



The Occasional Bulletin

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

Number 2

Summer

2013

PGM Harrison installed as 53rd Worshipful Master

TLR gets new leadership at March quarterly meeting

Texas Lodge of Research returned to Dallas for its quarterly meeting, annual election and installation of officers for the ensuing year. Past Grand Master Reese L. Harrison Jr. became the 53rd Worshipful Master of the lodge with Jim Rumsey moving to the West and Brad Billings being elected Junior Warden. PM Truitt Bradley was elected to succeed Jim Dougherty, PM, as Secretary. The full tableau of officers is on Page 2.

Members and guests arrivals on Friday afternoon were treated with the same well appointed hospitality suite we enjoyed last year when we were previously headquartered at the historic Adolphus Hotel in downtown Dallas. As the sun went down members



New officers for TLR for 2013-14

found their way around the corner for dinner at Sol Irlandes Mexican Chop House. It was reported that everyone enjoyed their food and conversation.

Our host lodge on Saturday, Alexander C. Garrett No. 1216, was a short distance from the hotel and members of Aubrey E. Hope Lodge No. 1446 provided cooked-to-order breakfasts as a lodge fundraiser.

Worshipful Master McCrae gavelled the meeting to order at 10 a.m. and the lodge took up a lengthy agenda. Among the dignitaries introduced was our Charter Member first lodge Chaplain, The Rev. Herbert Polinard, who protomed in the absence of Chaplain Merlen Howe.

The last item of business was the election of officers for 2013-14.

Following a catered lunch everyone reassembled in the lodge room where PM Douglas Collins was presented with the Golden Trowel Award. Outgoing Worshipful Master Jim McCrae followed with a very interesting paper titled "Mormons in Early Texas: Regular or Clandestine?" The last item of business was the installation of new officers, who were duly installed by RW Michael Wiggins, FMR, Installing Officer and Pierre "Pete" Normand, FMR, Installing Marshal.

With business complete, the lodge was duly closed. The next meeting will be in Fort Worth.

Next Stated Communication Fort Worth, Texas

Friday, June 14, 2013

Hospitality Room open at
the Holiday Inn Express.

Saturday, June 15, 2013

2 p.m. Tiled business
meeting at Fort Worth

Masonic Temple,

1100 Henderson St.

Reception 6 p.m. at the

Masonic Temple

followed by dinner and the

Anson Jones Lecture.

Texas Lodge of Research
Tableau of Officers 2013-2014

Worshipful Master 210 250-6125	Reese L. Harrison Jr., PGM 711 Navarro St., Suite 600 San Antonio, TX 78205 reese.harrison@strasburger.com
Senior Warden 903 746-5849 990 220-3311	Jim Rumsey 102 Joann White Oak, TX 75693 jim.rumsey@suddenlink.net
Junior Warden 806 787-7600 (h) 806 361-2613 (m)	Brad Billings 1001 Lost Valley Dr. Eules, TX 76039 bradbst@yahoo.com
Treasurer 512 587-8547	Mark Dermit kevit64@yahoo.com
Secretary 512 567-4756	Truitt Bradly P.O. Box 2431 Georgetown, TX 78627-2431 secretary.texaslodgeofresearch@gmail.com
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Senior Deacon 281 293-9330	Roberto Sanchez 1678 Beaconsire Houston, TX 77077 rmsh13@yahoo.com
Junior Deacon 409 762-3617	Jeff Modzelewski 2115 Postoffice St. Galveston, TX 77550-2023 jeffmod@gmail.com
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Junior Steward 210 889-6507	Brett L. Doyle 10527 Perrin Beitel Rd. San Antonio, TX 78217-3127 lordfin@aolicom
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On the web at:
www.texaslodgeofresearch.org



2013 Anson Jones Lecturer to be Ill. Joe R. Manning

Worshipful Master Reese L. Harrison Jr. announced that the 2013 Anson Jones Lecturer will be Joe R. Manning.

Bro. Manning was born Dec. 17, 1946, in Cushing, OK. He is an attorney, having received a BA in political science from Oklahoma State University and a JD from the University of Oklahoma. He was in the US Army Reserves, retiring with the rank of captain. He served in the 35th-38th Oklahoma legislatures, 1974-1982, as a member of the Governor's Senior Staff, 1987-1989, as Mayor of Cushing, 1994-2002, Vice-Mayor, 2008 to present and as Vice-Chairman of the trustees, Cushing Regional Hospital, 1995 to present. He is a member of the First United Methodist Church, Cushing, serving on its Pastor Parish Relations Committee, 1994-1997, and Administrative Council, 2010. He and his wife, Cindy, live in Cushing, OK.

Bro. Manning became a Mason in Cushing Lodge No. 111 in 1968, served as Master in 1979, 2004 and 2005 then secretary from 2006 to the present. He is a charter member of Guildhall Lodge No. 553. He was Grand Master of Masons in Oklahoma in 1985 and Vice Chairman of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, 1986. He became a Scottish Rite Mason in 1968 and was elected Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the Orient of Oklahoma in 2011.

Bro. Manning has been very active in all branches of Ma-



Illustrious Joe R. Manning,
SGIG in Oklahoma and
2013 Anson Jones Lecturer

sonry and is a member of the Knights of the York Cross of Honor; Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, Past Grand Preceptor; York Rite Sovereign College of North America, Past Governor General; Red Cross of Constantine, Past Grand Sovereign; Grotto; Shriners; Tall Cedars of Lebanon; SRICF; Royal Order of Scotland; CBCS, Past Great Prior; Allied Masonic Degrees, Past Sovereign Grand Master; Knight Masons of the USA; Grand College of Rites; Order of St. Thomas of Acon and many, many more.

Please note that the Secretary's email address has changed to:
secretary.texaslodgeofresearch@gmail.com

Collins named Golden Trowel recipient Risko named

Carter Award Winner for '12



Past Master and Carter Award Committee Chair Douglas Collins announced that the 2012 James D. Carter Award for Literary Excellence was awarded to Robert Risko Jr. for his paper titled "A History of Athens Lodge No. 156." This was his first paper for TLR Full Membership. His plaque will be presented at a future meeting.

Rob's paper is an outstanding example of how to write an informative lodge history.

Congratulations on an outstanding paper!

Past Master Douglas Collins is presented with the Texas Lodge of Research 2012 Golden Trowel Award by Worshipful Master Jim McCrae at the Dallas quarterly meeting. At right is Doug's wife, Cheri. In remarks during the presentation, WM McCrae outlined the many miles Doug has driven to various Masonic meetings over the years evangelizing for membership and research opportunities in TLR. Congratulations, Doug!



Please remember that the dues card members receive are not valid UNTIL \$35.00 annual dues are paid. TLR funds its publications and activities exclusively with member dues. Members who do not respond are generally dropped from the mailing list after two years of inactivity.

TLR is prohibited from and does not issue demits.





Dallas snapshots

Photos by Jim Dougherty and Patrick Travers

Clockways, from top left: Dallas's iconic "Flying Red Horse" peers around a smoke stack on the original section of the Adolphus Hotel and can see Treasurer Mark Dermitt, (left) and Junior Warden Jimmy Rumsey, enjoy late afternoon shade on the Hospitality Room rooftop deck. Oklahoma Lodge of Research Secretary and TLR member John E. King (left) and The Rev. Jerry Yelvington, PM relax after their road trips to Dallas. Newly installed Worshipful Master Reese L. Harrison Jr. takes the East. Worshipful Master McCrae calls upon TLR Charter Member The Rev. Herbert Polinard for a prayer. He was the original lodge Chaplain in 1959. Right Worshipful Reese L. Harrison Jr., PGM, left, and Charles McKay catch up to "the outside world" on their smart phones in the Hospitality Suite.



Expect Inspect Respect

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Past Master and then Chaplain of TLR Merlen Howe was asked by then Worshipful Master McCrae for his thoughts on Texas Lodge of Research and its image in the United States, during our January meeting. Bro. Howe is currently National Second Vice President of the National Sojourners, Inc., an organization for officers and senior NCO Masons.)

As I travel our nation as a National Sojourner and converse with brethren of many states, the Texas Lodge of Research is extolled as doing great work. In my naval service I have talked with Masons from Antarctica to Alaska, Hawaii to Vermont and from Alaska to Florida. Some knew of the good and square work of TLR.

The purpose today is to focus on the image we individually project about TLR when attending our stated meetings, talking about TLR in other lodges we visit or hearing about what people might think as they see us as Masons and in particular, TLR Masons who are Full Members.

I offer my thoughts which may not be your thoughts.

When we joined TLR what was it we expected? Did we expect to read or listen to Albert Pike kinds of exploration of the intricacies of Freemasonry? Did we join as I did to learn about freemasonry in Texas? Just what did you expect? Certainly good fellowship with brotherly love and harmony among some of the notable Masons of Texas was sought – hob knobbing as it were. Did you expect to research and present a paper on a topic near and dear to you – or simply listen to what others had done?

Because my Texas roots are short having arrived after 30 years of Navy service, I think I expected to learn about Texas

Masonry. I expected to travel to different lodges and find good fellowship and food. I expected to make friends with brother Masons and their ladies from many communities. I expected that I would wear a coat and tie as fitting attire because of the reputation of TLR and my observations of that dress as the norm in many lodges I visited in other nations and states. I expected that I would research and present a paper to add to the knowledge base of Freemasonry in Texas. And as I learned when attending a Warden's Retreat, I expected to refer to other brethren in the tiled lodge either by title of office, for example, Brother Junior Warden, or Worshipful or Right Worshipful as befits their titles or simply a brother by last name such as Brother Howe or Brother Chaplain. In the fellowship hall I expect Brother Merlen, Merlen or "Hey, YOU." Informality is nice outside of the tiled meeting but not in it.

My father and mother had six sons, each one initiated, passed and raised by my father. In that small lodge in Williams, Iowa, every member wore a suit to lodge just as they did to church. My home lodge was Alamo Lodge No. 547 and when I went to lodge, except for my own degrees, I wore a coat and tie as was the custom. I expect the officers of a lodge to wear coat and tie. I expect all full members to greet and treat one another with good graces.

What do you expect? To write and present research papers? Good food and fellowship? What attire do you expect your brothers to wear when you attend the most prestigious research lodge in North America?

What do you inspect when you visit a lodge? The cleanliness of the building in and out? The food serving area for good maintenance? Is the heart of the lodge,



Merlen Howe, PM

the lodge room, attractive and well-maintained? What do the other brothers wear? Do they josh with one another with respect or with snide and demeaning humor? What do you inspect?

I inspect the maintenance of the lodge building and grounds as well as the food preparation area but I pay more attention to how the brothers treat one another and how welcoming and genuine they are to see a visiting brother. I judge their appreciation for freemasonry by how they behave and how they dress. I am old school and believe lodges where the officers and maybe others wear coats and ties are more proficient in their ritual work. So I inspect what brothers wear.

Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Walter Rogers, is promoting Communication, Pride and Respect as the dominate themes of his year.

Pride in Freemasonry

Pride in our heritage

Pride as a Master Mason

Pride and respect in TLR must be reflected in our words, our dress and our behavior. We are the faces of TLR.

Respect for our traditions in

Continued on next page.

Welcome new members

We welcome the following new members approved at the Dallas meeting:

Bogdan Leonard Grosu (329) - Houston, TX

John Bizzack (1) - Lexington, KY

Benjamin Allen Baker (403) - Denison, TX

Michael Brett Beggs (1396) - Longview, TX

Patrick Alan (1310) - Dallas, TX



Finances, membership response strong TLR off and running for a great 2013

By Jim Dougherty, PM, *Occasional Bulletin* Editor



As the song goes: “ ... so long, fairwell, auf wiedersehen, good bye ...” This will be my last *Occasional Bulletin* as Editor.

In semi-retirement, it’s too expensive for me to have to attend every meeting as editor, report on what happened and provide many of the pictures we have come to expect in our first-class print magazine and on the website. It’s been a long road being your Secretary for seven years and longer than that as Editor. I will always appreciate the help and support I have received from members and Worshipful Masters through the years. I am especially indebted to Herb Arbuckle, who was an eagle-eyed copy editor for many of those years. Thank you!

At the Dallas quarterly meeting Treasurer Mark Dermit gave his final report on the state of TLR’s finances for 2012. It was a very positive report and 2013 is off on very good footing.

Dues income was strong from November through January, but has now trailed off to a trickle. But, our membership applications continue to be strong. TLR is as good financially as it has been in many, many years thanks to strong leadership from the East and scrupulous management by our Treasurer. Bro. Mark Dermit leaves no loose ends when it comes to TLR’s books, reports to IRS, the state, or the drudge work of writing up deposit slips.

Thanks, Mark, for all you do for TLR!

Also, thanks are due our Austin member, Jonathan Felger, who donated the “canary yellow” Dell laptop computer which replaces the Secretary’s aging machine. He also donated a docking station and keyboard for office use. In addition, he also copied all the programs and lodge records to the new machine. What a guy!

Masonry as a member of TLR.

Respect for one another as members of many faith groups.

As an aside, as a chaplain for TLR I respect others faith traditions and do not use sectarian prayers but use universal language of all faiths and of no faith in particular.

Communication with one another as Masons and remembering our obligations.

During a tiled meeting I expect brothers to subdue their passions to maintain peace, harmony and maintain brotherly love. I expect

the Full Members of TLR to be models of Freemasonry.

The image of TLR is shaped and reshaped by what other Masons and non-Masons see in our behavior.

What do you respect when you attend TLR in a host lodge? Does brotherly love and affection seem to guide how you relate to host lodge members? Do you respect other TLR brothers whether or not they have written papers or behave differently than you? Do you exude respect for our great lodge and its mission? Do you ac-

tively seek to improve the lodge’s image by what you say, what you do and how you dress?

TLR is a special part of freemasonry and the image of TLR is one of a prestigious lodge. Let’s demonstrate our love for freemasonry, our dedication to the history and heritage of TLR, and our brotherly love for one another.

Brothers, my intention is to promote TLR and challenge every Mason to reflect on what image is projected upon societal members and Freemasonry by our dress, speech, and behavior.

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Address Correction Requested

Authors: Please remember that when you submit a research paper, you must send one paper copy, plus a digital file on CD, DVD or “thumb drive” to Brother Secretary at the lodge address listed elsewhere in this publication. It is recommended that papers be mailed with USPS delivery confirmation. He logs in the paper, retains the digital media and forwards the paper copy to the Senior Warden, who in turn distributes it to the Editorial Committee. - Thank you for your cooperation.

Panther City Lodge in Fort Worth to host TLR June meeting and Anson Jones Lecture

Texas Lodge of Research returns to the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex for the June 15 Quarterly Meeting.

Our host lodge, Panther City No. 1183, meets at the Fort Worth Masonic Temple at 1100 Henderson Street. Please use the north entrance off the Temple parking lot. The tiled business meeting will be gavelled to order at 2:00 p.m. After adjournment, there will be a break for members to return to the hotel and dress for dinner and return to the Temple.

Accommodations have been arranged at the Holiday Inn Express conveniently located across the street from the Temple at 1111 W. Lancaster. Reservations may be made by calling (817) 665-4224 or (888) 465-4329. The TLR rate is \$119.00, plus tax. Parking is free and breakfast is complimentary. Please be aware that there will be a Friday Hospitality Room at the hotel.

Members are requested to wear a tuxedo or dark suit for the dinner and Anson Jones Lecture. A reception for the lecturer will begin at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m.



Fort Worth's magnificent Masonic Temple

Dinner is a catered event and reservations MUST be made to the Secretary at:
texaslodgeofresearch@yahoo.com.

Dinner price has yet to be determined. We do not expect to have extra meals available, so please reserve ASAP if you plan to eat.

See you in “Cow Town!”