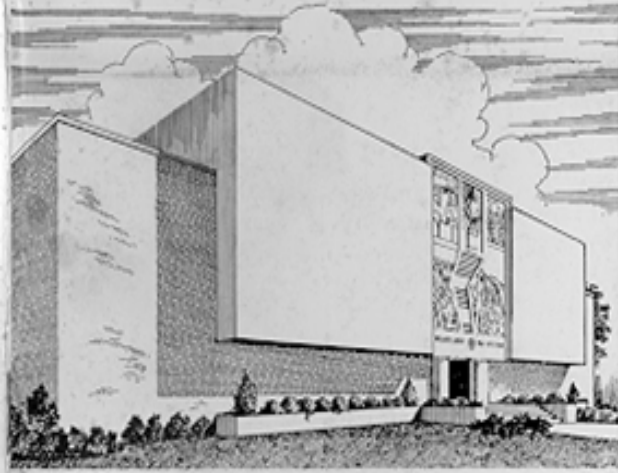


THE e-ALPHA

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard, Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912 www.hollandlodge.org

August 2003

Volume 34 Number 2
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



From the East...

Howdy! To my Brothers of Holland Lodge. Included in this e-Alpha you will find the 2003-04 Budget and Committee appointments.

My thanks to Bro. Bill Sessums, Jr., PM for his good work in editing the paper Alpha into an electronic version with many additions which we cannot send in the paper form.

Check out the various committees and if you have an interest please let me know and you can be a part of the mechanism which directs Holland Lodge. Several Brothers have mentioned how much they like having a Table Lodge. All that is needed is for you to step forward and lead the way. Fellowship & food are an unbeatable combination.

On September 20, 2003, Holland Lodge will visit Harmony No. 6 for a shrimp boil / fry. Plan on meeting at the Lodge at 9am for a caravan down to Galveston. Nothing is more fun than to travel and talk with your Brothers. Harmony Lodge will be hosting the lunch, which will cost \$10 and it is reported they have some special Island Recipes. Contact the Junior Warden about going and paying your \$10 for the lunch. Depending on the status of candidates at Harmony or Holland we may do a degree or have a presentation on the respective histories of both Lodges.

I am known for being an Aggie Fan, but along with several Members of Holland we will be going to the Rice -Texas football game at Reliant - Center Point Stadium on September 20, 2003 at 7 pm. This is truly a classic and in a beautiful new stadium. The Fellowship enjoyed as Masons outside the Lodge is as important as the Fellowship inside the Lodge.

Holland is sending our Senior & Junior Wardens and the Senior Deacon to the Wardens Retreat again this year, but in mid August. They will be traveling to Austin and are hoping to meet and make Masonic connections in Austin. Recall that the Austin Scottish Rite Degree Team has conferred two MM Degrees during the San Jacinto Day Celebrations where Holland has opened Lodge. Last April M.:W.: Grand Master Patterson attended and closed Holland Lodge in 'Grand Fashion'. Check in with them to learn how the Wardens Retreat helps prepare Lodges and their Officers for Leadership in the Lodge.

The Budget shows a deficit of \$65,000. This is serious and should concern each of us. At the close of 2002 the Masonic Building Association divested the land and building to shareholders. This was done to try to get property tax exemption. Holland holds about 87% of the land and building. But with such holding comes the losses, which have been reported in the MBA Statements, but are now consolidated onto Holland's financial statements. The cost of maintenance, taxes (\$40,000/year), and depreciation all add up to serious losses. The losses are about \$5,500 a month. My thanks to our Treasurer, Bro. Emile Bussemey, who has, with good intuition, made several smart transactions and made Holland some extraordinary gains from our investments. He reminds me that past performance is not an indication of future gains. (Continued on Page 2)

STATED MEETING

August 13, 2003

Dinner at 6:00 P.M.

50 year awards at 7:00P.M.

Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.

Visiting and sojourning brethren are welcome

The Masonic program for August Stated Meeting will be presented by Members of Jewett Lodge No. 427. Brothers. Charles Cox, Dale Holder & Sam Olivieri will be presenting how the Bros. of Jewett Lodge raised money & supplies to send 20 tons of medical supplies to Chile. Their talk may include pictures of the event and relate personal stories.

Their program will last about 5 to 7 minutes.

Fifty Year Awards

August 13, 2003

Holland Lodge will present Fifty Year Awards to Bros. William Meyer, Roy Palmgren, Kenneth Campbell and R.: W.: Robert P. Walker.

Presentation will be at 7:00 PM immediately before our Stated Meeting. Dinner this evening will be earlier than usual, starting at 6:00 PM. Fifty years of service to Masonry and to our Fraternity deserves special recognition and honor. We learn from others and these Brethren have much to share and teach from their many years in Masonry. Please come and Honor their achievements and dedication to our Craft.

From the East Continued...

Turning out the lights, turning off the A/C, not offering refreshments on meeting nights takes away from us what Holland Lodge is. While I do not endorse buying lotto tickets, Holland needs to win the Lotto and a big one at that. When we count heads for attendance, we see about 20 (on average) Members coming about 6-7 times a month. This equates to \$45.83 loss per Member per visit. Even with visitors and good men who come to learn about Masonry, the cost per Member does not make sense. Our Lodge Room and Building are special to all of us, whether we were Raised at Holland or just love the feeling we get when come to Lodge at Holland. Please review the Budget and I welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

In our July Stated Meeting we closed Lodge early for Holland, about 9:26pm, thanks to the effort of our Officers and our Secretary, Bro. Phillip von Stephens. A good Secretary can make the meeting run so smoothly. Come next month and hear his reading of the minutes and accounts quickly.

Make your calendars for Saturday, November 8, 2003 when Holland Lodge will be hosting a Forum and Exam with R.:W.: Tommy Griffin, Chair of the Committee on Work, who be presenting the Forum and monitoring the Exams. There will be coffee and something before the Forum and lunch before the exam. We have had many Brothers from other Lodges coming to this Forum because of Friendship and Welcoming attitude at Holland. Our building was bubbling with Masonry last year from the many Masons. You could almost hear the Building sighing with delight. It was a great time, come and be a part.

It is time to consider a trip to Grand Lodge during December 4-5 & 6 in Waco. We will be staying at the Hilton Hotel - home for Holland Lodge in Waco for a number of years. This is a road trip that is more for Members than Officers. We will have dinners together on Thursday and Friday nights. The Grand Lodge Library is open and is a real treat. The Texas Lodge of Research has a wonderful selection of Masonic reading to purchase and there are Masons everywhere. Just to be among 3,000 Masons who are your Brothers is amazing. The legislative process for the Grand Lodge of Texas is conducted on Friday and Saturday and provides an understanding of how we get some of the Grand Lodge Law that is read each month by our Junior Warden, Tom Behrman. Reservations should be made with the Secretary. The cost for Grand Lodge this year will be \$158 per person, based on double occupancy. More will said about going to Grand Lodge in the coming months but be sure to mark your calendars now.

I said enough for one month, but come to Holland Lodge and let's talk.

Patrick Mahoney, W.M.

“From the South”

The Lodge Courtesies --- Part I.

Brethren, over the last few months I have sat in the lodge room and personally observed several instances when what we all think to be known Lodge courtesies were conspicuously overlooked by some of the Brethren.

For example, failing to stand when addressed or speaking to the Worshipful Master during a meeting, failing to respond to the gavels from the East, the entire Lodge stands after three gavels, in open Lodge addressing the Worshipful Master by his name rather than referring to him by his Masonic title, “Worshipful Master”, or two Brethren trying to talk at the same time and talking to each other rather than only one at a time and making your remarks to and through the Worshipful Master instead of attempting to address the Brethren assembled in the Lodge as a whole. At a recent stated meeting I saw the W.:M.: gavel the Lodge up and two rows of Master Masons near the East suffered a memory lapse, apparently were all looking toward the East and failed to notice that the rest of the Lodge was standing. Each Brother in the row saw that the Brother next to him was not standing, so they all remained seated. The W.:M.: had to motion to them from the East to stand before they looked around and noticed everybody else was already up.

Although isolated instances and perhaps due largely to inexperience, or forgetfulness, these situations reminded me that we all may need a reminder of what we commonly refer to as the “**Lodge courtesies**”, those conventions, practices, customs and usages, which have evolved over the years and govern the practice of our craft at Lodge. These lapses in the courtesies should be conspicuous to a *well-informed* Brethren. Perhaps this affords us all an opportunity to reflect on what and why we do some of the things we do when engaged in the practice of masonry at Holland Lodge. To that end, I thought I might put together a short series of articles on the principal courtesies practiced in and around the lodge room, most of which are designed to reinforce the order, decorum, respect, dignity and beauties which characterize our craft.

In the next two or three months I hope to bring to your attention the courtesies which contribute to the governance and peace and harmony at Lodge. What are the courtesies and why do we have them. Some of these practices and courtesies come from the degrees, the ritual, the law and many have developed by way of custom and practice over many years. We attend Lodge and learn by observation and emulation. As has been offered by R. D. Ellington, Jr., P.M. and Secretary, Portageville Lodge No. 166, Portageville, Missouri, in his article “**Lodge Courtesies**”, from the title *Masonic Tidings*, “Conventions are the rules which society makes for itself, without the force of law, by which its members live together with the least friction. It is not a sin to eat with one’s knife or to keep one’s hat on in the house. But these are not “good form” or good manners. Masonry has developed its own conventions, by which its members act in Lodge and the anteroom. Not to proceed according to their dictates is not a Masonic offense, it is merely a lack of Masonic manners.”

Over the next few months, I look forward to a healthy dialogue with you about our Lodge courtesies. Again, I hope you will take the time to let me know your thoughts and ideas, whether it be by telephone call, note, email, or otherwise. I can be reached at home, (713) 721-6003, at my direct line at work, (713) 863-2234, or by my email address at home, “**tbehrman@mindspring.com.**”

Fraternally, **Tom Behrman**

A Masonic Work Day at the Lodge
August 23, 2003 will be a “real door opener!”

A “Masonic Work Day at the Lodge” will be held on August 23, 2003. Masons & Members of Holland Lodge will gather on Saturday at 9AM to assist and be a part of the installing new front doors to the Lodge Building.

Under the supervision of Bro. Jack McCain, new doors will be installed allowing access to our Lodge from the front of the building. The installing Brothers have asked for several (5-7) men to help with the handling of the aluminum framing and material positioning. Lunch will be provided for those participating in the work Day at the Lodge by our EA's & FC's. The EA's & FC's will be cooking a Dutch oven meal and I am told Cobbler will be served. Come and enjoy the Fellowship of our Fraternity. Photos will be taken and posted on our website for all to see and enjoy.

Who said work can't be fun ?

Feel like a little Shrimp?
September 20, 2003

Holland Lodge will visit Harmony No. 6 for a shrimp boil / fry.



Plan on meeting at the Lodge at 9am for a caravan down to Galveston. Harmony Lodge will prepare the lunch for only \$10 each and it is reported they have some special Island Recipes.

Contact our Junior Warden for more information and to pay your \$10 for the lunch.

Depending on the status of candidates at Harmony and/or Holland we may do a degree or have a presentation on the respective histories of both Lodges.

The 2nd Annual
Brisket Sale and Bar-B-Que Luncheon
October 18, 2003

Brother Earl Thompson, S.W., will chair the event including the cooking, brisket sales and luncheon. Washington Chapter, Houston Council, Ruthven Commandery & Houston Chapter, OES will also be participating in this event.

All members and friends of Holland Lodge are encouraged to attend and support the event by purchasing several briskets and joining us for lunch, and by serving on any one of the committees with Brother Thompson.

This is and “open” event and a great way to introduce good people to the works at 4911 Montrose!



Forum and Exam
November 8, 2003

Make your calendars for Saturday, November 8, 2003 when Holland Lodge will host a Forum and Exam with R.: W.: Tommy Griffin, Chair of the Committee on Work.

There will be coffee and something to snack on before the Forum and lunch before the exam. We have had many Brothers from other Lodges coming to this Forum because of the Friendship and Welcoming attitude at Holland Lodge. Our building was bubbling with Masonry last year from the many Masons. You could almost hear the Building sighing with delight. It was a great time, come and be a part.

Going to Grand Lodge?

It is time to consider a trip to Grand Lodge during **December 4, 5 & 6** in Waco. We will be staying at the Hilton Hotel - home of Holland Lodge in Waco for a number of years. This is a road trip that is more for Members than Officers. We will have dinners together on Thursday and Friday night. The Grand Lodge Library is open and is a real treat. The Texas Lodge of Research has a wonderful selection of Masonic reading to purchase and there are Masons everywhere. Just to be among 3,000+ Masons who are your Brothers is amazing. The legislative process for the Grand Lodge of Texas is conducted on Friday and Saturday and provides an understanding of how we get some of the Grand Lodge Law that is read each month by our Junior Warden, Tom Behrman. Reservations should be made the Secretary. The cost for Grand Lodge this year will be \$158 per person, based on double occupancy. More will said about going to Grand Lodge but please mark your calendars and make your reservations with the Secretary now!

LODGE ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| August 4, 2003 | Entered Apprentice festival and practice |
| August 6, 2003 | EA or FC Degree practice |
| August 11, 2003 | Lodge is DARK |
| August 13, 2003 | Stated Meeting (see page 1) |
| August 18, 2003 | Entered Apprentice Degree practice |
| August 20, 2003 | Entered Apprentice Degree |
| August 25, 2003 | EA or FC Degree or practice |
| August 27, 2003 | Master Mason Degree or practice |
| September 1, 2003 | Lodge is DARK. Happy Labor Day. |
| September 3, 2003 | Entered Apprentice festival and practice |
| September 8, 2003 | Lodge is DARK |
| September 10, 2003 | Stated Meeting |
| September 15, 2003 | Third Monday – George Washington |
| September 17, 2003 | See website and/or newspaper |
| September 20, 2003 | Trip to Harmony Lodge # 6- Galveston |
| September 22, 2003 | See website and/or newspaper |
| September 25, 2003 | See website and/or newspaper |
| September 29, 2003 | See website and/or newspaper |
| October 8, 2003 | Stated Meeting |
| October 18, 2003 | Brisket sale and Bar-B-Q lunch. |

Be sure to check the Houston Chronicle classified section and/or the Holland Lodge website for meeting changes and details.

Washington and Freemasonry

by James Parrish Hodges

As Published in *The Messenger*,

A publication of *The George Washington Masonic National Memorial*

The United States Senate, shortly after Washington's death, issued this official statement: "Let his countrymen consecrate the memory of the Heroic General, the Patriotic Statesman and the Virtuous Sage. Let them teach their children never to forget that the fruits of his labor and example are their inheritance."

We as Master Masons are even further compelled to honor and to emulate our dear departed Brother. The ideals of Masonry, which attracted him to the craft, had a profound impact on his life. His exposure to Masonic philosophy helped frame his ideas of life, both personal and professional. He took its teachings seriously, its apron and trowel, all its symbolism and ritual. Eventually he would become the best known and respected Mason in America. He would bring to the Fraternity unparalleled dignity and prestige.

Several incidents from his illustrious career indicate the degree to which the Masonic principles of leadership, service to man, integrity, honesty, virtue and resolve shaped his life and influenced others. On December 4, 1799 in Morristown, New Jersey, a Masonic convention was held with more than 100 Masons from various lodges in attendance. The establishment of a United Grand Lodge was proposed with George Washington as Grand Master. The idea was rejected by the spirit of localism from a number of regional Grand Lodges. Their action paralleled the earlier rejection of a strong, central government by prevailing political regionalism. Later, George Washington's beliefs and attitudes of a strong, central union were instrumental in changing the "localism mind set" of citizens to have them adopt the new Federal Constitution.

In the two years interim between the victory at Yorktown in 1781 and the British evacuation of New York City in late November 1783, General Washington established his military headquarters at Newburgh, New York. The troops constructed a 20 ft. by 60 ft. building called the "Temple of Virtue" for the combined purposes of holding religious services and acting as a lodge for the Masons. It was in this temple on March 15, 1783 when George Washington, through his impassioned speech to the officers about their shared vision, saved America from the tyranny of a military dictatorship. Some officers had suffered without pay and allowances for up to six years and were incensed to the point of mutiny by the report that Congress was going to disband the army without pay. The fact that Washington was a Mason, most of his officers were Masons, and that they were assembled in the Temple of Virtue, no doubt, influenced them in overwhelmingly rejecting the mutinous plan to march on Congress and take over control of the civilian government in a coup d'etat.

And George Washington, as noted previously, in order to establish a strong, central government, was instrumental in calling for a Constitutional Convention. Of the 55 delegates to the Convention, 33 were Masons. Presiding as President, Washington took his responsibility so seriously that he never missed a single minute of the sessions. The delegates often looked at him for his nod of approval or frown of disapproval as they debated issues. No doubt, Masonic brotherhood within the ranks smoothed the path for compromise and agreement.

George Washington's character and presence commanded the respect and confidence of both Americans and foreigners. Sol Bloom, in his *Masons and the Constitution*, stated that Washington had, "imbibed the wisdom, strength and beauty of Masonry. It exerted a profound influence upon his career, from the time he was raised a Master Mason in 1753, through all the vicissitudes of war, peace, and nation building. In him the sublime truth of the order found practical expression in shaping the character of the United States of America.

President William McKinley, a Brother Mason, said about Washington's accomplishments on the centennial anniversary of his death in 1899, "The nation is his best eulogist and his noblest monument." William Duke, Grand Master of Virginia said about Washington in the same year, "If we catch the inspiration of his great life, the dignity of his manhood, and the simplicity of his character, we can come to learn how man can achieve greatness without sacrificing himself to ambition."

If Washington could be asked today, he would probably say that his greatest memorial would be in the lives of those citizens who sought to emulate in their daily lives those principles that guided his own life. I believe he would be most proud of us if we learned to keep bitterness out of our society and spread brotherhood and tolerance.

James Parrish Hodges, a.k.a. George Washington, delights audiences with his colorful portrayal, teaching Washington's leadership principles to enhance personal and professional goals. A student of American history for over 40 years, he has written numerous articles and given speeches on historical leaders. He is a financial planner residing in Texas.

Brother Hodges is a member of Holland Lodge No. 1.

Holland Lodge Budget 2003-04

Income

Monthly

Dues & Endowments	23,000	
Degree Fees	1,000	
Donations	?	
Fund Raising	5,000	
Gain/Loss on Securities Sales	3,000	
Interest Banks & CDs	45,000	
Securities Income	33,000	
Grocery Store Cards	<u>700</u>	
Total Income	<u>\$110,700</u>	<u>\$9225</u>

Expenses

Alpha	2,600	
Advert. & contributions	2,800	
Employees—Sectry Tile Kitchen	16,000	
Depreciation	30,000	
Grand Lodge Fees	8,000	
Installation	1,100	
Insurance	1,000	
Lodge & Office Supplies	6,000	
Postage	2,800	
Property Maintenance	28,000	
Property taxes	36,000	
Refreshments	14,000	
Refreshment contributions	-4,000	
Sam Houston Lecture Costs	2,000	
Utilities	<u>24,000</u>	
Total Expenses	<u>\$170,300</u>	<u>\$14,191.67</u>

Net Loss 2003-2004 **-\$59,600** **-\$4,967**

Holland Lodge No. 1, A.F. & A.M. 2003-2004 Appointments

Finance

Mark J. Sandler, PM - Chairman
Bill Sessums, Sr., PM
Bill Sessums, Jr., PM
James Stewart, PM
Luther Van Cleve, PM

Audit

Walter Sanders - Msh., Chairman
Ken Laney
Milton Frankfort

Golden Trowel

Budd Baumgardner, PM, Chairman
James Stewart, PM
Bill Sessums, Sr., PM

Lodge Life Program/Officer ALL Program

Bill Sessums, Jr., PM - Chairman
Earl Thompson, SW
Duncan Chapman, SD

Sick, Visitation, and Welfare

Earl Thompson, SW - Chairman
Owen Popham, PM
Max Bernstein, APM
Clarence Brown, PM
Budd Baumgardner, PM
Bill DeBruhl
Duncan Chapman, SD
Tom Behrman, JW
Ed Floyd
David Fallas, APM
Jack McCaine
Robert Weniger, Jr.

Instruction/Education

Tom Behrman, SW - Chairman
Duncan Chapman, JD
Bill Sessums, Sr., PM
David Fallas, APM
Ronald Sisk, PM
Mark Sandler, PM
Emile Bussemey, PM
Bill Sessums, Jr., PM
Duncan Chapman, JD, APM
Owen Popham, PM
Phillip von Stephens, PM
Luther Van Cleve, PM

Investment Advisory

Brian Beck, Chairman
Jim Hodges
John L. DeVault

Library and Archives

Budd Baumgardner, PM - Chairman
Phillip von Stephens, PM

Property

Phillip von Stephens, PM - Chairman
Duncan Chapman, SD
Earl Thompson, SW

Masonic Building Association

Patrick Mahoney, WM, Official Liaison

Telephone Committee

Owen Popham, PM - Chairman
Earl Thompson, SW
Bill DeBruhl
Max Bernstein, APM
Bill DeBruhl, Jr.
Bill Meyer
Tom Behrman, JW
David Fallas, APM
Ron Sisk, PM
Donald R. Smith
Hunter Harang
Budd Baumgardner, PM
Thomas J. Burnett, Jr., PM
Patrick Mahoney, WM

Roster

Patrick Porter, MC - Chairman
Max Bernstein, APM
Henry Gonzales, APM
Bill Meyer
Phillip von Stephens, PM
Earl Thompson, SW

Third Monday

Andy Deas - Chairman
Bob Welch
Hunter Harang

Alpha Newsletter

Bill Sessums, Jr., PM - e-Alpha, Editor
Thomas J. Burnett, Jr., PM - Editor
Bill Meyer - Chairman
Bill DeBruhl
Max Bernstein, APM
Jerry Jones, SS
Budd Baumgardner, PM
Ron Sisk, PM
Ed Floyd
Hunter Harang

By-Laws

Bill Sessums, Sr., PM - Chairman
Tom Behrman, JW
James Stewart, PM
Marvin Peterson
Jimmy Brill

Certificate Instruction

Bill Sessums, Sr., PM - Chairman
Emile Bussemey, PM
Phillip von Stephens, PM

Sam Houston Lecture

Tom Behrman, JW - Chairman
Thomas J. Burnett, Jr., PM
Earl Thompson, SW

Reading

Allen Johnston, JD, - Chairman
Walter Sanders, Msh
Tom Behrman, JW
Ron Sisk, PM
Henry Gonzales, APM
Jerry Jones, SS

Degree Masters

Duncan Chapman, SD - Entered Apprentice
Tom Behrman, JW - Fellowcraft
Earl Thompson, SW - Master Mason

Funerals

	<u>Home</u>	<u>Work</u>
Emile Bussemey, PM	713-729-1348	713-260-7453
Tom Johnson, APM	713-528-6792	
Owen Popham, PM	713-723-6680	
Mark Sandler, PM	713-726-9961	713-623-6996
Ron Sisk, PM	713-880-4365	
Phillip von Stephens, PM	713-723-2009	713-529-0912

Web Page

Patrick Porter, MC - Chairman
J. R. Martin
Patrick Mahoney, WM

Charitable Fund Raising Committee

Patrick Mahoney, WM - Chairman
Tom Behrman, JW
Bill Sessums, Jr., PM
Bill Sessums, Sr., PM
Ed Floyd
Allen Johnston, JD
Duncan Chapman, SD
Earl Thompson, SW
Phillip von Stephens, PM
Eugene Wright
Walter Sanders, Msh
Lynn Ballard
Jerry Jones, SS
Max Bernstein, APM
Budd Baumgardner, PM
Hunter Harang
William Weatherly
Lawrence Monks
Henry Gonzales, APM
Andy Deas
H. Robert Sandler
J. Weldon Clappitt, APM
Emile Bussemey, PM
Gary Held, PM
Marvin Peterson
Jimmy Brill
Clarence Brown, PM

Masonic Building Assoc.

Duncan Chapman, SD - President
Jack McCaine (Commandery) - VP
Emile Bussemey, PM - Treasurer
Gary Held - Secretary
Patrick Mahoney, WM - (Holland Lodge)
Jimmy Brill
Bill Sessums, Jr., PM
Mark Sandler (Chapter and Council)
Earl Thompson, SW
Tom Behrman, JW
Phillip von Stephens, PM
Eugene Wright

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF HOLLAND LODGE – 2003-2004

		<u>HOME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>e-mail</u>
Worshipful Master	Patrick D. Mahoney	(713) 932-1993	(713) 552-1700	patrick@mahoney-associates.com
Senior Warden	Earl A. Thompson	(713) 466-8452	(281) 376-5530	eat003@wans.net
Junior Warden	Tom Behrman	(713) 721-6003	(713) 426-6114	tbehrman@mindspring.com
Treasurer	Emile Bussemey	(713) 729-1348	(713) 260-7453	bizme@flash.net
Secretary	Phillip von Stephens	(713) 723-2009	(713) 723-2009	secretary@hollandlodge.org

