

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL PRESIDENT NATIONAL SOJOURNERS, INC.

In the past there has never been any information that would assist an individual who was considering, or had been approached to consider, running for 3rd National Vice President. It is the intent of this document to provide information on which to base a logical decision as to whether or not to run for the National Line.

We must first start out with the basic information about qualifications to be considered for the National Line. National Regulation 6-1 is the guide for determining the qualifications. It is recommended that this particular regulation be read in its entirety. The selection of a candidate is based on the minimum requirements which are:

- a. A minimum of ten (10) years of continuous active membership in National Sojourners.
- b. Served honorably as a Chapter President and Commander of a Camp of Heroes of '76.
- c. Served a minimum of two (2) year on a National Committee elected or appointed, and/or served as an Area or Regional Representative. Service as a member of the Committee of 33 is desirable.
- d. Have attended three (3) National Conventions and two (2) Mid-Winter Meetings.
- e. Demonstrated qualities of leadership, tact, and teamwork in his military, civic, business or Masonic service.
- f. Be an Active Member in National Sojourner, Inc.
- g. Be prepared for the financial burden associated with the travel required to satisfy additional responsibilities.
- h. Upon being nominated receive a determination of "Qualified" from an interview by the Nominating Committee.

Now that the basics have been established, let's consider other areas that one needs to consider. You are looking at a five (5) year commitment to National Sojourners from 3rd National Vice President through National President. Each office along this path requires an increase in involvement from the individual in order to perform the required duties.

The National Line Officers follow all National Regulations with a focus on National Regulation 6-2 in its daily business. Read this document and reflect on the requirements of each position and how you would anticipate performing in each position.

Now let's review what is required at all levels. Naturally, attendance at each Annual National Convention and Mid-Year Meeting is a must for all officers. None of the individual officers receive any compensation for attendance at any of these events. Nor do they receive any compensation for any other function that they may attend. Therefore, it is extremely important that you factor in the financial aspects of this undertaking. The National Line has made a commitment that all would attend the Conference of Grand Masters where National Sojourners in coordination with the Fraternal Relations Committee, presents a program of interest to sitting Grand Masters and others at a breakfast. It is here that close ties with our Blue Lodges takes place and the National Sojourners are present to provide information to the Grand Lodges of what we have to offer the Blue Lodges. Here again, the financial aspects of the National Line come into play. Only the registration fee is funded by National Sojourners and all other expenses are borne by the individual Line Officer.

One should also become familiar and cordial with the Grand Line officer who will be in place during ones tenure as National President. Becoming acquainted with these individuals will make it a more comfortable situation during your term of office.

The National Line has established Oversight Responsibilities of the various Committees and has assigned specific committees to each officer. The following is a list of those that are assigned.

National 3rd Vice President – N3VP
Bridge of Light
Education & Training
Internet Committee

National 2nd Vice President – N2VP
Membership
Gifts & Bequests
Fraternal Liaison

National 1st Vice President – N1VP
Americanism
Incentives and Awards
Publications Review Board
CLMA Liaison

National President Elect – NPE
Area & Regional Representatives
Chapter Revitalization and Chartering

NASOCOCO

National President – NP
National Trustees
Committee of 33
Nominating Committee

As the oversight individual, you are responsible to see that each committee performs its function in accordance with by laws, regulations, policy letters and administrative orders. To do so one must become familiar with the documents. To provide you an insight into some of our responsibilities, a brief discussion of these responsibilities follows.

Starting out as the National 3rd Vice President you have oversight of the Bridge of Light Committee and the Education and Training Committee. The Bridge of Light Committee is very important to the order as it is the avenue with which we get the word out to our Blue Lodges. As N3VP you meet with this committee at both the Annual National Convention as well as at the Mid-Year Meeting. You keep your finger on the pulse of this committee so that pertinent information is distributed to the Chapters. The Education and Training Committee is responsible for what its name states, educating and training our members in what we need to get across to our members. Making sure that the documents this committee is handling is accomplished in a factual and expeditious manner means timely education. Staying on top of both these committees will ensure that we are getting the word out to the membership. The National Web Site is a newly established committee and is one that is extremely important to the order. Oversight here requires that all information that is placed on the site is accurate and timely and is usable by the membership. Staying in close touch with the Web Master will insure that this function survives. Constantly checking the web site by the National 3rd Vice President and the National President Elect will ensure that the information is indeed accurate.

The National 2nd Vice President picks up additional duties but for different committees. These committees are Membership, Gifts and Bequests and Fraternal Relations. Staying on top of the Membership Committee is key to our survival. Membership is paramount as we must continually obtain new members to replace those who have gone to the “Celestial Lodge Above”. Your input to the Membership Committee may be the key to their success. Close contact with the Chairman of the committee is a must. Reviewing those items that the Gifts and Bequests Committee have taken into consideration may result in obtaining funds for the operation of National Sojourners. Think about what you could do to give guidance to this committee. The

Fraternal Relations Committee, as noted above, is deeply involved with the Conference of Grand Masters. Duties here include setting up the breakfast, coordinating with the Chairman of the Fraternal Relations Committee to determine attendees, preparing the presentation to be given at the breakfast and insuring that all the National Line Officers are operating from the same sheet of music when it comes time to perform.

The National 1st Vice President has the major job of making sure that the other Vice Presidents are tutored so that they are ready to assume the next position. But he too has committees to oversee. They are Americanism, Incentives and Awards, Publications Review Board and Collingwood Library and Museum Liaison (CLMA). Close coordination with the Americanism Committee is a must if our Youth Leadership Conferences (YLCs) are to be successful. Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge and Military Order of the World Wars are two of the important programs. This committee requires a strong chairman and as the N1VP you are charged to insure that one is assigned. Working relations with other patriotic programs is also a necessity of this position. As President you should expect to attend the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge. Ensuring that the brothers are recognized for their efforts is essential. That is the challenge of the Incentives and Awards Committee. Challenging the Chapters to submit individuals for recognition is a main stay of this program. Get involved with Chapters pointing out that recognition should be properly presented, publicly and with flare. Attending the Area and Regional Representatives meeting and enjoining them to assist in getting the word out on awards is a must. Close coordination with the Publications Review Board and the National Secretary are necessary to insure that all publications are accurate and correct and are within the extent of the law. The committee also reviews and scores Chapter Newsletters and selects a winner each year. As the N1VP you must get involved with the process. Being the CLMA Liaison requires that you are aware of the position of CLMA and that each Chapter has an appointed CLMA Liaison, usually the 1st Vice President. CLMA has a training and support program for each Chapter liaison which is on their web site. You should be familiar with their web site and assist any Chapter Vice President who requests support.

The National President Elect is the next in line to take over the order. He has oversight responsibility for the Area and Regional Representatives. These individuals are the key to determining the health and welfare of the order. Close contact with them is a necessity and to make sure all areas are covered is a must. He must insure that each one submits his report for the Mid Winter Meeting as well as the Annual Convention. The scoring system used is the key to determining the overall health of the organization and the status of the individual Chapter. If a low score is presented by Regional Representative, determining what needs to be done is a key to the survival of the Chapter. Close coordination between the Area Representative and the Regional

Representatives with the Chapter Revitalization and Chartering Committee is an extremely important piece of the equation. The Chapter and Revitalization and Chartering Committee is available to assist any Chapter who is having difficulty and needs assistance. Another area for the National President Elect is NASOCOCO. Although a separate organization it falls under the umbrella of National Sojourners as it is the Corporation that overseas and, if necessary, can conduct the Mid Winter Meeting or the Annual Convention. It has its list of officers and has a Board of Governors which is comprised of the National Trustees. One of the Trustees is elected to be the Board Chairman. Key here is the identification of individuals who have the expertise that is necessary for the conduct of business that NASOCOCO requires. Appointment of these individuals by the Line Officers helps in the establishment of a progression of individuals that will be available at the time the individual doing the appointment is in the driver seat, i.e., National President.

The National President is the face of the order while serving his year. He becomes the "Grand Visitor" when he visits chapters, encampments or any other Masonic body. You should be familiar and comfortable with the Installation and New Member rituals as you will be called upon to officiate often.

One additional officer of the order is extremely important to the officers and membership. He is the National Secretary/Treasurer. The National Secretary/Treasurer is our Chief Operating Officer. He is the one that keeps the train on the track. Constantly in contact with the Chapters and is the focal point for all questions that a Chapter might have. He also has oversight for the National Resale Activity which produces revenue for the order. Without this income we would be lacking for funds. Close contact with the individual who occupies this position is a must as he is the "Corporate Memory" of the order. Have questions, feel free to contact him.

To wrap things up, here are a few items to consider. It takes time and one needs to develop an annual plan/calendar for each year in line, especially the year of National President. Be careful to reserve important personal/family/holiday dates in advance and work around them. Remember this is a five year commitment. It takes dollars. Your personal budget commitment to the position will generally dictate how much travel you perform on behalf of the order over and above the required annual meetings. You should plan ahead and consider the fact that at the very minimum you will spend \$25,000 and probably quite a bit more during the five years in the Line. Remember that only \$2,000 of your expenses will be reimbursed by the order during your year as National President. Plan on visiting as much as you can and include your lady in those visits. She has an important role in greeting, socializing and explaining your programs to the ladies in attendance both before and after the meeting. Keep good records and

receipts as all of your official expenses during the first four years, and all during your year as National President over and above the \$2,000 reimbursement are tax deductible.

Finally, suggest that you interview a few Past National Presidents about their year for more details on time, cost, and lessons learned. Also, consult with a few senior Sojourners and make them your mentors and sounding board for your plans.