



REDSTONE CHAPTER NO. 353 MEETING NOTICE

Our September meeting will be next Friday (1 September) at the Blue Plate Café, 7540 Memorial Pkwy SW Suite E.

I will continue to try to make calls to make sure everyone knows about the meeting. If you're not contacted and plan on coming to our meeting, please let me know at 256-539-3379 or tfcraig@aol.com.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brethren and Ladies:

I first want to express my appreciation of the hard work Brother Wojcik put into his service as President and the new ideas he has implemented. I intend to follow in his footsteps and we are working in the Executive Committee to continue the efforts to let our Chapter show its full potential by renewing the interest of our existing members and encouraging others to join us through the example we set in carrying out the Chapter's mission.

One of our primary concerns is to find a place to meet with hours that better accommodate our meeting by not closing as early as the Blue Plate. We believe this should enhance attendance as well as draw new members. An increase in membership and in participation should help increase our Chapter income and enable us to further support the various Americanism activities.

I'll have a report at our meeting on the status of our search for a meeting place. One of the problems in locating a new place is the low number of attendees at our meetings – the restaurants understandably usually need higher volume than what we can offer at our present participation rate.

Fraternally,

Mike Morgan

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Hero's, Patriots, and Friends of National Sojourners Inc.:

We should have at least one bivouac this year in order to practice the degree for the next qualified candidate. We need to discuss whether we want to do this and if we should include a flag retirement ceremony or have such a ceremony. We probably should consider any other possible activities we can do as a Heroes' Camp which would benefit and support our Chapter. I'm open to any suggestions and will appreciate your continued support.

Don't forget the Tennessee State and Mid Central Area and Regional Annual Encampment is scheduled for 15-16 September 2017 in Memphis. Dinner reservations need to be in by 5 September

IEAR - EIAR

James Wojcik

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Several things crossing my mind as we begin a new year. One thing that has concerned me is Chapter finances. Although we're in relatively good shape, one reason is that we did not sponsor any students to any youth programs last year. We had been able to send four to the Huntsville Youth Leadership Conference for about \$1300 for several years, but the last couple of years we've only sent two youth and last year we didn't send anyone. Our income has declined sharply, and I think the primary reason is the drop in attendance. The average attendance in 2006-7 was 26 with a peak of 32 at one meeting. Last year the average was 8 with a peak of 14. There's probably more I should be doing to help combat this drop, although I think all bodies of Masonry are seeing similar declines in membership and membership participation. But this decline is reflected in the decline in our income, which primarily comes from donations from the embers. As an MIP Chapter, we get between \$400 and \$500 per year from the MIP funds, which barely covers basic operating expenses. Support of youth programs (primarily YLC and ROTC/JROTC awards) comes from donations. With fewer members attending, the income from our raffle sales has dropped, and the participation in our "White Elephant Sale" dropped to the point that it was embarrassing to ask anyone to act as an auctioneer and we dropped it.

Brother Wojcik tried making various changes to our meeting format in an effort to increase participation, and Brother Morgan will continue looking for a solution, but one key will be our ability to attract new and younger members. Many of our existing members are too distant to attend our meetings or have family responsibilities that makes it extremely difficult to participate. I doubt that anyone is purposely avoiding participating in our meetings, although I'm not aware of all the situations involved. Certainly we need as many members as possible to return to our meetings. But the average age of our current membership is about 71, and we clearly need to add younger members (although the pool of potential younger members with military service is much smaller than it was when many of us became members).

Enough of my rant, but we need any ideas you may have about what we can do – Brother Wojcik solicited ideas often, and I know Brother Morgan feels the same way. Our work is too important to let up our efforts.

Sincerely,

Tom Craig

CONGRATULATIONS

To Brother Kim Harrison, who received the Order of the Purple Cross recently.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

Please pray for our brethren, both our fellow Chapter members and our other brethren who may be undergoing trials of which we're unaware.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ray Dunn	9/1	Michael Morgan	9/18
Kim Harrison	9/26	Steve Brownfield	9/28
Tom Paul		9/30	

**2017-2018 Officers
Redstone Chapter # 353**

Elected Officers

President	Brother Michael T. Morgan
1 st VP	Brother Eddie E. Brown
2 nd VP	Brother Glenn K. Hooks
3 rd VP	Vacant
Secretary/Treasurer	Brother Thomas F. Craig

Appointed Officers

Quartermaster	Brother Glenn K. Hooks
Chaplain	Brother George F. Mills
Marshal	Brother Raymond C. Dunn
Color Bearer	Brother Roger K. Harrison
Color Bearer	Vacant

Monte Sano Camp - Heroes of '76

Elected Officers

Commander	Brother James J. Wojcik
Chief of Staff	Vacant
Ass't Chief of Staff	Brother Thomas A. Paul
Officer of the Day	Brother Lawrence E. Fouse

Appointed Officers

Commander of the Guard	Brother Roger K. Harrison
Chaplain	Brother George F. Mills
Adjutant	Brother Thomas F. Craig
Senior Lt.	Brother James S. Blanteno
Junior Lt.	Brother Wayne D. Jordan
Sentinel	Brother Raymond C. Dunn
Music Coordinator	(As needed)

Tentative Meetings

	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Reg		1 Sept	6 Oct	3 Nov	1 Dec	5 Jan	2 Feb	2 Mar	6 Apr	4 May	1 Jun
				Widows Nt					Nom.	Elect	Install
Xcom (T)	14 Aug	11 Sep	9 Oct	12 Nov	11 Dec	8 Jan	12 Feb	12 Mar	9 Apr	14 May	

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

1 September	Gurley Lodge No. 521
2 September	OCCUPATION OF ATLANTA/V-J DAY
4 September	Huntsville Scottish Rite Bodies
4 September	Athens Lodge No. 16, Rising Sun Lodge No. 29
4 September	LABOR DAY
5 September	Florence York Rite Bodies, Helion Lodge No. 1
6 September	FULL MOON (FRUIT MOON, HARVEST MOON)
7 September	Decatur York Rite Bodies
7 September	Bolivar Lodge No. 127, Arab Lodge No. 663, Fyffe Lodge No 697
8 September	STAR TREK PREMIERES
10 September	GRANDPARENTS DAY
11 September	Ardmore Lodge No. 24, Northern Lodge No. 278
11 September	Executive Committee @ 6 PM @ Greenbrier
11 September	PATRIOT DAY
12 September	Huntsville York Rite Bodies, Lunar Lodge No. 918
13 September	Apollo Lodge No. 921
13 September	BOMBARDMENT OF FT. McHENRY
14 September	Arab Lodge No. 663, Solar Lodge No. 914
14 September	HOLY CROSS DAY
15 September	Gurley Lodge No. 521
15 September	POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY
16 September	PUPPY MILL AWARENESS DAY
17 September	CITIZENSHIP DAY/CONSTITUTION DAY
18 September	Athens Lodge No. 16, Rising Sun Lodge No. 29
18 September	BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA BEGINS/USAF ESTABL'D
19 September	Shoals Scottish Rite Bodies, Helion Lodge No. 1
21 September	Bolivar Lodge No. 127, Arab Lodge No. 663, Fyffe Lodge No 697
21 September	ROSH HASHANAH BEGINS/I'NATIONAL DAY OF PEACE
22 September	EXECUTION OF NATHAN HALE
23 September	AUTUMNAL EQUINOX/JP JONES CAPTURES SERAPIS
24 September	FEAST OF GEDELIAH/GOLD STAR MOTHER'S DAY
25 September	Northern Lodge No. 278
26 September	Jackson County Scottish Rite Club, Lunar Lodge No. 918
27 September	Apollo Lodge No. 921
28 September	Arab Lodge No. 663, Solar Lodge No. 914
28 September	BATTLE OF YORKTOWN BEGINS
30 September	YOM KIPPUR BEGINS