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

SEE OUR WEBSITE AT
http://www.ftsamhoustonsojourners.txmasons.org

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ISSUE 18-04 APRIL 2018

Minutes of Business Meeting 7 March 2018

The Monthly Business Meeting of the Chapter was held on 7 March 2018 at The Barn Door. The meeting was preceded by lunch which was ordered from the menu provided. President, Brother Nick Ramos opened the meeting at 1200 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by President Brother Ramos, Toast to the Flag was given by Brother Bob Walling, and the prayer by Chaplain Brother Ray Benton.

WELCOME: President Brother Ramos welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for attending. There were two guests present who are potential members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the February 2018 meeting were published.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Approved as presented.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Brother Bob Cox is in Healthcare. Brother Sid Shaenfield is at home and likes calls. Brother Wolfe has eye problems. Brother Max Harvey is at home and likes calls. Brother Sam Green still has his problems and not doing well. Zola Dunn, wife of Brother Nelson Dunn is coming along. Brother Jim Higdon's memorial and Masonic service Friday 9 March 2018. Brother Dock Dixon may have surgery due to his fall. Bro Ed Travis possible surgery. Bro Art Polsey had knee surgery but was in attendance. Bro Roland Tessier has prostate cancer and is in nursing home in Kernville. Julia Perkins, wife of Bro Bob Perkins, was hospitalized but is now home. Keep these Brothers and their families in your prayers.

CORRESPONDENCE: ANC paperwork and SCACE paperwork is available from the Secretary.

REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Brother Al Posey was in attendance and has application forms.

REFERRAL OF APPLICATIONS: None.

APPLICATIONS VOTED ON: None.

INITIATION OF NEW MEMBERS: None.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

AMERICANISM:

ROTC: Brother Roger Hopkins stated that we are on track and have received some requests from schools and has a roster going around to sign up to present the awards at the locations that we currently know about.

FREEDOM FOUNDATION: FFVF for 2018 is still on for July 2018.

MOWW YLC: Have info from the state coordinator on last year's program. We will participate in 2018.

ESSAY: Brother Roger Hopkins reported that he did not know who this year's winners are from National.

FLAG PROGRAM: Brother Freeland reported that there was a flag program on 1 March in Fredericksburg for the TX Association of Legion of Honor of the Shrine. The team presented the Building of the Flag. On 3 March there was a Color Guard for the Grand Lodge walk to the Alamo and Brother McConnell also gave the Toast to the Flag at that event. On 11 March there is a Building the Flag program and the team is set for that event. Expect more to come.

BY LAWS: Nothing.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Nothing new at this time.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE: None this month.

PROGRAMS: The next dinner meeting will be on 14 March at the Barn Door. A guest speaker is lined up for this meeting.

BRIDGE OF LIGHT: Was a total success and we came out well on the finances.

COMMANDER OF HEROES: Camp Commander Brother Joe Estlack stated that the next Bivouac will be on 30 May 2018 and we will have a recruit.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: The South-Central Area Conference and Encampment is scheduled for 6 – 8 April in Austin, Texas. Secretary has the forms. ROTC sign up sheet is being distributed and if you can sign up for a school to present the award to the student. The annual Raffle for Americanism was discussed, and Brother President will have the tickets for distribution soon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dinner Meeting will be on 14 March. Brownwood Commandery will meet tonight at 1800 hours with the program at 1900 hours. ANC 18-23 June 2018. Bro Higdon's Memorial Service on 9 March 2018. Saturday at Lonnie Ervin Lodge Bro Ernest Sessions will receive his 70 Year Masonic Award. A dinner will precede the

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event. Attend if possible as this is a rare award.

CLOSING: There being no more business, Brother President closed the meeting at 1245 hours.

Dinner Meeting 14 March 2018

The monthly Dinner Meeting was held on 14 March 2018 at the Barn Door Restaurant. An enjoyable social period beginning at 1800 hours was held. President Bro Ramos welcomed those present at 1845 hours and had Chaplain Brother Ray Benton give the blessing on our endeavors and meal.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Brother Bob Cox, Brother Sam Green, Brother PNP Jim Higdon, and Brother PNP Elliott Samuels all have passed to the great Celestial Lodge above. Brother Sid Shaenfield is still basically home bound and need our calls. Brother Max Harvey also likes to receive your calls. Brother David Wolfe is having eye problems. Brother Dock Dixon is still awaiting answers on his surgery. Brother Anthony Harris is having some difficulties. Zola Dunn, wife of Brother Nelson Dunn is at home but still undergoing tests but was in attendance. Brother Ed Travis has been in the hospital but should be going home. Guzman had surgery and is progressing nicely. Brother Ed Lee is unable to drive and if anyone lives near him see if you can give him a ride. Keep all of them and their families in your prayers.

INTRODUCTIONS: Those in attendance were introduced by Brother McConnell. They were: Himself James R. (Bob) McConnell, PNP, National Trustee and Houghton recipient, Brother Merlen Howe, Past National President and a Trustee, Brother Nick Ramos, Past Most Illustrious Grand Master, Most Illustrious Grand council of Cryptic Masons of Tennessee. Sweethearts, Helen Kelly, Betty Sanders, Tina Lafferty and Jackie Purvis. All Chapter officers were in attendance. Guests in attendance were, Brother Gary Sheets and his lady Sherrie, and Brother Freddie Freeland's daughter. Also, Marilyn Olivarez who was the guest speaker and we would learn more about her later. Dinner was then served.

OPENING: President Ramos opened the meeting at 1935 hours with the pledge followed by the Toast to the Flag, by Brother Lee Leopard, and Chaplain Brother Ray Benton gave the prayer.

INITIATION OF CANDIDATES: No candidates were initiated.

PROGRAM: Brother Ramos called upon Brother Freddie Freeland to introduce the guest speaker for the evening. Before introducing the guest speaker Brother Freeland, as the Flag Bearer, gave a rundown on the last Flag Program presented and discussed presentations in the future. The next program is scheduled for 12 May 2018 at Texas #8 Lodge. Marilyn Olivarez is currently the District Deputy Matron of District 5, Section 8, of the Order of the Eastern Star. She has been deeply involved with OES for a good number of years and is always eager to discuss the organization and tell of its traits. However, this evening she chose the topic of St. Patrick's Day. She asked if anyone knew when it came to be in the United States. No one seemed to know, and she gave us the date of 1737. It originated in Ireland by the Druids, but St Patrick was born in Scotland. He was captured and taken to Ireland where he grew up. Because of his actions he became a Saint. She then asked why the shamrock was selected to represent St Patrick's Day. Again, no response, so she stated that it had three leaves, and each stood for, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. She then gave insight into how all the organizations she represented held ties to the National Sojourners. That all were carrying out the same ideals. She closed by thanking us for the invitation to speak to the organization as she dearly loves the National Sojourners.

Brother President Nick Ramos presented Marilyn Olivarez with a Certificate of Appreciation for her presentation.

PRESENTATIONS TO MEMBERS: None.

ANOUNCEMENTS: President Brother Ramos announced that the next Heroes Bivouac will be on 30 May 2018. Next Business Meeting will be on 4 April 2018. The next Dinner Meeting will be on 11 April 2018. South Central Area Conference and Encampment is 6-8 April 2018 and is being held in Austin and the Annual National Convention is 18 – 23 June 2018 in Norfolk, VA.

DRAWING: Brother Flowers assisted by Brother Freeland, performed the drawing which resulted with three individuals going home with a prize. The winners were: Bonnie Hopkins, Sherrie Sheets, a guest, and Brother Albert Pike.

CLOSING: Without further ado the meeting was officially closed at 2015 hours by Brother President Nick Ramos. Peace and Harmony Prevailing.

SEE YOU NEXT MONTH

January Birthdays	
Reese Harrison	1/5
Wayne Gallion	1/10
Cecil Robison	1/10
Walter Benton	1/12
Alan Clemons	1/14
Robert Cox	1/15
Bennett Elliott	1/16
Joshua Strait	1/17
James Benson	1/18
Arthur Miller	1/20
Taylor Ramey	1/21
Lee McRee	1/22
Raymundo Hernandez	1/23
Merlen Howe	1/23
Edward Travis	1/23
Daniel Whitaker	1/25
Leslie Ratcliff	1/26
William Ryland	1/30
James Selders	1/30
Stuart Simms	1/31

February Birthdays

Philip Neil	2/3
Floyd Gilbert	2/5
Roger Hopkins	2/6
James Hubbart	2/7
Steve Stanek	2/7
Rodney Ruth	2/7
John Vidas	2/7
Sean Thomas	2/10
Edward Nolte	2/12
Daniel Taylor	2/14
James Avant	2/17
James Childress	2/17
Walter Counts	2/18
Henry Kuhn	2/23
Michael Lafferty	2/25
Roberto Armendariz	2/27
Russell Flowers	2/27
Alfonso Aranda	2/28
Jimmy Shew	2/28

March Birthdays

Simon McIlroy	3/1
Rick Corbin	3/3
Benjamin Linduff	3/3
Robert Madison	3/5
Robert Dale	3/9
Donald Starnes	3/11
Luther Leopard	3/12
Forest Little	3/14
Albert Pike	3/19
James Worley	3/19
James Gordon	3/20
Clifford Wagner	3/20
Andrew Solari	3/21
Leonard Harvey	3/22
James Kenney	3/22
Ira Flax	3/23
Ed Lee	3/24
Russell Brown	3/25
John Lorch	3/26
Gregory Wright	3/30

NOTES FROM YOUR SECRETARY

This newsletter needs a little bit of explanation as there was no January, February or March one printed. On 2 December 2018, Brother Dennis Lafferty laid down his working tools. He was our Flag Bearer and a mainstay in the publication of our monthly newsletter. Brother Dennis assisted in putting together the articles, proofreading the total product, sending it to the printer, preparing mailing labels for those who do not have email capability or wanted a paper copy. He coordinated all of this while performing his duties as the Secretary of his Masonic Lodge. He was the mainstay of our ROTC program and kept records of all procedures. This along with handling the same for AUS. At the time of his death he was deeply involved with the Army All American Bowl game played in the Alamodome. As Flag Bearer, he scheduled requests for flag programs, kept the equipment for the events, set up the equipment and performed in all but one event during his National Sojourner time. Truly a mainstay of this Chapter and will be missed deeply. Three months of birthdays are included.

FT. SAM HOUSTON CHAPTER 17 DEATHS

Dennis Lafferty
2 December 2017
Larry Dillingham
23 January 2018
Knox Duncan
1 February 2018
Elliott B. Samuels
7 February 2018
Robert "Bob" Cox
4 March 2018
James N. Higdon
4 March 2018
Samuel W. Green Jr.
8 March 2018

April Birthdays

Max Harvey	4/4
James Carnes	4/7
James Potter	4/7
Rowland Tessier	4/6
William White	4/6
Lester Notbohm	4/13
George Kawanami	4/19
Roger Hopkins	4/22
Hilario Carreon	4/23
Harold Gellert	4/27

The Annual Bridge of Light was held on 14 February 2018 and above is the table set up for that event.

Grand Master of Texas Masons, MW Tommy F. Chapman was the guest speaker for the event.

Grand Master Chapman, his lady Kathy and President Nick Ramos presenting Bridge of Light Certificate at the Annual Bridge of Light in February 2018

UPCOMING MEETINGS

BUSINESS MEETING: We will again be at **the Barn Door, 8400 North New Braunfels, (Inside Loop 410), 4 April 2018.** Come early get your lunch with the meeting to begin at 1200 hours. It will be order from the menu. Main business will be a discussion on the upcoming schedule of events. Come and enjoy the fellowship.

THE MONTHLY DINNER MEETING is scheduled for **11 April 2018** at the **Barn Door, 8400 North New Braunfels, (Inside Loop 410).** Social time at 1800 hours with dinner at **1830 hours** (**NOTE CHANGE**). Come and enjoy the fellowship. Dinner will consist of Salad, 6 oz. Filet, or Salmon, Baked Potatoes, Vegetable, Dinner Rolls/Butter, Iced Tea and Water, Coffee by the cup and Complimentary dessert. Price of the meal – Steak $25.00 Salmon $30.00. Reservations to Bob McConnell, at 210 -659-6813 or JMcconn529@aol.com, or Lee Leopard at 210-434-7429 **not later than 9 April 2018.** Sign up early and come and enjoy the fellowship.

This Months ROTC Uncles

Sid Shaenfield

Bob McConnell

John Lorch

.This Month in History
(Chronologically ordered by day)

April 1, 1954 – United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower authorizes the creation of the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado.

April 2, 1912 – The ill-fated RMS Titanic begins sea trials.

April 4, 1818 – The United States Congress adopts the flag of the United States with 13 red and white stripes and one star for each state (then 20).

April 5, 1792 – United States President George Washington exercises his authority to veto a bill, the first time this power is used in the United States.

April 7, 1862 – American Civil War: The Union's Army of the Tennessee and the Army of the Ohio defeat the Confederate Army of Mississippi near Shiloh, Tennessee.

April 9, 1959 – Project Mercury: NASA announces the selection of the United States' first seven astronauts, whom the news media quickly dub the "Mercury Seven".

April 10, 1858 – After the original Big Ben, a 14.5 tonnes (32,000 lb) bell for the Palace of Westminster, had cracked during testing, it is recast into the current 13.76 tonnes (30,300 lb) bell by Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

April 10, 1912 – RMS Titanic sets sail from Southampton, England on her maiden and only voyage.

April 10, 1916 – The Professional Golfers' Association of America (PGA) is created in New York City.

April 12, 1204 – The Crusaders of the Fourth Crusade breach the walls of Constantinople and enter the city, which they completely occupy the following day.

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

This Month in History(Continued)

April 14, 1865 – U.S. President Abraham Lincoln is shot in Ford's Theatre by John Wilkes Booth; Lincoln died the next day.

April 14, 1912 – The British passenger liner RMS Titanic hits an iceberg in the North Atlantic at 23:40 (sinks morning of April 15th).

April 14, 1981 – STS-1: The first operational Space Shuttle, Columbia completes its first test flight.

April 16, 1818 – The United States Senate ratifies the Rush–Bagot Treaty, establishing the border with Canada.

April 17, 1970 – Apollo program: The ill-fated Apollo 13 spacecraft returns to Earth safely.

April 19, 1775 – American Revolutionary War: The war begins with an American victory in Concord during the battles of Lexington and Concord.

April 20, 1898 – U.S. President William McKinley signed a joint resolution to Congress for declaration of War against Spain, beginning the Spanish–American War.

April 24, 1916 – Ernest Shackleton and five men of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition launch a lifeboat from uninhabited Elephant Island in the Southern Ocean to organise a rescue for the crew of the sunken Endurance.

April 24, 1990 – STS-31: The Hubble Space Telescope is launched from the Space Shuttle Discovery.

April 26, 1865 – American Civil War: Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston surrenders his army to General William Tecumseh Sherman at the Bennett Place near Durham, North Carolina.

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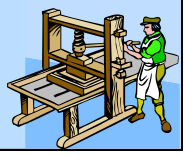

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER
BIVOUAC OF ALAMO CAMP HEROES OF 76

Attention all Heroes: A bivouac is scheduled for Wednesday, **29 November 2017** at Grady's BBQ, 6510 San Pedro. Put it on your calendar. Dine at 1700 hours.

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

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

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

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