

## **PLANNING YOUR CHAPTERS**

### **ANNUAL AMERICANISM PROGRAM**

*Americanism is one of the major reasons for the very existence of National Sojourners, Incorporated. Our activities are directed toward both the adults and youth of our nation. Our national leadership, Chapters, and individual Sojourners must make maximum efforts to ensure continuing growth in patriotism and faith in our country's future. It is no accident that our national slogan is: “**Proudly serving the Cause of Patriotism**”. (Refer to NR 8.2.1).*

**1. WHO'S ON FIRST:** The Chapter President—it all begins with you. Adopt an attitude that “IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO ME”! Stand up a robust AMERICANISM PROGRAM, appoint a “spark plug” to be your Chapter Americanism Committee Chairman [note that although not consistent with National Regulations some chapters combine their Americanism and Bridge of Light (BOL) committees]. You will find that these simple actions may provide the rallying point to revitalize your chapter!

**2. SET GOALS:** Each new Chapter President will find it helpful to analyze his past year's overall chapter programs, particularly its AMERICANISM programs, in detail prior to the beginning of his year. Not every new President will have the time or the inclination to do this but it is a necessary prerequisite for success. As a minimum, it is necessary to set program goals including to be accomplished during the chapter year. Following are some worthy AMERICANISM program goals. The chapter may already excel in one or more of these programs. In such case, mere continuation may be a goal, or it may be necessary to make a change. Plan your work and work your plan!

*Note that since many of our programs used in our “Service to the Craft” (which we refer to as BOL) are in the broadest sense AMERICANISM programs, this Planning Tutorial does no attempt is made to differentiate between programs based on audience (public or Masonic). That said, it is necessary to appreciate that mystical concept which we refer to as BOL since it serves to connect our Order with Masonry and its appendant bodies (refer to the BOL Handbook which may be viewed and downloaded from the BOL webpage in the SOJOURNERS ONLY section of the website).*

Representative AMERICANISM goals include:

- General
  - Appoint a Chapter Americanism Chairman and Committee
  - Design and implement an annual Americanism Plan that will permit the chapter to compete for Horton-Tourtillott Plaque and Anthony Natali Plaque recognition
  - Submit an Annual Americanism Report
  - Recognize one or more community Patriots with a *Patriot of '76* Certificate
- Patriotic Programs:
  - Present at least one or more patriotic programs from our repertoire quarterly with focus on both public and Masonic audiences
  - Volunteer a Color Guard for the opening of your Grand Annual Communication, the installation of new Grand Lodge Officers, a function in your Masonic District, a Blue Lodge, a function at your Masonic Home, or other Appendant Body activity.
  - Celebrate patriotism at a chapter meeting with an innovative program or speaker
  - Consider presenting the new Lodge of Military Tribute Program (note that this program requires approval of your Grand Master as it is performed in a Blue Lodge setting)
  - Be innovative and develop your own patriotic program to honor veterans, lay a wreath in honor of a historical figure, or otherwise show our colors
- Educational Programs:
  - Hold a Blue Lodge night and invite local Masters and Wardens to tell them about the many “Service to the Craft” programs we can provide
  - Give two or more educational programs (The National Sojourners Story, By The Dawn’s Early Light, a presentation on a revolutionary hero, etc
- Youth Programs:
  - Send at least one or more student to a Youth Leadership Conference
  - Use the Essay Contest program
  - Make ROTC & JROTC medal presentations in your local community and surrounding area

You chapter AMERICANISM program goals provide a start for creating an exciting and productive Sojourner year. Beware of over extending personnel and the chapter—no one should attempt the impossible — but no matter what set the bar to excel in “Proudly Serving the Cause of Patriotism”.

**3. AMERICANISM PROGRAMS:** Use the Program Resource Sheets which detail all of our Order’s nationally sponsored AMERICANISM programs to develop the requisite implementation details (See the AMERICANISM-PROGRAM RESOURCE webpage in The SOJOURNERS ONLY section of the website).

**3.1 INGREDIENTS OF AN AMERICANISM PROGRAM:** A chapter program should include one or more of the nationally sponsored programs and one or more local programs. A chapter program should include only the number of activities that can be executed in a creditable manner; however, a minimum of one national and one local Americanism activity should be accomplished each year.

**3.2. SUGGESTED PROGRAMS AND TARGET AREAS:**

**3.2.1 YOUTH ACTIVITIES:** ROTC awards, oratorical contests, essay contests, flag sales, patriotic music festivals, and youth leadership conferences. Groups to work with include DeMolay, Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, ROTC/JROTC Units, 4-H Clubs and others.

**3.2.2 MASONIC ACTIVITIES:** Patriotic talks or skits, flag presentations, color guard ceremonies, military-Masonic cooperative activities and promotion of Sojourner programs. Work with the Blue Lodges, Grand Lodges, York Rite Bodies, Scottish Rite Bodies and the Shrine.

**3.2.3 COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:** Wreath-laying ceremonies, parades, color guards, flag sales and presentations, erection of flag poles, patriotic holiday ceremonies, fly-the-flag activities, talks, awards, newspaper articles, letters; radio/TV programs and spot announcements. Work with schools, PTAs, service clubs, veterans organizations, Chambers of Commerce and the media to accomplish these activities.

**3.3.4 PROGRAM RESOURCES:**

3.3.4.1 National Sojourners Headquarters has available ROTC medals and certificates; Patriot of '76 Certificates; flags; publications and many other inexpensive materials.

3.3.4.2 Local Military and Naval Establishments (active, reserve, and National Guard) have materials on men and equipment and are often available to support well-publicized and planned events.

3.3.4.3 Libraries contain a wealth of material on AMERICANISM. Many have lists of people and organizations available for AMERICANISM programs. The research desk can be of great assistance in providing sources of material.

3.3.4.4 The greatest source of talent is among the members of National Sojourners. They occupy or have occupied positions of great responsibility, have experience in organizing and leading activities, have spoken in public, are well educated and have an inherited obligation to patriotic service, are men of character and are willing to assist in AMERICANISM Programs.

**4. KEYS TO A SUCCESS:**

**4.1** A capable Committee Chairman who is aggressive, positive, alert, imaginative, interested, patriotic and willing to accept responsibility. He:

**4.1.1** Assigns specific duties within the program so as to involve the maximum number of Chapter members.

**4.1.2** Supervises the conduct of the program, makes periodic reports to the Chapter and makes a formal annual report through the Chapter President to National Headquarters with copies to the Area and Regional Representatives.

**4.2** A Chapter Program should be planned in \_ detail well in -advance. Each new slate of officers should have their plans completed when they are installed.

**4.3** Always seek maximum publicity to boost morale, membership, community recognition and national stature. Brief, quality releases are usually welcomed by community news media and *THE SOJOURNER*.

**4.4** All chapter AMERICANISM activities should be recorded immediately, filed systematically and compiled into a loose leaf type book form for submission with your chapters annual AMERICANISM REPORT.

**4.5** Be alert for opportunities. If there is an AMERICANISM activity anywhere in the community, Sojourners should be involved. Cooperate with other patriotic organizations in the community in conducting patriotic ceremonies.

**4.6** Programs must be positive. Positive AMERICANISM will do more to counter radicalism and subversion than anti-subversion activities. Note that making accusations without having accurate facts or sufficient knowledge is dangerous.












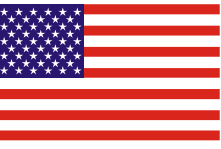









**4.7** Cooperation with the chapters BOL and Education & Training Committees to provide AMERICANISM Programs for Masonic Lodges and other Masonic bodies. Remember that one of the purposes of National Sojourners is "for supporting all patriotic aims and activities in- Masonry".


**5. SAMPLE CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING PLAN:** A sample chapter annual meeting plan with events "Proudly Serving the Cause of Patriotism" circled in red is attached.



# Old Dominion Chapter No 364 Program 2001 - 2002



<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><b>Flag Officer Forum</b> 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><b>Giving Thanks</b> 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.



# Old Dominion Chapter N° 364 Program 2001 - 2002



<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> Special Event: Mid-Winter Convention - DoubleTree Hotel</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> Special Event: Chapter wreath Laying at Mount Vernon for Wor. Bro. George Washington GMs of VA, DC &amp; MD to attend</p>		<p><b>Ladies Night</b> Meet Most Worshipful Bro. Benjamin Franklin Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania</p>			
<p><b>MAR</b> Chap - 20 Event - 24 Heroes - 27</p>		<p><b>Freedom</b> Special Event: Heroes wreath laying at Lee Chapel, Lexington, VA for Light-Horse Harry Lee</p>		<p><b>Movie Night</b> 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! <b>Ladies Evening Tour</b></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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