



THE OCCASIONAL BULLETIN

TEXAS LODGE OF RESEARCH, A.F. & A.M.

March — 2014

Number 1

Stated Communication

Saturday, March 15, 2014

8:00 AM Coffee & Donuts

10:00 AM Stated Meeting

The host lodge is Pine Tree Lodge No 1386, located at 2709 Pine Tree Road in Longview, Texas



Papers

James D Nyfler, Sr will present his paper:

**JAMES HARVEY RALSTON
CHARTER MASTER OF ALAMO
LODGE #44**



Worshipful Master Reese L. Harrison, Jr will present a paper to the Lodge.



The Friday evening meal will be at a **local restaurant** to be announced later..

The Longview Meeting – March 15, 2014

Pine Tree Lodge No 1386

Texas Lodge of Research's March meeting is the Election and Installation of Officers for the ensuing year. The new Worshipful Master of Texas Lodge of Research has the privilege of being the first Worshipful Master installed in Texas during the calendar year. It has been the custom for the Senior Warden of Texas Lodge of Research to select the location of his election and installation. Senior Warden Jim Rumsey has chosen his home lodge, Pine Tree Lodge No 1386 in Longview as the location for the March meeting, and if tradition prevails, he will be installed as the fifty-fifth Worshipful Master of Texas Lodge of Research.

The headquarters hotel will be the Staybridge Suites located at 3409 Fourth Street Longview, TX 75605. Group rates of \$109 for Queen Studio and \$119 for a King One Bedroom have been secured for Friday and Saturday nights. Reservations can be made by calling (903) 212-3800 and using the block code Texas Lodge of Research. On Friday afternoon there will be a hospitality room at the hotel beginning at 4:00 PM. Dinner will be held at a nearby local restaurant at 7:00 PM. The hospitality room will be open after the members return from dinner.

Pine Tree Lodge No 1386, located at 2709 Pine Tree Road in Longview, will have coffee and donuts available around 8:00 AM on Saturday, March 15. The Worshipful Master will open the business meeting at 10:00 AM and continue until around lunch when the lodge will be called to refreshment. The meal will be provided by Pine Tree Lodge and an appropriate donation is expected. The presentation of papers, the installation of officers, and the closing of the lodge will follow lunch.

Jerry Martin, Grand Master of Masons in Texas will serve as Installing Officer with Michael Wiggins, Deputy Grand Master, Past Master of Texas Lodge of Research, and Fellow of Masonic Research will serve as Installing Marshal.

Arrangements will be announced concerning the Saturday evening meal and fellowship for those who elected to make it a Texas Lodge of Research weekend, and not just a one day event.

Texas Lodge of Research
Officers 2013 — 2014

Worshipful Master 210 867-7244	Reese L Harrison, Jr., PGM 711 Navarro St. Suite 600 San Antonio, TX 78205 reese.harrison@strasburger.com
Senior Warden 903 746-5849 903 220-3311	Jim Rumsey rumseyjim@gmail.com
Junior Warden 806 787-7600	Bradley S. Billings bradleybst@yahoo.com
Treasurer 512 587-8547	Mark Dermit kevit64@yahoo.com
Secretary & Bulletin Editor 512 567-4756	Truitt L. Bradly, PM PO Box 1057 Georgetown, TX 78627-1057 secretary.texaslodgeofresearch@gmail.com
Chaplain 972 424-3304	Charles E. McKay cemckay@verizon.net
Senior Deacon 281 293-9330	Roberto Sanchez rmsh13@yahoo.com
Junior Deacon & Transactions Editor 409 762-3617	Jeff Modzelewski jeffiemod@gmail.com
Senior Steward 210 889-6507	Michael Guyer, Jr. michael.guyer@att.net
Junior Steward 210 286-5565	Brett L. Doyle lordelfin@aol.com
Marshal 903 670-1726	Robert Risko, Jr. robrisko@aol.com
Master of Ceremonies 972 495-7447	Franklin Todd frankdiana1940@verizon.net
Tiler 219 916-4284	Christopher J. Gamblin gipper81@comcast.net
Webmaster	J. Darrell Kirkley jdarrell@jdkcom.com
Elected Emeriti Secretary	Plez A, Transou, PM, FMR
Transactions Editor	William P. Vaughn, PM, FMR
Webmaster	Pete Martinez, PM

Concise Masonic Meetings
Vs.
Traditional Texas Lodge of Research
Weekend

Truitt L Bradly, PM and Secretary
Texas Lodge of Research

Texas Lodge of Research Worshipful Master, Reese L Harrison, Jr. is not shy about letting the Brethren know his thoughts on arriving a few minutes before a Masonic meeting is opened and then flying out the door as soon as the meeting is closed. He strongly believes that to get the most out of Masonry, you must spend some quality time with your brethren. By quality time, he means visiting and exchanging thoughts with those present on a one-on-one basis, both before and after the meetings.

If you have ever looked at the minutes of lodges in the 1800s and early 1900s, especially in more rural areas, one thing you notice is that the monthly stated meetings were many times all day affairs. When large percentages of the membership lived on farms and ranches surrounding the towns, if they had taken the time to gather the family to come into town, they wanted to make the most of the trip to town. In my own experience searching meeting minutes, serving Saturday meals for Masons and families on stated meeting days were common and staying in town Saturday night following the stated meeting was the norm and not the exception.

Think about the last stated meeting of one of your local Masonic bodies, be it a meeting of a Craft lodge or one of the many appendent bodies, how many of the members arrived early enough to visit with each other before the meeting, and how many sat and had a cup of coffee to visit some more, and then ended up solving all the problems of Masonry before they headed for home, and if not for being forbidden topics, you can bet that all of the religious and political problems of mankind were solved before they left for home. More likely than not, most of the members arrive 10 to 15 minutes before the meal and leave before the sound of the gavel quits echoing thru the lodge room.

My first meeting of Texas Lodge of Research was in Port Arthur at a January 1983 meeting hosted by Cosmopolitan Lodge No 872. Most of those attending went to dinner Friday night at an excellent seafood restaurant in Port Arthur where good food, good conversation, and great fellowship was shared by all. There were more than just a few members who travelled to Port Arthur and stayed the weekend to be with their brethren. This was the standard practice on Texas Lodge of Research weekends for years, the events were held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning, not just on Saturday. I have noticed that participation in the entire Texas Lodge of Research weekend experience has dropped (Continued on Page 3)

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to a few die-hard members, although it looks like the 2013-2014 year may be having a slight improvement in total weekend attendance because of the planning efforts of Worshipful Master Harrison.

Why is this happening in Masonry? Is the lack of time for fellowship among Masons just a microcosm of the busy world at large and nobody has the extra time to relax and just visit? Of course we know everyone has busy schedules, but what is the actual cost to your overall time you have available, to spend another 30 minutes or an hour getting to know your brethren? If it is just a symptom of a fast-paced world, will we be able to slow the shrinking time slots available for Masonry by just making the membership aware that a few more minutes may be beneficial to yourself and others. Apparently the lack of time to relax and visit happens regardless whether the meeting was a boring pay the bills, bang the gavels, and go home stated meeting, or if the main focus of the meeting was a truly interesting and well thought out program. Neither is it an officer and non-officer issue, lodge officers don't necessarily show up early or stay late, so involvement in lodge leadership doesn't always increase ones fellowship with his brethren.

Texas Lodge of Research is different than most lodges in that we meet all over Texas and the membership is located around the world. Because you don't see most of the members on a regular basis because of the scattered membership, Texas Lodge of Research offers a unique opportunity to visit and get to know like-minded Masons from many locations around Texas, the country, and the world. Texas Lodge of Research usually has a hospitality room at the hotel and dinner at a local restaurant on the Friday before the meeting, and there are usually some who make plans to stay over until Sunday. Spend some quality time discussing Masonic topics and research projects with others.

Please, when making your plans to attend a meeting of Texas Lodge of Research, check the schedule and allow some additional time on either Friday afternoon and evening visiting with your brethren, and or make plans to stay over Saturday night, usually with another dinner gathering at a local restaurant on Saturday and maybe breakfast on Sunday morning. Let's make the extra effort to revive the tradition of a Texas Lodge of Research weekend where acquaintances become great lifelong friends.

So Mote It Be

Four little words. Four short words that are used multiple times in every lodge each time the lodge is opened or closed. What does the phrase mean and what is special about them?

Definition of MOTE¹: archaic: may, might

Origin of MOTE: Middle English, from Old English *mōtan* to be allowed to — more at must

First Known Use: before 12th century.

If you search for So Mote It Be using a search engine on the internet, you get everything from Masonic references, links to Neo-Paganism and Wicca references, and links to pictures of tattoos. So Mote It Be is used by the occult? The results of a Bing.com search included an article by Dawn Gribble who writes that "the founder of Wicca, a nature-based religion popularized in 1954 by Gerald Gardner may have been a Freemason. ... Whether Gardner was a Mason is unclear, however given the influence of the people that he spent time with, it would appear that the use of the phrase So Mote It Be in Wicca is derived from Masonic rituals.²" It may be used by the occult, but they borrowed it from Masons.

A Masonic related article from the same search is ***So Mote It Be*** written by an unknown author and published in ***SHORT TALK BULLETIN – Vol. V June 1927 No. 6***. The article explains quite well the Masonic use of the phrase and why it is used and is a good article to share with others.³

The reason I choose this for a topic really has nothing to do with the meaning of the words, but rather the special sound made at a large gathering of Masons when those four little words are spoken. There is something awe inspiring about how these words resonate in a large group of Masons after prayer. Next time you are in a large gathering of Masons, such as at Grand Lodge or attending a Masonic banquet, notice how the masculine voices join, sometimes it is almost as if they were a single voice, when saying So Mote It Be. Even in church, where the congregants say Amen after prayer, the sound doesn't converge quite the same. It may have something to do with the congregation having a more diverse range of voices since they usually include female voices, instead of mostly the lower male voices in a Masonic gathering.

Whatever the cause, the sound of your brethren speaking those four little words, "So Mote It Be," is a sound to treasure. Listen for it next time you are praying with a large group of Masons, listen and enjoy the resonating sound. **So Mote It Be.**

¹"Mote." Merriam-Webster.com. Merriam-Webster, n.d. Web. 28 Jan. 2014. <<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/mote>>.

²Spirituality: So Mote It Be. ArticleBiz.com. Dawn Gribble, Web. 28 Jan. 2014. <<http://www.articlebiz.com/article/157304-1-so-mote-it-be/>>

³"SO MOTE IT BE." MasonicWorld.com, Web. 28 Jan. 2014. <http://www.masonicworld.com/education/files/artoct02/so_mote_it_be.htm>.



Petition for Membership

Any Master Mason who is a member in good standing of a regular Texas lodge, or of a jurisdiction in fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Texas, shall be eligible to become a member of Texas Lodge of Research upon being proposed by a Full Member of Texas Lodge of Research and elected by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting of the lodge.

The proposed member shall furnish the lodge Secretary with a copy of his current dues card, or a Certificate of Good Standing, and a photo identification (a photocopy is acceptable) with the petition. Membership will continue so long as the member is in good standing in a regular Texas lodge, or of a lodge in a jurisdiction in fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Texas, and the annual dues are current.

Full Name: _____ Texas Member ID No: _____

Address: _____

City : _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Name & Number of Subordinate Lodge: _____

Lodge City: _____ Lodge State/Country: _____

Grand Lodge of _____ List additional lodge memberships, if any, on reverse side.

Past Master of a subordinate lodge: _____ Current Grand Master: _____ Past Grand Master: _____

Recommendation of a Full Member of Texas Lodge of Research

Full Member Printed Name:

Full Member's Signature:

Membership Dues are \$35 per calendar year and are payable in advance.

Endowed Memberships are \$500 payable to Texas Lodge of Research

Mail petition with \$35 check, a copy of your current dues card, and a copy of a photo ID to:

Texas Lodge of Research, PO Box 1057, Georgetown TX 78627-1057



Notice of Intention to Submit Research Paper

Texas Lodge of Research

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City : _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Member Texas Lodge of Research: ___ Yes ___ No

Lodge Name and Number: _____

Current Subordinate Lodge Office(s): _____

Research Paper Information

Subject: _____

Thesis Statement: _____

Mail this form to:

Texas Lodge of Research
PO Box 1057
Georgetown TX 78627-1057

Or E-Mail this form to:

secretary.texaslodgeofresearch@gmail.com

The January Meeting

On Friday evening, January 17th, a diverse group of Texas Lodge of Research members walked across the street from the headquarters hotel and had a fine evening meal at Logan's Roadhouse. In attendance were members, full members, past masters, petitioners, and spouses and the conversation was lively. Worshipful Master Harrison is working hard to revive the Texas Lodge of Research tradition that the meeting is a weekend event, and not just a single meeting to pay the bills, eat lunch, and listen to the papers.

After some missteps due to incorrect meeting information being disseminated on the TLR website and the late delivery of the *Occasional Bulletin*, Texas Lodge of Research had a very nice January meeting at Gray Lodge No 329 in Houston. There were three functions being held at Gray Lodge on Saturday. A meeting of the Gulf Coast York Rite College No 106 began at 8:00 AM, followed by a Conference of the Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas. Gray Lodge served a catered lunch for members of both the York Rite organizations and Texas Lodge of Research.

Texas Lodge of Research's meeting followed lunch with approximately 40 members and visitors present at the opening of the lodge. Worshipful Master Reese L Harrison Jr thanked the officers and members of Gray Lodge for their hospitality and commented that Gray Lodge was the home lodge of Brother Leon Jaworski. Brother Jaworski was the special prosecutor during the Watergate scandal and was an assistant prosecutor to Robert H Jackson at the Nuremberg war crime trials following World War II.

Eleven Master Masons petitioned and were elected to membership in Texas Lodge of Research, with half of the petitions being turned in just prior to the meeting. It was nice to see an enthusiastic interest in Texas Lodge of Research.

Junior Warden Brad Billings presented the final design for the Texas Lodge of Research Past Master's jewel and the lodge voted to accept the design. The lodge also voted to purchase a supply of Full Member Texas Lodge of Research pins, pins for members who have presented three or more papers, and the new Texas Lodge of Research Past Master's jewels. These items will be available for purchase by and for Texas Lodge of Research members who are eligible to wear the items. There are no plans for the lodge to purchase jewels or



pins to present to full members or to past masters, the purchase is optional and is solely the responsibility of the member.

There were two papers presented at this meeting, Christopher Christenson presented his paper *Masonic Tracing Boards - Their Forms, Function and use in Masonic Ritual* (on right in picture above) and Dr. David Stanfield presented his paper *A Masonic History of Empire Lodge No. 586, Nevada, Texas*. (On left above) Both were first time presenters and were elected to Full Membership; and after delivering their papers they were presented the distinctive Texas Lodge of Research Full Member Apron.

After the meeting, dinner was provided by Gray Lodge and visitation continued in the Gray Lodge dining room following dinner. The January meeting weekend was well worth the trip.

Introducing the Texas Lodge of Research GOOGLE GROUP!

Brethren in an attempt to improve our communication in 2014 the Technology Committee has created a Google Group to inform you of upcoming Texas Lodge of Research events. This group is specifically set up as a distribution list and will be used exclusively for passing information on upcoming Texas Lodge of Research events. In order to keep the amount of emails to a minimum, individual members will not be allowed to send emails to this group, however, if you have something you feel might be germane to Texas Lodge of Research please send an email to our Secretary at secretary.texaslodgeofresearch@gmail.com.

As of the publication of this Occasional Bulletin we have sent approximately 600 invitations and have 95 members in our Google Group! In case you missed the initial invitation you can send an email to TLRMasons@gmail.com and ask to be added to the group (PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE SECRETARY in regard to joining the email group).

After sending your email requesting to join, your membership will be verified and then you will be added to the Google Group. Please note that this email address is specifically linked to the Texas Lodge of Research account and WILL NOT be monitored on a regular basis. Your Technology Committee will be sure to process all requests prior to sending out any new communications but due to the quarterly nature of our Lodge it may be 2-3 months before you receive confirmation of your acceptance.

Aside from utilizing this group as a communicative tool it will also serve as a backup database for Texas Lodge of Research; for this reason ONLY MEMBERS of Texas Lodge of Research will be permitted to join. If you are not a member but wish to stay up-to-date with Texas Lodge of Research information please visit our website or join our Facebook page (links are outlined below).

Brad Billings
Junior Warden - Chairman – Technology Committee

Important links and email addresses:

www.texaslodgeofresearch.org – Check the Home Page for information regarding our next upcoming meeting! Check the Calendar Page for dates and times of all upcoming meetings.

texaslodgeofresearch+subscribe@googlegroups.com – By emailing this address you will send a request to be added to the Texas Lodge of Research Google Group. Bear in mind that it may be up to three months before you receive confirmation due to the infrequency of emails being sent out!

texaslodgeofresearch+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com – If you wish to unsubscribe from the TLR Google Group please send an email to the following email address.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/108465151315/> - Is the official TLR Facebook page and is open to anyone who has a Facebook account.

<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Texas-Lodge-Research-2154910/about> - Is the official LinkedIn page of TLR; a LinkedIn profile is required to join.

Request for Occasional Bulletin Articles

The format of *The Occasional Bulletin (OB)* has changed and is returning to more articles and fewer pictures. In future editions there will be opportunities for members of Texas Lodge of Research to submit short articles relating to Masonic topics for publication in the *OB*. Publication of an article does not make a member eligible for full membership in Texas Lodge of Research.

I will also use articles previously published in the *OB* and short papers from *The Transactions* as there are many current members who have not benefited from the

wisdom of the early members of Texas Lodge of Research, those founding members who contributed so much to the success of our lodge.

Please submit your article in Microsoft Word format as either as an attachment to an email, on CD/DVD, or flash drive. While the editorial guidelines will not be as strict as for submitting a paper, please cite your sources where necessary and attribute any quoted material to the proper author.

Future Meetings of Texas Lodge of Research

March 15, 2014 — Pine Tree Lodge No 1396 — Longview, Texas

June 21, 2014 — Houston, Texas (Anson Jones Lecture)

September 20, 2014 — Fort Worth, Texas

January 17, 2015 — San Antonio, Texas

Texas Lodge of Research
PO Box 1057
Georgetown TX 78627-1057



From the Secretary

The collection of the annual Texas Lodge of Research member dues has been a successful endeavor. We have 113 members who are Endowed Members or Exempt from paying dues, we have received the dues from over 400 members, and had over 40 members who had not paid in 2013, renew their membership. There are over 100 members who have not paid their dues and as of January 31, 2014 were dropped from active status in Texas Lodge of Research. If you received this copy of *The Occasional Bulletin* by mail, you should be current with your dues. If you did not receive a copy in the mail, someone gave you a copy, or had to download it from the Texas Lodge of Research website, you may have been dropped from the lodge membership roles. You can contact me at secretary.texaslodgeofresearch@gmail.com and I will let you know if the records indicate if you are current or not. You can mail your dues to:

Texas Lodge of Research
PO Box 1057
Georgetown TX 78627-1057

Texas Lodge of Research has in its inventory almost 3,000 copies of recent *Transactions, Texas Lodge of Research AF & AM*. The oldest Volume is XVII (1981 -1982 Richardson) with 187copies. There are some from the 1990s and most are from this century. As I have the responsibility of storing and preserving this inventory, I would like to liquidate as much of it as possible.

If you are interested in adding to your collection of the *Transactions*, email me your wish list, and I will check the availability of the requested volumes and will advise you which ones are available. Vol. XVII is \$15, others from the 1980s and 1990s are \$10 and anything from 2000 and more recent are \$5 per issue. Lodges wishing to add to your library can also request discounted Volumes. - Truitt L Bradly, PM — *Fiat Lux*