

The Occasional Bulletin



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

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

Number 3

Fall

2008

2008 Anson Jones Lecture

Gary Leazer speaks on Masonic/fundamentalist spat

It was the consensus of those present that Dr. Gary Leazer presented one of the finest Anson Jones Lectures in corporate recollection. His topic was a timely one titled: "Anti-Masonry: The Present Scene."

Dr. Leazer, an ordained Southern Baptist minister, found himself in the middle of a power play by conservative elements in the Southern Baptist Convention. Beginning in the 1980's and through the 1990's there developed a movement to take over the governing body and discourage Southern Baptist men from membership in the Masonic fraternity. Dr. Leazer, as director of the Convention's Interfaith program, was tasked with a six-month investigation of Freemasonry to determine if it was compatible with Southern Baptist doctrine. For the record, he was not a Mason at the time.

Almost from day one, Beaumont dentist Dr. James Larry Holly, an ardent and outspoken anti-Mason, sought to have Dr. Leazer replaced with someone Holly and other fundamentalists could manipulate. Holly was unsuccessful until March 1993 after the study basically affirmed the conclusion reached in 1986 that Freemasonry was not a religion. Dr. Leazer's boss, the chairman of the Home Missions Board made numerous changes to the report to appease the fundamentalists. Meeting at their annual meeting in Houston in June 1993, the Convention approved the much edited report, which while not condemning Masonic membership by Baptists, cautioned them to pray about whether they should become a Mason, or remain in the fraternity.

Later in the year, Dr. Leazer was asked to speak at the Southwest Masonic Conference in Atlanta to explain what the vote meant. Part of his job description was speaking to non-Baptist groups to explain Southern Baptist policy and theology. When the speech was published in the October 1993 issue of the *Georgia Masonic Messenger*, Dr. Leazer was called to the SBC president's office and abruptly told to resign, or be fired



Worshipful Master Truitt Bradly, left, and Past Master Pete Normand, FMR, right, welcome the 2008 Anson Jones Lecturer Dr. Gary Leazer to Full Membership in TLR.

on the spot. To his deep regret, he resigned, thus ending a 15-year career as a denominational servant.

Dr. Leazer's knowledge of the fraternity and the Masons he met during his investigation led him to petition for membership. He is a Past Master of his lodge in Stone Mountain, editor of the *Georgia Masonic Messenger*, and one of the foremost speakers on religious liberty and fundamentalist assaults on Freemasonry.

Earlier in the afternoon, the business meeting was hosted by Gray Lodge No. 329 in the new Sam Houston Masonic Library and Museum located in far west Houston. The beautiful facility is complete with the exception of the library and museum space, which is well underway.

Items on the agenda included by-laws change recommendations and the need to restructure dues.

Texas Lodge of Research Tableau of Officers 2008 – 2009

Worshipful Master	Truitt Bradley P.O. Box 2431 Georgetown, TX 78627-2431 truittb@suddenlink.net 512 567-4756
Senior Warden	Jack M. Harper II 714 Craig Hillsboro, TX 76645 n70801@sbcglobal.net. 254 337-0323
Junior Warden	Wayne Sirmon 4617 Bit & Spur Road Mobile, AL 36608 wsirmon@aol.com 251 591-3417
Treasurer	Roy D. Harris 3803 Hidden Hollow Austin, TX 78731 HarrisRoyDD@aol.com 512 345-4328
Secretary & Occasional Bulletin Editor	James G. "Jim" Dougherty, PM P.O. Box 684684 Austin, TX 78768-4684 512 478-7030 (o) texaslodgeofresearch@yahoo.com 512 970-8746 (m) jdougherty1@austin.rr.com
Chaplain	James Claude Yelvington, PM 1003 Austin Highlands Blvd. Austin, TX 78745-2970 James-claude@sbcglobal.net 512 443-6080
Senior Deacon	Mark Dermitt 1900 Scofield Ridge Pkwy #1401 Austin, TX 78727 kevit64@yahoo.com 512 587-8547
Junior Deacon	Brett Laird Doyle 5940 N.W. Loop 410 Apt. H3 San Antonio, TX 78238-3478 lordelfin@aol.com 210 520-0185
Senior Steward	Roberto Sanchez 1678 Beaconsire Houston, TX 77077 rmsh13@yahoo.com 281 293-9330
Junior Steward	Gary Whitfield 405 Amhurst Laredo, TX 78045-2401 cwhit@grandecom.net 956 723-0677
Marshal	R.W. David Counts P. O. Box 338 Knox City, TX 79529 dcounts@westex.net 940 658-3596
Master of Ceremonies	James McCrea 623 Walking Plow Rd. Fredericksburg, TX 78624-6411 830 669-2729
Tiler	Dave Peavy 2606 Del Curto Rd. Austin, TX 78704-6010 davepeavy@yahoo.com 504 232-6711
Transactions Editor	Dr. William P. Vaughn, PM, FMR 22 County Road 1602 Mount Pleasant, TX 75455 903 575-0100
Editorial Committee	Jack M. Harper, Chmn. Herbert Arbuckle Raymond Bronk, PM Dr. William P. Vaughn, PM, FMR
Webmaster	Pete Martinez, PM 3204 Libby St. Tyler, TX 75707 hushpup@gower.net 903 939-2926

© 2008 by the Texas Lodge of Research, A.F. & A.M., all rights reserved. Permission to reprint in Masonic publications is granted, but must include reference to this publication and author, if listed.

From the East

— By Worshipful Master Truitt Bradley

There are many different reasons that one develops an interest in Masonry and an interest in the history of the Craft. Genealogy and a strong interest in history were reasons in my becoming a Mason and a member of Texas Lodge of Research. I was reminded of this at the Washington-on-the-Brazos meeting last September. TLR Past Master and Fellow, Pete Normand, was inviting TLR members to affiliate with our host lodge, Washington Lodge No. 18. Washington Lodge is a lodge that had its charter restored in 2004. It was originally chartered by the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas in 1844 and demised in 1887. Pete mentioned that since the lodge was a Republic of Texas lodge, the lodge desires members who were eligible for membership in the Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT). The SRT admits males with ancestors who are documented to have been citizens of the Republic of Texas.

Knowing that I had ancestors who were citizens of Texas prior to statehood in 1846, I decided to petition Washington No 18 and also work on documenting my family tree with the goal of being accepted as a member of the SRT.

I had worked on my genealogy in the 1980's and had a solid start on this project. After getting back into genealogical research, I was pleasantly surprised with how easy the internet had made the research. Thirty years ago you went to libraries, courthouses, cemeteries, etc., and wrote reams of letters to get your information. Now, from within a single software package, you can search, find, document, and store the information that used to take weeks, months, or years to gather and do it with a few clicks of a mouse.

In documenting my Texas ancestors, I found that my great-great-great-grandmother and my great-great-grandfather had lived in Washington County, Texas at the time of the 1860 US Census. As



Worshipful Master Truitt Bradley
Photo by Pete Martinez, PM

far as I can tell, none of the men in that family line up to then had been Masons, but my great-grandfather, who was born after that part of my family moved to Coleman County, was a Mason. I was surprised with the family connection to Washington County.

The old saying "Curiosity killed the cat" might be true for cats, but curiosity is an asset to the Mason who is looking for a subject for a paper to present to TLR or other Masonic research organization.

How many times have you wondered actually who the man is that your lodge is named for and what did he do to deserve that honor? How many times have you driven by the old building downtown with the weathered Square & Compasses carved in stone and wondered why it was there? How many times have you wondered why there is a certain phrase in one of the degrees? How many times have you wondered why one jurisdiction has the ritual one way and Texas has the right way? How many times have you thought about the origins of our Craft?

Instead of just wondering about these subjects, use your curiosity to begin your search for the answers. The relative ease of researching a Masonic topic is equal to the modern way of searching for your ancestors. Take a few minutes

Continued on back page.

By-Laws of Texas Lodge of Research

Article I Name of Lodge

This Lodge was created Under Dispensation by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, on 4 December 1958. It was named Texas Lodge of Research No. 0, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and was Constituted by the Grand Lodge of Texas on 1 February 1960.

The Lodge subscribes to and shall be governed by the Constitution, Laws, Resolutions and Edicts of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Article II Membership

Section 1. Member: Any Master Mason who is a member or plural 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 the Lodge 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 device along with the petition. Membership shall continue only 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.

Section 2. Full Member: Any Member of Texas Lodge of Research, upon submission of evidence of Masonic research satisfactory to the Lodge, or in recognition of distinguished service to the Lodge, or accomplishments in any field within the scope of the purposes for which this Lodge is created, may be elected a Full Member of the Lodge by majority vote of the Full Members present at a meeting of Texas Lodge of Research. Full Membership shall 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. Full Members shall retain all prerogatives of Membership.

Section 3. Fellow in Masonic Research: Texas Lodge of Research may elect any Full Member to the honorary title of *Fellow in Masonic Research* in recognition of distinguished service and accomplishments in any field within the purpose for which the Lodge was created, but such election shall be approved by the Committee on Masonic Education and Service before it shall become valid. Only one *Fellow in Masonic Research* may be voted per year. Nominations for Fellow in Masonic Research shall be made in writing by any Full Member of Texas Lodge of Research, but before such nominations shall be acted upon, they shall be submitted to a Committee on Fellowship Nomination, appointed by the Worshipful Master and composed of not less than three (3), nor more than five (5), *Fellows in Masonic Research*. The Committee on Fellowship Nominations shall have the duty of reviewing all nominations and may reject all, or second one or more nominations in a written report to Texas Lodge of Research. The Worshipful Master at the next Stated Meeting shall submit seconded nominations to the Full Membership in attendance for a secret ballot. The votes shall be immediately tabulated by the Secretary, with any assistance as he deems necessary, in Open Lodge, and report his finding to the Worshipful Master. The Worshipful Master shall declare the Brother who has received a majority of the votes cast by the Full Membership present, elected to the honorary title of *Fellow in Masonic Research*. Should no majority of the vote result on the first ballot, the Worshipful Master shall order succeeding ballots until a majority vote results, or he is convinced that no election can be obtained. Upon election, the Worshipful Master shall certify the name of the Brother so elected to the Committee on Masonic Education and Service. Upon approval by the committee and adoption of its report at the next Grand Annual Communication, the Worshipful Master shall announce the time and place at which a suitable certificate and jewel shall be awarded to the Brother elected. Fellows shall retain all prerogatives of Full Membership.

Section 4. Associate: Any individual, Masonic Lodge, appendant Masonic body or Masonic library shall be eligible to become an Associate of Texas Lodge of Research, upon filing an application with the Lodge. Associates shall not be members of Texas Lodge of Research and shall have no rights therein, except to receive the published proceedings and such other publications as Texas Lodge of Research may direct from time to time.

Article III Meetings of the Lodge

Section 1. Texas Lodge of Research shall hold stated meetings at least four (4) times per year. The March meeting shall include the annual election and installation of officers. The March, June, September and January meetings shall be held at locations and times as the Worshipful Master may designate (or in his absence or inability to serve, by the Senior Warden, or in the absence of both the Worshipful Master or Senior Warden, then by the Junior Warden).

Section 2. Called meetings of Texas Lodge of Research may be held at such times and places as the Worshipful Master (or in his absence or inability to serve, by the Senior Warden, or in the absence of both the Worshipful Master or Senior Warden, then by the Junior Warden) or any of them having authority to act may think necessary, or to the interest of the Craft.

Section 3. Written notice of all meetings of Texas Lodge of Research shall be mailed to all Members of the Lodge at their last known address, prior to the date of any meeting. Such notice shall contain business to be considered during the meeting.

Section 4. No business shall be transacted at a called meeting of Texas Lodge of Research except such as was specified in the call.

Article IV - Officers of the Lodge

The officers of Texas Lodge of Research shall be a Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, Master of Ceremonies, Marshal and Tiler.

Article V Election of Officers

Section 1. The Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer and Secretary shall be elected by a majority of the Full Members present. All other officers shall be appointed by the Worshipful Master-elect.

Section 2. In the election of officers, should only one name be placed in nomination, the vote may be taken without a ballot; but should more than one Brother be nominated, the members shall cast ballots, which shall be taken up and counted at the Secretary's desk and the number of votes received by each Brother be reported to the presiding officer who shall declare the Brother receiving a majority of all votes cast duly elected.

Section 3. In the event no Brother has such majority, the ballot will be repeated until such action is obtained. Blank ballots shall not be considered as votes cast.

Section 4. Only Full Members of Texas Lodge of Research may serve as elective officers of the Lodge. Any Member of the Lodge may hold appointive office.

Article VI Duties of Officers

Section 1. Worshipful Master: It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to see that the By-Laws of the Lodge and the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Texas are duly observed, to see that the officers attend strictly to their duties and prepare and make such reports as are required of him by the laws of the Grand Lodge and in the manner set forth therein. He shall appoint such committees as are enumerated in these By-Laws and those he shall deem necessary or convenient for conduct of the affairs of the Lodge. He shall be an ex-officio chairman of all such committees.

Section 2. Senior Warden: In addition to his usual duties, the Senior Warden shall solicit, acquire and coordinate the Masonic research activities of the Lodge. He shall distribute manuscripts to members of the Editorial Committee and upon receiving their comments, corrections and any inconsistencies in criteria and style, work with the author for emendation.

Section 3. Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to hold all property of a financial character belonging to Texas Lodge of Research and to collect and receive the same when directed by the Lodge; to receive all monies from the hands of the Secretary, passing his receipts for the same and pay them out upon order of the Worshipful Master and consent of the Lodge. He shall keep a correct account of the same and report minutely the financial conditions of Texas Lodge of Research at such time or times as the Lodge may direct. For his services he shall receive such compensation as determined from time to time by vote of the Full Members of the Lodge.

Section 4. Secretary: It shall be the duty of the Secretary to carefully observe the proceedings of Texas Lodge of Research; make a correct record of all things proper to be written and to receive all monies due the Lodge; turning them over to the Treasurer, taking his receipt or the same.

It shall also be the duty of the Secretary:

(1) To keep all books and papers relating to the proceedings of Texas Lodge of Research.

(2) To authenticate all official papers and documents emanating from Texas Lodge of Research with the seal of the same.

(3) To notify all Brethren elected or appointed to office if they were not present at the time of election or appointment.

(4) To issue all notices as he may be directed; to make out and transmit to the Grand Secretary the annual returns of Texas Lodge of Research and to perform all other duties pertaining to his office.

For his services, he shall receive such compensation as determined from time to time by vote of the Full Members of the Lodge.

Section 5. Tiler: It shall be the duty of the Tiler to see that the Lodge room is clean and in order, that the various articles of furniture are in their appropriate places, to strictly guard the door during the sitting of Texas Lodge of Research, to summon all members to the Lodge when such summons shall be necessary, be punctual in his attendance and perform such duties as may appertain to his office.

For his services he shall be exempt from payment of dues.

Section 6. All officers of Texas Lodge of Research shall perform the duties usual to such officers in conformity to the By-Laws of Texas Lodge of Research and the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, save those duties withdrawn from the offices by the special Law under which Texas Lodge of Research is created.

Article VII Committees

Section 1. Audit: It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master prior to the first meeting of the Lodge after his installation to appoint a ~~three-five (53)~~ member committee of well qualified Brethren composed of not less than ~~one-three (3+)~~ members of Texas Lodge of Research, the Senior and Junior Wardens will be ex-officio members of this committee. Other members of the Audit Committee may be members of Texas Lodge of Research, but the Chairman shall be a Full Member of the Lodge. Members of the Audit Committee should be well versed in accounting practice and procedure and ideally should include a certified public accountant, or a public accountant, whose duty shall be to audit the books and accounts of the Treasurer and Secretary and make prompt report thereof in writing to the Lodge, said report to be read to the Lodge in stated communication and must be recorded in full in the minutes. The auditor's report shall fully show the total amount of receipts and disbursements during the past year and any balance remaining on hand. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer and Secretary to make all their books and records available to the committee or accountant appointed to audit the same. For purposes of coordinating budgetary and fiscal matters of the Lodge, the Audit Committee shall meet in joint session with the Budget/Finance/ Investment Committee prior to making its report to the Lodge, or at such other times as might be deemed appropriate by the Worshipful Master. A member of the committee having served a term, shall be eligible for reappointment.

Section 2. Budget/Finance/Investments Committee. It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master prior to the first meeting of the Lodge after his installation to appoint a ~~three-five (53)~~ member committee of well qualified members of the Lodge to compose a Budget/Finance/ Investments Committee, the Senior and Junior Wardens will be ex-officio members of this committee. A member of the committee having served a term, shall be eligible for reappointment.

It shall be the duty of the Budget/Finance/Investments Committee to prepare and submit for the approval of the Lodge a proposed

itemized budget showing estimated receipts and disbursements of every kind for the ensuing Lodge year. No disbursements of Lodge funds not previously budgeted or approved by the Lodge shall be made without prior approval of the Budget/Finance/Investments Committee and any such allocation of Lodge funds shall be reported to the Lodge at its next meeting following such approval of the committee. All matters requiring budgetary consideration shall first be referred to the Budget/Finance/Investments Committee.

Members of the Budget/Finance/Investments Committee should be well versed in financial investment and budgetary matters and will make recommendations for approval of the members of the Lodge concerning the investment of Lodge funds and the committee shall make its report at each stated meeting of the Lodge and at such times as might be deemed appropriate by the Worshipful Master.

For purposes of coordinating the budget and financial matters of the Lodge, the Budget/Finance/Investments Committee shall meet in joint session with the Audit Committee prior to the Audit Committee's report to the Lodge, or at such times as might be deemed appropriate by the Worshipful Master.

Section 3. If the Lodge by resolution, or by its By-Laws, requires a bond for any officer of the Lodge authorized to handle funds of the Lodge, it shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to have all officers of the Lodge authorized to handle Lodge funds covered by such bond.

Section 4. The three (3) principal officers of Texas Lodge of Research shall constitute a Committee on Research Programs and shall have authority to assign topics approved by the Grand Master to members for research and report to the Lodge at a specified date.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master prior to the first meeting of the Lodge after his installation to appoint a three (3) member committee of well qualified members of the Lodge to compose an Editorial Committee. A member of the committee having served a term, shall be eligible for reappointment.

The Editorial Committee shall examine every research manuscript submitted to the Senior Warden for consideration by the Lodge to assure conformity with such editorial criteria as may from time to time be approved by the Lodge. In the event of variance from such criteria, the committee shall call the same to the attention of the author of the paper and require correction or emendation mutually satisfactory to both the committee and the author, such corrections or emendation being condition precedent to publication.

Section 6. Transactions Editor: It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master prior to the first meeting of the Lodge after his installation to appoint a *Transactions* Editor. The editor shall receive from the Senior Warden, those research manuscripts approved by the Editorial Committee, delivered before and acted upon by vote of the Lodge. It shall be the editor's duty to compile those research manuscripts and other appropriate materials pertaining to Lodge activities. He shall determine the style and format of the volume or other material to be published. He shall coordinate with the Secretary in selecting a professional typesetter and printing service appropriate for production of the *Transactions*. He shall oversee the completion of the work covered by the production contract and shall do all other things deemed necessary to assure the high quality and prompt completion of the printing of the volume or other material. For his services, he shall receive such compensation as determined from time to time by vote of the Full Members of the Lodge.

Section 6. The Occasional Bulletin Editor. It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master prior to the first meeting of the Lodge after his installation to appoint an editor for the quarterly newsletter of the Lodge, *The Occasional Bulletin*. It shall be the editor's duty to compile appropriate materials pertaining to Lodge activities. He shall determine the style and format of the newsletter. He shall coordinate with the Secretary in selecting a professional typesetter and printing service appropriate for production of the newsletter. He shall oversee the work completion of the work covered by the production contract and shall do all other things deemed necessary to assure the high quality and prompt completion of the printing of the newsletter.

For his services, he shall receive such compensation as determined from time to time by vote of the Full Members of the Lodge.

Article VIII Publications

Section 1. Texas Lodge of Research may at convenient intervals publish its proceedings of transactions and/or in whole or in part, addresses, studies, articles, discussions of the Lodge or other material germane to its purposes. It may also publish new Masonic works of merit, reproduce or print Masonic documents or writings, historically or otherwise important and reprint rare or important Masonic works and writing. But no publication shall be undertaken without the approval of the Grand Master and the Committee on Masonic Education and Service of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Section 2. All research reports, articles, print or photographic images submitted to Texas Lodge of Research under its research program and accepted for publication shall be covered under a blanket copyright for Texas Lodge of Research publication in which the material appears. Material ownership shall be determined by appropriate Federal and international copyright laws.

Article IX Dues and Fees

Section 1. No fee for affiliation may be charged by Texas Lodge of Research.

Section 2. Annual dues, in an amount set by the Lodge from time to time, shall be due and payable on ~~December 31~~ January each year and shall be paid by all members except Fellows, Life and Endowed Members, and officers exempt by these By-Laws. All members and associates shall be entitled to receive the published proceedings of the Lodge and quarterly newsletter without additional charge. The ~~physical-fiscal~~ year of the Lodge is established from ~~March 1~~ June to ~~the last day of February~~ 31 May, with reporting periods of ~~31 August, 31 December, 28 February and 31 May, and/or as the Worshipful Master may direct.~~ The dues period shall be 1 January to 31 December.

Section 3. Failure of any member, other than those listed in Section 2, to pay annual dues on or before 1 January shall cause termination of membership. Reinstatement of membership may be accomplished by payment of current year's dues, provided the petitioner meets the requirements for membership contained in the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Section 4. Associates shall pay an annual subscription fee as set by the Lodge from time to time and shall receive such publications as the Lodge may direct.

**Article X
Regalia**

Section 1. The jewels of the officers, including Past Masters, of Texas Lodge of Research shall conform to the standard design for such officers.

Section 2. The apron worn by Full Members of Texas Lodge of Research shall be in design a replica of the apron of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas, except that white cloth may be substituted for lambskin.

Section 3. At the discretion of the Worshipful Master, one academic meeting of Texas Lodge of Research may be called each year, at which time he may require attending members to wear regalia appropriate to the highest academic degree (without cover) attained by them. He may require formal dress at the Anson Jones Lecture and other appropriate occasions.

Section 4. The jewel of *Fellow in Masonic Research* shall be a golden sun superimposed upon a five pointed silver star.

**Article XI
Visiting Brethren**

A visitor shall not be admitted into a tiled session of Texas Lodge of Research except upon due examination or lawful avouchment.

**Article XII
Miscellaneous Regulations**

Weapons: Weapons, either offensive or defensive, shall not be carried into the Lodge room.

**Article XIII
Business**

At stated meetings after opening the Lodge in due and Ancient form, a quorum being present, the Order of Business, unless otherwise ordered by the Lodge, or the Worshipful Master, shall be as follows:

1. Reading, correcting and approval of Minutes of previous meetings.
2. Receiving and balloting on Petitions for Affiliation with Texas Lodge of Research.
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Reports of Committees
 - a. Transactions Editor's Report
 - b. Webmaster's Report
 - c. Necrology Report
 - d. Other committee reports.
 - e. Unfinished Business
 - f. Motions, Resolutions, and New Business.
 - g. Claims and Accounts

**Article XIV
Rules of Business**

The rules of conducting the business of Texas Lodge of Research, shall be as nearly as possible the same as those prescribed for the Grand Lodge, and in addition, as follows:

Section 1. When a question is decided, the same matter shall not again be acted on during that meeting, unless on motion to reconsider, which can only be made by a member voting in the majority, and at that or the next stated meeting when there must be an equal or greater number of members present than when the action was had.

Section 2. All questions of order shall be decided by the Worshipful Master without appeal or debate, but the Master may ask the advise of any member before deciding, and he has the right, at any time, to declare the Lodge closed or called off, for the purpose of stopping angry debate or confusion.

**Article X
Amendments of By-Laws**

Section 1. No amendments of these By-Laws, either by alteration or addition, shall be made, unless in the following manner proscribed by Article 201 of the Statutes of the Grand Lodge:

- 1) Any proposed amendment to the By-Laws must be in writing and signed by the proposer.
- 2) The proposed amendment shall be submitted to the Secretary at least 50 days before the next meeting of the Lodge.
- 3) Each member shall be notified in writing of the sense of the proposed changes at least 30 days before the next meeting of the Lodge.
- 4) At the next meeting of the Lodge it shall be considered, amended if necessary and voted upon and if approved by a majority vote of the members present shall become a part of the By-Laws upon compliance with the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas.
- 5) The adopted By-Laws shall require approval of the Committee on Masonic Education and Service and shall become effective after compliance with Article 219 of the Statutes of the Grand Lodge.

Article XI

The above By-Laws having been adopted by Texas Lodge of Research, on the _____ day of _____ A.D., _____, of which witness my hand and seal.

By order of the Lodge

_____, Secretary

The above By-Laws, having been approved by the M:W: Grand Lodge of Texas, on the _____ day of December A.D. _____.

By order of the Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M.

_____, Grand Secretary

New anniversary TLR 50th Anniversary coin selling fast items unveiled



Worshipful Master Truitt Bradley proudly models a custom embroidered shirt sporting TLR's 50th anniversary logo as he unveils additional items marking the milestone event.

Only the ball caps and coins are available through the Secretary's office. Caps come in either blue or gray with the distinctive commemorative logo. Caps are \$15.00 each, including shipping, by contacting the Secretary, or at the next quarterly meeting.

Other items, including the long sleeve shirt, polo-style shirt, the brief bag, and other items are available directly from the supplier:

Peggy Keasler's Embroidery
505 McMurty Dr.
Arlington, TX 76002
817 557-8622

TLR's limited edition 50th Anniversary coin has been a great hit with Masonic coin collectors at our Dallas and Georgetown meetings. The beautifully detailed and enameled coins will be available while supplies last at TLR Quarterly Meetings for \$10.00 each, or from the Secretary at the address below at \$11.50, which including postage and packing.



From the Secretary

At the Houston quarterly meeting Secretary Jim Dougherty, PM, moved the following changes in dues structure to begin with calendar year 2009:

Regular and Full (voting) Members \$35.00 per year.
(Currently \$25.00.)
Associates (libraries, lodges, etc.) \$30.00 per year.
(Currently \$20.00.)

International members and associates would add \$5.00 per year to the above rates to cover air mail postage.

These changes are proposed to address increased printing costs and domestic and international postage for the quarterly *Occasional Bulletin* and annual *Transactions* of the lodge. The topic will be acted upon at the Arlington quarterly meeting.



View the *Occasional Bulletin* in color at the TLR website:

www.texaslodgeofresearch.org

From the East, continued from Page 2.

to Google a topic. Sort out the facts from the fluff, and there is usually more fluff than facts, and satisfy your natural desire to learn. Who knows where the facts will take you. It might earn you a TLR apron if you can present it as a paper.

I mentioned that genealogy was one of the reasons I decided to become a Mason. It was one of my non-Masonic ancestors that led me to join the lodge. He was my great-great-grandfather and his name was Hiram Abif Blanchard. When I mentioned the name to my father, he smiled, and explained the significance of the name Hiram Abif in Masonry. I was then curious and interested in learning more about Masonry and how my family related to Masonry. I petitioned Tascosa Lodge No 1375 and while I was learning the work for my Fellowcraft proficiency, I learned from my genealogy research that Hiram Abif Blanchard's father, Wm. W. Blanchard, was Worshipful Master of a lodge in Portsea England in 1812 when his son, Hiram, was born. Without learning the significance of the name Hiram Abif, I probably would not have associated him with Masonry, and would never have written the Grand Lodge of England for more information.

Curiosity is a great stimulator. The next time you are curious, don't just wonder about it and shrug it off. Investigate what is making you curious and take it to the next level. You never know what you will

You may also want to share your discovery with the world through Texas Lodge of Research.

- Fiat Lux

Arlington to host September TLR Quarterly Meeting

Arlington Lodge No. 438 will host the September 20th Quarterly Meeting of Texas Lodge of Research. Returning to the Metroplex for the second time this year, the host lodge, located at 1415 W. Abram, will offer coffee and donuts at 9 a.m. The meeting will be opened at 10 a.m. by Worshipful Master Bradley. Several very important lodge matters will be discussed and acted upon at the meeting.

Accommodations have been arranged at the LaQuinta Inn, 4001 Scot's Legacy Dr., and are available for Friday or Saturday nights, or both, depending upon your travel needs at \$103.50 (two beds), or \$112.50 (king bed), plus tax, per night. Some rooms are on the first floor. Please make reservations directly with the hotel (817) 467-7756 as the rooms will only be held until Aug. 29. Ask for the group rate for **Texas Lodge of Research** when you call.

The Hospitality Room will open at the hotel on Friday, the 19th, at 4 p.m. for the usual convivial reunion of members and guests. Dutch-treat dinner at the Hoffbrau Steak House at 4000 Arlington Highlands Blvd. will follow.

Several papers are expected to be ready for presentation following lunch at the lodge.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 19-20, 2008. Host: Arlington Lodge No. 438. Arlington.

January 16-17, 2009. 50th Anniversary Celebration. Host: J.H. Gurley No.337. Lee Lockwood Library & Museum. Waco.

March 20-21, 2009. Election and Installation of 2009-2010 Officers. Host: Hillsboro Lodge No. 196. Hillsboro.

September 18-19, 2009. Host TBA. Dallas.

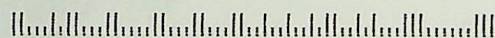
September 18-19, 2009. Host: Lufkin Lodge No. 669. Lufkin.

January 15-16, 2010. Host: Nederland Lodge No. 1368. Nederland.

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

P.O. Box 1018
Austin, Texas 78768-4684

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Austin, Texas
Permit No. 1434



T3 F1*****AUTO**MIXED AADC 773
TOMMY TOM DEAN GUEST GS
1470 AUSTIN HINES DR
CHINA SPRING TX 76633-3428