

HISTORY OF GOLDEN MACE AWARD AND PARLIAMENTARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

By: Martha Bardin, RP

The highest honor in the Texas State Association of Parliamentarians is to be elected its President. What a proud moment that was when we were elected to serve TSAP for the term 1986-87. Our theme was “Harmony and Growth,” and immediately we went to work on the growth part of that theme. How can we increase membership and attendance at State Convention?

We conceived the idea of the “Golden Mace Award” and the “Parliamentarian of the Year Award.”

The GOLDEN MACE AWARD was designed to encourage the present members to bring in new members. If a present member sponsors one or more new student members into their unit during the year and that student becomes a member prior to the next State Convention, the sponsoring member would receive the Golden Mace Award. This award would be a certificate of accomplishment presented to each member qualifying. The award would be under the direction of the Membership Committee with the Third Vice President, Frances White, as Chairman.

The PARLIAMENTARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD was designed to accomplish two things:

- 1) Get the members involved in helping to promote the study of Parliamentary Law and enlarge the membership of TSAP;
- 2) Encourage a larger attendance at State Convention thus getting more people interested and involved in the state organization.

Each unit would be asked to elect one member from their membership who had done the most to promote the study of Parliamentary Procedure and the Object and Purpose of TSAP. The nominee should be an active member who has made a significant contribution to the work of the Unit and/or TSAP. The guidelines for selecting a nominee for this award would be provided to all unit presidents.

The nominee from each unit would be introduced at the State Convention. The winner would be announced at a special awards banquet.

A committee of three appointed by the president would determine the winner of the Parliamentarian of the Year Award. The award would be a plaque with the words, "Parliamentarian of the Year," and the winner's name engraved on it. We would also present each unit nominee with a certificate for having been nominated by their unit. All of these awards would be presented at State Convention.

A special committee consisting of 1st VP, Ortha Forister, Chairman; 2nd VP Dennis Clark; and 3rd VP, Frances White was appointed by the President. Sadly, due to the death of Ortha Forister, Dennis Clark was appointed to serve as Chairman of the Parliamentarian of the Year Award Committee.

As a final note, this person introduced the Parliamentarian of the Year Award in 1987, and only 23 years later in 2010, we were honored as Parliamentarian of the Year. My how time flies.