



# PLANNING & DELIVERING GREAT CHAPTER MEETINGS

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by

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# GREAT CHAPTER MEETINGS

- It's all about:
  - PLANNING
  - PLANNING
  - PLANNING
- Start Early --- when 1VP begin to develop your plan
- Work the details --- yes, it takes some WORK!
  - Review the Chapter Officers Handbook (on the website)
  - Early speaker commitments
  - Heroes Camp operations are part of the plan
  - Write it down
  - Communicate the plan (create excitement & interest)



# GREAT CHAPTER MEETINGS

- Have a call plan --- a couple of monthly callers to stay in touch with their assigned list and extend a warm invite
- Publish a newsletter --- one page by email will do --- keep the group together
- Do not go dark --- maintain monthly habits
- Pass the gavel --- allow every member to say something brief if they desire --- IT'S OUR CHAPTER
- Do something special for the Ladies each year



# GREAT CHAPTER MEETINGS

- DO SOMETHING TO SUPPORT EACH OF OUR PURPOSES
- The Purposes of National Sojourners shall be to organize current and former members of the uniformed forces of the United States, and Honorary Members, who are Master Masons and U.S. citizens into Chapters, for:



# GREAT CHAPTER MEETINGS

- The promotion of **good fellowship** among its members
- **Assisting** such as may be overtaken by adversity or affliction, for cultivating Masonic ideals
- Supporting all patriotic aims and activities in Masonry, for developing true **Patriotism and Americanism** throughout the Nation
- Bringing together representatives of the uniformed forces of the United States (past and present) in a united effort to **further the military** need of National Defense
- Opposing any influence whatsoever calculated to weaken the **National Security.**



# GREAT CHAPTER MEETINGS

- OUTREACH Projects strengthen chapter operations/meetings
  - BOL
    - BOL NIGHT PROGRAM
    - BE A BLUE LODGE RESOURCE FOR PATRIOTIC PROGRAMS
  - AMERICANISM
    - YLCs
    - ROTC/JROTC Medals
    - ESSAY CONTEST
    - PATRIOTIC PROGRAMS – BTF / HISTORIC FLAGS / COLOR GUARDS / TOAST



# GREAT CHAPTER MEETINGS

- Membership Program
  - A key concept: NEW MEMBERS = NEXT GEN CHAPTER LEADERS and maintain the critical mass of participants at each meeting
  - Bring a Friend
  - Carry a *What's It All About* trifold and a Membership Form
  - Be alert for Military Masons in your Blue Lodge and Appendant Bodies — introduce yourself and ask about their service!
  - Look for opportunities to make National Sojourners visible in all your Masonic organizations --- offer the Toast, offer a Color Guard ... offer a Flag Program



# GREAT CHAPTER MEETINGS

- ALWAYS SAY THANK YOU --- use the National Sojourners Patriot of '76 Certificate --- buy an inexpensive frame!
- Recognize and thank
  - Speakers
  - Chapter “Movers & Shakers”
  - Use any excuse to make those who make a difference in your Chapter’s success feel good!
- Submit annual awards for those in your chapter who made a difference



# GREAT CHAPTER MEETINGS

- Execute with a “TOUCH OF CLASS”
  - Good ritual --- practice – practice – practice --- memorize some parts
  - Don’t make everything casual or the results will be of casual quality
  - Have fun!
  - Variety is the spice of life --- avoid program ruts
  - Develop some chapter traditions
  - Delegate --- get others involved --- especially your successor (OJT)
  - Invite Masonic dignitaries from time to time --- start with your National Line
  - Start on time --- end on time!
  - Leadership should BE PREPARED – ALWAYS!



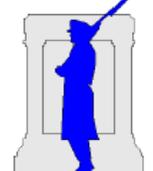
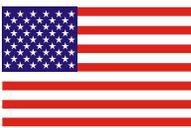
# GREAT CHAPTER MEETINGS

- Use the example plan which follows as a template



# Chapter Program Plan



<p><b>JUN</b> Chap - 20</p>		<p>Focus on the Mission</p>		<p>Chapter plans and programs brief plus National Convention feedback</p>			
<p><b>JUL</b> Chap - 18 Heroes - 25</p>		<p>Star Spangled Banner</p>		<p>Guest historian/speaker on Francis Scott Key</p>			<p>Bivouac  Collingwood</p>
<p><b>AUG</b> Chap - 15</p>		<p>Honoring the Sacrifice</p>		<p>Former Tomb Guard guest speaker plus Memorial Service</p>			
<p><b>SEP</b> Chap - 19</p>		<p>Americanism</p>		<p>Promotion of youth programs and guest congressional speaker</p>			
<p><b>OCT</b> Chap - 17 Heroes - 24</p>		<p>Military Night</p>		<p>Flag Officer Forum ROTC recognition night and presentation by guest flag officers ~ Wear your uniform!</p>			<p>Bivouac  Collingwood</p>
<p><b>NOV</b> Event - 4 Chap - 14 ▲</p>		<p>Giving Thanks Special Event: Massing of the Colors at USNA</p>		<p>Guest clergy presentation on the meaning of Thanksgiving</p>			

 = special music / entertainment

NOTES: All Chapter & Heroes meetings begin at 1830 with a social half-hour. Camp Followers meet at Collingwood during all bivouacs and encampments.



# Chapter Program Plan



<p><b>DEC</b> Chap - 19</p>		<p>Holiday Party</p>		<p>Holiday celebration with entertainment ~ special visit by Santa with a gift for all!</p>			
<p><b>JAN</b> Chap - 16 Event - 16 - 19 Heroes - 23</p>		<p><b>Masters &amp; Wardens Night</b> <b>Special Event: Mid-Winter Convention - DoubleTree Hotel</b></p>		<p>Grand Line guest speaker Note: Chapter meeting at George Washington Masonic National Memorial Optional GWMNM Tour for ladies</p>			<p>Bivouac  Collingwood</p>
<p><b>FEB</b> Chap - 20 Event - 24</p>		<p><i>Be My Valentine</i> <b>Special Event: Chapter wreath Laying at Mount Vernon for Wor. Bro. George Washington</b> GMs of VA, DC &amp; MD to attend</p>		<p>Ladies Night Meet Most Worshipful Bro. Benjamin Franklin Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania</p>			
<p><b>MAR</b> Chap - 20 Event - 24 Heroes - 27</p>		<p>Freedom <b>Special Event: Heroes wreath laying at Lee Chapel, Lexington, VA for Light-Horse Harry Lee</b></p>		<p>Movie Night Appreciating freedom through the eyes of Viet Nam era POWs</p>			<p>Bivouac  Collingwood</p>
<p><b>APR</b> Chap - 17</p>		<p><b>BUSINESS MEETING</b> Special report on the Pentagon attack by Fairfax County Fire &amp; Rescue</p>		<p>Annual business meeting, nominations report, balloting and Sojourner stuff! Ladies Evening Tour</p>			
<p><b>MAY</b> Chap - 15 Heroes - 18</p>		<p>Installation</p>		<p>Ring out the old and ring in the new --- installation of 2002 - 2003 officers</p>			<p>Fed Area Encampment  Collingwood</p>

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# GREAT CHAPTER MEETINGS --- SUMMARY

- Planning is necessary for success!!!!
- Celebrate successes often --- write articles for *The Sojourner*
- Every meeting is another opportunity for success and greatness --- always evaluate --- what can we do better...
- Where do we go from here
  - Re-evaluate your chapter's meeting quality
  - Commit to improving your chapter's meetings on the road to improved attendance and success!!!!!!!
  - Apply what you have learned --- make something good happen!!!!!!



**SUCCESS**

DO IT

I WILL

I CAN DO IT

I'LL TRY TO DO IT

HOW DO I DO IT?

I WANT TO DO IT

I CAN'T DO IT



# GREAT CHAPTER MEETINGS --- FINAL THOUGHT

- Cop the following attitude if you are the Chapter Leader

**IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO ME!**