

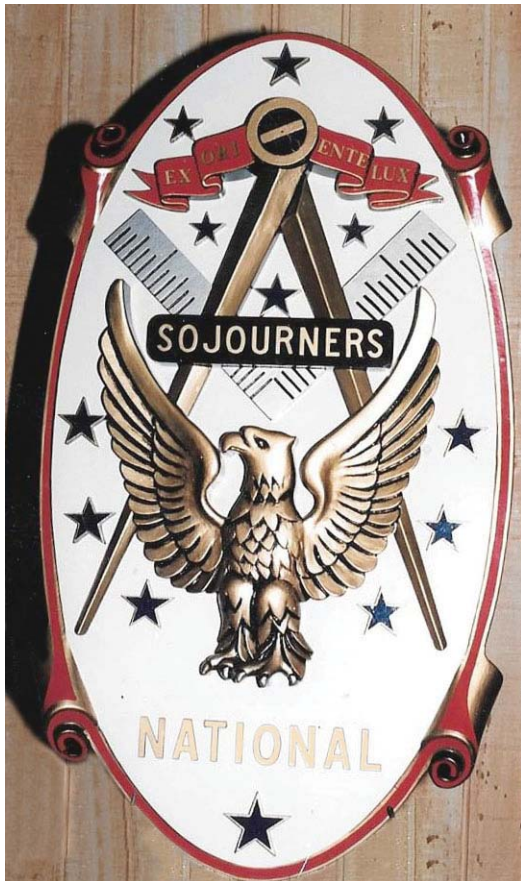


THE SOJOURNER

January - February 2014

VOL. 91, #1

LARGE SOJOURNER EMBLEM PRESENTED TO NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS



This Larger than life Emblem was presented to Bro. Chris R. Christoff on the occasion of his installation as National President at the 68th Annual Convention of our Order, in Memphis, TN, on June 24, 1988. It was presented by Bro. Tom Herzog, Chapter S/T; Bro Ralph Barnett, Chairman; and Bro. Charlie Allen, PNC Heroes of '76, on behalf of the Brethren of Bro. Christoff's home Chapter, Columbus #10. This Emblem has witnessed the initiation of many brother Sojourners and has traveled countless miles of rough and rugged roads representing our Order during the 25 years since Bro Jon Violet created this Emblem. Most recently, the emblem re-appeared as a part of the Sojourner display at the 2009 Conference of Grand Masters and then again slipped back into the dark corners of storage. Recently, our National Trustees Chairman, Bro. Harry Sanders (PNP) while working on a National Trustees initiative to inventory and catalog all of the Order's artifacts, made an inquiry as to the emblem's location to move it to Collingwood as part of the Sojourner of historic memorabilia and artifacts. Brother Christoff

responded to the inquiry and concurred with adding the emblem to our Order's collection. Accordingly, he took the action to ship to our National Headquarters. We thank Brother Christoff for his generous donation of this unique piece of Sojourner history to our collection and for sharing its story. It is now on permanent display in the Home of our beloved Order, National Sojourners, Inc.

Proudly serving the cause of Patriotism.

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PURPOSES

The Purposes of National Sojourners shall be to organize Commissioned Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers of the uniformed forces (past and present) of the United States, and Honorary Members, who are Master Masons, into Chapters, for the promotion of good fellowship among its members, for assisting such as may be overtaken by adversity or affliction, for cultivating Masonic ideals, for supporting all patriotic aims and activities in Masonry, for developing true Patriotism and Americanism throughout the Nation, for 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, and for opposing any influence whatsoever calculated to weaken the national security.

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Access the National Sojourners
WEBSITE on your smartphone —

Scan with a QR reader or AT&T code scanner
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CALENDAR ITEMS

Any news you want listed for an area conference/encampment, please email all information and dates, etc to hq@nationalsojourners.org and cc a copy to Brother Lance Otis, lotis666@gmail.com (for the website).

CONFERENCES

The 2014 Midwinter Meeting will be held January 15-18, 2014 at the Wyndham Hotel in Orlando Florida. More information to follow.

The 94th National Convention will be held June 15-21 2014 at the Double Tree Hotel in Austin, Texas. More information to follow.

ENCAMPMENTS

The Federal Area Conference & Encampment will be held on April 19, 2014 at the Collingwood Library and Museum in Alexandria, Virginia. Point of Contact Randy Geck (301) 758-0768 or rgeck@xecu.net.

JAMBOREE



Closing out Jamboree recognitions another Sojourner at the 2013 BSA Jamboree was Bro. Bob Schlegel (Long Island #86), a member of the High Adventure Safety Corps. Bob checked out the Big Zip, Canopy Tours, Action Point activities as well as the Barrels and Bows and BMX courses, among others. At the May 2013 National Meeting in Texas, Bob was elected a Director of NAMS (National Association of Masonic Scouters). He is in his Jambo regalia, having had no time to take still pictures at the Summit!

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS INTO THE NEXT SOJOURNER IS
FEBRUARY 20, 2014.**

FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT



The Holidays have come and gone and a new year is upon us. The Mid-Winter Meeting in Orlando gave us an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new friends. It was enjoyable as always, and PNC Pedro Arroyo kept everyone in line while Lady Josie kept Pedro in line! We all enjoyed Florida's sunshine, both luminous and liquid. The Ladies and Brethren of Seminole Chapter can add another "Well done!" to their impressive collection of accolades!

As an additional note, the Mid-Winter Meeting marked the first appearance at a National Function for our National Secretary/Treasurer, Brother Bill Sanner. He has had to navigate a steep learning curve, and has done so admirably. If you get a chance, whether it be in person or by phone, let Brother Bill know that you appreciate his efforts.

I have been delighted and impressed by the innumerable efforts our members and chapters have made to reach across the boundaries of the many bodies within our great fraternity. Whether it be to a Grand Lodge or a DeMolay Chapter or an Eastern Star Chapter, we can pride ourselves on keeping our national and Masonic heritage alive through our fraternal involvement. We can also learn new ceremonies and present them in a professional manner where they are well received. Texas Sojourners, assembled by Brother Captains Howe, Higdon and CWO4 Baker, conspired to subject outgoing Grand Master and Sojourner Walt Rogers, a Navy veteran, to a Navy tradition known as "piping over the side"

in recognition of his successful year. The "side boys" assembled for the ceremony included several Naval Officers in uniform and a couple of Air Force ringers. They were superbly led by Brother Senior Chief Petty Officer Lewie Fletcher, Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of Montana, in uniform, who was a masterful piper.

As we prepare for Spring and beyond, we are anticipating a very active time leading up to the 94th Annual National Convention to be held in Austin, TX, in June. Our National Secretary, Bro Bill Sanner has advised me that we have had eleven resolutions submitted for consideration at the Convention. One has been withdrawn, one probably does not meet the criteria, and two are very similar. We will be able to present them in the next issue of *The Sojourner*, but for information purposes they cover the gamut from the Youth Protection Program to updating criteria for allied membership to procedures for amending the By-Laws to updating requirements for election to the National Line. Altogether I anticipate a very busy Convention.

Lady Becky and I are looking forward to traveling to several Area Conferences and Encampments between now and the Convention. We wish the best for all of our brethren and ladies, and hope to meet many of you in the coming months.

Fraternally,


Keye Perry, Sr.

GREETINGS FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS!

Thank you everyone I have spoken to and have had words of encouragement from. These first couple months as National Secretary/Treasurer (protem) have been exciting. I am learning new things every day, trying hard to remember everything Bro. Nelson imparted to me. Calling him, almost daily, to remind me of things I was not sure of or we had missed during our overlap. In between there are emails and phone calls from Bros. that have questions, provide information or just send good wishes and I enjoy them all. There are so many facets to this position and I am sure I have only uncovered a tiny bit of them. Things move quickly, Mid-Winter is soon upon us followed shortly by the Grand Masters Conference. Just around the corner then is the National Convention. Thank you for your support thus-far and I welcome your calls and messages anytime. I am here to serve National Sojourners, Inc. and all its members. Again, I hope everyone has had Happy Holidays.

Bill
William R. Sanner
National Secretary/Treasurer (protem)
HQ, National Sojourners, Inc.

OLD MEDAL FOUND



In October 2013, on a trip to South Carolina, at the Coastal Carolina Flea Market outside of Charleston, SC, Matthew J. Sadoon of Benjamin Franklin #16 found this National Sojourners pendant at a vendor's table. Unaware of what it was, he did recognize the Masonic working tools. This find was meaningful for him as Charleston was an old duty station back in the 90s while he served in the US Coast Guard.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Floyd E. Bagwell, Jr., #56

Sponsor: William L. Greene

SP4 Lewis P. Bither, #56

Sponsor: Wayne Colbree

PFC Robert E. Blaner, #23

Sponsor: Ron Runion

2LT David L. Bowman, #373

Sponsor: Gunther E. Ludewig

COL William K. Brock, #482

Sponsor: Robert F. Bickett

CMSgt Timothy A. Callahan, #386, MIP

Sponsor: Andrew Hirst

Mr. J. Ronald Dotsey, #16, MIP

Sponsor: J. F. Benson, Jr.

CPO Fred R. Driscoll, #58

Sponsor: Ted Nelson

Mr. Kenneth E. Dungan, #43, MIP

Sponsor: Robert T. Shipe

Mr. Teko A. Foly, #996, MIP

Sponsor: William G. L. Turner

SGT Graham N. Giesen, #112, MIP

Sponsor: John H. Creel

MCPO Charles S. Glidden, Jr., #533, MIP

Sponsor: Herb Mueller

LTC Bruce C. Gubser, #439, MIP

Sponsor: James N. DeMoss

MSgt William G. Hall, #310, MIP

Sponsor: Michael L. McPherson

Mr. Joe R. Hariel, #171, MIP

Sponsor: Joe Vawters

CW3 Thomas B. Hoyt, #43, MIP

Sponsor: Kenneth A. Slaten

MSG Amos Hykes, #548, MIP

Sponsor: David E. Davenport

MAJ Paul B. Ilthneko, #56

Sponsor: Louis L. Vander Eyk

1LT James E. Jensen, #17, MIP

Sponsor: Freddie G. Freeland

SCPO Johnnie M. Jones, Jr., #548, MIP

Sponsor: Ronnie P. Richards

MSG Paul E. Kruger, #357

Sponsor: Carl Laks

SFC Roland W. Lakey, #75

Sponsor: Robert Keller

CPO Bruce E. Lancaster, #14

Sponsor: Lino Martins

CPL Charles A. Lewis, #266

Sponsor: Steven Fowler

Mr. Wilbur B. Mars, #75

Sponsor: Robert Keller

Mr. Lee Martenson, #527

Sponsor: John Campbell, Jr.

SGT David Miller, #66, MIP

Sponsor: Randy Spaulding

SFC James T. Minor, #89, MIP

Sponsor: Unknown

MSG Robert Monroe, #80

Sponsor: Joseph W. Macintyre

2LT Nicholas F. Pereira, #14

Sponsor: Rick Baccus

SP4 Kenneth Peto, #289

Sponsor: Philip Johnson

LCDR Ray E. Pugh, #482

Sponsor: Robert F. Bickett

Mr. Joseph A. Quarequoio, #86

Sponsor: Richard Bateman

SGT Lewis A. Rawles, #56

Sponsor: Garret Post

SGT J. William Riggs, #134, MIP

Sponsor: J. B. Hitt, II

MSgt Peter A. Rompf, #86

Sponsor: Jack Weisman

LT David H. Scheuermann, Jr., #33, MIP

Sponsor: Robert W. Marks

MSgt Franklin Sherrod, #548, MIP

Sponsor: Ronnie Richards

COL Avtar Singh, #413, MIP

Sponsor: Unknown

PO1 Kevin R. Smith, #27, MIP

Sponsor: Robert W. Roth

EM3/C William R. Smith, #56

Sponsor: William L. Greene

PO3 Henry R. Steinhoff, #23

Sponsor: Ron Runion

SMSgt Harold D. Stringfellow, #166, MIP

Sponsor: Samuel D. Lattin

SFC John A. Warren, #37, MIP

Sponsor: William A. Hickey, III

SFC Walter H. Williams, #273, MIP

Sponsor: Sid Leluan, III

Col Harold F. Wilson, #507

Sponsor: Merlen Howe

Mr. William A. Woolard, #97, MIP

Sponsor: Hubert E. Balkcum

NEW MIPS

18714 MCPO Ronald L. Parks, #460

18715 Mr. Carl G. Kirtley, #460

18716 LTC Robert F. Register, #134

18718 Mr. Everett M. Dirksen, #134

18719 Mr. Stephen A. Douglas, #134

18720 SGT Sidney Shaenfield, #329

18721 Mr. Joseph C. Harrison, #177

18722 SGT J. William Riggs, #134

18723 Mr. Joe Rogers Hariel, #171

18724 COL Avtar Singh, #413

18725 MSgt Franklin Sherrod, #548

18726 SFC Walter Harvey Williams, #273

18727 PO1 Kevin Roger Smith, #27

18728 SGT Graham N. Giesen, #112

18729 PO1 Leon C. Hoffman, #243

18730 Capt Melvin P. Neu, #243

18731 Mr. J. Ronald Dotsey, #16

18732 SFC Frederick A. Ventura, #502

18733 SMSgt David W. Gyger, #76

18734 MSgt Gerald L. Boyd, #76

18735 CMSgt Timothy A. Callahan, #386

18736 COL Joel C. Piercy, #525

18737 Mr. Richard Rodier, #439

18738 MCPO Charles S. Glidden, Jr., #533

18739 SMSgt Harold D. Stringfellow, #166

18740 Mr. Richard E. Thorton, #266

18741 SCPO Johnnie M. Jones, Jr., #548

18742 MSG Amos Hykes, #548

18743 SP4 Rodger S. Fowler, #366

18744 MAJ Joseph W. Jung, #366

18745 LTC Brice C. Gubser, #439

18746 Lt Col Harold C. Beardsley, #86

18747 MSgt William G. Hall, #310

18748 Mr. William A. Woolard, #97

18749 SFC John A. Warren, #37

18750 SGT David Miller, #66

18751 SFC James T. Minor, #89

18752 1LT James E. Jensen, #17

18753 CW3 Thomas B. Hoyt, #43

18754 Mr. Kenneth E. Dungan, #43

18755 LT David H. Scheuermann, Jr., #33

18756 1LT Alvin K. Wold, #338

18757 CPT Kenneth L. Kraft, #75

18758 SFC Lowell R. Gavette, #529

18759 CAPT James C. Ballantine, #386

18760 SFC Paul K. McCullough, #114

18761 SSG Lawrence E. Fouse, #540

18762 Mr. Teko A. Foly, #996

18763 Maj Fred W. Renstrom, #529

18764 CW4 Daniel L. W. Taylor, #112

18765 LTC Alonzo G. Smith, Jr., #303

18766 MCPO Rafael C. Laserna, #45

3-6-5 CLUB

Bill L. Amick, #184

John E. Beckman, #373

Tommie F. Brant, #184

Joel T. Bundy, #6

James L. Delong, #373

Bertrand J. Fay, #373

Lawrence E. Fouse, #540

Steven M. Fowler, #266

Jeffery L. Hall, #184

John L. Hannah, #373

James E. Jensen, #17

Imre "Jim" Judovits, #373

Johnnie T. Morris, #184

Nelson O. Newcombe #997

Paul R. Pickel, #184

Alonzo G. Smith, #303

Howard Sobel, #364

Robert E. Stihler, #373

Murray G. Swindler, #76

Charles N. Wallens, #997

Robert G. Witham, #155

3-6-5 STREAMER

Detroit #1

Fort Meade #4

Sinclair Inlet #80

Camp Pendleton #243

Stockton #266

Seminole #373

General Morrill W. Marston #413

Piedmont #504

East Valley #521

Watauga #525

Willamette Valley #529

Shenandoah Valley #543

James Monroe #549

SEM DONATIONS

In Honor of Nelson O. Newcombe

Clarence & Vera Nelson
Harry & Lyn Sanders
Sid & Marion Shaenfield
Portsmouth #386
Green Mountain #527

In Honor of The presenters at the Navy Ball

Navy Ball Committee

In Memory of Leon Feldt

Kenneth L. Lowmiller

In Memory of Jack Marden

Harry & Lyn Sanders

In Memory of Ralph Smith

Ed & Jean Arndt
Harry & Lyn Sanders

In Memory of Wayne Smith

Harry & Lyn Sanders

In Memory of Angie Stonebraker

Chris Christoff
James & Pat McConnell
Roy & Carol Ota
Richard & Judy Williamson

In Memory of Ben Sutherlin

Ed & Jean Arndt
Ruth S. Harrington
Kenneth L. Lowmiller
James & Pat McConnell
Clarence & Vera Nelson
Nelson & Carole Newcombe
Roy & Carol Ota
Elliott & Elizabeth Samuels
Harry & Lyn Sanders
Daniel L. W. Taylor
William & Patti Turner
Richard & Judy Williamson

In Memory of Twila Sutherlin

Ed & Jean Arndt
Daniel L. W. Taylor

In Memory of Norman Venzke

Ruth S. Harrington

TAPS

COL David H. Allen, MIP #494

DOD: 11/20/2013

SFC James H. Blauvelt, MIP #316

DOD: 11/22/2013

CAPT Charles R. Breeland, MIP #171

DOD: 10/18/2011

LT Harry E. Brown, Jr., #503

DOD: 10/04/2013

1LT John I. Buckles, MIP #289

DOB: 07/20/2013

CPL Jack Crouch, MIP #33

DOD: 11/02/2013

Col Alton H. Deviney, MIP #482

DOD: 11/02/2013

Mr. Harold A. Duby, MIP #439

DOD: 11/30/2013

PO1 Robert L. Everest, #527

DOD: 4/25/2013

COL Robert W. Fisher. #505

DOD: 10/16/2013

MAJ Herman E. Force, MIP #221

DOD: 06/29/1999

LtCol John K. Gingrich, MIP #532

DOD: 6/15/2013

CPT Thomas R. Harrison, MIP #523

DOD: 8/12/2013

LT John P. Henry, Jr., MIP #76

DOD: 12/6/2013

Mr. David Honik, #26

DOD: 7/27/2013

LCDR Howard H. Hudgins, #435

DOD: 12/19/2013

SFC Willard W. Ivey, #8

DOD: 12/13/2013

Maj Franklin M. Jackson, MIP #310

DOD: 11/27/2013

MG William P. Levine, MIP #289

DOD: 03/29/2013

LT Norris C. Long, #514

DOD: 11/05/2013

Mr. Isaac N. Louderback, III, MIP #364

DOD: 01/17/2012

CDR Stanley J. Marshall, # 88

DOD: 11/06/2013

Mr. William N. Martin, #60

DOD: 11/15/2013

SFC George D. Perry, MIP #8

DOD: 8/22/2013

PO3 Jack B. Pike, #282

DOD: 12/11/2013

Maj Fred W. Renstrom, #529

DOD: 1/01/2013

LTC Arthur W. Rosch, MIP #511

DOD: 01/06/2008

1LT George B. Settlemyer, #26

DOD: 12/15/2013

1SG Richard Slaughter, #537

DOD: 02/12/2013

1LT Wilbur B. Smith, #23

DOD: 11/12/2013

BG Benjamin T. Sutherlin, MIP #519

DOD: 10/23/2013

WO1 Phillip M. St. John, MIP #43

DOD: 08/07/2011

CMSgt Richard C. Thomas, #92

DOD: 02/13/2013

1Lt Earl W. Timmons, MIP#6

DOD: 10/13/2013

MAJ Knapp A. Tomberlin, MIP #18

DOD: 11/08/2011

LtCol Norman W. Torgersen, MIP #329

DOD: 9/14/2013

CW4 George O. Turley, #521

DOD: 12/17/2013

RADM Norman C. Venzke, MIP #440

DOD: 11/21/2013

Col Frank W. Ward, MIP #134

DOD: 7/04/2010

Mr. Fred J. Weber, MIP #355

DOD: 12/02/2012

1LT James W. Williams, MIP #23

DOD: 6/09/2012

Mr. Neel A. Wright, #482

DOD: 7/08/2013

INCENTIVES AND AWARDS

Let's take a few lines to discuss awards. First, what awards are out there? There is an Awards and Citations pamphlet available from National which lists all the awards and references. The information is also in the National Regs and By-laws, although the pamphlet is much easier to follow. These give you all the information you need to make your recommendations for the awards. **REMEMBER, Ladies and non-Sojourners are only eligible for a Certificate of Appreciation.** Chapter V of the Hero's manual has the information on Hero awards. Next, you need a form to make recommendations. The National Award Recommendation form is on the web site, in the reference library, under members only area. Remember; try to keep it to one page if possible as sometimes the second page is lost. Take the time to be specific about each individual, don't make it a "cookie cutter one size fits all". If you are going to do it, do it right! The same form is used for the recommendation of the Hero's awards. If your Chapter is submitting for the Chapter excellence award, I need something else from you. We have implemented the Chapter of the Year award. In order to be considered for Chapter of the Year, you must first submit for Chapter Excellence, the form is on the web site. In addition to that form would you please right up a detailed 1 page narrative of you Chapter events and accomplishments for the year and attach to the form. Lastly, when do the recommendations need to be submitted? All recommendations are due at National **NLT March 31**. Remember these important points. Your recommendations need to be signed by Regional and Area reps. (see the form) you need to plan accordingly if you want your recommendations submitted. You should know by Feb/Mar who is doing what and make recommendations accordingly. No recommendation will be reviewed if received after **31 March**. Get them done in a timely manner. Start your awards committee now and get a plan. I would like to see recommendations from every chapter and camp this year. Please contact me at cardiamondrn@cox.net with any questions you may have.

Fraternally,
Carl Diamond
Chairman
National I & A Committee

CHAPTER NEWS

KNICKERBOCKER – WEST POINT #13, LTC Jack H. Moore, Secretary, 145 Lincolndale Acres, Washingtonville, NY 10992. On November 17th, we held our fall meeting at West Point Masonic Lodge #877 in Highland Falls. Following lunch, the Pledge of Allegiance and an opening prayer, the members were updated by President Buchholz on the Secretary – Treasurer changes at National HQ. Discussion by the bros., to provide a donation to assist the New York Grand Masters collection of funds to aid in Philippine disaster relief was approved, as well as a donation to the New York Masonic Care Community in Utica, to support the efforts of the Grand Post Masonic War Veterans, to upgrade the Memorial Promenade. An announcement was made to support the Northern New Jersey Sojourner Chapter #42 “Evening of Fellowship” in honor of Bro. Washington’s birthday. Also, members will be supporting our chapter and Heroes member, Bro. Bill Maurer on his upcoming talk on Bro. Washington at Livingston Masonic Lodge #11 in Morristown, NJ. Bro. Jon Wilson, Southern New England Area Rep., gave a short update on area Masonic and Sojourner activities. He also presented Sojourner/Heroes coins to all the members present. He was



thanked by all members for his generosity and thoughtfulness. Prior to adjournment, President Buchholz thanked all members for attending and extended well wishes to Bros. Ed Kolb, Chuck McMains and Bill Thorne, who is recuperating in Georgia.



NARRAGANSETT BAY #14, BG Rick Baccus, Secretary 80 Kingswood Road, Bristol, RI 02809-1617.



L-r: Bros. President Brad Barco; 2nd LT. Nicholas Pereira, new member; BG Rick Baccus.

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY #42, Lt Col William H. Haynes, Secretary, 621 Prices Drive, Cresco, PA 18326. We met on October 17 at the Cannongate Club at Picatinny Arsenal, NJ. Following a delicious buffet dinner, President Robert Garvey opened the meeting in due form with the invocation being given by Bro. Henry Meyer and the Toast to the Flag being given by Bro. Moises Gomez. Bro. Patrick Connor, was initiated and Bro. Henry Meyer received his membership jewel and certificate. Bro. Gomez is setting up the George Washington Memorial program for February 22 at the National Park. Details will be published when available. Bro. Rick Forman reported that 23 ROTC and JROTC units were presented with awards during 2012-13. Mr. Jonathan Gilliam, former SEAL and FBI agent, gave a very interesting and motivational talk on the use of veterans and their military skills in the workplace. Bro. Meyer gave the closing prayer and President Garvey closed the meeting in due form.

TINKER #43, CW4 Daniel A. Burchett, Secretary, 4800 NW 48th Ave., Norman, OK 73072-1201. The members and Ladies attending the December 18, 2013 meeting were privileged to hear the poem “LOOKING FOR CHRISTMAS” recited by the author Mr. Ed Roberts. Mr. Roberts has published 4 books, is a member of the Academy of American Poets. In 2005 he was one of 10 Americans who represented the US at the World Poetry Festival in Aman Jordan. He is also the son of our beloved Sunshine Lady, Wanda.



NORTH CAROLINA #97, LTC Jeffrey D. Owens, 71 Lakeview Dr., Whispering Pine, NC 28327-9303. Bro. John Chandler conducted a candlelight service for Benjamin T. Sutherlin. He was assisted by Bros. Steven Quesenberry, and Herb Lynch.



PASADENA #265, LTC Joe Ryland, Secretary, 5215 Kauffman Ave, Temple City, CA 91780-3948. Our chapter is unique, indeed. Our conversations concern items of interest to Sojourners at the national, area, and local levels and we enjoy each-others company. Both routine and exigent business is discussed by our Executive Committee and decisions are reported to our membership by e-mail or by verbal reports at chapter meetings. Recently our chapter adopted the following policy: “Life is too short for us to allow any unpleasantness”. Our R.O.T.C. Committee co-chairmen, Douglas Bridges and Bruce Ivie, announced that planning has already started for another successful year of presenting medals and certificates to deserving students. Our Bridge of Light Committee chairman, Harry Sprague, reported that his committee is considering several projects at this time. Our Americanism Committee chairman, Dick Pierce, stated that his committee wants to excel this year.



L-r: Bros. Lee Whelan and Steve Harris

STOCKTON #266, SGT Steven M. Fowler, Secretary, 14050 East Brandt Road, Lodi, CA 95240-9783. On Novem-

ber 10, 2013, Bro. Fenton Mereness was presented with his Certificate and 50 Year title bar in National Sojourners by Deputy Area Rep., Ollie Guinn and assisted by Area Rep. Steven Fowler. Bro. Fenton was initiated into Sojourners while stationed at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii in 1963. He became a Hero in 1965 and we'll probably give him another certificate in a year or so. After leaving Hawaii, Fenton moved around for work requirements and joined different chapters while living in the region. Fenton and his Lady Emily retired to the foothills in California and he joined Stockton as a MIP. Bro. Fenton is very active in all aspects of Masonry, currently holding the office of Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Commandery of California. Gee whiz, he'll be Grand Commander the same year he gets his 50 year pin in Heroes. For the presentation, members of other Chapters that Fenton belongs to attended to show their appreciation for all that Fenton has done for all of us. We are all proud to call Fenton a friend and brother. Congratulations Fenton.



Bro. Fenton Mereness (Center)

PORTSMOUTH #386, Maj. C. William Willey, Secretary, PO Box 1264, Dover, NH 03820. November 19, 2013 at our



regular meeting President, Bro. Michael Ripberger initiated Bro. Timothy Callahan as a MIP member. Bro. Callahan retired Chief Master Sergeant from the United States Air Force is Senior Warden of Major General John Sullivan No. 2, Epping New Hampshire, soon to be Worshipful Master of said Lodge. He works with Department of Veterans Affairs in the Manchester, New Hampshire office as Veterans Service Rep-

resentative OEF/OIF (Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom), he is active with the Dover-Portsmouth, New Hampshire Valley of Scottish-Rite Masons for the Northern Scottish-Rite Masonic Jurisdiction. Bro. Callahan brings much leadership and organization experience and is an asset to the Chapter.

HUNTER #502, CSM Charles V. Deloe, Secretary, 12449 Northwood Road, Savannah, GA 31419. Wayne Barnes Area Rep Mid-Atl-Area presented the chairman Savannah Sports Council with Certificate of Appreciation for their support of our Americanism activities. We Present the Colors at the start of each game of their annual Hockey tournament.



WB C. Wayne Barnes DDGM 1A & Area Rep Mid-Atl-Area National Sojourners, presented E. Ray Knittel, Grand Master of Georgia, with a Coffey cup from Fort McHenry National Historic Shrine the home of the National Anthem. The cup has 20 Historic Flags. This is in appreciation of his support of our Veterans



GREEN MOUNTAIN #527, Mr. Cederic Smith, Secretary, PO Box 586, South Barre, VT 05670-0586. At our meeting of November 9, 2013, we initiated a new member and held a Memorial Service for two departed Brethren, one of which was a Charter member of the chapter. Their activities are so numerous as Area Rep. it is a challenge to keep track of their dedication to Patriotism and Americanism. Vermont



Sojourners and Heroes thank you for your dedication. Andrew F. Hirst, Area Representative.

JAMES MONROE #549, Mr. Jeffery E. Hodges, Secretary, 2780 Leeds Lane, Charlottesville, VA 22901-9508. Over the course of the last 4 years and under the guidance of Bro. G. W. Tomlin, our Toys for Tots drive has developed into a Masonic and non-Masonic outreach program. We are pleased to report the involvement of Millstone of Ivy Preschool/Daycare, Lodges of Masonic Districts 7, 10, 18 and 19 of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, the members of the Waynesboro Union Royal Arch Chapter and the members of the Wintergreen Marines Association. Cash Contributions and checks of \$750.00 and six boxes of toys were raised this year. We thank all for their assistance. The donation was made at the Charlottesville, Virginia collection center on 14 December 2013.



Receiving the donation is Sgt Mathis Varga.

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Greetings Sojourners and Ladies,

Lady Margaret and I were honored to receive an invitation to visit The Tennessee Encampment on 9 November 2013. We had a very enjoyable drive through the beautiful countryside on our way to Dayton, Tennessee to visit the Tennessee Encampment. The Trees were still showing their bright colors to draw our attention. The (Recruit) Grand Master, MWB Roy Etherton, was able to find a break in his busy schedule to join the Tennessee Encampment to be inducted into the Joe Foss Camp, Heroes of '76. This is the Bicentennial year for the Grand Lodge of Tennessee which presented the Grand Master with a very busy schedule. The Camp Adjutant, Bro. Bert Piatt, was an excellent Host, getting Motel accommodations for us and made sure we were on time to the Dayton Lodge and he was always available for support. Lady Margaret was able to tour some of the quaint and historic areas of Dayton, Tennessee. She particularly enjoyed the history of this area through the very interesting Scopes Trial Museum. The local Ladies entertained her while the encampment was in session. The Beautiful Dayton Lodge is the largest Masonic Lodge I have visited. The pride in the Lodge was quite evident. At 1000 hours the Camp was called to order by Cdr Robert Pelfrey. There were 6 Camps represented and the Recruit was introduced. Camps represented were Col George F. Unmacht Camp(373); Mone Saro Camp(353); Hermitage Camp(385); Issac Shelby Camp(414); Joe Foss Camp(540) and Defeated Creek Camp(550) The Induction Ceremony proceeded in a very professional manner. Everything went well until the voting when a slight misunderstanding required a correction and a revote. The Camp Commander proceeded with the Ceremony and Bro. Etherton was accepted and welcomed as a member into Joe Foss Camp #540, an acknowledged Hero of '76. The Camp Officers are to be congratulated on an excellent Encampment. Camp Commander Robert Pelfrey was assisted by C/S David A. McCuistion, PC, AC/S Benny M. Malone, PC, Chaplain Bill Gegory, PC, OD Kenneth Matheney, PC ADJ Albert E. Piatt, PC. The Camp was dismissed and we

moved on to a Luncheon arranged by Bro. Bert Piatt at the Jacob Myer's Farm. A very special Thank You to Bro. Bert Piatt and all the Members that were present at the Encampment for the welcome and friendship we received during our visit. Lady Margaret and I departed after the Luncheon in order to be back in Florida the next morning for the Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park Dedication at the new Orlando VA Medical Center at Lake Nona, Florida. A very enjoyable visit.

The Mouse awaits you in Orlando on 15 January 2014. It's called the Mid-Winter Meeting. See you there

Fraternally,

Dick Wyatt

Dick Wyatt

CAMP NEWS

ALAMO CAMP (Ft. Sam Houston #17).

A raw recruit by the name of David W. Wolfe was officially made a Hero on 30 October 2013. The members of the camp reported a shadowy figure lurking around the camp area. It was determined that the subject was trying to enter the camp. After many failed attempts at gaining admission to the camp, he was finally cornered and placed in the guardhouse awaiting interrogation. He was shabbily dressed and had wounds throughout his body. Due to his current condition, looking very skinny, he was given a plate of beans, a slice of bread and a cup of water. The commander proceeded to examine him to see what his intentions were. He but could not seem to compose himself to come up with the correct answers to the Commanders questions. This resulted in him crossing the Big "D" numerous times and finally he was able to answer his interrogators. He was finally voted in to become a Hero after giving his heroic deed. Bro. David is a strong Mason involved with various Masonic Organizations in the San Antonio Texas area. He will be an important addition to our camp.

We provided a color guard for a program held at the First Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas. The request was supported by a contingent of Heroes from Alamo Camp at the request of Bro. Dennis Lafferty, Color Bearer, and Bro. John Lorch. The program was: "Celebrate America A Testament to Our Heritage" on Sunday, 3 November 2013 at 1500 hours. It honored our military, law enforcement, firemen and their families. It

featured the combined choirs of four San Antonio churches. The Master of Ceremonies for the event was Mark Collins who portrayed George Washington, on PBS, in full regalia. It started with a presentation of the colors by four different color guards - Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 76, Fort Sam Houston active duty, Texas Military Institute of cadets and the Alamo Camp Heroes of '76. Maj. McVey an active duty Officer, performed as the Commander for the Posting of the Colors. A musical testament to our heroes was then performed by the four choirs (over 100 members), a pianist, organist, soloists and a barbershop group. George Washington (Mark Collins) gave a prayer that was given at one of George Washington's encampments. The program ended with the singing of God Bless America and the retiring of the colors. The Color Guards then formed outside the church and marched to the Radius Center for the 100th Anniversary Party for the Toltec Apartments.



Left to right. Bob Perkins, Bob McConnell, George Washington (Mark Collins), John Lorch, Lee Leopard and Dennis Lafferty.

NATHANAEL GREENE CAMP (Tinker #43). We were honored to be given the opportunity to lead the 2013 Blanchard, Oklahoma's Honor the Veterans Parade that was held on November 2, 2013. The following Bros.; (Ft. R) MSGT Jeffery Fluker, TSGT Kenneth Staten, SMSGT John King, (Bk R) CW4 Daniel Burchett, CSM David Laukat, CMSGT Robert Shipe; Participated in the march.



On November 11, 2013 our members presented the "Building of the Flag" program

for the Brink JHS 8th grade classes as a part of their celebration of Veterans Day and honoring Veterans--past and present. The assembly consisted of 550 8th grade students. Team participants were Jeff Fluker, Ken Staten, Dan Burchett, Jim Selder and Bob Carr.



SAMUEL NICHOLAS CAMP (Quantico #44). We have been providing a Color Guard for Veterans' Day ceremonies at the Quantico National Cemetery for over twenty years. Although over the years participation in the color guard have changed, this year it consisted of (from left) Bros. Earl Covey, James Newcomer, Don Smith, Pete Cutler, and H. Leo Powell. Bro. Frank W. Harris, III gave the Toast to the Flag, as he has done at Veterans' Day ceremonies for the same length of time.



Picture courtesy of The Washington Post.

GENERAL OGLETHORPE CAMP (Clarence H. Cohen #162). As we were conducting the business of our camp, there was a commotion outside the Sentry Post. The Officer of the Day reported that a recruit had tried to gain entrance to our camp. Commander Valentine ordered that the interloper be brought before the Brethren of the Camp to determine if he was worthy of entrance into our Order. After proper examination, he was presented to the Commander and asked many questions to prove himself to be a Mason and Sojourner. He stated that he wanted to join our organization, but could not even state the true name of our Order. After some instruction by the Brethren and a trip across the "D", he was able to prove himself worthy of admission into the Heroes of '76. Bro. Jack Golden-

berg was cheerfully accepted into Gen Oglethorpe Camp on 9 November 2013.



L-r: Bros. George Shearer, Mort Lindner, COS; Brian Coffey, Historian; Eric Fleishner, Sentinel; Richard Lamarre, OD; Calop (Jack) Bradford, Recruit; Jack Goldenberg, CDR; Frank J. Valentine Jr., A-COS; William G. Wagner, ADJ; James Huggins.

COL WILLIAM BIEHL, JR. CAMP (Santa Ana/EI Toro #250). Our Flag Team was honored to present the "Building of the Flag" to approx. 65 Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scout leaders, parents, guests, and members of Beaumont Lions Club on Saturday 09 November 2013 in Beaumont, CA. The Flag team was led by Bro. Kyle Clifton of Chapter #250, with the assistance of Bro. Brian Graefe (a Cub Scout Dad) of Fellowship Lodge #668 F&AM of Yucaipa, CA; helpers were proud members of Cub Scout Troop #322, sponsored by the Beaumont Lions Club. Bro. Clifton advises me he has already been asked to do the presentation for the whole troop in the near future during one of their regular meetings. Bro. Clifton is the bearded Hero standing immediately in front of the Canton of the Flag, with Bro. Graefe to his immediate left. These young Scouts truly exemplify the future leaders of our Country!"



JOHN J. PERSHING CAMP (Pasadena #265). All members of John Pershing Camp received PCS orders to relocate to Old Fort Hood in Toluca Lake, CA. Our Commander, Douglas Bridges, announced at his regular officers' call that we hope to be at Fort Hood for an indefinite period. President Wilson designated General Pershing to command U.S. expeditionary forces in Europe and that Pershing's replacement, Doug Bridges, had

an extensive and reliable combat record. Our mission at this new assignment will be to round up the wild outlaw bands that have been terrorizing the local inhabitants. Local law enforcement has been ineffective in stopping these fugitives from the law who dominate the population by force and intimidation. President Wilson expressed his confidence that our camp, which is an experienced combat unit, will subdue those desperados.



L-r: Bros. Joe Ryland, Joven Bilog, and Steve Harris

TUN TAVERN CAMP (Camp Lejeune #329). We were invited to perform a Building the Flag Ceremony for The Major Reading Blount Chapter of the DAR during an October meeting in Chocowinity. The program told the story of "Old Glory" and its symbolism and love of country. Bro. Harry Sanders delivered the script while Bros. Herb Lynch and John Chandler built the Stars and Stripes on the display board as the presentation unfolded. Bro. Ron Sortino recited "Old Glory" to the delight of the ladies present at the meeting.



L-r: Bros. Herb Lynch, John Chandler, Ron Sortino, Harry Sanders, and Denny Norris.

We were invited to perform at Pungo Christian Academy in Belhaven, North Carolina in honor of Veteran's Day and performed the Building of the Flag presentation and reciting of "Old Glory" to the area veterans. The program was well received by the veterans and the children, parents, and staff at the academy. The highlight of the program was the children singing patriotic songs to honor the veterans. A performance

was also held on Veteran's Day at Veteran's Park in Washington, NC in honor of the area veterans.



L-r: Bros. Harry Sanders, Ron Sortino, Denny Norris, and Gordon Crossman.

LIGHT HORSE HARRY LEE CAMP (Old Dominion #364). On 2 November 2013 two members of our Building the Flag Ceremony Team assisted by three other members of the Heroes family gathered at the Westminster at Lake Ridge Community Center, Lake Ridge, VA to deliver the program to forty members of the Prince William Resolves Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Bro. Bill Turner, Regional Rep., PNP, PNC; dressed in Continental dress uniform, introduced the participants and provided the narration for the ceremony.



Camp Follower Patti Turner portrayed a "Sybil Luddington" character by carrying a musket in the color guard. She also recited the Toast to the Flag. Camp Follower Kip Volkstadt (Quantico Chapter #44) appeared as a "Molly Pitcher" character for the color guard and worked on the hoist end of the flag. The Camp Followers were resplendent in their dresses. Hero Sandy Mackey (Fredericksburg #545), wearing a Continental Marine dress uniform, displayed the National Colors for the color guard and during the Toast to the Flag. During the Building the Flag Ceremony Bro. Sandy worked the fly end of the flag. Bro. Bill's narration of "Old Glory Speaks" concluded to the stirring sounds of the Battle Hymn of the Republic. Following the ceremony, DAR Regent Heather Simpson presented Bro. Bill Turner with a certificate of appreciation and a check to support National Sojourner youth programs. Highlights of the DAR meeting included the American Creed and singing the National Anthem. Bro. Les Albers, Commander provided the photographic record

of the event. This was a heart-warming and memorable patriotic event.

GENERAL WILLIAM WHIPPLE CAMP (Portsmouth #386). On December 5, 2013 our members with the assistance of General William Whipple Military Lodge of New Hampshire exemplified the second section of the Master Mason Degree, when Bro. Robert Paul Johnson, Jr. of Moses Paul Lodge, No. 96, Dover New Hampshire was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason at William Pitt Tavern of Portsmouth New Hampshire, which was the birth place of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, July 8, 1789.



L-r: RWB Andrew F. Hirst, PP, PC, Area Rep., WB Nathan Page, PM, Bro. Glenn Randall, Bro. Mark B. Richardson, RWB Richard A. Gilbert, Sr., PP, PC, PM, RW Past Grand Chaplain, Grand Lodge of NH, Bro. Robert Paul Johnson, Jr., newly raised Master Mason, Bro. Howard Moulton, WB Lee Fisher, WB Richard Dewing, PP, PC, PM and WB Robert Drinwater, PM.

OTHO HOLLAND WILLIAMS CAMP (Patuxent #522). We had a very active



Veterans weekend. Friday evening Bro. Randy Geck, Federal Area Rep. joined Bro. Ed Ford, Baltimore #7 (1st VP) at Patapsco #183 and Highland Chapter #33 Maryland Order of the Eastern Star to provide the Empty Chair Ceremony, remembering our POW/MIAs. Randy wrapped up the evening with the Toast to the Flag. Veterans Day itself saw members of the Camp assemble for the Annual Leonardtown Veterans Day Parade (the largest in the Tri-County) enjoying each other's company and pleasing the crowd. Attending were Bill Stone (PC, PP),

Ken McNeely, President, Camp Followers Stacey McNeely, Phyllis Miller and Carol Geck, Randy Geck and Dave Miller, Commander. That evening ended at the Thomas J. Shryock Lodge #223 where Randy Geck provided the Toast to the Flag celebrating veterans wherever dispersed. This Camp wants to thank all the Veterans who served because we gave some but some gave all.

NATHAN BEDFORD FOREST CAMP (North Central Florida #537). During the month of November, Ray Davis presented a Veteran's Day program to 16 classes of first and second grade students at three schools covering from the time of the original Tea Party of the Revolution through 1954 when President Eisenhower changed the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day. He covered the King George tax on Tea and other commodities, documents of the Revolution, his Formal Uniform of President Washington, WW I and the 11-11-11 of Armistice Day of 1918, and WW II and why the holiday name was changed. The presentations were made at High Springs Community School on 11/4, Idylwild Elementary School on 11/12, and Hidden Oak Elementary School on 11/13 where Gainesville, Florida Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution President Roger Cox attended and talked about the SAR and what it is in our history. Four to five hundred future leaders continued their education on our great history. It was encouraging to hear some of their responses to questions Ray asked.



JOE FOSS CAMP, (Chattanooga #540). There was a chill in the air and the sky was overcast on Saturday morning, November 9th in the little town of Dayton, Tennessee where the over-mountain men were encamped at Dayton Lodge near Richland Creek. They had come from all over the region from Memphis, Centerville, Nashville, and Chattanooga in Tennessee; from Huntsville in Alabama; and from as far away as Deland in Florida. They came to witness the induction of a single recruit into Joe Foss Camp. The recruit was Bro. Roy C. Etherton, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Free and Accepted

Masons of Tennessee. The Commander of Joe Foss Camp had been called away to LA (lower Alabama) to attend to his daughter's birth of a new grandchild. Bro. Bob Pelfrey opened the encampment and welcomed all those present. The relationship between bro. Pelfrey and the recruit went back a long way since bro. Pelfrey had served on bro. Etherton's lodge investigating committee. Bro. Pelfrey recommended that Bro. Etherton become a member of National Sojourners. An alarm sounded at Guard post No. 1 and the Officer of the Day reported that Recruit Etherton had arrived. Bro. Etherton reported to the Camp Commander and was subject to the usual examination. After floundering on many of the questions and showing signs of ill preparation for the ordeal which required a lengthy trip into the "D" to refresh his memory, Bro. Etherton finally succeeded in convincing those present that his intentions were genuine. Bro. Etherton was accepted into the Camp in due form and was acknowledged as a true Hero of '76. After a short presentation of awards by the Regional Representative, Bro. Larry Fouse to Bro. Sam Smith, Commander of Defeated Creek Camp, the National Commander, Bro. Dick Wyatt addressed the encampment. The business for the day having been concluded, the encampment was adjourned and those who were able retired to the Jacob Myer's farm for refreshments before returning to their home camps.

**MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA
— A DILEMA FOR NSI
BY S. WOODRUFF BENTLEY, SR.,
NATIONAL HISTORIAN**

Membership criteria has become a major issue for Sojourners in a time of declining membership numbers and is an issue that has been brought before a number of national conventions. Some members make the point that a change would have a significant positive impact on the future of NSI. Others want no change to membership criteria. The voting on the issue at past annual national conventions has shown two strongly opposing views on the issue. It has been voted on at two or three ANC's in the last several decades. However, the issue does not appear to be understood in the vast body of the membership who may represent a greater consensus on the decision. This article attempts to help individual chapters and members better understand the issue and to be able to vote the chapter's will.

The basic issues are well presented in the resolutions of 93rd ANC in San Antonio in June 2013. Basically, two resolutions were put forth: 1) to open membership to the top

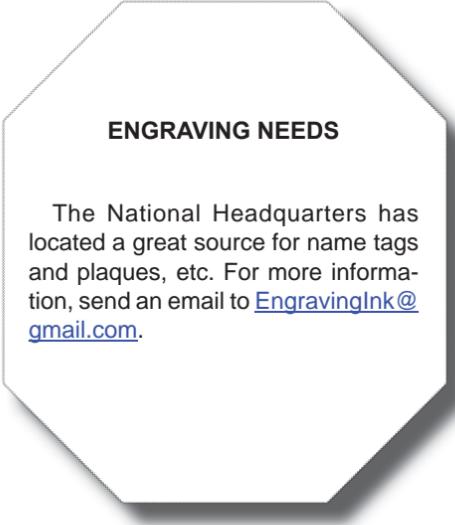
five NCO grades; 2) to open membership to all who have served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States. A change was made to the National Bylaws in item 20.5: "Unless approved by a three-fourths majority of the voting delegates present and voting, any resolution proposing any change to the National By-Laws and Regulation that has been rejected by a note of the National Convention, the subject of such proposal shall not again be considered for a period of three (3) years subsequent to the National Convention at which the proposal was considered." This was seen as a way to prevent the issue being raised at every convention, which was anticipated.

There are several perspectives to consider. First is the number of actual living members, not counting MIPs. The second is how the ethics of Masonry apply. Before addressing these, let us look at national trends. Local and national organizations including community, veterans and Masonic groups face the same cultural and generational issues of decreasing interest in membership and less active participation by members. Competition for time faces each: people focused on careers and family; the focus on technology, sports, the arts; and the draw of the video media and the internet. While fraternities and sororities on college campuses seem to have held their own and those in college and high school are drawn to community activities, once out of school, the draw appears to lessen. Read the magazines of the Boy and Girl Scouts, VFW, American Legion, community or political groups and all express the same frustrations.

Despite our growing number of MIPs, our actual numbers have decreased. Our reported living membership in 2008 was 8,679, in 2012 was 8,041 and today is 7,950. Our MIP numbers increase because of the loyalty of our members, especially those aspiring to or active in leadership roles who belong to multiple chapters. Many chapters report no or declining membership, but a small number have succeeded in member growth and should be commended and used as role models. The total number of former military members has increased due to the Vietnam War, two Iraq wars and the Afghanistan conflict, but are due to be reduced as the military draws down. The number of veterans eligible for NSI under current eligibility criteria is lower. The second issue is how Sojourners as an appendant organization is seen within Masonry. There is no question that the vast majority of Masons approve of, respect, and support us; there are a number who see our membership criteria as unmasonic. One Grand Lodge will not allow our chapters

within the jurisdiction. Other Grand Masters have raised objections to the criteria. Some Masons who have served honorably refuse honorary membership because of the criteria for regular membership. While not vocal in their criticism, this shadow looms in the darkness and is real. Our criteria appears to some not to meet the standard that "Masons meet on the level".

At the 2013 ANC, six members were allowed to speak on the issue, three pro and three cons. Each was a respected NSI leader and each held and stated strong views on the issues. Both resolutions failed as similar resolutions have failed in the past. The question must be raised; however, which view of the resolutions truly represents the members of our chapters. We know that this issue will be raised again in the future. Next issue we will review the prime arguments on each side.



ENGRAVING NEEDS

The National Headquarters has located a great source for name tags and plaques, etc. For more information, send an email to EngravingInk@gmail.com.

COVER STORY (CONTINUED)

Next time you are at Collingwood, take time to view the emblem, as well as, the many other artifacts and memorabilia on display. If you have in your possession or know the whereabouts of other items unique to the history of our Order and would like to donate them for display, please contact our National Secretary-Treasurer. It is noted that many of items in this category have been appearing for auction on eBay.

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