



National Sojourners, Inc.

Walter Reed Chapter #303



2008 Number 6

"The Nationwide Family Chapter"

June 2008

Dear Brother Sojourner,

I sincerely hope to see many of you shortly after you receive this bulletin at the National Convention in Wilmington, N.C.

This past month has been an active one for our Chapter members; JROTC presentations and the Federal Area Encampment heading the list. Our Chapter President Louis Numkin forwards the following for publication:

The recipient of the National Sojourners Award at John F Kennedy Senior High School was Cadet /LT Juan O. Melendez. Juan is currently a Junior and he has been in NJROTC for all three of his high school years. This year he served as the unit's Administrative Officer and he has been elected to be the Executive Officer for school year 2008-2009. Last summer Juan completed the Area 5 NJROTC Leadership Academy in Norfolk, VA. He is currently the only Cadet at Kennedy High School to have completed this competitive course. As a student, this young man has done well. He has a 3.2 Grade Point Average. He has already enlisted in the Maryland National Guard and will be attending Army Basic Training this Summer, prior to his Senior year of high school. Juan plans on going into college next summer, applying for and receiving a ROTC scholarship. His goal is to be an officer in the Marine Corps.

LCDR Len Greig, USCG (Ret), is the school's Senior Naval Science Instructor and he willingly included my presentation of "The Toast to the Flag" as part of the 15APR2008 evening's program. It was my pleasure to participate in the Kennedy High's NJROTC Awards Ceremony.

In addition to this award, an award was also made to a Navy Junior ROTC recipient at Bowie High School.

The day for the Federal Encampment was beautiful; every Hero is distinguished and attendance was such a reflection; the noon meal provided by the Daughters of the Nile was delicious; a program following the lunch conducted by National President, Jim Vann and National Commander, Dick Sutton was well received; PNC Bill Turner delivered a very informative talk, the Camp Followers ranks were increased; more than 12 in attendance are members of our Chapter; I am grateful I was afforded an opportunity to speak regarding your Charitable Fund activity at Walter Reed Army Hospital; in due time our Heroes ranks were increased – BUT – misfortune – Camp Commander "Woody" Bentley asked our Robert Moore Camp Commander to be Chief of Staff. Louis Numkin agreed and memorized his part. At 9:00 P.M., the evening before the encampment, Commander Numkin was notified Commander Bentley was in the hospital. Commander Numkin has only been a Camp Commander for a short time and had never

before presided at a Camp. With assistance from Charles **Blacknall** as Chief of **Staff**, Past National Commanders, and other knowledgeable Heroes, an impressive encampment was conducted. ELAR.

Brother Bill Ellenberger will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery at **2:00 P.M.**, 19 June. A reception will be held at the Fort Meyer Officer's Club following the service. The family invites all Sojourners to attend.

Past Chapter President Gerald Allgood's son, Colonel Brian **Allgood**, was killed near Diyala, Iraq in January 2007. At the time of his death he was Command Surgeon for the Multinational Force – Iraq. At the 2008 Military Health System Conference in Washington, D. C., LTC Kelly A. Murray received the first Colonel Brian **Allgood** Field Grade Combat Core Award. I served at Walter Reed Army Hospital when "**Jerry**" was the Hospital Chief of Staff, his wife, Cleo, and young Brian were good social and hunting fiends. An award in Brian's memory is most appropriate.

A check for \$100.00 was received for our Charitable Fund **from** a person who does not wish to be identified. Thank you.

Sincerely and fraternally,

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FIRST MEETING AND EXCERPS FROM THE FIRST SEVEN ANNUAL MEETINGS/CONVENTIONS

By John Cole

On 16 June 1919, a meeting was held in the office of LTC George F. Unmacht. General Chauncey B. Baker was the Chairman. He appointed a committee of three to provide for the necessary incorporation of the Sojourners Club. It was decided that each Chapter be numbered, Chicago being Number 0, Detroit Number 1.

At the 8 October 1920 meeting of the Board of Governors of the Chicago Club, a tentative plan of separation of the National Sojourners Club from the Chicago Club was advanced.

The first regular annual meeting of the National Sojourners Club was held in Chicago on 25 August 1921. By 20 January 1922, there were five Chapters, and the National Constitution and By-Laws having been approved by the Chapters, was read and approved.

At the Second Annual Meeting held on 3 June 1922, the following resolution was passed: "Resolved that even though Chicago takes great pride in the fact that the Sojourner Club was organized in Chicago, the logical place for Headquarters is Washington, so that we may receive the support of the active Departments of the Services and in that way insure continued success".

At the Third Annual Meeting held on 5 June 1923 at Washington, D. C., five new Chapters were added.

At the Fourth Annual Meeting held on 10 June 1924, eight new Chapters were added. It was decided to publish a monthly bulletin.

At the Fifth Annual Convention held 10 June 1925, the Committee of 33 was established. It was decided The Sojourner would be free from advertising. This was the first time the term "convention" was used.

At the Sixth Annual Convention held 1-3 June 1926, a petition for the 50th Chapter was received. Five-hundred attended the Banquet the night of 2 June.

At the Seventh Annual Convention held 20-21 June 1927, there were 78 Chapters. The decision was made to delete the word "Club" from our title.

Major General Amos A. Fries was National President from 1922 to 1930.

Colonel George F. Unmacht, in whose office the first meeting was held on 16 June 1919, was National Secretary from the beginning until 1947.

** Acknowledgement is made to Colonel LaVon Parker Linn, Notional Historian 1967-1971, Author of *Fifty Years* of Notional Sojourners published in 1970 **