

# NATIONAL SOJOURNERS, INCORPORATED



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## MEMBERS' HANDBOOK

1 July 2016

Appendix N to  
The Chapter Officers' Handbook

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**FORWARD**

This handbook is intended to provide prospective, new and current members of National Sojourners with a reasonably comprehensive understanding of our organization. It is designed to lead from and amplify the information contained in the "WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?" brochure. Use it as you would the owner's manual that comes with the purchase of a major item of equipment. You need to read it carefully in order to get the most out of your investment. Well-informed Sojourners are good Sojourners. Read, learn, participate and enjoy! Our loftiest goals will have been achieved if the handbook helps to make your invested labors yield even larger Masonic wages than before.

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**DEDICATION**

This Handbook is dedicated to all those who ever have or ever will demonstrate love of Country and craft by service to both, especially to our Brother Sojourners.

## **I. PURPOSES**

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 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.

## **II. PRONOUNCEMENT**

National Sojourners believe in God as The Supreme Architect of the Universe. We hold that political, economic and social problems are subsidiary to and ever separate from that steadfast belief in God. We maintain that God must motivate man if present day problems are to be solved and we urge active participation in maintaining that Government for which our forefathers fought. Sojourners, remember that George Washington once said, "When we assumed the soldier we did not lay aside the citizen."

## **III. THE AMERICAN'S CREED**

"I believe in the United States of America, as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies."

## IV. HISTORY

### NATIONAL SOJOURNERS HISTORY LECTURE

National Sojourners, Inc. has an unequalled military Masonic history. Born of the requirements of wartime, the Order has been nurtured by the desire of displaced military Masons to seek each other's company, counsel and aid.

Early in 1900, after the North Dakota Regiment departed the Philippines with its Field Lodge dispensation, a group of Masons organized an informal club and named it "Sojourners." In 1901, these Sojourners provided the impetus, funds and paraphernalia to charter Manila Lodge under the Grand Lodge of California. One of the original Sojourners, Surgeon Captain Harry Eugene Stafford, 33°, Chartering Master of Manila Lodge, in 1913 became the first Grand Master of the newly created Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands.

The Philippine "Sojourners Club" resurfaced in 1907, open to Masons who were not members of local Lodges; within a year it had nearly 200 members from every state and territory and eight foreign countries. Most of the Philippine Sojourners eventually became scattered throughout the United States. A group of these Masonic military officers sojourning in Chicago in 1917 formally organized the "Chicago Sojourners Club."

Additional clubs were quickly formed at Army posts and Naval bases under the name "National Sojourners Club." In 1927, the word "Club" was dropped and we became "National Sojourners, Incorporated" in 1931.

The "Purposes of National Sojourners" affirm our responsibilities to our Brothers, our Fraternity and our Nation. In the absence of local Blue Lodges, Sojourner chapters have in effect, replaced the military Lodges of the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Sojourner actions, similar to those in the Philippines, have been directly responsible for chartering numerous Blue Lodges and other Masonic bodies worldwide.

Whenever regular Masonic Lodges are present, active duty Sojourners routinely affiliate and energetically participate. Sojourners traditionally sponsor the majority of military personnel petitioning for Masonic membership and stimulate our military Brothers, past and present, to reestablish and strengthen their Masonic ties.

Sojourner efforts are directed toward Americanism and Masonic activities. Patriotic activities include speeches, flag ceremonies, presentations and other actions intended to promote national security and true love of country, with special emphasis on youth. Our Bridge of Light Program strengthens Masonry by involving Sojourners in all Masonic activities, especially in the Blue Lodges.

Our National Headquarters was located at the Collingwood Library and Museum on Americanism, north of Mount Vernon on part of George Washington's original River Farm. It is appropriate that our dedicated military-Masonic Order was permanently associated with our country's most distinguished soldier-Mason and the ideals that he represented.

## **V. WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A NATIONAL SOJOURNER**

### **a. COMMITMENT AND PARTICIPATION:**

1. Obligation to the Purposes: Members are expected to honor the obligation to our Purposes taken at the time of their initiation into National Sojourners. As we have pledged to be true to God, our Brothers, our neighbors and ourselves, we have also taken the oath of service to our country. It is important that we read and reflect on our Purposes periodically to remind us of our military-Masonic obligations.

2. Meeting attendance: All National Sojourners and Heroes of '76 are obligated to attend their chapter and Heroes camp meetings regularly. Such attendance should be regarded with the same degree of faithfulness we are expected to attach to the stated meetings of our Blue Lodges.

3. Involvement in chapter activities: Many of our members start their Sojourner "careers" by being named to a committee or other position in the chapter. Members should, at this stage, become increasingly involved in the programs of our Order. The national programs applied at the chapter level constitute the most important work of our Order; it is essential to familiarize yourself with them thoroughly. From this point, it is expected that many members will assume chapter leadership positions and still later, serve beyond the chapter level. This involvement is strongly encouraged.

4. Membership activities: Particularly important to the survival of our Order are recruitment, retention and reinstatement of members – every member is expected to be involved. Each member should have a blank membership application readily available. Carry one in your pocket for you never know when it will be needed. Your Chapter Secretary can provide you with application forms. Think Sojourner membership. ASK potential members.

**b. ENJOY:** We also need to retain all of our members, including you. This means emphasizing and enjoying that gracious hospitality we know as Masons, along with those other valuable marks of Brotherhood between members which make our

fellowship so meaningful. Military-Masonic-Patriotic, enjoy and continue to strengthen those many deep bonds we have in common!

## VI. ORGANIZATION

**a. THE CHAPTER:** The basic organizational unit of National Sojourners is the chapter, all but four of which (Chicago, National Headquarters, Past Masters Club and Grand Masters Chapter) are identified by a number in order of founding and a name. Each is administered by a local, annually elected President, Vice Presidents and Secretary-Treasurer, using their Chapter Constitution and By-Laws and the National Directives of our Order. Chapters usually meet monthly at a stated time and place to conduct their business, perform one or more rituals and present a specific program or other activity. It is important to remember that National Sojourners exists because the Order has been recognized as an affiliate organization by the Grand Lodges of jurisdictions where chapters have been formed. Further, a chapter functions because it has been authorized to do so by the National President in accordance with the authority granted his office by our National Directives. When a chapter accepts its charter, it is obligated to obey these same directives. Chapters must not deviate from the Grand Lodge Masonic Code of the jurisdiction in which they reside. Chapters may be chartered at the discretion of the National President upon written petition of not less than eighteen Master Masons qualified for membership; eight or more must be new or reinstated members; no chapter may be chartered on a uniformed service installation without the approval of the Commanding Officer.

Before forming a chapter a group of Masons qualified for membership may organize a Sojourners Club. A Sojourners Club, satellite on an existing chapter, requires a minimum of only six members, including three new or reinstated members. Geographically isolated members may have their membership administered by the National Headquarters Chapters.

1. Our ladies and the chapters: Our ladies are vital to our Order. In many chapters, nearly every meeting includes the ladies and they frequently volunteer to serve on the chapter telephone committee, perform administrative tasks, make table decorations, etcetera. They also act as charming hostesses at Regional, Area and National functions, providing and staffing hospitality rooms and arranging ladies activities.

2. Widows of deceased Sojourners: Chapters are strongly encouraged to maintain a list of widows of deceased Sojourners, sending them copies of chapter bulletins and inviting them to meetings and other events where ladies are permitted. Another

way chapters may show regard for a deceased Brother and his widow is by presenting a Widow's Certificate, Card and Pin, which are available from the National Resale Activity. The widow of a Member-In-Perpetuity (MIP) may continue to receive THE SOJOURNER at no cost to her by informing the National Secretary, either directly or through the chapter secretary.

**b. HEROES OF '76:** The Heroes of '76 is an affiliate auxiliary organization of National Sojourners, Incorporated. Its basic unit is a camp, which is dependent upon one or more chapters of National Sojourners. Camp officers are the Commander, Chief of Staff, Assistant Chief of Staff, Officer of the Day, Senior Lieutenant, Junior Lieutenant, Commander of the Guard, Sentinel and Adjutant. They are elected/appointed annually. The primary purpose of the Heroes Camp is to exemplify the Heroes of '76 Degree, which provides time preserving the memory of those gallant heroes of '76 who gave us liberty and independence, thus strengthening the Masonic/patriotic principles which guide and support our Order. The Degree is conferred upon Sojourners as recognition of exemplary service to National Sojourners, Freemasonry or our national government. After receiving the Heroes of '76 Degree, members are authorized to wear the Heroes medal and ribbon. There are no initiation fees or dues. Many Heroes have acquired Continental uniforms, which they wear at Heroes meetings, as color guards, at parades and for patriotic presentations to various Masonic and civic groups. The National Heroes of '76 officers have the same titles as the camp officers with additional staff members.

**c. AREAS AND REGIONS:** Chapters are geographically united into areas, which usually include several states. Most areas are further subdivided into regions. The National President, with the advice of chapters, incumbents and other interested Sojourners, appoint Area and Regional Representatives who work with the chapters and their officers in a chain to the national level. As the personal representatives of the National President, they are entitled to the respect and cooperation of the chapters, officers and members in their respective areas and regions. They have similar functions for the Heroes of '76 camps within their area or region, providing a chain to the National Commander of the Heroes of '76.

**d. NATIONAL OFFICERS:** The National President, President-Elect, First, Second and Third Vice Presidents, National Secretary-Treasurer, Surgeon, Judge Advocate, Historian and Chaplain are the administrators of our Order. They, together with the National Trustees, Committee of 33 and the National Honor Awards Committee, are elected national officers. Any national officer who has served nine full years in any one office, except the National Secretary-Treasurer



and the National Historian, shall be ineligible for further service in that office, but he will be eligible for election to Emeritus status by the National Convention. All Past National Presidents, Past National Commanders and Emeritus Sojourners are national officers for life and serve in a variety of "elder statesman" roles. Incumbents of all other national positions, although recognized as being of great importance to our Order, are not national officers under our national directives.

**e. NATIONAL COMMITTEES:** There are many national committees charged with operating national programs and advising the national line officers on issues, plans and programs. Some of these committees are: Education and Training, Americanism, Bridge of Light, Membership, Gifts and Bequests, Fraternal Liaison, Honor Awards, Publications, Resale, Resolutions and Ritual. The National President establishes ad hoc committees on a temporary basis.

**f. COMMITTEE OF 33:** This special committee of experienced Sojourner leaders is elected by the National Convention. Each member is elected for a three-year term. Eleven are elected each year. This committee acts as the principle advisory body to the National President on matters in which he seeks their counsel. It also acts unilaterally to advise the National President on areas of concern.

**g. NATIONAL SOJOURNERS CONVENTION CORPORATION (NASOCOCO):** This eight member, independent, non-profit corporation was formed to contract the facilities necessary to conduct National Conventions and Mid-Winter Meetings. Their contract and supervisory responsibilities include meals, room rates, registration, meeting rooms, the convention program and such additional requirements as audio-visual equipment and housekeeping. NASOCOCO does not set agendas, meeting times, etcetera.

**h. NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS:** National Sojourners, Incorporated, is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia, with offices at 7942R Cluny Court, Springfield, VA 22153-2810. The telephone number is 703-765-5000; FAX is 703-765-8390. The email address is [hq@nationalsojourners.org](mailto:hq@nationalsojourners.org); the website is [Nationalsojourners.org](http://Nationalsojourners.org). There, our highly dedicated and capable staff, under the supervision of the National Secretary-Treasurer, works on behalf of Sojourners everywhere.

## VII. CONVENTIONS/MEETINGS

**a. THE NATIONAL CONVENTION:** The National Convention is held annually, normally in late June, at various locations selected by the delegates. Delegates from each chapter and the National Officers convene to conduct business, attend seminars and elect national officers. The National Convention constitutes the highest authority within National Sojourners and is the Order's only legislative body. A special orientation meeting is held just prior to each Convention for all first-time attendees. During this orientation, the national officers and committee chairmen furnish brief overviews of their Convention roles, their regular duties and responsibilities and welcome the first-timers. Later, a get acquainted social function is held in honor of the first-time attendees and their ladies.

**b. NATIONAL MID-WINTER MEETING:** National Mid-Winter Meetings are held for three days during January. The national officers and committees meet to assess the state of the Order, evaluate the progress of programs and redefine goals and plans as necessary to meet the objectives of the Order. No business is transacted at these meetings, but much useful work is accomplished for the betterment of the Order.

**c. AREA AND REGIONAL CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS:** Area and regional meetings are joint meetings of the chapters within an area or region. They are normally organized by the Area or Regional Representative under the sponsorship of the local chapter(s) where the meeting is held. A joint meeting of more than one Heroes Camp is called an Encampment. Encampments are sometimes held in conjunction with an area or regional conference although not necessarily. Heroes' encampments are often held independent of Sojourner activities.

## VIII. PROGRAMS

**a. AMERICANISM:** Americanism can be defined as "a way of life," "a cause," "love of country," "belief in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights." It requires action and work. Most chapters have one or more of the following Americanism programs:

1. Youth: Sponsorship of activities for, or awards to, youth groups and activities such as: high school and college ROTC units, DeMolay, Job's Daughters, Rifle Teams, Scouts, etcetera. Most chapters present ROTC Americanism medals

annually to outstanding ROTC cadets. Many others also conduct oratorical or essay contests with a patriotic theme through the local schools.

2. Community activities: Many chapters perform wreath-laying ceremonies, organize or participate in parades, color guards, flag presentations, talks, patriotic holiday ceremonies, flag sales, awards, newspaper articles, radio spot announcements, letters in conjunction with schools, service clubs, veteran's organizations, chambers of commerce and the media.

3. Masonic activities: Similar to community activities, but within the Masonic community to assist, inform and strengthen our parent fraternity.

4. Individual activities: Each of us can, in his own, unique way, do much inside and outside his chapter. Many actively participate in their neighborhoods, others at work. We discuss our country, its glories, history, advantages, solving its problems, combating anti-Americanism, need of national defense or other subjects. Where your activities involve mention of our Order be sure to work with your chapter officers and Americanism Chairman. We must not misrepresent any National Sojourners programs, especially in potentially sensitive areas. Remember that only the National Convention can take an official position on behalf of Sojourners. However, apart from our Order, we are quite free to do much as individuals. We can personally present our opinions and views to local and state officials and to our Senators, Representatives and other officials in Washington, DC. Let them know what you think of your country. Elected officials are very sensitive to the thoughts of individual voters. In support of our Purposes, all members, as individuals, are urged to write short, concise letters, stating their views in their own words; one topic per letter is usually the most effective. We can also write letters to editors or articles for publication in newspapers or magazines. As an "army" of individual patriots, we can thus help to counter unpatriotic influences by positive approaches to present-day problems.

**b. BRIDGE OF LIGHT (BOL)**: Our Bridge of Light program seeks to extend a bridge of fraternal warmth, cooperation and understanding from Sojourner chapters to basic (Blue Lodge) Masonry and its appendant/concordant bodies. We are one of very few Masonic Orders with a formal program strongly encouraging activity elsewhere in Freemasonry. Many of our Brothers are, or have been, Masters of their Masonic lodges; many Grand Masters and Past Grand Masters are members of our Order, inspiring and encouraging the crossing and re-crossing of our Bridge of Light.

**c. MEMBERSHIP:** Our Membership program seeks to make known to the public the history and Purposes of National Sojourners and thereby encourage eligible Masons to become members and assist us in promoting our Purposes. On-going membership development programs in each chapter usually include emphasis on recruitment of new members, retention of current members, reinstatement of delinquent members and encouragement of Memberships-In-Perpetuity (MIP).

**d. EDUCATION AND TRAINING (E&T):** Through seminars, handbooks (such as this one), talks, speech scripts, slides videotapes, written materials and other means, the National Sojourners E&T program seeks to make good National Sojourners even more knowledgeable, capable and involved.

## **IX. MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

**a. ELIGIBILITY:** Membership in National Sojourners is open to citizens of the United States who are Master Masons in good standing in any duly constituted lodge of Master Masons recognized by and maintaining fraternal relations with a majority of the Regular Grand Lodges in the United States and who:

1. Are serving or have served honorably as members of the uniformed forces (past and present) of the United States or have in time of war as a Commissioned Officer, Warrant Officer or the equivalent in the armed service of a national allied with the United States, or:

2. Are regularly elected to Honorary membership.

### **b. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:**

1. **Active Members:** Those Master Masons who are or have served honorably as members of the uniformed services who meet the requirements for Active membership in National Sojourners and who have been regularly elected to and initiated in any chapter of National Sojourners, Inc., are Active members.

2. **Honorary Members:** Those Master Masons who are ineligible for Active membership, but who have been regularly elected to Honorary membership in any chapter of National Sojourners in recognition of meritorious service to the nation or Freemasonry. In most chapters they have all the rights of Active members. Honorary members shall have all the rights of active members including the right to be elected to and serve in all national elected positions except the National progressive line and the Honor Awards Committee. The progressive line is defined

as National President, National President-Elect and National First, Second and Third Vice President. Chapters may elect Honorary members up to 15% of their total Active membership, with the exception that Grand Masters, Past Grand Masters and elected Grand Lodge officers of Grand Masonic Jurisdictions are excluded from this percentage computation. Under exceptional circumstances, the National President may authorize a chapter to elect an Honorary member in excess of 15% of their total Active membership.

3. Dual Members: An Active or Honorary member may become a dual member by election in any other chapter(s). A dual member pays the full dues required, including the National Per Capita Tax, in each chapter to which he is elected. He will be issued a membership card by each chapter and be reported to National Headquarters as a member by each chapter issuing a membership card. Dual members have the same rights and privileges as other Active or Honorary members of the chapter.

4. Multiple Members: An Active or Honorary member may hold multiple memberships by election in any other chapter(s). Chapter dues will normally be assessed; however, no National Per Capita Tax shall be collected nor will a membership card be issued. A notation of multiple memberships should be made on the reverse of the regular membership card. Multiple members have the same rights and privileges as other Active or Honorary members of the chapter(s). Honorary multiple members count against the 15% Honorary limit in their parent chapter only.

5. Membership-In-Perpetuity (MIP): Any Active or Honorary member in good standing may become an MIP upon written application, accompanied by the required fee (your chapter secretary will discuss this with you) through his chapter to the National Secretary-Treasurer. An MIP is exempt from all further annual dues in the chapter in which he is an MIP. MIPs in other chapters may be purchased for a lesser sum (your chapter secretary has the schedule of fees) and are fully tax deductible. The name of each MIP is perpetually carried on the rolls of his chapter and the national Order. If the chapter carrying the membership of a deceased MIP is dissolved, his name will be transferred to the National Headquarters Chapter. Each year the chapter receives an MIP dividend check based on the number of MIPs on its' rolls. The National Trustees administer the MIP Trust Fund, which is composed of all MIP fees originally paid. The principal of this fund is invested and only the earnings from these investments are distributed to chapters and National Headquarters. There is an installment payment plan for those purchasing MIPs. Ask your chapter secretary about it. Honorary MIPs who are not Grand Masters,

Past Grand Masters or elected Grand Lodge officers are counted against the 15% limit for Honorary membership as long as they live.

6. In-Memoriam Membership-In-Perpetuity (MMIP): Deceased Master Masons who would have met the Order's membership eligibility may be granted MMIP status. MMIPs may be sponsored by chapters or individuals who will complete membership applications, designate the chapter to receive the membership and forward the required fees (your chapter secretary has the schedule of fees) to the National Secretary-Treasurer who will ensure that all MMIP nominations meet eligibility criteria.

**c. DUES:** There is a nominal one-time initiation fee for new members payable by the chapter to National Headquarters; it does not apply to reinstated members. Annual dues consist of the national dues, otherwise known as the National Per Capita Tax and the chapter dues, which are set by each chapter. Active, dual and honorary members who are not MIPs receive a combined bill for both Per Capita Tax and the chapter dues annually. Some chapters pay these dues for their Honorary members, who, if they do not hear otherwise have two options: 1) Pay the annual dues when billed or, 2) ask the Chapter Secretary-Treasurer what their annual dues obligation is. If the chapter is paying the Honorary members dues, the Chapter Secretary will arrange for a refund of any excess dues paid. Multiple members pay only the chapter dues of the chapter in which they are a multiple member. A member who has paid his dues to 31 December of the current year is in good standing until that date. MIPs are exempt from these fees since they have made their one-time payment. Every National Sojourner is encouraged to become an MIP.

## X. AWARDS

### a. CHAPTER LEVEL:

1. Certificate of Appreciation: May be awarded to any individual or group, whether or not directly associated with National Sojourners, Inc., in appreciation of significant contributions to the Order.

2. Patriot of '76 Certificate: May be awarded to any individual or group, especially non-Sojourners, for significant patriotic actions.

3. Bridge of Light Certificate: May be awarded to any individual or group, especially Masonic, for significant actions supporting Freemasonry and fraternal relations.

4. 25 Year and 50 Year Sojourner Title Bars: These bars are for awarding to members who have completed the commensurate number of years of Sojourner service.

5. ROTC Awards: Chapters are encouraged, when requested by ROTC units or institutions, to sponsor the Sojourners' ROTC Award and is approved for junior and senior Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines Corps ROTC units in accordance with existing service regulations. Annual presentations are made by National Sojourners members at annual ROTC award presentation ceremonies. The medal is identical to the National Sojourners member medal except that the word "National" is replaced by "ROTC" and the square is absent. They may be purchased through the National Resale Activity at National Headquarters.

**b. NATIONAL CITATIONS**: The Presidential Citation, Exceptionally Meritorious Achievement Certificate and Certificate of Appreciation are awarded to chapters/Sojourners for performing "above and beyond" their usual duties to National Sojourners to the degree implicit in the level of each award. National Officers, National Committee Chairmen, Area and Regional Representatives and Chapter Presidents make nominations. They are reviewed by the National Incentives and Awards Committee and forwarded with appropriate recommendations, to the National President for approval. Awards are announced at the National Convention and presented with appropriate ceremony.

**c. NATIONAL TROPHIES AND AWARDS**: The highest honor bestowed on an individual in the organization is the Legion of Honor. The National Convention may award it upon recommendation of the Honor Awards Committee with approval to one individual annually for long, faithful and meritorious service to National Sojourners. The second most prestigious award is the Houghton Memorial Award. It is conferred by the National President upon recommendation of the National Incentives and Awards Committee to either an individual or chapter for superior accomplishments toward advancing the Purposes of National Sojourners in any one year. Like the Legion of Honor, only one of these awards may be made in any one year. Unique program and achievement awards are also given for Americanism (Horton-Tourtillott plaque to individuals); outstanding participation by chapters or individuals in ROTC activities (Anthony Natali plaque); Outstanding Chapter Secretary (Melvin W. Byers Award); greatest chapter membership gain (Past National Presidents' Trophies, one for numerical

gain and one for percentage gain); most new members under the age of 40 (Youth Emphasis Award); greatest active status military, regular and reserve, membership gain (Past National Commanders' Trophy); outstanding Area/Regional Representative (Memphis Cup); and the Chapter Bulletin/Newsletter Editor of the Year (Dallas L. Knoll Award).

## **XI. WEARING OF MEDALS AND OTHER INSIGNIA/DEVICES**

All members are authorized to wear the National Sojourners medal as they would any Armed Forces medal, centered over the left breast pocket. Each member of the Heroes of '76 properly wears his Heroes medal or blue Heroes ribbon to his own left side of his Sojourner medal, both centered together. Miniature Sojourners and Heroes medals are available through the National Resale Activity for use with formal wear. While Sojourners and Heroes of '76 lapel pins and title bars are available, they do not constitute an "in uniform" at any type of meeting. Wearing of the neckband is limited to National Officers, Area and Regional Representatives and elected Chapter Officers and any member of National Sojourners, Inc., holding Memberships-In-Perpetuity in five or more chapters of National Sojourners, Incorporated. Title bars of past or present offices or positions are available for medal ribbon and neckband wear. A maximum of three such title bars may be worn on the neckband. A silver 5/16" diameter star centered on the medal ribbon or neckband directly above the pendant Sojourner medal signifies the member to be an MIP. When worn with title bar(s), this star is centered on the ribbon directly below the lowest title bar.

Any Sojourner who sponsors five or more new or reinstated members is entitled to wear a 3/8" diameter brass button, numerically inscribed with the number, in increments of five that he has sponsored. It is worn centered between the MIP star(s) and the lowest title bar.

Heroes of '76 neckbands are authorized only for National Officers and elected Camp Commanders during their terms of office.

Recipients of the National Sojourners Legion of Honor medal wear a specially designed medal, which incorporates National Sojourners symbolism on a National Sojourners neckband for life. Recipients of the Houghton Memorial Award also receive a specially designed medal, which is worn to the left of the Sojourners and Heroes medals.

The beautiful symbolism of the National Sojourners and Heroes of '76 medals is fully described in the medal lectures of the initiation rituals used for awarding each of them. Further details concerning the other official Heroes of '76 insignia, uniforms, hats, cockades and colored patches are found in the Heroes of '76 manual (restricted to use by Heroes of '76 only).



**WARNING:** Wearing your medal(s) is required at official functions of the Order. Failure to wear them may subject you to a nominal fine.

## **XII. THE RITUAL**

The National Sojourners Order of Ceremonies contains all of the rituals of the Order. These include: Opening, Closing and Conducting Meetings, Initiation and associated lectures, the Candlelight Memorial Service, Installation Ceremonies and the Burial Service. The Order of Ceremonies may be obtained from your Chapter Secretary or National Headquarters.

## **XIII. RESALE ACTIVITY**

National Sojourners Headquarters operates a cash resale activity for the benefit and convenience of the membership. You may request a catalog, resale price list and order form from National Sojourners, Inc., 7942 R Cluny Ct., Springfield, VA 22153. Telephone: 703-765-5000. FAX: 703-765-8390. Or email: [hq@nationalsojourners.org](mailto:hq@nationalsojourners.org). Lists, forms and some items may be available from your Chapter Secretary.

## **XIV. DONATIONS AND FUNDS**

**a. GIFTS AND BEQUESTS:** The National Gifts and Bequests Committee develops and promotes programs to stimulate and encourage members, other individuals, chapters, private and public organizations to make gifts, bequests, grants and other contributions to further the Purposes of National Sojourners. There is a legal sub-committee comprised of lawyers in chapters across the country who have volunteered their free services to assist Brethren with making Wills and Codicils naming our Order as beneficiary. For further information, write the National Judge Advocate, in care of National Headquarters.

**b. SOJOURNERS ENDOWMENT MEMORIAL (SEM) FUND:** Funds donated to National Sojourners are normally designated for the SEM Fund, which helps provide for the future financial security of our Order. Tax-deductible contributions and gifts are received honoring, or as a memorial to, members, individuals or chapters and are appropriately recognized by National Headquarters.

**c. MIP TRUST FUND:** The fees from Memberships-In-Perpetuity are deposited in the National Sojourners Trust Fund. The purchase of an MIP supports our Order

financially and relieves you of the burden of paying annual dues. Only the interest is used, the principal serves as an inviolate trust for present and future generations of National Sojourners.

**d. FRATERNAL, AMERICANISM, MEMBERSHIP AND BRIDGE OF LIGHT (FAMB) FUND:** This trust fund was established by a generous and dedicated member to provide annual funding for the named committees without them having to be involved in the annual budget process. Each year the earnings of the trust fund are divided among the selected committees to support their respective activities.

#### **XV. SOJOURNER PUBLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDED READING:**

Most chapters publish a bulletin or newsletter ranging from a simple meeting notice to an elaborate report. National Headquarters publishes the official bulletin of National Sojourners, THE SOJOURNER, bimonthly. It is sent to every member and contains Chapter and Camp News, messages from the national officers and other material of interest and importance. It is important to read this publication regularly and retain it for reference. While the publication is free to all Sojourners, a subscription makes an appropriate gift for military, civilian and veterans hospitals, local lodges, Brother Masons, local libraries, etcetera. Subscription cost is nominal.

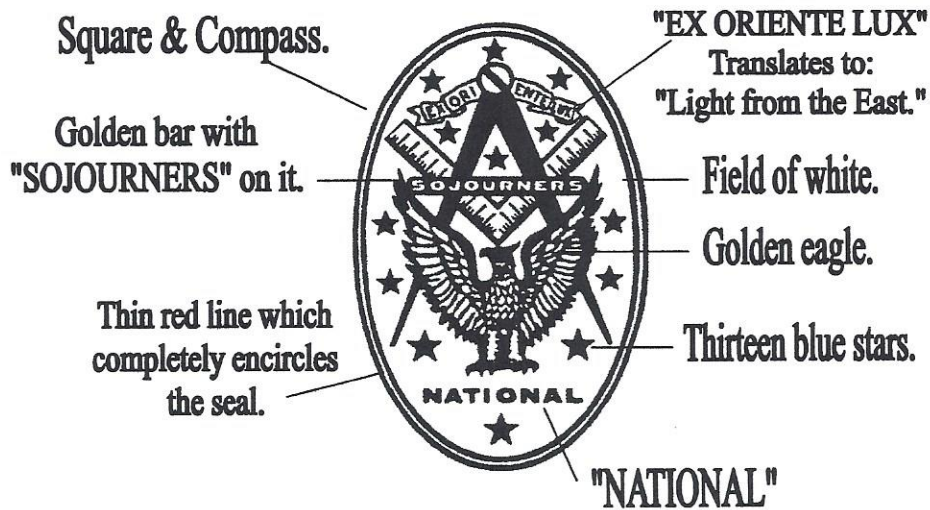
Several publications that should be a part of every Sojourner library are available from the National Sojourner Resale Activity. They include our official history, FIFTY YEARS OF NATIONAL SOJOURNERS by the late Lavon P. Linn, Past National President and the National By-Laws and Regulations, which further amplify the material in this handbook. "The Chapter Officers' Handbook" is essential to anyone who may be assuming chapter responsibility from committee membership upwards. "The Order of Ceremonies," while of value for its ritual alone, is also essential for upward-bound members.

Once a Sojourner becomes a Hero of '76, he is authorized to obtain a copy of the Heroes of '76 Manual ("Heroes eyes only") from the Resale Activity. It provides specific direction, rules and guidance for the Heroes of '76. It is so essential to all Heroes that it is often provided to new Heroes as a part of the initiation ceremony.

Although not directly involving National Sojourners publications, The Masonic Service Association, 3905 National Drive, Suite 280, Burtonsville, MD 20866; telephone 301-476-7330, publishes "Short Talk" bulletins and a catalog of publications which are invaluable for active Masons. The Scottish Rite has an outstanding Americanism series entitled "Dynamic Freedoms" available free of

charge for any worthwhile distribution. Inasmuch as we are addressing Sojourner publications, we'll leave the rest for you to discover in your travels. Enjoy the journey, Brother.

**XVI. THE SEAL OF  
NATIONAL SOJOURNERS, INCORPORATED**



Let your eyes rest upon this reproduction of the Seal of National Sojourners, which is presented to and proudly worn by each of its members. The descriptors surrounding it are taken from "The Sojourner Medal Lecture" in the National Sojourners' "Order of Ceremonies" near the conclusion of the "Initiation of Candidate(s)" ritual. They illustrate the marvelous fusion of our patriotism, our Freemasonry and our military background within National Sojourners, Incorporated.

