley, LOH, and Bro. George Mabry, both members of John Sevier Chapter, being dropped off at Bro. Guy Palmer's home, who hosted me during my stay in Greenville on this occasion. On Monday the 23rd, my ANC Team held a planning meeting at the Embassy Suites and finalized many loose ends and agreeing on the meal selections. That evening, I attended the monthly meeting of John Sevier Chapter, inducting two new members, while also visiting with President Rhodan Batson and Gerry, who, on behalf of the Chapter, presented me with a gift certificate which Barbara and I used to celebrate our 47th Anniversary earlier this year.

On Tuesday afternoon, the 24th, Lewis Langley, George Mabry and Jim Turner, drove to Columbia, SC, to attend the monthly meeting of Fort Jackson Chapter #184. I was again allowed to participate in the initiation of two new members to that Chapter and was allowed to address the assemblage of members and their wives, before driving back to Greenville. Fort Jackson Chapter, by and through their President, Bro. John Bowker, honored me by presenting me with several gifts, including M.:W.:GM Bill Rogers' tie and coin, a Columbia Christmas ornament, and some other items. I have enjoyed wearing GM Rogers' tie on many occasions since receiving it. Area Representative Wayne Barnes and his wife, Floretta, along with his daughter and son-in-law, Cindi and Brian Coffey, who had driven from their homes in Georgia to attend the meeting, as well as Regional Rep Richard Barton, a member of Fort Jackson Chapter. .

December 2-5, 2015: I attended the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Texas in Waco, concluding this term of my service as a member (and *de facto* Secretary) of its Purposes and Policies Committee. On this occasion, I was personally received and introduced as your National President. I was privileged to address the "Grand West" and present a part of the P&P Committee's Report, and then given special recognition upon concluding my term of service on the Committee. .

December 9-10, 2015. I drove to McKinney, Texas, to meet M.:W.:GM Wendell P. Miller, Grand Master of Texas and his wife, Billie, at their home. We then travelled to the Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas to attend the meeting of Audie L. Murphy Chapter #112. It was my pleasure to get to visit with Brethren I had known in the Naval Reserve, such as RADM Bob Smith and his wife, a past DDGM, as well as Past National President of the then Naval Reserve Association, where I first met and knew him, as well as Brethren I had not met before. The Grand Master, also as Past President and current Treasurer of the Chapter and a Past Commander of the Camp, and I exchanged MIP certificates, he joining Fort Sam Houston #17 and I Audie L. Murphy #112. After breakfast prepared by the GM the following morning, they having hosted me in their home, we both left for San Antonio. Enroute, I stopped in Round Rock to meet with Bro. NPE, Jim Baker, to discuss some National Sojourner business.

December 10, 2015. M:W: Bro. Miller helped Charles W. Anderson Lodge #1413 in San Antonio, a Lodge of which Bro. James R. "Bob" McConnell, PNP and Trustee, is the Worshipful Master, celebrate their bi-centennial of being put to work. I also attended and was recognized as your National President.

December 11, 2015. M:W: Bro. Miller, along with most of the Grand Lodge Elected and Appointed Officers, attended the annual commemoration of Alamo Lodge #44, the Mother Lodge in San Antonio, in The Alamo, the Shrine and Cradle of Texas Liberty and Independence. I attended as Treasurer of Alamo Lodge.

December 12, 2015: I traveled with Dock F. Dixon, Jr. to San Angelo, Texas, and attended the Annual Ingathering of Nazareth Tabernacle No. XXXIV, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, as one of its past Very Eminent Preceptors, and was recognized as your National President.

December 19, 2016. I participated with the members of Alamo Lodge #44 in our now annual gathering for breakfast at a Mexican Restaurant prior to meeting at H.E.B. #24 grocery store to purchase 12 "baskets of food" to deliver as Christmas Baskets to 12 needy San Antonio families. The manager and employees of HEB #24 were very cooperative and have grown accustomed to this charitable endeavor in which they also provide us with some discounts on the purchased food items, not the least of which is a turkey.

January 14-16, 2016: I attended and participated in our Mid-Winter Meeting held in Austin, Texas at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The MWM was opened and closed by two area NJROTC unit Color Guards. The National Chaplain, Bro. Thom Davies, conducted a Memorial Service for those who had passed since the Annual Convention, and Bro. Ken Lowmiller, PNP/PNC/LOH presented a remembrance video of Dottie. We were honored to have M:W:GM Wendell P. Miller, Grand Master of Texas and his wife, Billie, in attendance at part of the MWM. There was a Ladies Luncheon hosted by Barbara, which appeared to be well attended. The MWM Banquet on Saturday night featured the attendees singing "O, America" as led your National Officers, remarks by National Commander Raymond J. Vanden Berghe, as well as some remarks of my own titled "Riding for the Brand," which was my revision of an article published in the January issue of the Knight Templar Magazine, which was written by the R:E: Grand Captain General of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of the U.S.A., and a National Sojourner, Bro. David J. Kussman of California.

January 20-24, 2016: Barbara and I flew to Denver, CO. After arriving at my son's home, Bro. Bill Hickey, Secretary-Treasurer of Denver-Fitzsimmons Chapter #37 and Area Representative of the Rocky Mountain Area, picked me up and took me to the meeting of Denver-Fitzsimmons Chapter. While there, my planned presentation was somewhat preempted by the Chapter's discussion of their being invited to host the 2017 ANC by Bro. NPE. Although it appeared, after attempting to answer their questions as posed to me, that, upon my departure, they were going to entertain the proposal, it was later reported to me by Bro. Jim Baker that they had voted not to do so at their February meeting.

On January 21, I had hoped to also visit Pikes Peak Chapter #237 in Colorado Springs on my way to Pueblo, but it did not come to fruition. I attended the Grand Lodge of Colorado Communication January 22-23 in my capacity the Grand Representative from Texas to Colorado as well as your National President. I was also privileged to have been appointed by M:W:GM Wendell P. Miller to attend as his Personal Representative. While there, the Grand Master, M:W: Bro. Robert D. Elsloo, a friend and National Sojourner, gave me the opportunity to bring greetings from the Grand Lodge of Texas as well as from National Sojourners.

Of course, I also fit in a brief visit with my Denver grandchildren since the trip was intended to be a grandchildren trip as well, although Barbara spent the entire time with them. We flew back to San Antonio on Sunday, January 24.

January 29-31, 2016. Having been invited by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana in my capacity as your National President, I drove to Alexandria, LA, to attend their Grand Lodge Annual Communication, and, upon registering, met with PNP and MWB Joe Baker and Regional Representative Bro. Gerald Houston. I attended the Grand Master's Banquet and meet and ate with two good friends, the Past Department Commander of the South Central Department of the Grand Encampment, Howard F. Entwistle, Jr., and his wife, and the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Texas, who is also the Grand Secretary/Recorder of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter/Grand Council, Royal & Select Masters of Texas, Orville L. O'Neal and his wife. I was formally received and introduced with other visiting dignitaries on Saturday. That evening, I had a very lovely dinner with PNP Baker and RR Houston. Sunday morning I could not attend the rest of the Grand Communication, since I had to drive back to San Antonio (7 hours) to, that evening, attend and participate with Barbara at one

of her book clubs, *Las Revistas*, annual “couples meeting,” where I was the principal reviewer of “The Boys in the Boat,” a book by Daniel James Brown about the 1936 Olympic Gold Medal Rowing Team from the University of Washington who beat the Nazi and Italian Teams in Berlin. I whole-heartedly recommend it to all of you.

February 10-11, 2016: Barbara and I hosted M:W:GM Wendell and Billie Miller in our home, reciprocating for their hosting of me in their home December 9-10, and then attended Fort Sam Houston Chapter #17’s annual Bridge of Light Banquet at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club. Our own PNP/LOH Elliott Samuels was the Master of Ceremonies and M:W: Bro. Miller was the keynote speaker, upon being introduced by me. A wonderful time was had by all.

February 20-23, 2016: I attended the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, which was held this year in Madison, Wisconsin. M:W:GM Frank Struble and the officers and members of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin did a fantastic job with the transportation to and from the airport and the meals and entertainment during the Conference. M:W:GM Struble is also a National Sojourner. On Monday, the Fraternal Liaison Breakfast, again under the leadership of M:W: Bro. Ed Cohen, was a great success with your National Line Officers presenting another excellent program. Bro. Bob Roth had orchestrated our having a part on the program of the Tuesday morning session of the Conference of Grand Secretaries, which I had the pleasure of presenting. Immediately following that presentation, those in attendance adjourned to the annual meeting of Grand Masters Chapter #996, which was attended by our host, M:W: Bro. Struble. The Chapter President, M:W: Bro. Gale Kenney, asked me to participate in the initiation of the several candidates, which I appreciated. I also want to thank the Wisconsin Sojourners, including, but not limited to Bros. Bob Roth and Dave Alderfer, for their support of our participation at this event.

March 5, 2016. At M:W: Bro. Miller’s appointment, I served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Masonic Grand Lodge’s Memorial Commemorative Service at The Alamo, the Shrine of Texas Liberty, conducting the meaningful program in front of the entrance door to The Alamo that was attended by approximately 200 Masons, ladies, guests and non-Masons. Music was provided by the Alzar Shrine Band, which also provided two trumpeters who played *Taps*. At the conclusion, Bro Jim Baker and I were approached by a Sojourner from the Camp Lejeune Chapter who just happened to timely be present as a tourist and enjoyed the program, noticing the Sojourners in the Color Guard and Bro. Baker having offered the *Toast to the Flag*.

Thereafter, the Masons present, including Bro. Baker and me, adjourned to the Alzar Shrine Temple for the Shrine-sponsored Masonic Youth Brunch, which was followed by Grand Master Miller’s San Antonio Grand Master’s Conference. During the Masonic Youth Brunch, I was introduced as your National President and then introduced the County Judge of Bexar County, Bro. Nelson Wolff, who presented Grand Master Miller with his appointment by the Bexar County Commissioners Court as a *Hidalgo* of Bexar County, Texas.

April 6-8, 2016. Following the business meeting of Fort Sam Houston Chapter #17, I drove to Galveston, Texas, unfortunately hitting Houston at peak Friday afternoon rush hour, to attend the State Bar of Texas’ Family Law Section’s Marriage Dissolution Course. My main reason in attending was in order to be present for the Board Meeting of the Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists of which I am a Board Member (2014-2017). Following the close of that Board Meeting on Friday afternoon, I returned to San Antonio to be able to meet and visit with those arriving to attend the South Central Area Conference/Encampment (SCACE), having dinner with Jim and Kay Baker after all three of us picked up Barbara from the airport upon her return from Los Angeles and visiting our grandchildren there.

April 9, 2016: I attended and participated in the SCACE in San Antonio, Texas, along with National Commander, Bro. Ray Vanden Burghe, National President-Elect, Bro. Jim Baker and Kay, National Chief of Staff, Bro. Carl Diamond and Carolyn, two area Trustees and PNPs, Bob McConnell and Keye Perry, and their wives, Pat and Becky, respectively, as well as PNP Elliot Samuels, LOH, and the Deputy Area Representative, Jerral Knox and two Regional Representatives, Bros. Rick Pitts and Charles Blacknall. The Conference was opened by Worshipful Bro. McConnell, the Conference/Encampment Manager, assisted by the NPE, both of whom presented training to the attendees on the planning and conduct of an Area Conference/Encampment, among other matters. After lunch, which the ladies attended, the candidate for the Heroes Degree, under the direction of the Camp Commander, who was the NPE, successfully crossed the “D” and was made a Hero of ’76. The National Judge Advocate, Bro. Ben Yudesis, PNP/PNC/LOH, although not in attendance at the

Conference, having to split his time with a Scottish Rite Convocation that was in competition with our event, attended the Encampment portion of the day. Following the Degree, a Bennington Banquet was held, which, unfortunately, due to other prior scheduled commitments, Barbara and I could not attend, but it was reported that everyone had a memorable and enjoyable time.

April 23-25, 2016: I attended Grand Conclave of The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, in Abilene, Texas, as a Past Grand Commander and the Texas State Chairman of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Annual Voluntary Campaign. On Sunday, I served the Grand Prelate as his song leader for the Memorial and Worship Services, and, during the Memorial Service, presented a “floral tribute” to Bro. Captain John Paul Jones, recognizing and informing all present of the “re-burial” service being conducted at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, later that day by the Grand Lodge of Maryland, with the National Sojourners and National Heroes of ’76 leading the burial procession to Dahlgren Hall. That evening, during the meeting of the Past Grand Commanders of Texas Association, Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Kenneth B. Fischer, a Past Grand Commander of Texas, passed down to me the office of Secretary of the Association. On Monday, I was received as your National President as one of the dignitaries. Later that morning, it was my privilege to be the recipient of *The Grand Master’s Sword of Merit* from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation for my donations over the past 15 or so years. It was presented to me by the M.:E.: Sir Knight Duane L. Vaught, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the U.S.A. and Sir Knight Robert W. Bigley, Office Administrator of the Eye Foundation. To say the least, I was very appreciative and humbled. If you are ever in San Antonio, come by my office and see it where I have it displayed.

April 25, 2016. Immediately following the adjournment of the Grand Commandery for lunch, my traveling companion, Bro. Joe O. Estlack, as Past Commander of San Antonio Commandery #7 and the Assistant Chief of Staff of Alamo Camp, Heroes of ’76, and I departed Abilene to return to San Antonio in order for both of us to attend the banquet being hosted by San Antonio Assembly #159, Social Order of the Beauceant (SOOB), as part of their inspection by the Supreme Worthy President, Lynda M. Derby, wife of Tom Derby, Past President of Camp Joseph H. Pendleton Chapter #243 and Past Camp Commander of The 49ers Camp. I was in attendance since I had been invited to be the speaker at their banquet. I presented a SOOB oriented version of the Riding for the Brand presentation I gave at MWM in January.

April 27-29, 2016: Barbara and I attended the Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina in Greenville, SC, at which, as your National President, Barbara and I were invited to attend the Grand Master’s Banquet on Wednesday night as one of M.:W.: Bro. William B. Rogers’ guests. The following morning I was received as a dignitary and invited to sit in the Grand East. After lunch, I was surprised to be invited to the floor before the Grand Master to receive a gift, a framed print of a portrait of Bro. George Washington. Bros. Guy Palmer and Mike Steele presented it to me on behalf of the National Sojourners of South Carolina. This presentation was one of thirteen such framed portrait prints that were presented to out-of-state Grand Masters or Past Grand Masters at that time. That evening, Grand Master Rogers presented some awards to selected Masons of South Carolina, two of whom are members of John Sevier Chapter #548 and the only Sojourners to receive awards: Bro. Bennie Hammond (the Grand Marshal and Chapter 1st Vice-President) (Albert Gallatin Mackey Award—the highest award in South Carolina Masonry) and Bro. Lewis Langley (Frederick Dalcho Certificate—the second highest award in South Carolina Masonry). On Friday, M.:W.: Bro. Rogers called upon me to bring greetings, which I did, and, in conclusion, presented him his appointment by the Bexar County Commissioners Court as a *Hidalgo* of Bexar County, Texas, which I had arranged with Bexar County Judge and Bro. Nelson Wolff. The installation of the newly appointed Grand Officers followed, which included John Sevier #548 members R.:W.: Bro. Thomas Henry, as DDGM, District 15; R.:W.: Bro. James N. Turner, as Grand Standard Bearer; and W.: Bro. Johnnie M. “Buddy” Jones, Jr., as Grand Junior Deacon.

Following the close of the Grand Lodge, the ANC Planning Team from John Sevier Chapter #548 met with three of the ladies from the Embassy Suites Hotel and Barbara and me to try to shore up any problems and/or concerns that were known to exist. Following the departure of the hotel ladies, we continued our meeting to address other issues related to the conduct of the ANC in Greenville in June. Barbara and I returned

to San Antonio on Saturday the 29th, although we left the portrait with Bro. Palmer and will display to you at ANC, and then return it to Texas since we will be driving and will then not have to “ship it.”

At the time of this writing, I still have planned visitations, including attending a Called Communication of the Grand Lodge of Texas (May 14), picking up Bro. Baker in Georgetown enroute to Waco, during which trip he and I will be discussing some finalization of planning for ANC, and the President’s Banquet in particular; and the Grand Lodge of Indiana in Indianapolis (May 15-18), to which Barbara and I have been invited to represent National Sojourners, Incorporated, and thereby each of you. I/we are looking forward to each such trip.

Throughout the year, I have had the privilege and opportunity to present the *Toast to The Flag* on a few occasions. I have also attended and participated as the By-Laws Committee Chair at the monthly business meetings of my home Chapter, FSH #17, as well as most of the bivouacs of Alamo Camp, at which I participated by giving the Monitor Lecture if a Degree was conferred. Also serving as the Treasurer of my Lodge, Chapter and Council, I attended as many of their Stated Meetings/Convocations/Assemblies as I could, but missed some due to either legal or National Sojourner conflicts, mostly the latter. I also regularly attended the Stated Conclaves of Brownwood Commandery #22, Boerne, Texas, one of three Commanderies of which I am a member, as well as many other appendant bodies of which I am a member and past presiding officer.

Barbara and I look forward to attending the Annual National Convention in Greenville, in the “up country of South Carolina,” and once again enjoying renewing our friendships and acquaintances with so many of you. I am looking forward to the conclusion of my service to you National President in governing the conduct of the Convention and the President’s Banquet. I am also looking forward to Bro. James A. Baker assuming the helm and my falling back to be a resource to be called upon when needed by him, as is the case with all other Past National Presidents.

Once, out of office, it will be my privilege on June 20 to install the officers of John Sevier Chapter #548 at their June meeting which they advanced one week to accommodate my travel schedule following the close of the ANC.

I also look forward in the coming year to continuing to work on and hopefully complete some of my unfinished National Sojourner projects, such as the revisions to the National By-Laws and National Regulations as well as the preparation of a National Officers and Ladies Guide to assist them in their preparation for and service as National Officers.

Finally, as I have said before and continue to say, I challenge each of you to take an active part in your Chapters and Camps, while also continuing your support of all of our National Order’s programs and endeavors in promoting our motto, **Proudly Serving the Cause of Patriotism**, throughout this Great Nation. That saying has been and will continue to be prominently displayed on my pin so that everyone who sees you wearing it will know that you, as a National Sojourner, and all National Sojourners, are **Proudly Serving the Cause of Patriotism!**

NATIONAL PRESIDENT-ELECT, James A. Baker

It has been my honor to represent you and National Sojourners, Incorporated throughout my year as your National President-Elect. I have been privileged to attend some amazing events. I will begin on a local note. I have served as Anson Jones Chapter’s Secretary since June 2013. Over the period of June 2015 to May 2016, I have participated in parades and Build the Flag Presentations, presented JROTC Awards, attended all of our Business and Stated Meetings, and our Area Conference and Encampment. I also continued to serve as the Chair for our National Sojourners Local Essay Contest. We solicit entries from the JROTC Units to which we give annual awards. The Cadet entries are graded by our local committee and the top three are forwarded to our National Essay Contest. If your Chapter does not participate in the National Essay Contest, I recommend you do so and encourage the Cadets you serve through their JROTC Units to submit essays. I have enjoyed all the times over this past year spent working and relaxing with my Brothers and Sisters of Anson Jones Chapter.

At our 2015 ANC in Omaha, when I was installed as your National President-Elect, I again sensed a deep personal feeling of the honor you bestowed on me by your confidence in allowing me to serve you in this

capacity. It has been a true pleasure to do so. I commit to all of you that I will do all I can to lead all facets of our Order. My only "agenda" is that together, we continue to ensure National Sojourners, Incorporated remains at the vanguard of Masonic Military efforts.

In July 2015, with other issues demanding his attention, our National President requested that I represent him at Freedoms Foundation Valley Forge. Kay and I traveled to Valley Forge where we received a warm reception and spent the next several days meeting, listening to and speaking with some very remarkable students attending the event. Not only at FFVF but also during all of our events for youth I continue to gain an admiration for all they know and say, as well as recognizing that these are truly our leaders of tomorrow. I am so glad that National Sojourners, in conjunction with FFVF and MOWW, provides these remarkable learning experiences for our youth.

If you have never been to FFVF, I urge you to do so, at some time in your life. You will not be sorry. I previously mentioned that I was there representing Brother Jim. He told me that, if I would attend in 2015, he would do the same for me in 2016. Well, as we were leaving Valley Forge, my Lady Kay said, "We are coming back next year." So, we will again travel to the event this July, and we both look forward to it. In addition to attending the conference, we also went with the students to visit Independence Hall. To stand in the actual room where the Declaration of Independence was signed is breathtaking. Of special note is that the only piece of furniture remaining in the room that was actually present during the signing and still remaining in the room is the chair that Brother George Washington sat in, as he presided over the event. On the top of the chair back is a half sun seemingly peaking over the back of the chair. Brother Ben Franklin was said to have remarked that he had often looked at the partial sun and wondered if he was seeing a rising sun or a setting sun. After the signing of the Declaration was completed, he declared that he then knew he was looking at a rising sun. In addition to the Signing Room and the rest of the rooms in Independence Hall, to see the Liberty Bell up close and personal (although now, no one is allowed to touch it) is likewise inspiring. The entire experience is amazing. Brother Bill and Lady Patti Turner guided us down the street from Independence Hall to see a print shop similar to the one used by Brother Ben Franklin. We also visited his grave. Again, the experience was incredible and I look forward to our return trip in July 2016.

COGMINA was held this year in Madison, WI. You might think that the weather in Wisconsin in February would be awful, but, as I mentioned to several there, Brother Jim and I brought moderate temperatures with us from Texas. While the previous weeks saw temperatures radically below freezing, while we were there, we enjoyed walking around the city while only in the 40s. We were supported by the Brothers of Milwaukee Chapter #27, and deeply appreciated their help. Our Fraternal Liaison Breakfast was well attended and there was much discussion amongst all who were there about National Sojourners and Grand Lodges. Brother Jim spoke to the Grand Secretaries about a Masonic Veterans Initiative that seeks to gain cooperation between Grand Jurisdictions and National Sojourners to reach out to our Masonic Veterans. Next year, as National President, I hope to give the presentation to the Grand Masters. Speaking of Grand Masters, the Grand Masters Chapter met as usual and we initiated several Grand Masters into the Chapter and a few other Deputy Grand Masters in National Sojourners. It was a stellar event.

This year, PNP Brother Bob McConnell volunteered to host the 2016 SCACE, in San Antonio. I appreciated his offer and the event was a wonderful success. Those who attended were treated to a great Conference and Encampment. Brother Bob asked if I would serve as the Camp Commander for the Heroes of '76 Degree. I was assisted by several members from different Camps, including our National Chief of Staff. Brother Carl and Lady Carolyn flew down from Omaha for the event. This time they made it. I say this because last year they were unable to get to Austin due to extremely bad wintery weather, which cancelled their flight(s). It was great to have them attend the SCACE and take part in the activities throughout the day. I was also asked by Brother Bob if I would give a presentation on the paper I wrote a couple of years ago entitled "How to Host an Area Conference and Encampment", which I was more than pleased to do. In the document, I spell out all the Host Chapter needs to do to make C&Es happen. Several of the Chapters attending the SCACE committed to reviewing the document and hosting one in the future. I was told by our Brothers from Brazos Valley Chapter in College Station that they would step up to the plate next year. This is great for our Area. I note at the end of the document that what is contained in it, applies equally, with a couple of exceptions, to hosting a National Meeting. I intend to widely publicize the document so that Chapters in all Areas may

consider hosting a Conference & Encampment, or a National MWM or ANC, in the future. I commit to individually assisting anyone in any Chapter who is considering hosting one of these meetings. Believe me, Brothers, it is not rocket science. It just requires putting together a good team, properly planning the event, then, executing the plan. Please consider being a Host Chapter.

On April 23, 2016, I had the honor of participating in a major historical Masonic event at the U. S. Naval Academy, in Annapolis, Maryland. In February, I received an email announcing the event from our Federal Area Representative Brother Randy Geck, to which I immediately responded to and indicated that I would attend the event. Let me lead you into how the event came about. Our Brother John Paul Jones, who was the Father of the American Navy, passed away in Paris, France on July 18, 1792 and was buried there. During his term as President of the United States, Brother Teddy Roosevelt had his body exhumed and returned to the United States, where he was re-interred in a crypt beneath the Chapel at the U. S. Naval Academy. The crypt is amazingly beautiful and awe inspiring. The Grand Master of Maryland, MW Brother Kenneth S. Wyvill, Jr. and others, noticed that Brother Jones never received a Masonic Burial Service. The Brothers of the Maryland Grand Lodge set out to rectify the oversight; an effort that took over three years to complete. So, myself and a large group of Brother Masons and their Ladies, led by members of the Heroes of '76 in Colonial attire, including a Color Guard, along with many Camp Followers in their attire as well, processed from Annapolis Lodge to the Naval Academy and conducted the service. I was told that there were 300 in attendance. Along with our National Commander, Brother Raymond J. Vanden Berghe, Sr., I was asked to serve as the Honor Guard at the symbolic casket of our Brother John Paul Jones. The service took place in Darnall Hall, where Brother Jones' casket lay in state, prior to being placed in his burial crypt. What an honor to participate in this historic event!

The previous day, Brother Ray took me on a tour of the Naval Academy that included a visit to the actual crypt in which Brother Jones is buried. That was another event that will remain a fond memory for the rest of my life. As you may or may not know, my Colonial Uniform was made for me by Seamstress Darlene Neuhaus, based on the uniform being worn by Brother Jones in a portrait of him. If you have yet to visit the U.S. Naval Academy and see Brother Jones' crypt, I strongly urge you to do so.

My oversight areas for this year included Area & Regional Representatives, Chapter Revitalization and Chartering, NASOCOCO and the IT Committee. I tip my hat to Brother Jim for his superb assistance with our Area & Regional Representatives. He provided me with an excellent spreadsheet containing all the information I needed regarding appointments for next year. Thank you, Brother Jim!! Of course, Brother Randy Geck continues to do an excellent job as Chair of our CR&CC. He quickly followed up on any of the issues arising from the reports on visitations by Area and Regional Representatives to our Chapters. As I mentioned above, he also headed up the Masonic Service for Brother John Paul Jones. He did this in his spare time. Well done, Sir. NASOCOCO was required to shift the 2016 MWM to Austin. Our newly appointed NASOCOCO Treasurer Brother Charles Blacknall worked closely with the local members of Anson Jones, as well as the Hotel Staff to see that everything was taken care of in a timely fashion. The IT Committee continues to service our current webpages in good form. There are issues looming in the future regarding our current software, as well as an ageing server that will require attention. I recognize how fortunate we are to have such a capable cadre of experts to lead our technical endeavors.

Of course, a lot of my time this year was spent preparing for next year. I have enjoyed all the activities I participated in over this year and I look forward to many more over next year. Thank you, again, for your faith in my abilities to work with you to make our Order even better in the future.

In conclusion, I have been honored to serve in my current capacity this year as National President Elect. I look forward to stepping into the shoes of National President in Greenville. I remain encouraged that our organization is one of the few going in the right direction, at this time in our Nation. I also remain committed to doing the best job I can to support all of your efforts over the next year and beyond. We have the best programs available and only need to stand tall and execute our plan to promote Americanism and patriotism in America to succeed in our honorable task. I thank you in advance for all that you will accomplish over the next year. I pledge to working with and for you. God bless America!

NATIONAL FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, Ronald D.R. Sortino

Another year, another dollar! Reflecting back a couple years, the activities, events and commitments, each year, seem to become more challenging and rewarding. With that said, it is time to capsulate my commitments taken during Sojourner year 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

Most all of my travels have been centered around the Carolina's as a National Line Officer of National Sojourners. I and members of the three Camps of Heroes in North Carolina, have presented flag programs and Colour Guards around North Carolina for holiday functions, Bridge of Light and memorial events, dedications and/or school and civic events: the following are a few of the activities referenced above – USO on the 4th of July; dedication of a WWII memorial; “Masons March” in Veterans Day parade; International Rotary Leadership Conference in Jacksonville; the 33rd Degree/KCCH conferral “Red and White” banquet; and St. John’s Day at the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford, North Carolina where a National Sojourner float was used for the largest Masonic parade in the area and the Colors were presented and posted to begin the two day festival.

Additionally, I represented National Sojourners at the following events: the East Carolina Commissioning Ceremonies (twice per year) of the U.S. Army ROTC program by giving the “Toast” as well as “Old Glory speaks.,” presenting ROTC/JROTC medals and certificates to numerous Cadets; presenting the National Sojourner State of “Well Being” to three “Blue Lodges” which resulted in picking up a sponsor for the Freedom Foundation Valley Forge program and giving out four applications for membership; and lastly, attending the North Carolina Conference/Encampment at Moore’s Creek Battle Field State Park in Wilmington on 25 July 2015.

Outside the North Carolina borders, I was present and participated in the Federal Area Conference and Encampment on 21/22 August 2015 in Northern Virginia; the Executive Committee meeting of the National Line Officers of National Sojourners on 1-4 October in San Antonio, Texas; the Mid-Winter Meeting (MWM) on 14/16 January in Austin, Texas; the Conference of Grand Masters in North America (CGMINA) on 20/24 February in Madison, Wisconsin; the Masonic Funeral for John Paul Jones at Annapolis, Maryland on 23/24 April; and the Annual National Conference (ANC) on 14/19 June in Greenville, South Carolina.

As a National Line Officer, I have been privileged to not only see most States of the Union, but also to more fully understand our beloved Fraternity. Each time I share a Sojourner experience with other Chapters and Sojourners, I take away a little more about the lives, problems, concerns, positive/negative experiences of our membership and their desires to improve our image to the world around us. I would be remiss if I did not reflect that these experiences have been shared with my wife and son who probably would never have had the opportunity to meet such wonderful, caring, thoughtful members and wives otherwise.

There is much work left to do not only in North Carolina but throughout Sojourner Land. It is my intention to do whatever is prudently reasonable to help correct and strengthen not only the bonds of Masonic friendship within but also outside our organization.

I will be going to Memphis, Tenn. on 23/24 May to confer with Chapter #414 concerning the sponsorship of my Mid-Winter Meeting on January 2018. If all goes well, I will brief the membership at the Annual Conference.

NATIONAL SECOND VICE PRESIDENT, Edward W. Nolte

In my Annual Report for the National Line, I want to thank my Brother National Sojourners, who again elected me to the position of National Second Vice President. I am humbled by your confidence in me, and I pledge to do my best to further the interests of National Sojourners, and with your help, to ensure it has a bright future.

The 2015-2016 National Sojourners Year began with the Annual National Convention (ANC) hosted by Omaha Chapter #19 in Omaha, Nebraska, on 1-6 June 2015. Key events for this report include the following: 1) Being the Master of Ceremonies for the Bennington Banquet, 2) being the Installing Officer for Brother National Commander Raymond Vanden Berghe and the 2015-2016 National Heroes Officers, 3) being

the presiding officer for a Colonial Ladies at the Table Ceremony for 160 National Sojourners and guests, 4) being the host for the Ankle Breakers Ceremony (actually Linda gets credit for much of this event), and 5) being the training instructor on the topic of Chapter Officer Requirements. In addition, a key highlight for me was receiving the Van Deventer Trophy from my fellow Heroes. Thank you, Brethren.

Travel for National Sojourners business between the 2015 ANC and the 2016 ANC included the following direct events:

- Executive Committee Meeting, San Antonio, TX, on 1-3 October 2015
- Mid-Winter Meeting, Austin, TX, 13-17 January 2016
- Conference of Grand Masters, Madison, WI, 14-17 February 2016
- Annual National Convention, Greenville, SC, 15-19 June 2016.
- Numerous Omaha Chapter #19 and Joseph Warren Camp activities to include meetings, bivouacs, and flag presentations.

My trips as Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Nebraska from April 2015 through April 2016 throughout the North Central Department (IA, MN, ND, NE, SD, & WI) always involved NSI discussions with NSI Brethren across the country and included the following indirect National Sojourners events:

- Lodge: Past Master, Secretary, Deputy Grand Custodian, VP of NE Masonic Foundation, and Grand Lodge Grievance and Fraternal Relations Committees
 - Our Renaissance Lodge, of which I am the Charter Past Master, was founded mostly by National Sojourners, and strives to provide leadership and training for struggling Lodges in Nebraska.
- Other Bodies: Allied Masonic Degrees—Member; Chapter of Royal Arch Masons—Past Grand High Priest; Council of Cryptic Masons—Grand Captain of the Guard; Commandery of Knights Templar—Past Grand Commander; DeMolay—Senior DeMolay; Holy Order of High Priesthood—Past President; Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests—6th Pillar; Knights of St. Andrew—Member; Knights of the York Cross of Honor—Deputy Prior; Order of Eastern Star—Member; Order of the Silver Trowel—Past Thrice Illustrious Master; Red Cross of Constantine—Prefect; Royal Order of Scotland—Member; Scottish Rite—Past Venerable Master, 33rd Degree Honorary, and 7th, 13th, 31st, and 32nd Degree Teams; Shrine—Past President of Past Masters' Club and Crescent Shrine Club; and York Rite College—Governor.

Each of these bodies contains many National Sojourners among its membership. At our most recent Grand York Rite Session, I had dinner with two National Sojourners from New York who were the Nebraska Representatives near New York. At the Conference of Grand Masters, I met a National Sojourner from Tucson, AZ, whose Chapter I hope will host our NSI Mid-Winter Meeting in 2019.

Between specific meetings and functions, most of my activity centered on working with the National Line Officers on various issues of national importance to the Order. Specific NSI-related duties during the year included the following collection of events and activities:

- **24 June 2015:** Submitted Omaha Chapter #19 members for awards for supporting the Annual National Convention. Approved and presented.
- **1 July 2015:** Performed a Historical Flag Presentation at Honors Night for Centennial Lodge #326 and its Worship Master, Brother Carl Diamond.
- **8 August 2015:** Presented the Colors and a Toast to the Flag at the 100th Anniversary of the Masonic Eastern Star Home for Children in Fremont, NE for 600 guests.
- **15 September 2015:** Performed a Historical Flag Presentation at the Nebraska Masonic Home in Plattsmouth, NE, for 40 residents.
- **7 January 2016:** Submitted Joseph Warren Camp for the Jonathan Wainwright Award.
- **12 January 2016:** Performed a Historic Flag Presentation for Ridgemont Retirement Home in Bellevue, NE for approximately 50 residents.
- **27 February 2016:** Presented Toast to the Flag and That Ragged Old Flag at a Veterans' Breakfast at Fremont Lodge #15 for 135 Masonic and non-Masonic Veterans.

- **1 March 2016:** Performed a Historical Flag Presentation for the Daughters of the American Revolution for approximately 50 members at the Grand Lodge at Hillcrest Country Estates in Papillion, NE.
- **25 March 2016:** Analyzed the impact and effect of ten Resolutions for proposed changes to National Regulations, provided the assessment to Omaha Chapter #19 for discussion and action, and prepared myself for addressing these topics at the ANC.
- **6 April 2016:** Performed a Historical Flag Presentation for Kiwanis International at the Lakeside Tennis Center at Regency in Omaha, NE, for approximately 45 members.
- **21 April 2015:** Presented a JROTC Medal at Northwest High School in Lincoln, NE.
- **25 May 2016:** Placed flags on approximately 8,000 veterans' graves for Memorial Day at Hillcrest Westlawn Cemetery in support of Centennial Lodge.
- **25 May 2016:** Installed the Officers of Omaha Chapter #19 and Joseph Warren Camp for 2016-2017.
- **7 June 2016:** Performed a Historic Flag Presentation at a Papillion retirement home.

It has been my pleasure to support our National President, Brother James Higdon, and working with the officers and leaders in our National Line. I have thoroughly enjoyed my year and look forward to the ANC in Greenville, South Carolina, meeting the challenges of the 2016-2017 National Sojourner year, and discussing with each of our members the future of our Order. I look forward to supporting and serving with our new National President, Brother James Baker, and the rest of the National Officers.

NATIONAL THIRD VICE PRESIDENT, William H. Haynes

I was very much honored to be elected to the office of Third National Vice President at the Annual National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska, 1-6 June, 2015. I was fortunate to have experienced the workings of many committees while serving on the Americanism, Incentives and Awards, Resolutions, and Chapter Revitalization and Chartering committees. I was also elected to the Committee of 33. I additionally served as an Area representative for one year.

I represented National Sojourners, both formally and informally, at the following meetings:

- High Twelve International annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA, 25-28 Jun, 2015
- AASR, 33rd meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana, 26-August-1 September, 2015
- Scottish Games, Ligonier, PA, 25-27 September, 2015
- Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Pa, (formally received), 3 December, 2015
- Allied Masonic Degree week, Crystal City, Virginia, 10-14 February, 2016
- Congress of Grand Masters in North America (COGMINA), Madison, Wisconsin, 20-24 February, 2015

Grand Commandery Conclave, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 22-25 May, 2016

Additionally, I represented National Sojourners at meetings of the following organizations:

- Pocono Lodge No. 780, Cresco, Pennsylvania
- Monroe Royal Arch Chapter 281, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania
- Bethlehem Council No 36, Pen Argyl, Pennsylvania
- Samuel S. Yohe Commandery No 81, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania
- Pocono High Twelve Club No. 584, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania
- William Allen York Rite College No. 176, Cresco, Pennsylvania
- Northeast Council No. 74, Hazelton, Pennsylvania
- Valley Council No. 352, Allied Masonic Degrees, Hazelton, Pennsylvania
- Susquehanna Court No. 74, Order of Athelstan, Allenton, Pennsylvania
- Mary Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, Allentown, Pennsylvania
- Bryn Athlyn Quarry, Operatives, Allentown, Pennsylvania
- Jordan Chapel No. 77, St. Thomas of Acon, Allentown, Pennsylvania
- Philadelphia Priory No. 12, Knights York Cross of Honour, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Our chapter is still experiencing revitalization pains and I was able to get the essay contest restarted, have chapter greeter and telephone caller appointed and started a Bridge of Light committee. I also recruited three new Sojourners for our chapter.

I was very fortunate to have oversight responsibility for the Bridge of Light and Education and Education and Training committees, chaired by Henry Kuhn and Wayne Barnes respectively. Both are experienced committee chairs and, once again, did an admirable job in their positions.

I attended the Federal Area Conference and encampment in Fairfax, Virginia, on 22 August, 2015. Additionally, I attended several encampments with Camp Valley Forge (Philadelphia).

I also attended the ex-Com in San Antonio, Texas, 1-3 October, 2015 and the National Sojourners Mid-winter meeting in Austin, Texas, 13-17 January, 2016.

While at COGMINA, I was able to make contact with a representative of Grand Lodge of West Virginia who told me how to approach getting permission to start Sojourners chapters in West Virginia. The National President has completed the first step and we are awaiting a reply.

I participated in John Paul Jones Funeral at the Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland on 24 April, 2016.

I presented Sojourners medal at Dieruff High School Junior Air Force Junior ROTC in Allentown, Pennsylvania, on 12 May, 2016 at their Change of Command ceremony.

I also assisted in performing the duties of the N3VP for the annual meeting regarding the Ankle Breaker Ceremony preceding the president's Banquet, both in 2015 and 2016.

NATIONAL SECRETARY/TREASURER, William R. Sanner

New opportunities to excel arise every day and I am still learning new things. Having moved to the new Cluny Court location we are well established in our day to day operations but still challenged to effectively utilize our space. When we sought out our new location we had no idea we would be housing the Museum that took up the second floor of Collingwood within our office space. This has reduced our operational area (1/2 of our largest room) and eliminated any potential in-house storage capability other than the sales area. Though a tight squeeze, we were able to host a Heroes Degree for Light Horse Harry Lee Camp of Old Dominion #364. The Museum is operational as a Spirit of America Education Foundation project thanks to the Museum Committee's hard work. In an effort to reduce our paper storage requirements we have begun to digitize selected documents. We have had 30 visitors since we moved in, 2 who could not come up the stairs and we carried the sign in book down to them. We welcome and encourage visitors to come and see our facility with the warning we are on the second floor and do not have an elevator.

Chapter Annual Reports are important to us as the information is used for many things yet 10% of the Chapters failed to submit their reports at all last year and many others submit them late. They are essential to tax filings and awards computations that can only be accurate if we have all reports. Thank you to the many chapter secretaries who are doing a great job and I encourage all of you to try to keep your submissions of all documents and notices timely.

The SOJOURNER was published 6 times – 3 print and 3 electronic. While every article submitted was not published, it featured 69 Chapter News pieces submitted by 37 Chapters. Ten Chapters submitted 3 or more. There were fewer Camp News features – only 36 made it in submitted by 23 Chapters. Three had 3 or more submissions. We encourage all Chapters to submit articles and hope to get a broader representation in future issues. Returned postage costs of over \$200 a year continue to plague us because of late notifications of moves and deaths. We hope this coming year to do all print issues as only about 1/3 of our members receive the electronic version. Of those who receive it we receive many responses that they cannot read it or do not read electronic publications. To serve our members we must print all issues. We will print either 4 or 6 times this year as the budget allows. Individuals can request electronic copy only but only about 250 have. We will continue to post it on our website as well.

Management and reporting on the financial matters of National Sojourners occupies a great deal of my time from working with the Morgan Stanley financial advisor and the Trustees Investment Committee,

preparing periodic reports, reconciling accounts, paying the bills, state and federal taxes and depositing receipts. This year the Trustees requested we do a solicitation for a financial advisor. Requests for proposals were sent to 8 firms, 4 responded and 2 submitted proposals that were submitted to the Trustees. After review it was decided that we would remain with our current firm. The figures on all the accounts of National Sojourners are found at the back of this booklet. We are financially sound.

Membership is a driving force of our budget whether it be MIP members or dues paying members. MIP members determine the annual MIP dividend which is a principle element in both the Chapter and National budgets. Our total growth is generally 1% or less in total membership while our living membership continues to decline. Since last July 1st we have 193 new members versus 189 deaths but 100 losses for non-payment of dues reduced our living members as of May 2. Special note of national officers transferring to the Celestial Chapter are Brothers Marion Stan Jones – LOH, Emeritus; John G. Norris,- PNC; Charles Sharp – Committee of 33; and Justin ‘Rip’ Van Kleeck - Emeritus. Reports are provided weekly to the Membership Chairman and the National Line. Detailed figures are found on the last pages of this packet. We chartered one new chapter this year, North Mississippi #554 and the Montana Club continues to work toward their chartering thanks to the support of Cheyenne #5. Unfortunately Gen. Morrill W. Marston #413 was moved to In Memoriam status and PennMar #532 is pending In Memoriam status as well.

Sales have increased this year partially due to some new items in our inventory and in a small portion due to the on-line store for embroidered items though this has not taken off as we had hoped. Be sure to see the catalog on-line and the link to the Embroidery Store to get items for yourself and your Chapter. Sales items will again be available at the National Convention although members were encouraged to order ahead to ensure their items are available for pickup at the convention. ROTC awards are processed through sales and we are approaching 4,000 as the number sent out increases each year. Be sure to contact the schools you are supporting in advance so they know someone is coming.

The Short Talk Bulletin published by the Masonic Service Association in 1989 and reprinted it in 2003. In discussion with them it was recommended that we prepare a new edition. The National Secretary and Historian were tasked to undertake this and a new draft was prepared and has been approved by the President. Consensus was to wait until after the NAC to submit it in case membership qualifications would require updating. Once submitted it is anticipated to be published in 3 to 5 months.

Overall National Headquarters continues to provide the best service possible to our members and Officers thanks in great measure to the work of Mrs. Janine Kovack and Ms. Heather McGraw. They put in many hours beyond the scheduled workday and have historical knowledge and a commitment to National Sojourners that makes them an invaluable part of the organization. Both Camp Followers they are tied to the organization by more than just a place of work and they have my sincere thanks. This year has been one of hard work and continuous opportunities to excel. Hopefully you will feel that we have.

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN, R. Thomas Davies III

It has been an interesting two years for me. I have been a member of National Sojourners for going on 30 years, but yet had never felt the urge to attend the Annual National Convention. In the fall of 2013 I began attending Clarence H. Cohen #162. In March 2014 I purchased my MMIP and was made a delegate to the ANC in Austin, TX. One of my mentors in my travels was Brother Don Shaw whom I met while a member at Fort Knox and I feel I am called to follow in his footsteps in the future of our great fraternity.

The first day was interesting to say the least. I was sitting in on the Committee of 33 when I was tapped on the shoulder by Brother Keye Perry, the National President, "what have I done now?" He asked me to have a conversation with Brother Merlen Howe, a fellow chaplain. Little did I know that he was also the National President-Elect. Brother Merlen advised me that the National Chaplain had yet to arrive and would I be willing to fill in in his absence. I became the National Chaplain Pro-Tem in the wink of an eye. I was involved in most of sessions and performed my duties.

In the latter days of 2014 and entering into 2015 I was approached a couple of times about being nominated and probably elected at the 95th Annual National Convention in Omaha, NE. As I was not elected

until after a few of the Chaplain's tasks there were a couple of us participating. I took notes and conferred with the NPE about my observations and his. In July I also became the president of Clarence H. Cohen #162 and will continue in that office until July 2017. The chapter is seeing revitalization and is beginning to grow in our new location at the Golden Corral.

After ANC I began attending the local Blue Lodges in my official capacity representing NSI. I attended the Mid-Atlantic Encampment in Savannah Georgia in November 2015. In January I assumed the duties of the president of the Augusta Shrine Club and passed along the reins of the ASC Roadrunner president.

In January 2016 I attended the MWM in Austin TX and began implementing a revitalized Memorial Ceremony. As the 96th ANC approaches I will continue in that quest. Over the course of the year, to the best of my abilities I have been in contact with the families of fallen brothers and their ladies and also with those who are sick. I am continuing to try to make the Memorial Ceremony more personal than simply referring to our fallen Brothers as more than part of a larger number. I would like to be able to at least identify them as being part of the band of brothers called Marine, Soldier, Sailor or Airman. I assume I will continue as National Chaplain until 2018 when my current term ends.

NATIONAL HISTORIAN, S. Woodruff Bentley, Sr.

Greetings Fellow Sojourners. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your National Historian for 2011 to 2016. I look forward to serving you for one more year. I have already learned a great deal and look forward to learning more and sharing more information about our great organization with you. I shall not run for reelection in 2017 and invite you to consider running for the office next year. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me to discuss the opportunities and responsibilities.

I see my role in three areas: First is to summarize and report the annual activities of our order so that our members can better understand the challenges that the leaders of our order face and how they are managing our affairs and building our future. Second is to research our past and bring to you interesting information that will help you better understand our past and the many programs and activities that have gone on of which you may not be aware. Third is to give you an in depth analysis of current issues that affect our organization, trying to put it in context with our history and values. In all of this, my goal is to give you a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of our order. While I have achieved some success, I must admit that I am finding this a difficult challenge and am disappointed that I have not been able to achieve the goals I have set.

There are two ways that I provide you with this information. One is through articles in our Sojourner Magazine and the other is through our Sojourner Web Site. With the assistance of our great webmasters, there is now a "Historian's Corner" on the Web Site. In this space, I am placing articles based on my research, including all of those that appear in the magazine.

The most important is the "Summary of Sojourner History." The original parts of this were written by others, but what I am doing is adding paragraphs on interesting historical items as I do research and find them. This column will continue to grow as I add more items in the future. Of particular importance is that it will add items on more recent years since the publication of "The First Fifty Years of National Sojourners."

There is also an index of all known publications relating to National Sojourners. Most were limited print editions and are difficult to find. If any Sojourner has copies of these that they would like to contribute to our Sojourner library for other current and future Sojourners to read, they are invited to send them to me. I will then make them available to members on loan for them to read.

I have been also been unsuccessful in one area that I hoped to have success. Sadly, I have had no responses to my request for member's assistance. This was to create in the National Historian's Corner on our web site, a place for local chapter and Heroes camp histories. I am aware that some of you already have these, but I would encourage all chapters and camps to have a member prepare a history and send it to me electronically. While our National Headquarters has a file on each chapter, it will not contain the significant detailed information about the chapter and camps history and activities. I would also like to include information about the chapter and camp names. This is especially true for those named for individuals. It would

be fascinating to have available for all a brief biography of those individuals so honored or the explanation of place or other names.

I am always available to talk to anyone about our history and will research an issue of interest to a member. Anyone who wishes to contact me for further information or to provide assistance can contact me on email at ciddad@aol.com or by telephone at 703-281-7489. My mailing address is 9901 Carrhill Court, Vienna, VA 22181.

NATIONAL COMMANDER, Raymond J. Vanden Berghe, Sr.

As I reflect back on my stewardship as your National Commander, I am extremely grateful for all of the courtesies that have been extended to me as I travelled from North to South and East to West attending Camps and Encampments Everywhere I travelled, I was greeted with a warm welcome in sincere friendship and fellowship. Thank you all for making this past year, one filled with memories that will be lasting.

After my installation in June 2015, I was fortunate to visit Freedoms Foundation Valley Forge, Pennsylvania and spend four days interacting with the youth and chaperones in attendance. It was an awesome experience. Ben Franklin Chapter/Valley Forge Camp presented Building the Flag. PNC/PNP Bill Turner and Patti were in attendance and presented a program describing the Historical Flags. Am I going to attend again? Absolutely – I'm registered.

Throughout the year visitations were also made as follows:

7/24 – 7/26/15 Wilmington, North Carolina, Moores Creek NHP, Encampment

8/14 – 8/16/15 Hampton, New Hampshire – Portsmouth Chapter #386 Meeting, Picnic /Lobster Bake

8/22/15 Fairfax, Virginia – Federal Area Encampment; followed by Alexandria, VA – Scottish Rite

8/29 – 9/2/15 Indianapolis, Indiana - Supreme Council AASR, NMJ

9/17/15 Rockaway, New Jersey – Northern N J #42 and Camp Gen. Hugh Mercer meeting

9/25 – 9/27/15 Memphis, Tennessee - Isaac Shelby Encampment

10/1 – 10/3/15 San Antonio, Texas - Annual Executive Committee Meeting

11/12 - 11/15/15 Cockeysville, MD -Grand Lodge of Maryland

11/20 - 11/22/15 Savannah, Georgia, MACE, Encampment

12/7 – 12/11/15 Honolulu, Hawaii – Encampment; Bennington Banquet; Christmas Banquet; PNP

Stewart Cowan visitation

1/14 – 1/17/16 Austin, Texas - Mid Winter Meeting

2/20 – 2/24/16 Madison, Wisconsin – Conference of Grand Masters, Fraternal Relations Breakfast,

Grand Master's Chapter

3/18/16 New Castle, Delaware - Brotherhood Night- Grand Lodges of DE, NJ, NY, PA, MD &

Appendant Bodies at Nur Shrine

3/31/16 Warminster, Pennsylvania – Valley Forge Camp Encampment w/ Gen Hugh Mercer

4/8/ - 4/10/16 San Antonio, Texas – SCAC Encampment – FT Houston/Alamo Camp

4/23 – 4-24/16 Annapolis, Maryland – With NPE James Baker, tour of USNA and visitation of the Crypt of Bro. John Paul Jones on Saturday. Sunday, NPE James Baker and NC served as the Honor Guard for the Grand Lodge of Maryland Memorial Funeral Service for Bro. John Paul Jones.

4/26 – 4/29/16 Atlantic City, N J – Grand Lodge of New Jersey

5/5 - 5/8/16 Wildwood, New Jersey - Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Annual Meeting

5/19/16 Rockaway, NJ – Northern New Jersey Chapter #42 meeting.

Invitations were received to attend the Pacific Northwest Encampment and the Camel Corps in Bullhead City (Southern California Encampment). Regretfully, due to previous commitments, I was unable to attend. Perhaps, in the future, my schedule being less demanding, I will be able to attend these Encampments.

I had hoped to visit Harrisburg Chapter #76 and Lancaster #292 (across the Delaware River) in Pennsylvania but scheduling proved to be a real challenge and thus visitations will have to wait until a future date. Just so many days in a month and a plethora of meetings scheduled.

My sincere appreciation to the current officers of the Heroes of '76. Thank you for serving and I look forward to standing behind you as you advance in the "line". Congratulation Bro. Carl Diamond as the incoming National Commander. Your help, aid and assistance has been invaluable to me. A great Chief of Staff.

The Past National Commanders have been most supportive and been "Mentors". You have been a resource and provided guidance whenever I was in need and extended a helping hand. Your friendship is priceless. Thank you for being my Brothers.

A special thank you is due our National Adjutant, Brother Bill Sanner and the Office Staff of Heather and Janine. You are appreciated.

Finally, as I close a chapter in my life as your National Commander for 2015 – 2016, I extend a sincere thank you to the National Sojourners/Heroes of '76 and the Ladies/Camp Followers I have met during my travels. The memories of this year will be everlasting. To those members and ladies I haven't yet met, my very best to you and I hope we can meet somewhere, some place. GOD Bless each and every one of you.

NATIONAL TRUSTEES, Harry E. Sanders, Jr., Chairman

Your National Trustees have completed another busy year □ in addition to four formal meetings held during the past Sojourner Year (95th ANC, Post-95th ANC, National ExCom, and MWM), a phone conference was held to approve replacement of a multi-function copier for the National Office.

The following Trustees were elected to provide leadership for 2015-2016: National Trustee Chairman – Bro Harry E. Sanders, Jr. (PNP); NASOCOCO Board of Directors Chairman – Bro Andrew J. McVeigh III (PNP); and Spirit of America Education Foundation (SAEF) Board of Directors Chairman – Bro E. Thomas Kuhn, Jr. Annual reports for NASOCOCO and the SAEF are provided separately and are not a part of this submission.

Salient accomplishments over the past year include:

1. **NATIONAL OFFICE ALARM SYSTEM:** A monitored intrusion alarm system was authorized and installed at our National Office to provide enhanced security for both office assets and our many priceless artifacts now on display in the Heroes of '76 and Americanism museum exhibits.

2. **TRAVEL PROJECTOR:** The Trustees authorized the National Secretary-Treasurer (NST) to purchase an ultraportable projector to support interactive PowerPoint and audio/visual presentations at the National Office, national meetings, Conference of Grand Masters, etc.

3. **TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION RECEIPTS:** A policy and letter templates were developed to provide formal acknowledgement letters for all cash (equal to or greater than \$100) and non-cash donations to National Sojourners, Inc. to insure that donors are provided proper IRS documentation.

4. **FINANCIAL ADVISOR & INVESTMENT SERVICES RE-COMPETE:** Financial Advisor and investment services were re-competed in an effort to secure that best value for our Order. The National Trustees again selected Morgan Stanley to serve as the Order's financial and investment advisor.

5. **MSA SHORT TALK BULLETIN UPDATE:** The Trustees while reviewing year-to-date membership stats identified a need to update the Masonic Service Association of North America (MSA) Short Talk Bulletin on the National Sojourners last updated in 1989. The NST agreed to undertake the task and is in the process of coordinating final edits.

6. **MUTI-FUNCTION COPIER REPLACEMENT:** The Trustees authorized the NST to acquire a new multi-function copier to replace the existing National Office 9-year old unit which had constant maintenance issues resulting in ever increasing downtime. NASOCOCO funded the acquisition of the new unit which was not provided for in this year's budget. Two key features of the new multi-function copier are: (1) the service contract is based on actual copies made versus the old unit which was based on a fixed number of copies per month and (2) it supports scanning to PDF format which will be valuable in our effort to migrate from paper to digital archiving.

7. **INVESTMENT POLICY UPDATE:** The Investment Committee of the National Trustees conducted a review of the Order's investment policy and is in the process of developing new guidelines for adoption.

8. **ANNUAL FUND DRIVE CONCEPT EXPLORATION:** In response to the need to address significant information technology infrastructure upgrades needed at our National Office, the Trustees have been exploring an annual fund raising campaign to bolster the Thompson Fund, in particular, and also assist in offsetting annual Americanism program costs (JROTC Awards, YLCs, etc.), in general, which fall under the umbrella of the Spirit of America Youth Education Foundation (SAEF). Current plans contemplate the rollout of the inaugural annual campaign in late summer of the 2016-2017 Sojourner Year.

9. **TRUSTEE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE ENHANCEMENTS:** In an effort to improve its focus on the business operations of the Order, organization of the National Trustees into three standing committees has been discussed and is expected to be implemented at the 96th ANC. The plan is to augment the Investment Committee (3 - Trustees) with a Human Relations (HR) Committee (3 - Trustees) and a Finance Committee (3 - Trustees). The Investment Committee will continue to oversee, develop policy, and advise the NST on investments. The HR Committee will develop/administers personnel policies, maintain job descriptions, insure compliance with applicable personnel laws and regulations, and oversee benefits and compensation. Finally, the Finance Committee will be responsible for fiscal policy, budgeting, and audits

10. **NATIONAL OFFICE SUSTAINABILITY & CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS IMPROVEMENTS:** The Trustees began a detailed review of the National Office sustainability and continuity of operations (COOP) and expect to continue to focus on this area in the year ahead. Improvements in the following four areas are expected to be address: (1) Job Descriptions – develop and maintain job descriptions for all paid personnel positions; (2) Process Documentation – develop and maintain process documentation for all business and operations processes under the purview of the NST; (3) Records Management – develop and implement archiving policies to move from paper to digital records with requisite backup redundancy; and (4) Supportable Information Technology Resources – develop and implement plans to move from our present unsupported custom software to standard off-the shelf products and to migrate to a supported hardware platform.

11. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT:** A key focus of the National Trustees is to insure the financial well-being of the Order. In that regard, the Trustees are pleased to report that National Sojourners, Inc. is solvent and year-to-date expenditures remain generally in line with the budget approved at our 2015 ANC in Omaha, NE. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all Sojourners who have made and continue to make a difference in terms of donations, national meeting participation, buying and selling Souvenir Book ads, and membership growth! Additionally, as the result of judicious shopping for high-quality growth opportunities our investments continue to perform as well as might be expected in the current economy. That said, the annual budget will remain tight as the result of the increased office costs resulting from the relocation from Collingwood and additional expenses we face resulting from the need to update our information technology infrastructure. Meeting our financial challenges requires that every Sojo-U-rner play a role in maintaining our continued financial viability □ key ways U (you) can help the Order are listed below.

(1) First, **paying annual dues in a timely fashion** if you are not a MIP!

(2) Second, “catching the membership spirit” and understanding that every Sojourner is an ex officio member of their chapter's membership committee with a responsibility to **find and make new members!**

(3) Third, supporting the Souvenir Ad Book by **buying and selling an ad!** Note that Souvenir Ad Book sales are a key component of our annual income for operations!

(4) Fourth, **participating in national meetings and bringing a first timer or 2.** This ensures that we do not incur convention contract penalties that erode our Souvenir Ad Book profits.

(5) Fifth and finally, by making a **tax deductible donation to support the National Sojourners.** There are several funds from which to choose: the SEM Fund (consider a donation to honor or remember an individual); the 3-6-5 Club (consider a life membership for each chapter in which you are a member); the Trust Fund (trade an MIP with a member of another chapter and make your payment to the Trust Fund); and the Thompson Fund (a gift to this fund will assist us in making needed information technology infrastructure improvements in our National Office). Your continued charitable support will further strengthen our Order!

It is my particular privilege as Chairman to commend and thank those who have served and labored over the past Sojourner year as your National Trustees for their faithful, dedicated, and selfless service.

Finally, with heavy hearts we remember our fellow Trustee and Brother Sojourner, CAPT. **KENT SHEPARD WEBBER**, USN, RET., whose passing came most unexpectedly, and honor his devoted service as a member of the National Trustees for nearly 7 years...

AMERICANISM COMMITTEE, Paul W. Pennybacker, Chairman

The National Americanism Committee is pleased to report another productive year --- some of the more salient accomplishments are summarized below:

National Convention

The National Convention meeting of the Americanism Committee held in Omaha, NE was well attended and most productive.

-Opening Prayer by Bro. Denny Norris

-All present saluted flag of our country followed by Toast to the Flag by Bro. Bill Turner PNP, PNC.

-The Committee chairman, Brother Paul Pennybacker presented a slide show covering the organization of the committee and to whom it reports; the FFVF-YLC the Crown Jewel of the Americanism committee; the YLC=MOWW events that we know the various Chapters sponsor; the statistics for the JROTC/ROTC program; the Essay contest for the upcoming year 2016; the several goals of the Education and Patriotic Programs committee for upcoming year which will be covered in detail at the sub-committee session following the main meeting; the new Chapter Annual Report form; the Spirit of America 501(v)3 tax deductible effort.

After the main meeting there were three sub-committee meetings held one for YLC FFVF and MOWW chaired by Brother LtCol William Haynes where the comments of the past year attendees were reviewed and it especially noted that the students were very impressed with the "Building of the Flag" program; one for JROTC/ROTC chaired by Brother CPO Paul Pennybacker which indicated that the JROTC/ROTC programs seem to be working well and that some locations have had their local schools JROTC/ROTC presentation programs combined at one central well equipped location such as in Norfolk Virginia where this year they were conducted at the "large" Masonic Temple Granby Street and one for Education Patriotic Programs chaired by Brother LtCol Ron Stites which covered the goals listed in the main meeting presentation.

Meeting closed by the chairman Brother Paul Pennybacker.

Annual Americanism Breakfast

The Americanism breakfast was well attended and our guest speaker was the artist Ray "Bubba" Sorensen II the creator of the Freedom rock murals throughout the state of Iowa. Brother CAPT Merlen Howe, our National President presented Mr. Sorensen with a "briefcase flag" created by Brother ENS Irv Dietscher. Brother CPO Paul Pennybacker presented him with a donation and a gift. At the conclusion of his presentation he answered questions from the attendees. Two door prize drawing were made. The winners of the Americanism committee awards were announced and they are: Anthony Natali Plaque: Piedmont Chapter #504 and the Horton-Tourtillott Award: Brother CSM C. Wayne Barnes.

Youth Conferences

This year's session, July 16-19 2015, was another outstanding experience for the 49 students and 11 chaperones were in attendance. Among the adults attending were Brother James Baker our NPE and his Lady Kay, MW Brother Ray Vanden Berge our National Commander, Brother William Turner PNP/PNC and his Lady Patti.

This year Friday morning started with a discussion with Mrs. Abigail Adams and Mr. Thomas Jefferson this was very interesting as they were not the best of friends. Following this, the students were lead in a "Freedom Summit" by Dr. Bruch Murphy a professor of constitutional law and Dr. Sara Mehlretter Drury a professor of

rhetoric and communications. The U.S. Constitution summit continued the rest of the day. It was interesting to note that Dr. Drury had once been a student of Dr. Murphy and had attended a conference at FFVF. On Saturday morning the students were presented with an outstanding Building of the Flag program by the Ben Franklin Chapter No. 16 National Sojourners. This was followed by the “traditional” Patriotic Question and Answer Program conducted by Brother William Turner and Lady Patti. Unfortunately this year “General Washington” was not available to address the troops. However, the students were privileged to head a wonderful teller of tails and history during their Tour of Valley Forge Prior to our evening banquet, the student conducted the “retiring of the Flag” ceremony directed by Brother Derek “Bo” Webb. After the banquet, Mr. Dan LeClerc was the guest speaker and his topic was “Leading Significant Lives”. This outstanding presentation was well received by all in attendance. Following the speaker program, all attended vespers and a Ceremonial “Signing” of the Declaration of Independence. On Sunday after a tour of Philadelphia the students and chaperones departed for home. Again, the facility, the staff and the programs they presented were outstanding. I like to refer to our Freedom Foundation Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference as the Crown Jewel of our National Sojourners organization. Brethren and Ladies, as indicated above, we only had 49 students in attendance. This was down from 57 students last year. We need to reverse this trend. One of the reasons, we believe, that we are not getting the students numbers we desire is that we are looking for them too late in the year. The time to start getting commitments from students to attend the 2016 FFVF-YLC (14-17 July 2016) is now! By the time you read this article the 2016 Student Package and the 2016 FFVF Trifold will be posted on our website under Americanism Programs. PLEASE start your efforts now.

At the conclusion of the conference, 49 young Americans departed for home with renewed excitement and knowledge about what it means to be an American! Typical student feedback included:

Thank you for providing us with such an amazing program to help us grow as leaders and citizens. I will carry many things I have learned from this weekend into the rest of my life.

This trip was an opportunity of a life time and I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I will definitely tell my friends about it and hope that they come.

Thank you National Sojourners for the opportunity to make a difference.

Thank you for allowing me to share this experience with other future leaders of America. I have learned so much over this weekend, which has given me insight for the future for how I plan to impact the younger generations.

I was honored to come to this conference. I had a wonderful time at this camp and I would recommend this camp to anyone.

I would like to thank you for providing me with the opportunity to experience this great program.

Thank you greatly for sponsoring my amazing weekend at Valley Forge this summer! Not only did I learn about our nation (past and present) what it means to be a leader and myself but also what it means to be a leader and what it means to be an active and responsible citizen.

Thank you National Sojourners for allowing me to come to Valley Forge and learn more about others. I have been to camps all summer and this was my favorite.

Thank you for everything! I had a fantastic experience that I cannot wait to share. You all made me feel pride in my country for the first time in years

The following was taken from the student evaluation forms:

- what I enjoyed most was that it was very well organized and had a lot of good activities and everyone got to be involved.
- the aspects of the program I enjoyed most was that you pretty much forced us to communicate with others, gave a chance to reach out of my comfort zone.
- I learned to never be afraid to speak your mind and get to know people
- I learned that my presence, opinion and vote matter
- I learned to be a listener as well as a leader
- I learned how to work with others
- I am now more open and understanding to other people's ideas and opinions
- I learned about public speaking
- I have a new knowledge of our flag
- I learned how people vigorously fought for our freedom and a lot of times we take it for granted

Your National Americanism Committee extends its heartfelt thanks to all who made this year's conference a resounding success including:

- a. All National Sojourner Chapters who supported this year's conference.
- b. All National Sojourners and sponsors who generous donations provided the funds to both pay the tuition and transportation costs associated with conference.
- c. The Freedoms Foundation staff (Jessica, Amanda, Mary Kate, Will and Nate) under the direction of Ms. Carolyn Santangelo Director of Educational Programs, whose outstanding efforts continue to deliver the best programs possible!
- d. The chaperones (Brothers Don Cumbo, Russ Jones Derek Webb; and Laura Snyder, Vivian Marie Tinklenberg, Mrs. Jan Tinklenberg) that were acknowledged by the staff at Freedoms Foundation for their dedicated service to our youth!

Mid-Winter Meeting

Greetings Brethren, the MWM in Austin, Texas enjoyed mild winter weather.

Our Friday afternoon Americanism Committee was well attended with fifteen members, thirty five visitors of whom were the all the National Officers.

-Youth Leadership Conference Freedom Foundation Valley Forge: Mr. Mike Di Yeso the President and CEO of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge was our speaker and he presented a talk on the Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference along with statistics concerning the attending students involvement with civics compared to the nation norm. His talk was followed by the new Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge Spirit of America video. The presentation was well received and he received a certificate of appreciation from our National President Brother Jim Higdon.

-Youth Leadership Conference Military Order of World Wars: a new section of the Chapter Annual Americanism Report has been added for a chapter to identify if they have sponsored a student to attend one of the YLC-MOWW camps and there were forty one sponsored students reported.

-ROTC/JROTC: During this past year 2148 awards were presented by the chapters. It was reiterated that the medals should be presented in uniform either military or colonial (with permission of ROTC commander). Additionally permission should also be requested to perform the "Toast to The Flag" at the beginning of the ceremonies.

-SAEF 501c3: Brother Tom Kuhn, chairman of the SAEF board of directors, presented us with an update of the program. He informed all of the pertinent regulations (8.2.1) and circulars (8.2.1) that pertain to the SAEF and further stated that a document that provided all information and guidelines for obtaining donations for the SAEF from local companies would be out shortly on the web page.

-Education and Patriotism Programs: work in progress, a couple of the past roadblocks were cleared away so that the completion and subsequent posting to the web site will be much smoother.

-Essay Contest: You can expect the results from the 2016 Essay Contest and the 2017 Question (Authorized Cover Sheet) by late-February.

Chapter Reports

Chapter reports for the 2014 – 2015 Sojourner year reflect a productive year with great Americanism work being performed and equally great results. Chapters reported the presentation of over 2,148 ROTC awards; the presentation of 105 Patriot of '76 certificates; and the conduct of numerous Americanism programs. Programs included presentations such as Building the Flag, Historic Flags, and Folding the Flag; providing Color Guards and parade units; and participating in a wide range of local patriotic events.

Essay Contest

Our national essay contest received 43 qualified entries! With thanks to Bro. Col. David Burke, we again awarded \$2000, \$1000 and \$500 to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners as indicated in the table below who wrote an essay addressing the following question:

Star Spangle Banner

PLACE	WINNER	CHAPTER SPONSOR
1 st - \$2000	Annalise M. Bourdeau	Detroit #1
2 nd - \$1000	Tiffany J. Kim	Fort Sill #129
3 rd - \$500	Han Wen Zhang	Houston #513

Masonic Youth Initiative

A very important part of our Americanism program is the Youth Leadership Conferences either held at Freedoms Foundation Valley Forge or one of the Military Order of World Wars locations. Our goal continues to have at least 100 students attend the Freedoms Foundation Valley Forge Youth Leadership Conference held the third weekend in July each year. We are especially pleased when the students attending are from our Masonic Youth organizations such as DeMolay; International Order of Job Daughters and Rainbow girls. Our National Officers address our youth orientated goals each year at the Conference of Grand Masters.

Future Goals & Plans

Looking ahead, your committee has outlined a number of future goals and initiatives. Some of the more significant items are listed below:

- Spirit of America Youth Conference
 - Increase chapter support for the Youth Conference programs
 - Send at least 100 students to Freedoms Foundation
- ROTC
 - Increase chapter participation in the ROTC Awards program
- Enhance Americanism Committee communication with chapters through improved use of the National Sojourners website resource
- Youth Education Funding:
 - Promote and increase the donations to our new 501c3 tax exempt SAEF
- Recognition:
 - Develop a recognition program for donors to the Americanism Youth Education Fund

And now we again have the pleasure of beginning anew as we focus on the year ahead! Join with your Americanism Committee and me in making our 2016 – 2017 year an even greater success by:

- Being active --- get involved in your chapter's Americanism activities
- Promoting Americanism at every opportunity
- Proudly displaying the flag of our country

- Supporting our troops
- Talking to a young person about what it means to be an American

A Final Thought

By: General George Washington

“A primary object should be the education of our youth in the science of government. In a republic, what species of knowledge can be equally important? And what duty more pressing than communicating it to those who are to be the future guardians of the liberties of the country?”

COMMITTEE OF 33, Carl Diamond, Chairman

The 2015-16 Sojourner year has been a fairly slow year for committee work. As always, communication and timely response to getting work done is key.

Completed work on;

C33 handbook

Reviewed and updated NR 8.1.2

Areas that we are working on;

1. Process for submitting Resolutions , Tasker 2016-01
2. Process for reviewing and updating NR and National By-laws, 2016-02
3. Process and ideas for fund raising, 2016-03

If any committee or individual would like to have C33 review any issue please notify Chairman C33

In the future anyone who would be interested in running for Committee of 33, remember it is an elected position. Active participation is required, computer use MANDATORY.

INCENTIVES AND AWARDS COMMITTEE, Denny Norris, Chairman

INCENTIVES AND AWARDS Committee strives to maintain a credible and equitable system to express National Sojourners, Inc., appreciation for service to our Order.

The Committee considers your recommendations and evaluates them. Then they are forwarded to the National President for his approval and recognition of:

- ◆ Specific act or acts with a Presidential Citation
- ◆ Noteworthy performance(s) with an Exceptional Meritorious Achievement Certificate
- ◆ Significant contributions to the national order by any individual or group whether or not directly associated with National Sojourners, Inc., with a Certificate of Appreciation.
- ◆ The Committee appreciates your use of the National Award Recommendation form. We trust it facilitated your submissions. This form and the Awards and Citation pamphlet are on the Web site, in the Members only area, in the Reference Library.

Note: This year the Incentive & Awards committee reviewed numerous awards, some were downgraded some were upgraded.

Area and Regional Representatives need to only submit one award per person, several individuals were put in for up to three separate awards. **The committee will only approve one award, and it will be the highest award submitted.**

It has been also been noted that the same individuals are put in for the same awards year after year with the same write ups that have been used for the last three years with no changes. We believe there are other members of chapters as well as spouses who fall through the cracks and are not getting properly recognized (why)? I went back several years and read the same thing over and over again. The only thing that changed was the date. If you are going to recognize individuals at least take the time and rewrite the awards with some substance, these awards mean something to the recipient and they should also mean something to the author of the recommended award. To show good faith in what I'm talking about I have asked National to delete my

(Exceptional Meritorious) award that was submitted. I appreciate the thoughtfulness, but I feel there are others who are just as worthy the award that wasn't acknowledged.

There is no reason why the Incentives and Awards committee still receives the number of Certificates of Appreciation requests. These awards could have been given at the Chapter level. I give credit to the Chapters and Area/Regional Representatives who gave out several awards this year at your chapter meetings. We need to continue this effort! We know it is working because we have seen the results and have heard from many that sojourners they like the idea.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEW BOARD, Armand Cote, Chairman

Three (3) members of the PRB received copies of the Bulletins/Newsletters that were provided to the National Headquarters for consideration of the "Bulletin/Newsletter of the Year." Only four (4) chapters submitted their Bulletin/Newsletters.

The Chapter Bulletin/Newsletters were rated by the three (3) members were sent to the Chairman. These sheets showed the Chapter's total points as evaluated by the members. The total points for each chapter were then averaged to arrive at the winner for the Bulletin/Newsletter of the Year."

The winner and the honorable mentioned Chapters will be announced at the National Convention.

I wish to thank the PRB members who contributed to the above tasks and also for what you do for this committee and National Sojourners, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, Robert W. Roth, Chairman

It happened, most likely for the first time in our Order's history. On 23 Feb 16, at the Grand Conference of Grand Secretaries of the Grand Jurisdictions of North America, with the Grand Secretaries of Canada and Mexico looking on, our National President, CAPT Bro. Jim Higdon was given the chance to speak about the ongoing need for the consistent honoring of Master Mason Veterans and those in Active Service. The Membership Committee is rightly proud to have caused this initiative to occur, and even prouder of the support and effort given it by our National Line officers. The point of course is to have every Grand Lodge find, support and honor all those Master Mason Veterans in their Grand Jurisdiction, and let NSI be the support staff for that effort, as and where Grand Jurisdictions deem it appropriate to do so. Letters have gone out to Chapters to stand by and be ready to be of service. And this coming year we truly hope our incoming National President will have opportunity to continue the program by speaking before the February 2017 Conference of Grand Masters in North America. We can and should make all of those honored Veterans that qualify (and aren't yet part of our Order) active and supportive members of National Sojourners, Inc.

And again this year, my thanks to National Secretary/Treasurer MAJ Bro. Bill Sanner for keeping a statistical eye on our membership data. We saw 123 dues paying members (of 984) dropped from the roles in March, and an effort is being made to reach out and get as many back as we can. But those numbers are likely to grow.

Since the beginning of the year we've only had 15 multiple memberships taken out and it may just be that those of us that do that sort of thing to help the Order out are running out of Chapters to join, or running out of the good will of our spouses to allow us to keep doing it. Growth in new membership has been flat for the last five years, and has been so at about 1% of total living members (7639 as of this report). That's not a good formula for lasting endurance for NSI.

One of our National Vice Presidents recently reminded me that just going into a Lodge and asking who the veterans are in that lodge can create new members for NSI. He'd recently found seven in one Lodge in his local travels. It can be done, but we all have to do it. I troll the Grand Lodge line each year, picking up two or three Honorables or Veterans as it might turn out. National Membership Chair Emeritus EN Bro. Irving Dietscher (at 92) is out there almost every day looking for members and he keeps finding them. As he has always said, "Just get out there and do it!" That's the simple formula for the lasting endurance that this Order so rightly deserves.

We have much work to do if we are to find those Master Masons who can qualify to be members in National Sojourners, work to make them see that we are relevant to them, and get them to join and be active participants. As we say each year, let this report help to continue to inform the ongoing debate about National Sojourner's membership composition, its future missions, its ability to be useful to the Freemasonry generally, and more especially to those who are our nation's Master Mason Veterans.

BRIDGE OF LIGHT COMMITTEE, Henry Kuhn, Chairman

The findings of the in-depth review of the 109 Chapter BOL Annual Reports received by National Headquarters for the period 1 July 2014-30 June 2015 revealed the following information deemed noteworthy:

a. The number of Chapter BOL Annual Reports received was 109 which was an increase of 10 over the prior year.

b. Of the 109 reports received, 35 Chapters reported increased BOL activity over the prior year. Definitely an improvement.

c. Reports received from 42 Chapters were appropriately documented (as specified in Attachment 8, BOL Handbook, dated 22 May 2009).

d. In contrast, BOL Reports received from 22 Chapters lacked minimal required documentation with the result that points could not be credited to them and thus losing out on their eligibility for the Odie Howell Chapter BOL Award. Members of the BOL Committee have contacted these various Chapters, pointed out this lack of compliance and recommended action to be taken to improve their reports so that they comply as set forth in the BOL Handbook.

e. 11 Chapters (an increase of two over the prior year) were judged to have qualified for a minimum of 18 points for the two year period, 1 July 2013- 30 June 2015, and thus eligible to be awarded the Odie Howell Chapter BOL Award at 96th Annual Convention, June 2016.

f. Overall increase in Chapter BOL activity continues as well as some improvement in the Chapter BOL Annual Reports prepared and submitted by the Chapters. Never-the-less, action by the BOL Committee to encourage further overall improvements, as well as an increase in Chapter participation in the various BOL programs, is to continue unabated. This is to include, but not limited to the following:

1. Every member of the BOL Committee to continue to maintain periodic contacts with their assigned Area Rep(s) to assure that they (the Area Rep) maintains contact with their respective Regional Reps and they, in turn, with their assigned Chapters, to assist and also assure compliance with the current BOL Handbook (dated 22 May 2009). Also to assure that each Chapter has a copy of the current Handbook and, if appropriate, instruct them to obtain a copy on line or from National Headquarters.

2. Chapters which have not already done so, to be encouraged (by their Area/Regional Rep) to appoint a Chapter BOL Chairman and that the appointee is knowledgeable of the various BOL activities.

3. Based on a review of BOL Annual Chapter Reports received from the various Chapters, those Chapters that submitted reports lacking required documentation (as called for in the current BOL Handbook) were identified. This information will be brought to the attention of the President of the concerned Chapter either by a member of the BOL Committee or the assigned Area/Regional Rep, with guidance to improve their BOL Annual Chapter Report.

4. Forms for planning and organizing the various BOL presentations have been created and furnished to the BOL Committee members to be made available to the Chapters. These forms, when the called for entries are filled out, will set forth all the required information for the preparation and submission of the Chapter BOL Annual Report. Preparation of the Chapter BOL Annual Report should thus be easier and also eliminate resulting from furnishing insufficient/incomplete information which often results in loss of points needed to qualify for the Odie Howell Chapter BOL Award.

5. Members of the BOL Committee will continue to emphasize to their assigned Area/Regional Reps that the Committee is there to offer assistance to their assigned Chapters in resolving questions

and/or problems in presenting BOL programs, increasing participation in BOL Programs and in the preparation and submission of the Chapter BOL Annual Report.

g. Last, but not least, the BOL Committee will continue action to promote the “Toast to the Flag” presentation by Chapter members when attending Masonic affairs, I.E. Lodge meetings, etc. Chapters will be encouraged to have certain members (at least one) memorize the “Toast to the Flag” and with the PRIOR APPROVAL of the Master of the Lodge, present it at the opening of the Lodge's session. Chapters which do not have the available membership nor the capability to conduct the more complex presentations, e.g., Building of the Flag, Service Flags of the U.S., History of the Flag, Color Guards, etc., should find this appealing in that it enables them to become more active in BOL activities in spite of their limitations. The “Toast to the Flag” when properly done, is well received by audiences and places National Sojourners in a very favorable light. It has, to some extent, resulted in generating an interest in membership in National Sojourners.

FRATERNAL LIAISON COMMITTEE, Edmund Cohen, Chairman

The National Sojourners had a significant presence at the 2016 Conference of Grand Masters held in Madison, Wisconsin. The Monday morning breakfast attracted a capacity crowd of invited Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, and heads of Appendant Bodies. National President Jim Higdon, President Elect Jim Baker, First Vice President Ron Sortino, Second Vice President Edward Nolte, and Third Vice President William Haynes, in their presentations explained the mission of the National Sojourners and how our National Sojourner Chapters can support of the various Grand Lodges and local Masonic Lodges. They described our Bridge of Light Programs and detailed our myriad of patriotic, education and youth activities. President Higdon outlined a new program to assist our Masonic veterans, many of whom have special issues confronting them. He suggested that outreach to Masonic veterans by their Brother veterans can help them resolve problem issues, and he sought the assistance of the Grand Lodges and Grand Secretaries to help locate and identify these veterans. The comments and discussion indicated that our guests were excited by our programs, impressed by the work we do, and willing to help.

NATIONAL RESALE ACTIVITIES BOARD, Howard Sobel, Chairman

This has been a good year for Sales. After the move we needed to order a number of items we were short on so right now our inventory value is high. Many items are not ordered but once every so many years and this year a lot of items hit the buy more mark. We also introduced a few new items. The Belt buckle, which was a major investment, a new tie design that has been selling very well, and a Post-It-Note pad with the new address were all added to the inventory. ROTC Awards account for a major portion of inventory turnover. Announced at the last National Convention was the Embroidered Clothing and other items that can have the SOJOURNER emblem, Heroes of '76 Emblem or a Camp Follower Emblem. Personalization with name, chapter, or camp on them is also available. The link to this option is on the Web Site at the Resale Catalog Tab. Sales provide an important part of our budget so please continue to keep your supplies updated and consider purchasing items to help promote your image as a Sojourner. If someone sees your Sojourner emblem on a shirt they may ask what it is and may be a potential new member. We also now have a credit card option for those who prefer to use plastic. Let's make this coming year an even bigger sales year. And don't forget we are always looking for new ideas for things we should offer for sale. Let us know what you want.

CHAPTER REVITALIZATION & CHARTERING COMMITTEE, Randolph Geck

The Chapter Revitalization & Chartering Committee (CR&CC) was established to work with the appointed Area and Regional Representatives to evaluate Chapter status, develop methods of assisting struggling Chapters, and to provide guidance and support to all Chapters in the National Sojourner organization. The Committee has continued the practice of providing Chapter Status Reports by our Regional

and Area Representatives to evaluate and report on the health of the Chapters in the order. The Committee Chairman established an informal position of Zone Representative to assist in the production of the Chapter Status Reports. To-date the Committee has received 60 Chapter Reports, with 9 Chapters belonging to the National HQ and thus not reporting, leaving 90 Chapters not evaluated. This year's Master Report shows that we have 5 Weak/Failing Chapters, 19 Fair/Solid, 25 Strong/Good and 11 who were Very Strong/Excellent. This relative percentage has remained fairly consistent over the last 4-5 years showing the evaluation system to be valid. Now the focus should be on helping the struggling Chapters get on strong ground. This Committee will turn its attention on the following at the 2016 Annual Convention: 1) Disband the position of Zone Representatives, as this experiment has not proven effective in managing the reporting process; 2) Nominate qualified members to assume the positions of Vice Chairman and Secretary and 3) Solicit positive input from struggling Chapters as to why they may be in that position and Strong/Excellent Chapters as to how they have managed to attain their strength; and 4) Solicit input from Chapters who have managed to shift from a weak position to a strong position and why. The main emphasis now will be on lessons learned and best practice sharing, so all Chapters may profit from other leader's successful effort.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE, Ronald D. Stites

The National Sojourner Nomination Committee met on 15 June 2016 the first day of the Annual National Convention as it has and must do for the success of the Committee. It was called to order by the Chairman, Brother Kenneth L. Lowmiller at 0835 hours. Invocation was given by Brother Elliott B. Samuels and Brother Lowmiller led all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Brother Lowmiller then provided his instructions for the conduct of the Committee.

Committee members were:

- Brother Kenneth L. Lowmiller, Chairman
- Brother Ronald D. Stites, Executive Secretary
- Brother Henry N. Dunn, Member
- Brother Elliott B. Samuels, Member
- Brother Carl J. Diamond, Member
- Brother Roy T. Ota, Member
- Brother Andrew F. Hirst, Member
- Brother John C. Mayers, Member
- Brother Frank W. Harris, III, Member
- Brother Floyd M. Gilbert, excused due to health
- Brother Wendell A. Dutt, recused due to Trustee nomination

The following were nominated by the Committee for the offices, committees, or status as indicated:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| President-Elect | Ronald D. R. Sortino |
| 1 st Vice President | Edward W. Nolte |
| 2 nd Vice President | William H. Haynes |
| 3 rd Vice President | Robert W. Roth |
| Judge Advocate | Benjamin M. Yudesis |
| Surgeon | Bernard N. Harris |
| Honor Awards Committee (5 Year) | Keye E. Perry, Sr. |
| Sojourner Ritual Committee (3 Year) | Ronald D. Stites |
| Sojourner Ritual Committee (1 Year) | Merlen F. Howe |
| Trustee (3 Year) | Winton E. Hewitt |
| Trustee (3 Year) | Merlen F. Howe |
| Trustee (3 Year) | James R. McConnell |
| Trustee (2 Year) | Wendell A. Dutt |
| Emeritus | Armand E. Cote |
| Emeritus | Gerald H. Houston |

Emeritus	Henry Kuhn
Emeritus	Sidney Shaenfield
Committee of 33 (3 year)	Gary W. Bunnell
Committee of 33 (3 year)	Brian C. Coffey
Committee of 33 (3 year)	R. Thom Davies
Committee of 33 (3 year)	Randolph F. Geck
Committee of 33 (3 year)	Henry C. Hill
Committee of 33 (3 year)	Paul K. McCullough
Committee of 33 (3 year)	Denny Norris
Committee of 33 (3 year)	Anthony J. Oubre
Committee of 33 (3 year)	Joseph F. Zito
Committee of 33 (3 year)	#Peter G. Cauchon
Committee of 33 (3 year)	#Charles E. Warren, Sr.
Committee of 33 (2 year)	#Clyde Wayne Barnes
Committee of 33 (2 year)	#Charles H. Blacknall
Committee of 33 (2 year)	#Paul A. DeMerath
Committee of 33 (1 year)	#H. Thurl Ray
Committee of 33 (1 year)	#Thomas R. Conn Sr.
Committee of 33 (1 year)	#Harold L. Powell

There were eight (8) Nomination Forms submitted after the Nomination Committee adjourned and before the elections and they are identified with a “#” preceding their name. The Executive Secretary vetted each of the eight (8) Forms with the National Secretary/Treasurer and a minimum of four (4) members of the Committee.

The Nominating Committee adjourned at 1115 hours.

Observations:

1. National Regulation (NR) 8.3.1 is not adhered to with respect to the “DUTIES-RESPONSIBILITIES” and should be updated to reflect actual practices. A few examples of disconnects follow.
 - a. Nomination Form for each candidate is not posted.
 - b. Executive Secretary does not receive the nomination forms until the Annual National Convention.
 - c. Interface with the Chairman, Committee of 33, is not as addressed in NR 8.3.1.
2. “DUTIES-RESPONSIBILITIES” does not capture the hidden responsibilities of the Executive Secretary such as arranging for a computer, projector, screen, etc. for projecting nominees during the Convention, vetting nominations “from the floor”, vetting nominees after the Committee adjourns, and amount/type of coordination with the National Secretary/Treasurer.
3. There is more than one version of the Nomination Form.

NATIONAL SOJOURNERS, INC.

11 MONTH FINANCIAL REPORT 1 JUL 15 – 31 MAY 16

TRUST FUND:

NET WORTH (1 July 15)	\$ 3,866,812.66
INCOME:	\$ 54,289.96
INTEREST & DIVIDENDS (April 1 – March 30 MIP Year)	\$ 197,329.52
EXPENSE (MIP Dividend Paid)	\$ 197,329.52
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$ 20,110.26
CASH ASSETS	\$ 53,754.38
INVESTMENTS	\$ 3,709,308.32
NET WORTH (31 MAY 16)	\$ 3,773,062.70
FUND INCREASE/DECREASE:	\$ -93,749.96

LAVON P. LINN FUND:

NET WORTH (1 July 15)	\$ 110,709.99
INCOME	\$ 0.00
INTEREST	\$ 3,011.79
EXPENSES	\$ 5,523.56
CASH ASSETS	\$ 6,095.64
INVESTMENTS	\$ 105,114.12
NET WORTH (31 MAY 16)	\$ 111,209.51
FUND INCREASE/DECREASE	\$ 499.54

FAMB FUND:

NET WORTH (1 July 15)	\$ 68,421.93
INCOME	\$ 0.00
INTEREST & DIVIDENDS	\$ 2,479.74
EXPENSES	\$ 753.14
CASH ASSETS	\$ 20,551.17
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$ 12,642.57
INVESTMENTS	\$ 57,593.76
NET WORTH (31 MAY 16)	\$ 78,144.93
FUND INCREASE	\$ 9,723.00

SOJOURNERS ENDOWMENT MEMORIAL FUND

NET WORTH (1 July 15)	\$ 993,023.99
INCOME	\$ 11,332.65
INTEREST & DIVIDENDS	\$ 48,568.88
ACCOUNT PAYABLE	\$ 48,568.88
EXPENSES	\$ 44,803.08
CASH ASSETS	\$ 89,747.54
INVESTMENTS	\$ 964,993.42
NET WORTH (31 MAY 16)	\$ 1,054,740.96
FUND INCREASE	\$ 61,716.97

HOUGHTON MEMORIAL FUND

NET WORTH (1 July 15)	\$	1,399.48
INTEREST & DIVIDENDS	\$	5.63
EXPENSES	\$	0.00
CASH ASSETS	\$	305.11
INVESTMENTS	\$	1,100.00
NET WORTH (31 MAY 16)	\$	1,405.11
FUND INCREASE	\$	5.63

JONATHAN M. WAINWRIGHT FUND

NET WORTH (1 July 15)	\$	1,457.21
INTEREST & DIVIDENDS	\$	5.62
EXPENSES	\$	0.00
CASH ASSETS	\$	378.43
INVESTMENTS	\$	1,084.40
NET WORTH (31 MAY 16)	\$	1,462.83
FUND INCREASE	\$	5.62

HISTORY FUND

NET WORTH (1 July 15)	\$	1,588.73
INTEREST & DIVIDENDS	\$	2.68
CASH ASSETS	\$	407.37
INVESTMENTS	\$	1,184.04
EXPENSES	\$	0.00
NET WORTH (31 MAY 16)	\$	1,591.41
FUND INCREASE	\$	2.68

DALLAS L. KNOLL FUND

NET WORTH (1 July 15)	\$	1,306.86
INTERESTS & DIVIDENDS	\$	5.13
EXPENSES	\$	0.00
CASH ASSETS	\$	311.99
INVESTMENTS	\$	1,000.00
NET WORTH (31 MAY 16)	\$	1,311.99
FUND INCREASE	\$	5.13

ROBERT W. THOMPSON FUND

NET WORTH (1 July 15)	\$	53,936.09
INTEREST & DIVIDENDS	\$	2,319.44
EXPENSES	\$	630.67
CASH ASSETS	\$	10,019.58
INVESTMENTS	\$	43,407.80
NET WORTH (31 MAY 16)	\$	53,427.38
FUND INCREASE/DECREASE	\$	-508.71

GENERAL FUND

NET WORTH (1 July 15) \$ 280,797.77

ASSETS:

PETTY CASH	\$ 50.00
CHECKING	\$ 144,217.35
FURNITURE & FIXTURES after depreciation	\$ 9,317.93
POSTAGE INVENTORY	\$ 500.00
SALES INVENTORY	\$ 111,634.39
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	\$ 9,981.14
FORWARD RESERVE	\$ 12,736.16
NET WORTH (31 MAY 16)	\$ 288,436.97
NET GAIN	\$ 7,639.20

INCOME:

PER CAPITA TAX	\$ 22,301.91
INTEREST	\$ 59.73
MIP DIVIDEND	\$ 98,664.75
NASOCOCO	\$ 8,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS*	\$ 48,489.99
SALES PROFIT	\$ 17,080.08
PROCESSING FEE	\$ 10,613.95
FORWARD RESERVE FUNDS	\$ 12,736.16
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 217,946.57

EXPENSES:

THE SOJOURNER	\$ 13,409.15
RENT	\$ 19,592.87
UTILITIES	\$ 3,071.23
SALARY – NST	\$ 44,349.12
SALARY – OFC MNGR	\$ 38,780.16
SALARY – ADMIN ASST.	\$ 35,856.00
FICA	\$ 7,377.08
MEDICARE TAX	\$ 1,725.29
IRA PLAN CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 3,569.56
UNEMPLOYMENT TAX	\$ 264.80
EXPENSES – NATIONAL PRESIDENT	\$ 2,000.00
EXPENSES – NATIONAL SECRETARY	\$ 1,883.15
EXPENSES – NATIONAL COMMANDER	\$ 1,000.00
PNP/PNC/LOH	\$ 150.00
POSTAGE	\$ 3,964.81
PRINTING	\$ 2,535.02
INSURANCE	\$ 2,916.00
TELEPHONE/FAX/INTERNET	\$ 2,562.79
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 4,335.76
HARRIS RESERVE FUND	\$ 2,568.00
UNBUDGETED RESERVE	\$ 18,396.58
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 210,307.37

*- MISCELLANEOUS includes SEM FUND dividends& interest, ½ Linn Fund Income, and transfer & initiation fees

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

		<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
MIP'S	INDIVIDUAL	6699	6643	6582	6674	6658
	MULTIPLE	2964	2950	2860	2893	2905
	INACTIVE	7912	8292	8809	9038	9142
	IN MEMORIAM	880	887	890	894	896
TOTAL	MIPS	18,477	18,772	19,141	19,499	19,601
ANNUAL DUES						
	HONORARY MEMBERS	444	474	417	381	351
	ACTIVE MEMBERS	1052	858	793	711	641
TOTAL	MEMBERSHIPS	20,003	20,081	20,351	20,591	20,593
LIVING	MEMBERS	8,220	7,952	7,792	7,766	7,650

*2016 is as of 30 May

2015-2016 MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

As of May 30, 2016

CHAPTER	TOTAL MEMBERS YEAR ENDING					MIP	MIP GAIN	LIVING MMBRS
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016			
CHICAGO(M)	107	105	107	106	106	102	0	21
DETROIT #1	93	93	93	97	97	97	0	41
WASHINGTON #3	169	167	169	170	169	169	0	49
FORT MEADE #4	75	74	74	74	74	70	0	25
CHEYENNE #5	65	70	68	87	86	62	0	58
HAMPTON RDS #6	96	95	95	103	105	99	2	50
BALTIMORE #7	122	129	130	132	132	119	0	46
FT. BENNING #8	109	109	104	103	104	98	1	46
HAWAIIAN #9	85	95	95	94	92	90	0	43
COLUMBUS #10(M)	134	127	131	128	128	123	0	35
HONOLULU#11	149	153	159	166	166	162	0	69
NEW ENGLAND #12(M)	48	45	46	46	46	40	0	18
KNICKERBOCKER #13	76	78	77	82	81	72	1	33
NARRAGANSETT BAY#14	65	75	77	80	76	56	0	40
BEN FRANKLIN #16	147	146	149	197	203	194	2	80
FT. SAM HOUSTON #17	395	405	416	424	426	412	3	174
GOLDEN GATE #18(M)	470	468	466	464	464	464	0	58
OMAHA #19	236	241	248	265	265	258	3	149
PANAMA CANAL #21(M)	12	12	12	12	12	12	0	2
ST. LOUIS #22	134	133	134	138	140	126	0	69
CLEVELAND #23	127	128	128	143	142	132	1	54
WICHITA #24	64	64	63	62	62	59	0	18
MINNESOTA #25	187	183	184	184	184	180	0	84
LOS ANGELES #26	79	78	80	79	78	78	0	35
MILWAUKEE #27	556	558	560	566	569	567	1	273
CHARLESTON #28	208	209	210	215	216	216	1	107
LOUISIANE #33	90	90	88	88	88	83	0	50
DENVER #37	154	147	156	161	161	154	1	67
PITTSBURGH #38	14	14	13	14	15	13	1	10
BUFFALO #39(M)	15	15	15	15	15	14	0	3
VADM H. WALLIN #40	113	111	109	110	110	106	0	37
N. NEW JERSEY #42	71	72	79	85	85	81	0	43
TINKER #43	283	279	293	308	312	306	3	125
QUANTICO #44	132	128	128	129	130	127	1	62
SAN DIEGO #45	219	214	215	241	237	220	0	94
LINCOLN #52(CLUB)(M)	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	1
HARTFORD #56	69	68	73	76	75	53	0	37
NEW LONDON #58	124	124	125	126	126	116	0	64
FT. MCPHERSON #60	95	90	90	101	100	97	1	44
KANSAS CITY #63	98	84	85	82	70	67	0	43
INDIANAPOLIS #66	193	192	193	194	193	185	0	104
HOT SPRINGS #70(M)	36	35	35	34	34	34	0	4
FT. LEE-RICHMOND #72	130	140	134	135	135	126	0	57
EL PASO #74(M)	99	98	98	98	98	96	0	14
PORTLAND #75	57	56	60	61	59	55	1	25
HARRISBURG #76	382	381	389	408	410	340	1	262
DUPONT #78(M)	39	38	37	37	37	36	0	11
SINCLAIR INLET #80	62	61	65	66	67	49	0	34

LONG ISLAND #86	50	47	49	45	45	31	0	39
DES MOINES #88	46	46	45	47	47	37	0	28
FT. LEWIS #89	130	130	131	132	137	131	5	36
PORTLAND(ME) #92	67	61	60	62	62	52	0	44
NO. CAROLINA #97	147	147	147	159	161	160	1	89
PARIS #98	24	22	22	22	22	22	0	20
TULSA #101	72	74	76	77	76	71	0	52
SPOKANE #102	38	36	38	39	38	31	0	25
OAKLAND #108(M)	79	79	78	78	78	78	0	6
AKRON #111(M)	8	7	7	7	7	7	0	1
AUDIE L. MURPHY #112	137	138	142	146	146	146	0	80
SALT LAKE #114	93	83	84	85	82	64	1	56
ANNAPOLIS #121(M)	44	44	44	44	44	44	0	9
TOPEKA #128	93	90	91	90	87	82	0	36
FORT SILL #129	231	231	232	238	237	234	0	98
CARLISLE #130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SACRAMENTO #133	127	129	130	129	129	124	0	59
KENTUCKY #134	515	533	544	543	539	522	2	181
MONTEREY BAY #136(M)	49	49	49	49	49	49	0	7
HARRY S TRUMAN #152	74	69	70	71	67	67	0	37
FT. LEAVENWORTH #154	89	91	91	87	90	68	0	47
FT. MONMOUTH #155(M)	98	98	97	96	96	96	0	15
CLARENCE COHEN #162	61	61	63	66	67	62	1	31
ARKANSAS #166	59	56	59	57	56	42	0	36
MISSISSIPPI GULF #171	90	92	94	107	108	107	1	67
FT. CAMPBELL #177	56	58	59	63	65	60	2	30
FT. JACKSON #184	205	205	204	211	211	211	0	67
FT. HOOD #208	55	54	55	58	58	51	0	30
ABERDEEN #221	91	91	92	91	91	91	0	12
CAMP FANNIN #228	33	30	29	35	34	31	0	18
CAMP PENDLETON #243	189	189	191	195	192	192	0	35
C. LINDBERGH #247	74	73	71	71	73	69	3	32
SANTA ANA/EL TORO #250	241	241	247	258	259	256	0	70
TAMPA #252	84	91	93	99	96	92	2	38
OKINAWA #264(M)	26	26	26	27	27	27	0	6
PASADENA #265	164	165	181	201	204	204	3	70
STOCKTON #266	63	64	68	70	64	51	0	28
TOKYO #267(M)	15	15	14	14	14	14	0	4
FRESNO #269	73	73	73	73	73	73	0	8
BARSTOW #271(M)	17	17	17	17	17	16	0	2
SO. ARIZONA #273	59	62	66	74	74	73	0	30
BARKSDALE #275	27	24	27	26	24	22	0	18
HAMILTON #277	102	99	99	99	99	99	0	10
WHITE SANDS #282	67	67	68	69	69	68	0	22
GUAM #287(M)	14	14	14	14	14	14	0	6
LAKE MICHIGAN #289	71	69	70	67	69	58	0	40
LANCASTER #292	38	33	32	29	29	27	0	11
PIKES PEAK #293	98	96	96	97	99	99	2	34
WALTER REED #303	286	286	290	299	299	299	3	42
HEIDELBERG #304	10	10	10	10	10	9	0	5

PHOENIX #306	437	435	435	437	437	432	0	33
BERLIN #307 (M)	33	33	33	32	31	31	0	15
LANGLEY-MONROE #310	163	162	164	166	166	166	1	66
TRANSPORTATION #311(M)	25	25	25	25	25	25	0	5
ST. PETERSBURG #314(M)	32	32	32	32	32	32	0	3
JOHN S. BERSEY #316	39	38	38	37	37	31	0	18
SO. INDIANA #328	105	105	106	108	108	108	0	30
CAMP LEJUENE #329	127	129	135	145	147	131	0	84
FARGO-MOOREHEAD #338	66	62	59	62	62	46	1	44
J.C.CALHOUN #343(M)	29	29	29	29	29	29	0	6
WEST POINT #344(M)	33	33	33	32	32	29	0	15
PORTSMOUTH #352	66	64	63	63	62	58	0	17
REDSTONE #353	76	76	77	83	83	83	0	27
FORT DETRICK #354(M)	12	12	12	12	12	11	0	3
ALASKA #355	120	120	120	120	120	120	0	55
MIAMI #357	53	50	51	52	53	46	1	24
OLD DOMINION #364	365	363	366	367	368	367	1	171
MONTGOMERY #365	40	40	40	41	40	38	0	16
CAPE CANAVERAL #366	131	130	131	132	131	124	0	42
POLARIS #369	41	41	42	42	42	42	0	32
SEMINOLE #373	344	346	354	355	356	346	0	73
BRAZOS VALLEY #378	97	100	100	102	101	93	0	49
BLUE HEN #382(M)	12	12	12	12	12	12	0	1
ANDREW JACKSON #385	143	136	137	143	144	121	1	83
PORTSMOUTH (NH) #386	113	111	118	120	120	114	1	65
J.J.HARRIS #397	75	70	65	71	72	72	1	33
INDIAN #405(M)	33	32	33	32	32	31	0	9
OGELETHORPE #406(M)	15	14	13	13	13	12	0	3
SAIGON #409	268	268	272	276	279	276	3	16
GEN MORRILL W. MARSTON # 413	135	132	133	132	132	129	0	38
VOLUNTEER #414(M)	107	107	107	115	115	105	0	59
ARROWHEAD #421	93	89	93	96	97	90	0	19
CAPE HENRY #424	101	101	102	102	103	101	1	39
N.E. FLORIDA #435	146	147	146	152	151	143	1	73
KAMEHAMEHA #439	121	123	121	121	119	112	0	65
ARLINGTON HALL #440	93	91	91	91	92	84	1	27
BETHESDA #445(M)	115	115	115	112	112	112	0	19
ANDREWS #446(M)	38	38	37	37	37	37	0	13
KIT CARSON #447	173	170	171	167	169	163	2	51
WRIGHT BROTHERS #449	68	68	71	79	79	79	0	1
FIVE FLAGS OF PENSACOLA #460	73	72	73	74	76	72	2	27
GEN WM W. WORTH #463	131	126	126	126	126	119	0	50
GEO. R. SCOTT #482	112	107	154	152	152	141	0	49
GEN R. F. TRAVIS #490	87	87	87	88	91	91	6	33
VENTURA COUNTY #494	138	136	136	136	136	136	0	36
DANANG #498	165	165	170	173	174	174	1	9
HUNTER #502	72	71	70	67	68	67	1	38
M.W.BYERS #503	67	67	69	79	79	67	5	33
PIEDMONT #504	75	73	72	73	73	71	1	35
CLEARWATER #505(M)	67	67	67	67	67	66	0	10
ANSON JONES #507	146	145	160	173	175	166	2	75

LYCOMING #509	38	36	35	33	31	24	0	26
P.M. RASMUSSEN #510	33	39	36	36	36	34	0	23
A.J. YOUNDT #511(M)	69	69	71	68	68	68	0	17
DANIEL BOONE #512	63	62	63	70	67	54	0	30
HOUSTON #513	104	94	95	94	91	89	0	41
KNOXVILLE #514	66	65	66	73	72	63	0	39
LUBBOCK #517	42	42	42	42	42	42	0	14
MAUMEE VALLEY #518	15	14	14	13	13	13	0	3
LOS ALAMITOS #519	155	155	153	150	149	146	0	37
YOSEMITE #520	37	37	36	35	34	31	0	9
EAST VALLEY #521	57	57	57	57	56	54	0	15
PATUXENT #522	34	33	31	32	32	30	0	16
P/O/W #523	108	108	108	108	108	108	0	2
GEN. H. H. ARNOLD #524	71	68	66	64	64	59	0	12
WATAUGA #525	36	35	35	36	37	37	1	11
WARNER ROBINS #526	58	58	58	60	62	62	2	35
GREEN MOUNTAIN #527	93	89	85	85	83	46	2	56
OUACHITA #528(M)	21	22	22	16	16	12	0	6
WILLAMETTE VALLEY #529	102	102	102	105	106	101	1	46
BEAUREGARD-ANDERSON #530	52	52	55	66	66	59	2	49
BALDWIN COUNTY #531	33	32	33	34	36	33	0	12
PENMAR #532	47	37	26	38	27	26	0	12
SARASOTA #533	115	114	116	120	120	114	1	42
PACIFIC NW #534	86	84	85	84	83	72	0	41
EXPEDITIONARY #535	184	186	193	195	197	197	2	19
W.C. GATEWOOD #536	66	60	62	64	64	60	0	35
NO. CENTRAL FL.#537	41	43	43	43	43	38	0	26
ROGUE VALLEY #538	45	40	37	36	35	32	0	12
OLYMPIC #539	69	70	70	71	71	71	0	29
CHATTANOOGA #540	67	67	68	74	74	74	0	35
INDIANA MASONIC HOME #541	96	97	97	99	102	82	0	66
MUSTANG #542	105	105	111	116	118	118	2	1
SHENANDOAH VALLEY #543	62	62	63	63	64	64	1	32
FREDERICKSBURG #545	58	58	58	58	57	57	0	21
WM HOOPER #546	43	43	42	42	42	35	0	18
JESSE B. THOMAS #547	38	39	38	38	38	36	0	20
JOHN SEVIER #548	43	62	65	74	77	77	3	25
JAMES MONROE #549	25	38	39	41	42	39	1	30
ANDREW HICKMAN #550	22	40	43	47	47	35	0	28
NORTHWEST ARKANSAS #551		14	14	16	16	6	1	14
MG EMORY UPTON CLUB #552			4	10	13	5	0	12
HIGH COUNTRY #553			18	37	35	25	1	15
NORTH MISSISSIPPI #554				30	30	29	0	16
MINUTEMAN #995	60	61	62	62	62	62	0	7
GRAND MASTERS #996	94	99	116	129	130	130	1	36
PAST MASTERS #997	195	195	206	219	225	225	6	1
SHRINER'S CLUB	14	15	15	15	15	15	0	0
NATIONAL HDQS	382	385	396	400	409	397	5	86