

The Occasional Bulletin



Texas Lodge of Research, A.F. & A.M.

P. O. Box 684684 • Austin, Texas 78768-4684

2005 - 2006

June 2005

Number 1

Stated Communication June 17 - 18, 2005

4 p.m.
Hospitality Room opens
Capitol Marriott
701 East 11th St.

7 p.m.
Dinner at Historic Scholz Garden,
1607 San Jacinto Blvd.

Anson Jones Lecture
Quarterly Meeting
Saturday, June 18, 2005

9 a.m.
Tour of LBJ Library.
Bus departs from hotel

4 p.m.
TLR Tiled Business Meeting
Blue Room, Austin Scottish Rite

6 p.m.
Reception for Anson Jones
Lecturer Stuart Cowan, PGM of
Hawaii and National President,
National Sojourners, Inc.
Austin Scottish Rite Theatre
East Lobby

7 p.m.
Dinner followed by
Anson Jones Lecture
Austin Scottish Rite Theatre

New officers installed for 2005-6



Installing Officer (front row left) Right Worshipful Leonard Harvey, PGM and TLR Fellow, left, assisted by Right Worshipful David B. Dibrell as Installing Marshal (front row right), pose with newly installed Texas Lodge of Research officers (back row) Truitt Bradly, Master of Ceremonies; Oscar Orum, Tiler; Paul Bullock, Senior Steward; Gordon W. Kelso, PM, Secretary; (front row) Jack Harper, Junior Deacon; Wayne Sirmon, Senior Deacon; Ray Bronk, Junior Warden; James C. "Jerry" Yelvington, Worshipful Master; James G. "Jim" Dougherty, Senior Warden; Brett Doyle, Junior Steward. Not pictured are Treasurer Roy D. Harris, David Counts, Marshal-elect; Merlin Howe, Chaplain-elect, each of whom will be installed at a later meeting.

**Texas Lodge of Research Called Meeting at Brazoria
Masonic Oak Weekend, May 13-15. See story on Page 5.**

Tableau of Officers 2005 – 2006

Worshipful Master	James C. "Jerry" Yelvington III 1003 Austin Highlands Austin, TX 78745 512 443-6080 jamesclaude@aol.com
Senior Warden & Occasional Bulletin Editor	James G. "Jim" Dougherty P.O. Box 1192 Austin, TX 78767-1192 512 451-0637 jdougherty1@austin.rr.com
Junior Warden	Raymond G. Bronk 100 Quirt Drive Burnet, TX 78611 512 756-2756 raybronk@aol.com
Treasurer	Dr. Roy D. Harris 3803 Hidden Hollow Austin, TX 78731 512 345-4328
Secretary	Gordon W. Kelso, PM P.O. Box 684684 Austin, TX 78768-4684 512 472-7247 800 754-3079 aussrite@swbell.com
Chaplain	Merlin Howe 2795 Westwood Rd. Lockhart, TX 78644 512 398-9583 b2c2@joimail.com
Senior Deacon	Wayne Simron 250 Suffolk Road Mobile, AL 36608 251 343-5363 wsimron@aol.com
Junior Deacon	Jack McGee Harper III 1016 Wyslyan Stamford, TX 79553 n780f140@aol.com
Senior Steward	Paul Lynn Bullock 11501 Loweswater Lane Austin, TX 78754 512 272-4459
Junior Steward	Brett Doyle Laird 6127 Thunder San Antonio, TX 78238-3450 210 684-2423 lordfin@aol.com
Marshal	R.W. David Counts P.O. Box 338 Knox City, TX 79529 940 658-3596 dcounts@westex.net
Master of Ceremonies	Truitt Brady 3707 Buffalo Springs Rd. #304 Georgetown, TX 78628 512 567-4756
Tiler	Oscar Orum 8607 Azalea Trail Austin, TX 78759 512 346-4310 oorum@austin.rr.com
Transactions Editor	Dr. William P. Vaughn, PM 22 County Road 1602 Mount Pleasant, TX 75455 903 575-0100

From the East

— *Worshipful Master James C. "Jerry" Yelvington*

It's a distinct honor to have been installed as the 46th Worshipful Master of the Texas Lodge of Research. Each past master has molded this research body into what it is today. Our immediate Past Master Douglas Collins is to be commended for a year of leadership excellence. Our special thanks to Past Grand Masters Leonard P. Harvey and David B. Dibrell as installing officers — they certainly add something "extra" to our ceremonies. The afternoon papers were excellent — both authors pulling "double-duty" as lecturers, "installer" and the installed! River Oaks Lodge No. 1311 provided a warm welcome and a hearty luncheon — TLR enjoys Fort Worth hospitality enough to return regularly!

TLR certainly qualifies as an *enigma* — something *obscure and difficult to explain* — wrapped up *within* a private organization which is generally misunderstood by outsiders. Therein lies the beauty of a research lodge. It constantly presents information about our Craft: both historical and esoteric. A research lodge also helps to explain what Masonry is and how we justify ourselves — in the past as well as in the present. TLR produces a reliable body of knowledge for transmission to future generations by maintaining rigid scholarship standards.

Would each of you recruit ONE member over the ensuing year? It is not enough that TLR is the largest lodge in Texas. TLR exists to better equip our brother Masons — with sound Masonic insight and knowledge. Your warm invitation to a brother Mason is a *true gift* to him — and to Freemasonry at large.

The TLR *TRANSACTIONS* on compact disk (CD) project is on track and will be available in the near future. New (younger!) Full Members now fill various chairs in TLR — as well as Members with papers underway. There is **much** to be excited about in 2005-2006.

May the Grand Architect of the Universe bless us in our endeavors. TLR's rich heritage has carried us this far — *surely the best is yet to come....*

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The Fort Worth Meeting

By Raymond G. Bronk

The second Stated Meeting of the Texas Lodge of Research in 2005 was held at River Oaks Lodge No. 1311 in Fort Worth. The members of the lodge were generous in providing a terrific meeting site. Their beautifully appointed lodge room presented a dignified venue for our Saturday deliberations. Worshipful Master Gene Smith, Senior Warden Will Cady (a TLR Member), Junior Warden Shaun W. Crawson and Tiler Marvin McMullen can be proud of the lodge and the noon meal and other assistance rendered the TLR for this meeting.

Our headquarters hotel was the new Comfort Suites, a short drive from the lodge. The hospitality room provided members, their ladies and guests a comfortable venue for snacks, libations, conviviality and conversation. On Friday evening, some members chose to dine at a lively barbecue place, while some chose the German restaurant that was previously announced as the supper site.

Worshipful Master Collins opened the Saturday business meeting at 10 A.M. He welcomed Fellows in Masonic Research Harvey, Sammons, Transou and Normand, as well as other visitors. Items of interest were then discussed. A full report can be found in the minutes available from the Secretary.

Some of the interesting news and decisions of the meeting were: a mention and tabling of the bylaws changes and a progress report on putting the *Transactions* on CD which is progressing nicely.

Brothers David Dibrell, PGM and Full Member, and Brett L. Doyle were presented with the TLR Lecturer jewels. To save time, Brother Doyle was voted upon and "pre-approved" as a Full Member of TLR in anticipation of his reading at the open meeting later in the day. Officers were nominated for the year 2005-2006, and the office of Junior Warden was voted upon. Brother Raymond G. Bronk was voted into that office. He accepted the honor with pleasure. The names of the new officers can be found on Page 2 of this publication.

WM Collins then called the lodge from labor to refreshment. River Oaks Lodge provided a snack lunch for the assembled members and guests, and at 1 P.M. the lodge met in open meeting.

At the open meeting, the first paper read was by Full Member R.W. David Dibrell, PGM, titled "*Henry Eustace McCulloch: Soldier, Statesman, Christian Gentleman.*" The paper described the life, times, and accomplishments of this brave Texas and Masonic pioneer and ancestor of R.W. Dibrell. The second paper, read by Brother Brett L. Doyle was titled "*Captain Peter F. Tumlinson: Texian Ranger and Mason.*" This paper described the exploits and pre-Republic efforts and accomplishments of this selfless law-enforcer and Mason prior to and after the birth of the Texas republic and statehood.

Brother Doyle was presented with his TLR Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas apron by WM Collins. The new officers of TLR were skillfully, duly and constitutionally installed by two Past Grand Masters,

both Full Members of TLR: Right Worshipful Leonard P. Harvey, PM and Fellow as Installing Officer, and Right Worshipful David B. Dibrell, Marshal.

WM Collins was presented with a beautiful calligraphic Past Master certificate that had been commissioned by TLR PM Ross J. Cox Sr., especially for this occasion. Doug and Lady Cheri then asked Barbara Silvus to be presented in the East, where she was given a beautiful set of Waterford crystal glasses in recognition for all of her hard work for TLR this year.

After the installation, the new officers took their places and remarks were made by newly installed WM James C. Yelvington III. He promised to continue the fine leadership of the organization and offered his services in any way that would further the abilities and reputation of TLR. The lodge was then closed in peace and harmony, and members again parted until the called meeting on May 14 in West Columbia, or the next quarterly meeting and Anson Jones lecture on June 18 at the Austin Scottish Rite. Austin Lodge No. 12 will be host for the meeting.

Although several papers are on hand, there is a continuing need for qualified submissions. A good idea for any author of a future paper would be to obtain a copy of *Criteria and Style Sheet*. For answers to questions concerning papers and presentations, help is only a phone call or email away. Contact Senior Warden or the Webmaster. When contacting the Webmaster, specify if you want MSWord, WordPerfect or Adobe Acrobat format and it will be emailed to you..

See you in West Columbia in May and Austin in June!

Michael Berryman Smith '04 Carter Award winner

Dr. William Preston Vaughn announced that the Carter Excellence Award for *Transactions* Volume XXXVIII goes to Michael Berryman Smith for his paper titled *George Whitfield Terrell, Texas Patriot, Texas Mason*. Dr. Vaughn, in his comments before the lodge at its Fort Worth quarterly meeting, held out Bro. Smith's paper as one of great scholarship, content and adherence to the TLR *Criteria and Style Sheet*.

Congratulations to Bro. Smith on an outstanding paper.

In Memoriam

Clyde Howard, Full Member

Fort Worth Scrapbook



(Above) Secretary Gordon W. Kelso, PM, presents outgoing Worshipful Master Douglas Collins with a ceremonial Bowie knife on behalf of the Austin Scottish Rite's Texian Degree Team. The leather sheath was signed by all of the officers serving in Doug's year. (Above right) TLR PM and Fellow Pete Normand assumed the East and WM Collins' stylish chapeaux, in order to conduct the election for the incoming Worshipful Master.

March 18, 2005



Right Worshipful David Dibrell, PGM, and Texas Rainbow Girls Supreme Deputy Marlene get reacquainted with *Colonel Bean*, unofficial mascot of the Valley of Austin. (Above right) Lady

Cheri and Worshipful Master Doug Collins show their appreciation to Barbara Silvus, Executive Assistant for the Scottish Rite Valley of Austin, for all her hard work this year by presenting a set of Waterford crystal wine glasses.

View *The Occasional Bulletin* in color at <http://www.gower.net/Community/tlr/>

Called Meeting at Masonic Oak May 14, 2005 in West Columbia

Texas Lodge of Research has accepted an invitation to participate in a special Masonic weekend hosted by St. John's Lodge No. 5, a Republic of Texas Lodge, in West Columbia. The meeting will coincide with the Masonic Oak Picnic and Pilgrimage activities.

Activities begin on Friday evening, May 13, with a gumbo dinner served at the Leonard P. Harvey Pavilion at Masonic Oak Park in Brazoria. The meal will be prepared by Right Eminent Past Grand Commander Thomas N. Turner.

The Called TLR meeting will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 14, at St. John's Lodge in West Columbia. A very interesting research paper by Truitt Bradly is scheduled to be presented at this meeting. A morning tour of the antebellum plantation at Varner-Hogg State Park, home of Gov. James Stephen Hogg will be available to the those wishing to participate.

Hotel accommodations are available at several locations. The Best Western in West Columbia (979) 345-2399 has rooms at \$53.99 per night, plus tax, and is nearest the lodge. Comfort Suites in Lake Jackson (979) 297-5545 has suites at \$83.96 per night, and Holiday Inn Express in Clute (979) 265-5252 is \$68.00 plus tax. Please tell the hotel that you are attending the Masonic meeting. There will not be a TLR Hospitality Room at this event.

The Masonic Oak Picnic will be on Sunday, May 15, with registration beginning at 9:30 a.m. The Grand Master will dedicate an oak sapling to one of the six Masons who met under the original Masonic Oak in 1835 to ask for dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Louisiana to form the first Masonic Lodge in Texas. There will be a worship service led by the Grand Chaplain. Lunch will be served, followed by remarks from the Most Worshipful Elmer Murphey III, Grand Master of Texas.

By-laws proposal at June SM

After many months of consideration and revision, a draft version of bylaws for the Texas Lodge of Research will be introduced at the June Stated Meeting in Austin. As required by Grand Lodge law and our current bylaws, the draft will be circulated by mail to all Full Members. Discussion and vote will follow at the September Stated Meeting in Nacogdoches, after which the document will be submitted for ratification by the Grand Lodge Committee on Bylaws.

It has been pointed out that certain items in the current TLR bylaws are apparently in conflict with Grand Lodge law. Also, a clarification of membership category names and that of subscription-only recipients of TLR publications is addressed in the new document.

TLR is indebted to Right Worshipful Leonard P. Harvey, PGM and Fellow, Grand Lodge Bylaws Committeeman Jack Wright, and others, for their invaluable help in crafting the document.

Bulletin Deadline – July 15

The *Occasional Bulletin* invites articles and news items of general interest to TLR readers. The deadline for the Sept. 2005 issue is **July 15, 2005**.

Michael Wiggins, PM, following a distinguished tenure, has resigned as the publication editor. As of this issue, Senior Warden Jim Dougherty is the new bulletin editor.

Masonic-related materials are always welcomed. Please address submissions to: *The Occasional Bulletin*, Jim Dougherty, Editor, P.O. Box 1192, Austin, TX 78767-1192, or electronically in Microsoft Word or Wordperfect files to jdougherty1@austin.rr.com.

We reserve the right to edit submissions.

The June Anson Jones Weekend

June 17–18, 2005

Prepare yourself for a great 2005 Anson Jones Lecture weekend!

Right Worshipful Stuart Cowan, Past Grand Master of Hawaii and President of the National Sojourners, Inc. will be this year's Anson Jones Lecturer. He is a retired veteran of the United States Navy.

Headquarters hotel will be the beautiful and centrally located Capitol Marriott at 701 E. 11th St. (corner of 11th and Interstate 35) in downtown Austin. Twenty rooms have been blocked for us at a very reasonable \$85.00, plus tax, per night. Reservations should be made through the hotel at (512) 476-5000; ask for the Texas Lodge of Research rate. The Hospitality Room will be available for TLR members and their guests on Friday at 4 p.m. followed by a dutch-treat dinner at the nearby historic Sholtz Garten restaurant.

A "Dillo" bus will depart the hotel on Saturday morning for a special privately escorted tour of the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library (free to TLR

members and wives). Lunch is up to individuals upon return to the hotel.

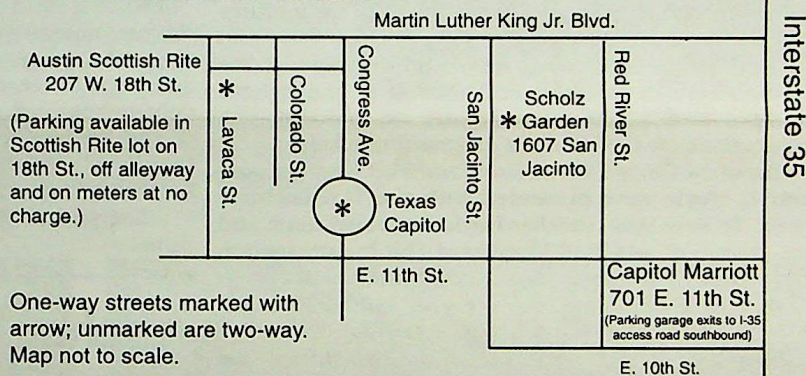
The Quarterly Stated Meeting will begin at 4 p.m. in the Blue Room of the Austin Scottish Rite and is hosted by Austin Lodge No. 12, a Republic of Texas Lodge chartered prior to the City of Austin. No papers are scheduled to be presented and only business will be transacted.

A reception for PGM Cowan will begin in the East Lobby of the Scottish Rite Theatre at 6 p.m. with dinner served at 7 p.m.

Dinner is by reservation only and seats are limited.

Reservations must be made through the TLR office. Deadline is **Tuesday, June 14**. Call Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (800) 754-3079, or locally at (512) 472-7247. Checks should be made payable to TLR at \$35.00 per person. Credit cards are accepted for phone reservations. Limited balcony seating is available for those not wishing to dine. Balcony seats are first-come, first-served.

Downtown Austin



UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 16–17, 2005. Host: Milam Lodge No. 2, Nacogdoches

January 20–21, 2006. Host: TBA, San Antonio

March 17–18, 2006. Host: Little Cypress Lodge No. 1459, Harleton. (Lodging in Marshall.)

June 16–17, 2006. Anson Jones Lecture. Host: Parsons Lodge No. 222, Austin Scottish Rite Theatre, Austin.

Texas Lodge of Research
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