

National Sojourners, Inc. & Heroes of '76



Awards & Citations HANDBOOK

INCENTIVE & AWARDS COMMITTEE

27 March 2021

AWARDS & CITATIONS

*National Sojourners, Inc. Awards & Citations are designed to recognize and encourage Chapters and members to further the purposes of the Order. The requirements are all enumerated within the National By-Laws and Regulations (see Appendix A). The following is a guide as to what each is and how it is awarded. Nominations shall be submitted by **date indicated**. It is the responsibility of all Chapter Presidents to ensure submission of member information by his Chapter where appropriate. All submissions to Committees or the Publication Review Board shall be sent to the National Office.*

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SOJOURNER LEGION OF HONOR MEDAL

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- (1) Active continuous membership in National Sojourners, Inc. for at least ten years.
- (2) Outstanding service.
- (3) Dedication to Masonic ideals and intense devotion to furthering all of the aims and Purposes of National Sojourners, Inc.
- (4) Proven qualities of leadership, tact, and resourcefulness in promoting and furthering teamwork in the activities of National Sojourners, Inc.

NOMINATED BY:

- (1) The National President
- (2) Any Past National President
- (3) Any Past National Commander

Nominations for the Sojourner Legion of Honor Medal may be made to the Honor Awards Committee by the National President, any Past National President, Past National Commander, or upon the written recommendation of any three chapters. Recommendations submitted must be accompanied by supporting documents, dated, and signed by the individual (NP, PNP, PNC) or the Chapter Secretary or President. Recommendations are submitted to the Honor Awards Committee via the National Secretary and delivered to the Chairman in a sealed envelope at the National Convention. c. An original and 4 copies (each placed in a separate sealed envelope and marked original or copy) of each nomination for the Legion of Honor shall be submitted in a single larger envelope, postmarked by U.S. Mail no later than 15 April, to National Headquarters and addressed as follows: Honor Awards Committee National Sojourners, Incorporated ATTN: National Secretary-Treasurer 7942R Cluny Court Springfield, VA 22153

SUBMITTED TO: National Headquarters.

APPROVED BY: Two thirds (2/3) favorable vote by the National Convention. To be presented at the National Convention.

HOUGHTON MEMORIAL AWARD

QUALIFICATIONS: Superior accomplishment by a Chapter or individual toward advancing the purposes of National Sojourners, Inc. in any one year.

NOMINATED BY: Any National Officer or Sojourner Chapter.

SUBMITTED TO: Incentive and Awards Committee in writing and include complete justification. Chapters shall submit their recommendations through their Area and Regional Representatives.

APPROVED BY: National President on recommendation of the Incentive and Awards Committee. To be presented at the National Convention.

MEMPHIS CUP AWARD

QUALIFICATIONS: An Area/Regional Representative having done the most to further development, growth, retention of membership and dynamic activities of the Chapters within their Area/Region.

RECOMMENDED BY: National President Elect.

SUBMITTED TO: Incentive and Awards Committee.

APPROVED BY: National President on recommendation of the Incentive and Awards Committee. To be presented at the National Convention.

HORTON-TOURTILOTT PLAQUE

QUALIFICATIONS: An individual judged to have done the most to further the Americanism Program of National Sojourners, Inc. for his chapter.

RECOMMENDED BY: Area and Regional Representatives.

SUBMITTED TO: Americanism Committee.

APPROVED BY: Americanism Committee. To be presented at the National Convention by the Americanism Committee Chairman.

ANTHONY NATALI PLAQUE

QUALIFICATIONS: Outstanding participation in the presentation of ROTC Awards, in addition to participation in Americanism Programs by an individual or Chapter.

RECOMMENDED BY: Regional and Area Representatives.

SUBMITTED TO: Americanism Committee.

APPROVED BY: Americanism Committee. To be presented at the National Convention by the Americanism Committee Chairman.

ODIE R. HOWELL, JR., BRIDGE OF LIGHT AWARD

QUALIFICATIONS: Significant contribution by Chapter(s) to the National Bridge of Light Program.

RECOMMENDED BY: Bridge of Light Committee after reviewing results of Chapter Bridge of Light Annual Reports.

SUBMITTED TO: Bridge of Light Committee.

APPROVED BY: The National Bridge of Light Committee based on grading of the Chapter Bridge of Light Annual Report evaluated on a score of 10. Chapters attaining a score totaling 18 or more for two consecutive years will be presented a National Award Flag Streamer which can be worn every year after the first award. To be presented at the National Convention.

DALLAS L. KNOLL BULLETIN OF THE YEAR AWARD

QUALIFICATIONS: To recognize annually that individual who as editor of his Chapter's Bulletin/Newsletter published 6 issues during the 12-month period from January through December of the calendar year preceding the National Convention.

The following criteria will be used for judging Bulletins/Newsletters:

- (1) General Appearance
- (2) Composition, Writing, and Editing
- (3) Chapter/Camp News
- (4) Individual Sojourner News
- (5) Regional/Area News

- (6) National (Sojourner/Heroes) News
- (7) Masonic Community News
- (8) Reader Interest
- (9) Educational and Training Value
- (10) Historical Value

Each of the above criteria will be assigned a point value from zero to ten, for possible overall value of 100 points.

Area/ Regional Representatives and National Officers should encourage Chapter Editors to submit their Chapter's Bulletins/Newsletters to compete for this award.

SUBMITTED TO: Publications Review Board with five (5) copies of each issue of the Chapter's Bulletin/Newsletter published during the qualification period. They shall be clearly marked "For Bulletin of the Year Consideration", collated in complete year sets, and sent by the Chapter Secretary or Editor prior to 15 December of the year under consideration.

APPROVED BY: The National President based upon recipient recommendation by the Publications Review Board. The Board may also recommend up to three (3) Editors of outstanding Chapter Bulletins for Honorable Mention, one of whom may be the editor of the most improved bulletin. To be presented at the National Convention.

THE NATIONAL SECRETARY/TREASURER WILL, UTILIZING CHAPTER REPORTS AND OTHER RELIABLE INFORMATION, DETERMINE THE RECIPIENT OF THE FOLLOWING AWARDS (TO BE PRESENTED AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION):

MELVIN W. BYERS MEMORIAL AWARD

To be awarded to Outstanding Chapter Secretary and will also designate First, Second, and Third Runners up.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S TROPHY (NUMERICAL GAIN)

For the Chapter having the largest actual gain in membership during the preceding year as computed by National Headquarters records as of 31 December proceeding, when compared to the corresponding date of the next preceding year.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S TROPHY (PERCENTAGE GAIN)

For the Chapter having the largest percentage gain in membership during the year computed as above.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER'S TROPHY (HIGHEST GAIN IN ACTIVE DUTY)

For the Chapter showing the largest percentage gain in Active status Sojourners (members of the regular uniformed forces and Reserves on active duty or assigned to units of the Organized Reserves or National Guard) during the year computed as above.

YOUTH EMPHASIS AWARD

The Chapter with the highest percentage of members under age forty as of 31 December, prior to the National Convention as determined by National Headquarters records.

CHAPTER EXCELLENCE AWARD

PURPOSE: To establish procedures by which Chapters may earn the Chapter Excellence Award Certificate and streamer for their chapter flag and be eligible for Chapter of the Year Award.

The chapter secretary will complete and submit this application first to a Regional Reg if present by 1 April. If there is none, submit it for forwarding to National HQ to the Area Rep. If there is none, submit directly to National HQ. Always keep a copy. Contact National HQ by 1 May to ensure they have received your submission.

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Selected from Chapters that receive the Chapter Excellence Award by the National Secretary.

NATIONAL CITATIONS FOR PRESENTATION AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

(These may also be issued by the National President on other appropriate occasions)

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

QUALIFICATIONS: For Chapter/Sojourners performing a specific act or acts not implicit in their assigned duties which contributed to an exceptional degree to accomplishing the Purposes of the National Sojourners, Incorporated.

RECOMMENDED BY: National Officers, National Committee Chairmen and Area Representative.

SUBMITTED TO: Incentive and Awards Committee.

APPROVED BY: National President on recommendation of the Incentive and Awards Committee.

EXCEPTIONAL MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT CERTIFICATE

QUALIFICATIONS: For Chapters/Sojourners whose exceptionally noteworthy performance contributed significantly to the accomplishment of the Purposes of the National Sojourners, Incorporated.

RECOMMENDED BY: National Officers, National Committee Chairmen, Area/Regional Representatives, and Chapter Presidents.

SUBMITTED TO: Incentive and Awards Committee.

APPROVED BY: National President on recommendation of the Incentive and Awards Committee.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS (Chapter or local level)

Available for presentation at the Chapter or local level, or as otherwise appropriate

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

QUALIFICATIONS: Awarded to any individual, Chapter or group, whether directly associated with National Sojourners, Incorporated, in appreciation of significant contributions to the order.

SUBMITTED TO: Incentive and Awards Committee.

50-YEAR SOJOURNER BAR

The 50-Year Bar for attachment to the Sojourner Medal is authorized for members who have completed 50 years of Sojourner service as confirmed by National Headquarters.

25-YEAR SOJOURNER BAR

The 25-Year Bar for attachment to the Sojourner Medal is authorized for members who have completed 25 years of Sojourner service as confirmed by National Headquarters.

BRIDGE OF LIGHT CERTIFICATE

Available from the National Resale Activity for presentation to the Master of a Lodge or head of other Masonic Bodies to which presentation was made.

HEROES OF '76 AWARDS

National Heroes Awards are contained in the Official Manual, Heroes of '76 for the four awards listed. It lists who can nominate or recommend, to whom awards are submitted and the decision process for the final National Commander's approval and presentation at the National Encampment.

VAN DEVENTER TROPHY

QUALIFICATIONS: Shall be awarded to a Hero who has exhibited faithful and exceptionally meritorious service to the Heroes of '76 over the course of many years.

RECOMMENDED BY: Any of the National Heroes Progressive Line (Sentinel through Commander).

SUBMITTED TO: Van Deventer Awards Committee.

APPROVED BY: Van Deventer Awards Committee.

Members of the National Heroes Progressive Line, elected or appointed are not eligible for this award. The National Commander shall present the award at the National Encampment.

GENERAL JONATHAN WAINWRIGHT AWARD

QUALIFICATIONS: Presented annually to the most outstanding Heroes Camp for the year.

RECOMMENDED BY: National Heroes Progressive Line Officer, Past National Commander, or any Area Representative.

SUBMITTED TO: National Heroes Awards Committee.

APPROVED BY: National Heroes Awards Committee and approval of the National Commander. The National Commander shall present the award at the National Encampment.

THE NATIONAL COMMANDER'S PATRIOT OF '76 AWARD

This award is presented to those who have performed exceptional service to the National Heroes of '76 above and beyond the call of duty. Recommendations for this award shall be made to the National Adjutant via the Area Representative and may only be made by National Officers, Area and Regional Representatives, Sojourner Chapter Presidents, and Camp Commanders. The National Commander shall present the award at the National Encampment.

THE NATIONAL COMMANDER'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

This award shall be made to those, including ladies, who have performed excellent service to the Heroes of '76 during the year in which presented. Recommendations for this award shall be made to the National Adjutant via the Area Representative and may only be made by National Officers, Area and Regional Representatives, Sojourner Chapter Presidents, and Camp Commanders.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS (Chapter or local level)

Available for presentation at the Chapter or local level or as otherwise appropriate

NATIONAL PATRIOT OF '76 CERTIFICATE

Available from the National Resale Activity for presentation to any individual or group whether or not directly associated with National Sojourners, Incorporated and organizations in recognition of their patriotic activities. Timely recognition and awarding of these certificates are highly recommended.

APPENDIX A

Awards and Citations are authorized by National Sojourners, Inc., Bylaws, Article 9, and National Regulations as indicated. Information is also contained in the Members Handbook.

NATIONAL SOJOURNERS

Sojourner Legion of Honor Medal – NR 9.1 para. 2a & NR 8.1.3 para. 3 & 4

Houghton Memorial Award – NR 9.1 para. 2e (1) (a) through (d) & 2i

Memphis Cup Award – NR 9.1 para. 2e (2)

Horton-Tourtillott Plaque – NR 9.1 para. 2b, c (1), 2i and NR 8.2.1 para. 3b (1)

Anthony Natali Plaque – NR 9.1 para. 2b, c (2), 2i and NR 8.2.1 para. 3b (2)

Odie R. Howell Jr., Bridge of Light Award – NR 9.1 para. 2d, 2i and NR 8.2.2 para. 4a(S)

Dallas L. Knoll Bulletin of the Year Award – NR 9.1 para. 1 2f and NR 9.1.2

Melvin W. Byers Memorial Award – NR 9.1 Para.2g (1)

Past National President's Trophy (Numerical Gain) – NR 9.1 para. 2g (2) & 2i

Past National President's Trophy (Percentage Gain) – NR 9.1 para. 2g (3) & 2i

Past National President's Trophy (Percentage Gain in Active Status) – NR 9.1 para. 2g (4) & 2i

Youth Emphasis Award – NR 9.1 para. 2g (5) & 2i

Chapter Excellence Award – National Circular 9.1.2

Chapter of the year – National Circular 9.1.3

Presidential Citation – NR 9.1 para. 3a (1)

Exceptional Meritorious Achievement Certificate – NR 9.1 para. 3a (2)

Certificate of Appreciation – NR 9.1 para.3a (3)

Certificate of Appreciation – Additional Awards – NR 9.1 para. 4

50–Year Sojourner Bar – NR 9.1 para. 5a

25–Year Sojourner Bar – NR 9.1 para. 5b

Certificate of Appreciation – NR 9.1 para. 5c

Bridge of Light Certificate – NR 9.1 para. 5e

HEROES OF '76

Van Deventer Trophy – Official Manual Heroes of '76 pages 14 and 15

General Jonathan Wainwright Award – Official Manual Heroes of '76 pages 15

The National Commander's Patriot of '76 Award – Official Manual Heroes of '76 pages 15

The National Commander's Award of Excellence – Official Manual Heroes of '76 pages 15

National Patriot of '76 Certificate – NR 9.1 para. 5D

APPENDIX B: Awards by Date

AWARD	DUE DATE	QUALIFICATIONS
SOJOURNER LEGION OF HONOR MEDAL	15 March Honor Awards Committee ONLY National Secretary	(1) Active continuous membership in National Sojourners for at least ten years. (2) Outstanding service. (3) Dedication to Masonic ideals and intense devotion of furthering all of the aims and purposes of National Sojourners. (4) Proven qualities of leadership, tact, and resourcefulness in promoting and furthering team-work in the activities of National Sojourners.
HOUGHTON MEMORIAL AWARD	31 March National Secretary 15 April Incentives and Awards Committee	Superior accomplishment by a Chapter or individual toward advancing the purposes of National Sojourners in any one year.
MEMPHIS CUP AWARD	31 March National Secretary 15 April Incentives and Awards Committee	An Area/Regional Representative having done the most to further development, growth, retention of membership and dynamic activities of the Chapters within their Area/Region.
HORTON-TOURTILLOTT PLAQUE	31 March Americanism Committee	Individual judged to have done the most to further the Americanism Program of National Sojourners for his Chapter.
ANTHONY NATALI PLAQUE	31 March AMERICANISM Committee	Outstanding participation in the presentation of ROTC Awards, in addition to participation in Americanism Programs by an individual or Chapter.
ODIE R. HOWELL., JR., BRIDGE OF LIGHT AWARD	31 March Bridge of Light Committee	Significant contribution by Chapter(s) to the National Bridge of Light Program for at least two years.
DALLAS L. KNOLL BULLETIN OF THE YEAR AWARD	31 December Publication Review Board	To recognize annually that individual who as Editor of this Chapter's Bulletin/Newsletter published at least 6 issues during the 12-month period from January through December of the calendar year preceding the National Convention.

THE NATIONAL SECRETARY/TREASURER WILL, UTILIZING CHAPTER REPORTS (DUE TO HQ BY 31 JULY) AND OTHER RELIABLE INFORMATION, DETERMINE THE RECIPIENT OF THE FOLLOWING AWARDS:

MELVIN W. BYERS MEMORIAL AWARD	31 July National Secretary	To be awarded to Outstanding Chapter Secretary and will also designate the First, Second, and Third Runner-up.
PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S TROPHY (NUMERICAL GAIN)	31 July National Secretary	For the Chapter having the largest actual gain in membership during the preceding year as computed by National Headquarters records as of 31 December proceeding, when compared to the corresponding date of the next preceding year.
PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S TROPHY (PERCENTAGE GAIN)	31 July National Secretary	For the Chapter having the largest percentage gain in membership during the year computed as above.
PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER'S TROPHY	31 July National Secretary	For the Chapter showing the largest percentage gain in Active status Sojourners (Members of the regular uniformed forces and Reserves on active duty or assigned to units of the Organized Reserves or National Guard) during the year computers as above.
YOUTH EMPHASIS AWARD	31 July National Secretary	The Chapter with the highest percentage of members under age forty as of 31 December, prior to the National Convention as determined by National Headquarters records.

**NATIONAL CITATIONS FOR PRESENTATION AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION
(These may also be issued by the National President on other appropriate occasions)**

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION	31 March National Secretary 15 April Incentives and Awards Committee	For Chapters/Sojourners performing a specific act or acts not implicit in their assigned duties which contributed to an exceptional degree to accomplishing the purposes of National Sojourners, Inc.
EXCEPTIONAL MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT CERTIFICATE	31 March National Secretary 15 April Incentives and Awards Committee	For Chapters/Sojourners whose exceptionally noteworthy performance contributed significantly to the accomplishment of the Purposes of National Sojourners, Inc..
CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION	31 March National Secretary 15 April Incentives and Awards Committee	Awarded to any individual, Chapter, or group, whether or not directly associated with National Sojourners, Inc., in appreciation of significant contributions to the order.
CHAPTER EXCELLENCE AWARD	1 April Regional Representative 1 May National Secretary	PURPOSE: To establish procedures by which Chapters may earn the Chapter Excellence Award Certificate and streamer for their flag and be eligible to compete for Chapter of the Year Award.
CHAPTER OF THE YEAR	1 May National Secretary	Selected from Chapters that receive the Chapter Excellence Award.

OTHER AWARDS AND CITATIONS AVAILABLE FOR CHAPTER PRESENTATION

50-YEAR SOJOURNER BAR	The 50-Year Bar for attachment to the Sojourner Medal is authorized for members who have completed 50 years of Sojourner service as confirmed by National headquarters.
25-YEAR SOJOURNER BAR	The 25-Year Bar for attachment to the Sojourner Medal is authorized for members who have completed 25 years of Sojourner service as confirmed by National headquarters.
PATRIOT OF '76 CERTIFICATE	Available from National Resale Activity for presentation to individuals and organizations in recognition of their patriotic activities.
BRIDGE OF LIGHT CERTIFICATE	Available from the National Resale Activity for presentation to the Master of a Lodge or head of other Masonic Bodies to which presentation was made.

APPENDIX C: Bridge of Light Annual Report

THE BRIDGE OF LIGHT ANNUAL REPORT IS PART OF THE CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT (CAR); REFER TO THE CAR FOR INFORMATION WHICH CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE NATIONAL SOJOURNERS WEBSITE OR FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE.

APPENDIX D: Americanism Annual Report

THE AMERICANISM ANNUAL REPORT IS PART OF THE CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT (CAR); REFER TO THE CAR FOR INFORMATION WHICH CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE NATIONAL SOJOURNERS WEBSITE OR FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE.

APPENDIX E: National Awards Recommendation Form

NATIONAL AWARDS RECOMMENDATION FORM



**NATIONAL SOJOURNERS, INC.
OR
HEROES OF '76**



For Sojourner/Heroes of '76 Year: _____

Only one award recommendation per form. See procedures (criteria), listed in the Awards & Citations HANDBOOK, to be followed for National Award submission processing.

Name of Individual/Chapter/Camp/Group recommended:

Chapter Name & Number/Camp Name:

Name of Award Recommended: _____

Justification: _____

Recommended by:

(Signature, Title & Date)

Submitted to: _____

Procedures

1. National Sojourners Awards are listed and contained in: Awards & Citations Handbook by the Incentive and Awards Committee, dated 27 March 2021, which lists required qualifications, who can nominate or recommend, to whom submitted and the approval authority.
2. National Heroes Awards are contained in the Official Manual, Heroes of '76 for the four awards listed; who can nominate or recommend, to whom submitted and the decision process for the final National Commander's approval and presentation at the National Convention.

APPENDIX F: Chapter Excellence Award Application



CHAPTER EXCELLENCE AWARD APPLICATION

Due date: 1 May 20__ (NSI HQ)
 1 April 20__ (Reg Rep)

To: National President, National Sojourners, Inc.

(Please print or type)

From

Chapter

(Chapter Secretary or point of contact signature and printed name)

(mailing address)

(telephone)

(email address)

GOALS FOR EXCELLENCE PROGRAM (reference NC 9.1.2)

The purposes of National Sojourners shall be to organize current and former members of the uniformed forces of the United States...and honorary members...who are Masons into Chapters for the promotion of good fellowship among its members.

1. **Fellowship:** *One is required*

- a. Hold a family activity beyond Chapter meetings. _____
- b. Hold a members' and ladies' social event beyond Chapter meetings. _____
- c. Initiate four new members or add four MMIPs _____

...for assisting such as may be overtaken by adversity or affliction...

2. **Assistance:** *One is required*

- a. Hold a coordinated event to aid a member _____
- b. Support a charity whose purpose is to aid a member of the Masonic family. _____

...for cultivating Masonic ideals...

3. **Promotion of Freemasonry:** *One is required*

- a. Hold a Bridge of Light event _____
- b. Hold a Masonic information Chapter meeting. _____
- c. Conduct a Lodge of Military Tribute. _____

...for supporting all patriotic aims and activities in Masonry...

4. **Supporting aims and activities:** *One is required*
 - a. Sponsor a youth at Freedoms Foundation or a Youth Leadership Conference _____
 - b. Participate in Veterans' event e.g. Memorial Day, 4th of July _____
 - c. Participate in National Essay Contest and submit at least one entry _____
 - d. Attend an area/regional conference/enCampment (at least two Chapter officers) _____
 - e. Buy an ad in the 20__ Convention book _____

...for developing true patriotism and Americanism...

5. **Developing citizenship:** *Two are required*
 - a. Present at least four JROTC/ROTC medals _____
 - b. Present colors and "Toast to the Flag" at two non-Masonic events _____
 - c. Present colors at opening of Grand Lodge in your jurisdiction _____
 - d. Sponsor a youth for FFVF or YLC _____

...for bringing together representatives of the uniformed forces...in a united effort to further military needs of national defense...

6. **Combining forces:** *One is required*
 - a. Have five members active in other veterans' organizations _____
 - b. Have five members contribute money to a veterans' organization e.g. USO _____

...and opposing any influence whatsoever calculated to weaken national security...

7. **Defending national security:** *This can be substituted for any one of the above.*
 - a. Have one or more members serving on active duty. _____
 - b. Have three or more members serving in an active reserve status. _____

Six of the seven criteria must be met to qualify for the Chapter Excellence Award.

Attach separate sheet if needed with other items for consideration by the National President.

Submit this application first to a Regional Representative if present by 1 April. If there is none, submit it for forwarding to National HQ to the Area Representative. (Always keep a copy.) Contact National HQ by 1 May to ensure they have received your submission.

Received and forwarded recommending

Approval _____ Disapproval _____

Name signed by Regional Representative

Received and forwarded recommending

Approval _____ Disapproval _____

Name signed by Area Representative

FOR USE BY THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT: