NATIONAL SOJOURNERS, Inc.

SAIGON CHAPTER #409

21 June 2018

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INSPIRATION ~ Time flies like an arrow ... fruit flies like a banana !!

The Prez Sez

Brethren -

Thanks for the privilege of serving for this past year. We continued our good works, which you will note in the minutes. Let's keep it up. Oh, plan now, we need kids across the country to attend our YLC's … help get them identified and ready by "saving the date." This year at Freedoms Foundation it is 05 – 08 Jul 2018. We are sending Cadet Jasmine Delgado – well done !!!
Jr. Past Prez. Marty Schwebel

The Quill According to Bill

Dear Brethren ~ so here we are, again, at the port city of Norfolk, VA, and the nice, Marriott Waterside Hotel. This was a good stay … don't you agree ??
Well, my demands got in the way with a timely arrival and setup of both Chapters, but by the time the hotel got squared away with the needed tables for the meal, I was ready. [Sidebar ~ if you didn't know, there was a hiccup with the NASOCOCO spreadsheet formulas that caused several complications. Thanks to his sharp eye, Bro. Chuck Warren found the error, and from then on, we were properly on track. Unfortunately, it was after our meeting.] The delay caused some difficulties, because we – Saigon and Da Nang – had much business to do in the abbreviated time we had. Da Nang #498 Prez, Bro. Dave Alderfer, Opened both Chapters with the Pronouncement and Pledge of Allegiance. Bro. Keye Perry rendered a stirring Toast to the Flag, and Bro. Merlen Howe, Chaplain, ensured our respect to our Lord was properly rendered. Bro. Dave returned to remind us of our Purposes, and then welcomed All – our National Line, our Heroes Line, our Ladies. Our wellness report revealed that Bro. Roy Ota, PNC & VDA, was down for the count – seems he slipped in the bathtub in his room and broke four ribs. Several of us engaged with the hotel staff and ensured he got properly taken care of.

It was great to have Bro. Frank Harris, LOH, PNP, back in our company after some challenges he and Lady Terri had. After the Introductory business and the business of our sister Chapter, Da Nang Chap #498, Bro. Prez Marty Schwebel took the gavel from their new Prez, Bro. Jim Baker, and it was our turn at the wheel. He congratulated all for attending this "kick-off" to our Centennial Birthday year, and thanked Bro. Dave Alderfer for getting us going. Bro. Acting Secretary Bill noted the Chapter Roster and Sign-In sheet wereere ready for attention just outside the meeting room. [Sidebar ~ only two updates were noted, so our efforts are helping … if you checked it, that is. We had 20 members and 8 guests for a total of 28 in Saigon attendance.]
Bro. Bill offered some stats, but emphasized some changes were made and verification was needed with Hqs. He showed 283 members a/o 15 Jun 18. He noted that the Chapter Cigar Box funds ($3,088.70) were received by Hqs – ca. late April – from Bro. Scty Dick Williamson (Lady Judy). The new Cigar Box was then established in its more robust form. He requested an account summary, but it came too late for him to reconcile with his records before this Chapter meeting. Unofficially, he says we have $5,488.75, and included in that number is a 2018 MIP Dividend of $1,612.89. Bro. Bill asked that we refrain from spending at this meeting, until he can reconcile all transactions and statements … the membership agreed. Still on the subject of money – The Chapter's account in the Spirit of America Education Foundation (SAEF) balance a/o 14 Jun 18 was reported as $2,165.00. The MWM balance was $2,625.00, then we paid for a Cadet – Jasmine Delgado – to attend FFVF at a $460 expense. Other than the traditional administrative "stuff" from Hqs, we were alerted to expect a call from the Centennial Directory publisher to ensure our information is correct for the coming Centennial Directory. We had two Applications for Membership – C. Rogers and F. Ortiz – both with money, and approved for membership.
The Marshal was busy, while the Scty was addressing the membership ... he brought in $4 in button fines,

which will go to the "Cigar BBox." We achieved the Chapter's L3-6-5 Club banner, again, but it was a close call ... we only have 57 Life 3-6-5 Club members out of our 283 membership. Time to join !!!

OLD BUSINESS ~ The Scty asked the membership if the 2018 Souvenir Program Ad was acceptable and there were no complaints voiced. We are looking forward to the Birthday edition, however. Unless you have had your head in the sand, we have just kicked off our Centennial Year of celebration. Let's get busy and do our part at our primary Chapters. Those of you that have direct connections with your Grand Jurisdiction, please encourage their participation. That was it on the OLD.

NEW BUSINESS ~

The Chair of the Nominating Committee, Bro. Bob McConnell, PNP & HMA, was called upon for his report. And "faster than a speeding bullet," the officers for the coming year were nominated, approved, and voted into their positions. Simply, everyone moved up from what our historical records showed and we added Bro. Lt Col Wendell Dutt to the Chap 3rd position. Then we did the same for the Camp and added Bro. CMS Wayne Barnes to the OD position. Most importantly, however, we now have a Secretary/Adjutant !!! Huzzah and welcome to Bro. 1SG Dave Mahoney !!! Notice the Chaplain change too. Bro. Merlen needs a break. Without ado and to avoid a recant, Bro. Bob McConnell, PNP, HMA, promptly installed them in "short form."

MONKEY BUSINESS or DYK ~

Bro. Bill noted the Saigon gavel came in the box from Bro. Dick Williamson, along with the "in-country American Flag." Stay-tuned for the story on this precious Flag of memorabilia. Look for a presentation on the Flag at the 2019 MWM or the Centennial Celebration Chapter meeting.

CLOSING ~ New Bro. Prez Merlen Howe, received the gavel from Bro. Marty Schwebel, called for any concluding business, and being none, proceeded to Close with aplomb and ceremony on behalf of both Chapters.

My time is up; I thank you for yours ...
William "Bill" G.L. Turner, Acting Secretary

2018 – 2019 CHAPTER ~

NAME	POSITION
CWO4 Jim Baker	President
SSG Larry Fouse	1st VP
Col Ron Stites	2nd VP
Lt Col Wendell Dutt	3rd VP
1SG David Mahoney	Scty / Treas
CWO4 Jim Baker	Chaplain

2018 – 2019 CAMP ~

NAME	POSITION
BGen Tom Kuhn	Commander
Capt Jim Benson	CofS
Maj Bill Means	ACofS
CMS Wayne Barnes	OD
1SG David Mahoney	Adjutant
CWO4 Jim Baker	Chaplain

Hot Stuff from Hqs.

Our National Secretary, Bro. Maj. Bill Sanner, needs each of us to ensure that our records are current and up-to-date in his database … that will help me, too, when my time comes !!!

First-and-Foremost are: Your physical address, your mailing address (w/9-digit ZIP), your e-mail address, and your phone number(s) current. The rest is up to you.

Be smart about your Order, go to the National Website and learn just about anything you want to know and some that you don't. www.nationalsojourners.org

Secretarial Significants

1. Are you a Life Member in the L3-6-5 Club ?? I mean in this Chapter ?? The Life Membership in the 3-6-5 Club is Chapter-specific ... it is only $36.50, it is tax-deductible, it helps the Order, and you help the Chapter get recognized in The Sojourner, as well as a streamer for the Chapter flag. Make the check payable to: SEM Fund Show the membership of our Order your support as a member and in this Chapter. In the check's memo, put "L365 – Saigon #409" Send your check to: Hqs, Natl Sojourners, 7942R Cluny Court, Springfield, VA 22153-2810 or to our new Secretary, today. He's at: 3157 Selkirk Drive, Sun Prairie, WI 53590-4255.
2. We are now 283 members strong !!! a/o 14 Jun 2018.