



The T. L. of R. Bulletin

Published quarterly by the Tennessee Lodge of Research

George C. Ladd, PM & Secretary/Treasurer

4521 Turkey Creek Road, Williamsport TN 38487-2123

Phone: (931) 682-2263 email: TnLodgeOfResearch@gmail.com website: www.tnlor.org

THIRD QUARTER BULLETIN – 2020

JUNE 13 STATED MEETING

The meeting was held in the Lodge Hall of Iron Lodge No. 503 in Cumberland Furnace, Tennessee, north of Dickson. Twenty members and visitors were in attendance. Brother Master William Alan Peck presided. Iron Lodge No. 503 was thanked for their excellent hospitality and for the most excellent meal that they furnished.

Our speaker was Brother Stephen Anthony Martin, Past Master of Observance Lodge No. 686, who presented “Id, Ego, and Super Ego: The Three Craftsmen” exploring Freudian psychology and the Third Degree. Brother Martin’s paper will be published in our 2020 Proceedings next year.

The following deaths were reported:

William McKinley Patty, Maryville, TN, Mountain View Lodge #519, died 3/12/2020, Charter Member;
MWPGM Paul L. Phillips, Jackson, TN, St. Johns Lodge #332, died 3/16/2020;
Stephen Z. Ponzillo, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, Liberty (MD) Lodge #219,
died 2/17/2020

Five petitions for membership were approved. After the meeting, \$38 was collected for the Grand Lodge Widows and Orphans Fund.

SEPTEMBER 12 MEETING

Our next meeting will be Saturday, September 12 at **Volunteer Lodge No. 549** in Chattanooga, TN. Our speaker will be Brother John Russell Meldorf III, Charter Master of the Lodge of Research, who will share his memories of the organization and chartering of our Lodge of Research on March 27, 1985, thirty-five years ago.

A meal will be served at 12:00 Noon Eastern Time. The speaking presentation will begin at 1:00 PM. The regular meeting of the TLR will begin following the speaking program. The public is invited to the speaking presentation, after which all who are not Master Masons will be asked to retire (Master Masons who are non-members are welcome to visit our regular meeting). **WEARING MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED.** We will have masks on hand if you need one.

Driving Directions:

From **Interstate 75** in Chattanooga take **Exit 4** and proceed **north** on **State Highway 153** for **4.2 miles**. Take **Exit 5A** and merge onto **State Highway 58 North**, toward Decatur. Take the **first right turn** (just past Valvoline Instant Oil Change) onto **Cross Street**. **Turn left** to stay on Cross Street and proceed **0.2 mile**. **Turn left** onto **Shelbourne Drive**. Volunteer Lodge No. 549 will be on your left at [4409 Shelbourne Dr, Chattanooga, TN 37416](http://www.tnlor.org).

REMAINING MEETING DURING 2020

December 12, 2020 – Sparta Lodge No. 99, Sparta, TN

MEETINGS DURING 2021

March 6, 2021 (West Tennessee) – **We need a place to meet**

June 12, 2021 (Middle Tennessee) – **We need a place to meet**

September 11, 2021 – Rhea Lodge No. 47, Jonesboro, TN

December 11, 2021 – Sparta Lodge No. 99, Sparta, TN

COMING PUBLICATIONS—Electronic and Print

At the June 13 meeting a Committee was formed to self-publish our second book, *Traveling East II*, our best papers from the years 2006 to 2015. The Committee will also explore making our previous years’ Annual Proceedings booklets available in electronic form, and possibly print on demand as well. We are very grateful to Brother Glen Doolittle, who scanned our Proceedings booklets from 1985 through 2005 into PDF documents. Watch for more information about this project and the availability of these publications in our Fourth Quarter Bulletin.

PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGE TO BE VOTED ON AT THE 9/12 MEETING

This was presented at the June 13 meeting.

Current wording:

Article V. Membership, Fees and Dues

Section 1. Regular Members. Membership is available to all Master Masons who are in good standing in a subordinate Lodge of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee or who are in good standing in a Lodge of a jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of Tennessee. Application for membership shall be submitted in writing on a petition form from the Tennessee Lodge of Research, and will be accompanied by the fee of \$5.00 and annual dues of \$10.00. Applicants whose petitions are approved at the Lodge's Regular Meeting in September and December will be afforded paid up membership for the following Calendar Year. Applicants whose petitions are approved at the Lodge's Regular Meeting in March and June will be afforded paid up membership for the current Calendar Year. Dues will become due and payable on January 1 of each year for the ensuing Calendar Year.

Proposed Change—Add the following paragraph:

The Lodge of Research will offer to newly raised master masons one year of access for a year after they are raised. At the end of the year they will be given the opportunity to petition the Lodge of Research for membership. If they do not petition for membership they will lose access. If they choose to petition the \$5.00 fee will be waived.

Rationale:

At the December 14, 2019 LOR meeting, a motion was made, seconded, and passed that we obtain the emails of all newly made Master Masons and those raised during 2019 and offer them temporary access to the Member's Area of our website, waiving their first year's dues and allowing them to continue access after the first year by submitting a Petition and paying the \$10 annual dues. Removing the Application Fee will facilitate the transition to full membership of those who wish to become full members. The \$5 Application Fee is no longer required to fund the operation of the Lodge of Research, and there are no expenses associated with receiving a Petition other than mailing a letter acknowledging the receipt of it. The bylaws proposal allows the newly raised brothers access but not membership since they have not petitioned.

2018 PROCEEDINGS

Work is underway on the 2018 Proceedings. Papers will include "Corn, Wine, Oil, Milk, and Honey" by Gerald Leek, 33°, "Reflections on Brother Harry S. Truman" by Thomas Henley, "The Philosopher's Stone" by Richard Kretz, "The Contrast of Freemasonry and Alcoholics Anonymous" by Robert Hart, and "Craft or Crafty?" by Lorne Urquhart.

This year, due to the pandemic, there will be **no TLR/Scottish Rite/Observance Lodge #686 sponsored Esoteric Masonry Conference this October**. But, several of the presenters from the past Conferences will submit papers on esoteric Masonry to be included in the 2018 Proceedings booklet. So, there will thus be a contribution to the study and exploration of esoteric Masonry this year.

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY OF THE TENNESSEE LODGE OF RESEARCH, 1977-1985

From *Traveling East*:

At the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, F. & A.M. in 1977, M.W. Brother James Buck, Grand Master, proposed that Tennessee form a Lodge of Research. Although this proposal did not come to fruition at that time, it represented the first faltering step towards formation of this body.

In 1983, M.W. Brother John B. Arp, Jr., Grand Lecturer, former Director of Masonic Education, and well-known Masonic historian and speaker, was elected Grand Master. On April 13, 1983, he authorized Brother John Meldorf to inquire of the Grand Jurisdictions how to form and organize a Lodge of Research. Brother Meldorf contacted all 49 of the then-chartered Lodges of Research throughout the world and requested copies of their code, by-laws, publications, and any advice, both pro and con, as to the benefits and pitfalls of Lodges of Research.

After receiving a response from 31 of the 49 contacted, the information received was compiled and forwarded with a

recommendation to the Grand Master in November, 1983. A proposed set of by-laws and changes in the Code was then forwarded to him in January, 1984. At the request of the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary, Brother John Stracener, prepared a proposed amendment to the Masonic Code to allow a Lodge of Research, which was approved by the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication in March, 1984.

Following a notice to all Lodges from the Grand Secretary, an Organizational Meeting was held at Corinthian #414 in Nashville on June 9, 1984. By that time, 366 Master Masons from 92 subordinate Lodges had petitioned to form a Lodge of Research. With over 70 Masons in attendance, this meeting, chaired by Brother Arp, voted to request a Dispensation for Work, approved a set of by-laws, and elected Brother John Meldorf to serve as Worshipful Master under Dispensation. The remaining officers elected were: J.C. McCarley, S.W., Fritz G. Meyer, J.W., James Marshall, Treas., and M.D. Manning, Sec.

On July 31, 1984, M.W. Brother James McDaniel, Grand Master, issued the Lodge a Dispensation to Work. The Lodge first met under Dispensation on September 8, 1984, at the Lodge Hall of Hixson #727. It subsequently met at Hamblen #767 (Morristown), Angerona #168 (Memphis), and Cumberland #8 (Nashville).

On September 14, 1985, at Red Bank #717, M.W. Brother Sam Chandler, Grand Master, presented the Lodge its Charter pursuant to a vote of the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication in March, 1985. [By 2005] the Tennessee Lodge of Research had grown to over 600 members from 132 Lodges in Tennessee and 5 from out-of-state.

Editor's note: As of August 1, 2020 the Lodge of Research has 446 members: 423 are from 160 Tennessee Lodges, 22 are from Lodges in 15 other states, and one is from Canada.