



# NATIONAL SOJOURNERS, Inc.

## DA NANG CHAPTER #498



21 June 2018

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INSPIRATION ~ Ban pre-shredded cheese ... make America grate, again !!

### 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 Rhema Fields - well done !!!  
Jr. Past Prez. Dave Alderfer

### 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 - Da Nang and Saigon - had much business to do in the abbreviated time we had. Our 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. Bro. Secretary Bill noted the Chapter Roster and Sign-In sheet were 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 18 members and 5 guests for a total of 23 in Da Nang attendance.] Bro. Bill offered some stats, but emphasized some changes were made and verification was needed with Hqs. He showed 181 members a/o 14 Jun 18. He noted new, Federal banking rules caused him to move the Cigar Box from the bank to a Hqs account - curious as to why ... just give me a call. 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 \$2,917.31, and included in that number is a 2018 MIP Dividend of \$1,032.14. [Sidebar ~ recall that we agreed to provide a "Mad Money" stipend to the selected cadet we sponsor to FFVF. That will be done day-after-tomorrow (05 Jul 18).] Recall, too, that there was another \$50 from pin/button sales. That will be deposited to the Cigar Box with the below cited transactions. 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 \$300. The MWM balance was \$760, then we paid for a Cadet - Rhema Fields - to attend FFVF at a \$460 expense. I noted that, beginning on 24 Apr 18, I made an e-mail inquiry of our real balance, inasmuch as we do not appear to have all the monies from times past that should be reflected in our SAEF account. Specifically, I questioned the \$1,550.00 posted to a non-existent Chapter #489. I suggested that these monies belonged to Da Nang Chap #498. I made a second e-mail inquiry, but as of this writing there has not been a response. I will inquire in writing under registered mail or personal delivery for a detailed resolution. There were no bills reported as outstanding. 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 - Grantham and Cauchon - neither with money, but approved for membership pending receipt of fees.

The Marshal was busy, while the Scty was addressing the membership ... he brought in \$3 in button fines, which will go to the "Cigar Box." We achieved the Chapter's L3-6-5 Club banner, again, but it was a close call ... we only have 41 Life 3-6-5 Club members out of our 181 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. Merlen Howe, PNP, 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 following positions:  
Chapter ~

NAME	POSITION
CAPT Merlen Howe	President
Lt Col Keye Perry, Sr.	1 <sup>st</sup> VP
LTC Lonnie Smith	2 <sup>nd</sup> VP
COL Bob Roth	3 <sup>rd</sup> VP
Lt Col Bill Turner	Scty / Treas
CWO4 Jim Baker	Chaplain
Marshal	TBD

Camp

~

NAME	POSITION
SgtMaj "JJ" Brown	Commander
COL Ed Nolte	CofS
SSgt Dennis Fetter	ACofS
Lt Col Ron Sortino	OD
Lt Col Bill Turner	Adjutant
CWO4 Jim Baker	Chaplain

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 gavel was that of Saigon's, which had been missing for some time, but came with the records mailing. He also noted the American Flag that has been with Saigon Chapter #409 for some time, also has

rejoined the ranks of memorabilia. Look for a presentation on the Flag at the 2019 MWM or the Centennial Celebration Chapter meeting.

**LATER BUSINESS** ~ Dipping into Saigon's time, new Bro. Prez Merlen Howe, surrendered the gavel to Saigon's Bro. Prez Marty Schwebel for their business and Closing of both Chapters.

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

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, 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](http://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 - Da Nang #498" Send your check to: Hqs, Natl Sojourners, 7942R Cluny Court, Springfield, VA 22153-2810 or to me, today. I'm at: 22 Still Creek Court, Greer, SC 29651-2322.
2. We are now 181 members strong !!! a/o Jun 2018.