


The HILL CITY LIGHT

September 2020

2020 - 2021 Lodge Officers		Hill City No. 456 A.F. & A.M. Chartered June 10, 1876		
W.M.	Luke Michels	Austin Scottish Rite Theatre & Museum 18th St. at Lavaca St., Austin, Texas Mail: P.O. Box 1456, Austin, Texas 78767-1456 Phone: (512) 655-9858 Email: secretary@hillcitylodge.org Website: www.hillcitylodge.org		
S.W.	Richard Garrett			
J.W.	Elan Mendoza			
Treasurer	Kent Kinkade, P.M.			
Secretary	Philippe Dewailly, P.M.			
Chaplain	Chuck Stewart, P.M.			
S.D.	Don Jarrell			
J.D.	Chris Enders			
S.S.	Ryan DiVincenzo			
J. S.	Sean Williams			
Marshal	Hunt Armistead	1876		2020
M.C.	Nate Stilwell	<u>Stated Meeting:</u>	First Tuesday at 7:30 pm	
Tiler	Dennis Hill, P.M.	<u>Called Meetings:</u>	Dinner at 6:30 pm	
			Other Tuesdays at 7:00 pm	
			Dinner at 6:30 pm	
Work Schedule		From the East		
September 2020		Brethren, I hope everyone has been doing well and staying busy this summer, the weather is starting to cool off and I am looking forward to a break from the Texas heat for a while. Meetings and gatherings at Hill City have slowed down over the past few months due to Covid restrictions; however, things are still moving forward and some opportunities have recently started to open up for us. Until a few days ago, all Texas lodges were only allowed to have one stated meeting per month. On 8/25, the Grand Master released a new proclamation allowing us to hold up to two "Masonic Study Groups" per month in addition to our stated meeting, provided we adhere to state and local guidelines concerning masks and social distancing. Hill City, and the rest of the District 50 Lodges, are still restricted to a maximum of 10 people at gatherings due to the Travis County ordinance which has been extended through December 15th. The good news is, this gives us an opportunity to begin meeting for much needed degree work at the Lodge! We have two EA and two FC candidates awaiting their degrees as soon as the Grand Lodge allows us to resume labor. I have asked our Sr. Deacon, Br. Don Jarrell, to begin reaching out to our degree teams and invite them to practice degree work on September 15th. We will be adding more practice dates to the calendar soon, if you are interested in		
September 1	Stated Meeting Officers Only !			
September 15	Degree Practice Degree Team Only			
October 2020				
October 6	Stated Meeting Officers Only !			
November 2020				
November 3	Stated Meeting Officers Only !			
December 2020				
December 1	Stated Meeting Officers Only !			
January 2021				
January 5	Stated Meeting Officers Only !			

From the East (continued)

participating in a degree, please let us know so as soon as possible so we can get you on the list!

Our September stated meeting was a special one. Hill City had the honor of receiving our DDGM, RW Bob Wheelless, for his official visit. Those in attendance also enjoyed a nice meal prepared by our Stewards prior to the meeting, thank you Stewards!

Our virtual lodge meetings are still taking place on most Tuesdays and I encourage anyone who can to attend, all you need is a computer or phone. It is a great way to stay up to date with the Lodge during these times and catch up with your Hill City Brothers. Be on the lookout for email invites from our communications committee with instructions on how to join. I want to thank our officers and every Hill City member for their patience as we wait out these unusual circumstances with Covid-19. We will continue to keep the lodge informed via email of any new developments or happenings.

Fraternally,
Luke Michels
Worshipful Master, Hill City 456

Many brothers out there might be feeling stress because of their economic situations, or for being forced to isolate all day.

If you've lost your job or your business is struggling, the lodge has information to help navigate filing for unemployment or small business loans. Contact communications@hillcitylodge.org for more details.

Some of our members might become infected with the coronavirus and lose their ability to shop for groceries and other essentials. If, for any reason, you need help, call Aaron Evans at 512-921-4160.

From the West

Greetings Brothers,

The Scottish Rite building has had many upgrades and still more to come. You have all seen the new ceiling in the theater. The kitchen has been upgraded with new stoves and dishwasher, etc. People who will be cooking on this new equipment will be required to take a 1 hour training class. Much of the floors have been hand sanded and stained. Windows that have been blocked up for decades have been reopened and new windows installed to allow more light into the building. The elevator has had all the mechanical mechanisms renewed. Only the original box that you ride in remains.

The air conditioner has not yet been renewed. But I think this will happen in the next couple of years.

I would like to recommend a book, Man's Search for Meaning by Viktor Frankl. I read this book every several years. It was published in 1946. Dr. Frankl was a prisoner of the Nazis in Austria. He wrote "Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms-to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way." He founded Logotherapy which means healing through meaning.

The August officers leadership training in Waco was canceled.

We had a stated meeting September 1st. We received the District Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Bob Wheelless. I missed the opening day of dove season. But a stated meeting is more important. We are still limited by the local government to not having more than 10 people in a meeting. When will this virus ever end?

I encourage you to join our next zoom meeting. Watch for email on this. We have been having zoom meetings every Tuesday except for our monthly stated meeting. The Austin Scottish Rite had a zoom meeting Sep 2nd. They are considering having zoom meetings when the virus ends to supplement regular meetings. This would be a way to reach more members, especially those that cannot come to regular meetings. Maybe we should consider this also.

Fraternally,
Richard Garrett,
Senior Warden, Hill City 456

September 2020 Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Erased
6. Apple spray
10. Algebra or trig
14. Fine antiques of limitless worth
15. "Had enough?"
16. City on the Yamuna River
17. Crosswise, on deck
18. Came down
19. Bet
20. Regard for the honour and interests of a body to which one belongs
23. ___ de deux
25. Juliet, to Romeo
26. Attack
27. Heir's concern
29. Cover, in a way
32. Agreeing (with)
33. Bluenose
34. Australian runner
37. ERIC
41. "... ___ he drove out of sight"
42. Capitol feature
43. Nervus qui portabatur a Cupidine
44. Parkinson's pill
46. Derrick for loading
47. Part of a TV feed
50. "Rocky ___"
51. After expenses
52. Charge around the North to swindle kind Albert, for example
57. Cabal
58. "Stop that!"
59. Actress Shearer
62. "What's gotten ___ you?"
63. Forbidding
64. ___ flu
65. Amount to make do with
66. "Not to mention ..."
67. Another name for Spandex

Down

1. Egg cells
2. Little lie
3. Peach whose pit is easily separated from the flesh
4. Flight data, briefly
5. Large trash receptacle
6. "Encore!"
7. Bounce
8. All fired up
9. Anatomical fibre network
10. Jazz star
11. Media for scientists
12. Balderdash
13. Verb with thou
21. Morgue, for one
22. Bluecoat
23. Christmas wish
24. Daisylike bloom
28. Amazon, e.g.
29. Excitement
30. "The ___ of the Ancient Mariner"
31. "Act your ___!"
33. Alka-Seltzer sound
34. Crank socially and mechanically
35. Purple shade
36. To spill
38. "Much ___ About Nothing"
39. Sensible
40. Anger
44. Specialized dialects
45. Elmer, to Bugs
46. "___ boom bah!"
47. Fourth in a series
48. Drug test sample stuff
49. Strains
50. Foreword, for short
53. Icelandic epic
54. "Neato!"
55. ___ probandi
56. Like Santa's cheeks
60. Fold, spindle or mutilate
61. "___ Ng" (They Might Be Giants song)

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14						15					16				
17						18					19				
		20				21					22				
23	24			25							26				
27			28				29	30	31						
32						33						34	35	36	
37						38					39	40			
41						42					43				
			44	45							46				
47	48	49						50					51		
52						53	54	55				56			
57						58					59			60	61
62						63					64				
65						66					67				

July 2020 Puzzle Solution

A	S	D	I	C		A	G	H	A		F	L	I	T	
C	U	R	I	A		L	E	E	R		A	I	D	E	
E	M	A	I	L		E	A	R	M		A	R	K	E	D
T	A	W		C	O	P	R	A		D	R	E	S	S	
I	C	E		I	M	P		L	E	M	O	N			
C	H	E	S	T	S	O	F	D	R	A	W	E	R	S	
				L	E	K		L	I	E	N		S	U	E
A	E	R	Y			S	A	C			A	S	E	A	
S	K	A		S	U	E	T		O	A	F				
H	E	I	R	P	R	E	S	U	M	P	T	I	V	E	
		N	O	O	N	S		L	I	P		N	I	M	
S	A	Y	S	O		T	A	S	T	E		C	O	B	
U	N	D	E	R	M	O	S	T			A	L	U	L	A
C	O	A	T			R	I	C	E		S	A	B	E	R
K	A	Y	S			S	T	I	R		E	D	I	T	S

Obituary

Harold R. Pack

Command Sergeant Major (retired) Harold R. Pack, 89 of Cedar Park was called home to the Lord on May 23rd, 2020.

The oldest of three sons born to Daisy and Odell Pack on September 29th, 1930 in Crawford, TX. In 1947, following High School, Harold enlisted in the Texas Army National Guard marking the beginning of a distinguished military career. He earned his senior Parachutists wings and served in both the 101st Airborne and the 49th Armored divisions. In 1972 he was promoted to the rank of Command Sergeant Major and ended his military career with the United States Army Reserve in 1990.

Harold was a 32nd degree Mason, and devoted member of 50 plus years at the Hill City Masonic Lodge, 456. He was also very invested in the Boy Scouts of America mentoring countless young men in the values of scouting throughout his years.

Harold married the love of his life, Margaret Lanelle on March 31st 1956, and is survived by her and his two brothers Neil Pack and wife Carol of Spearman, TX and Bobby Pack and wife Brenda of Granbury, TX. His legacy lives on in the lives of his children, daughter, Dewana Isom and husband Tom of Cedar Park, and son, Steve Pack and wife Stephanie of Round Rock. He leaves behind his beloved grandchildren who knew him as “Poppy”, Sarah Sherard and husband Brandon, Eric Pack, wife Carley and sons Cooper and Cason, Garrett Isom, wife Heather and daughter Kynzi, Tyler Pack, wife Jennifer and children Gunner, Grace, Reagan, Kyle and Laurel, Colin Pack and girlfriend Taylor Andresen.

Harold and Margaret are longtime members of Bethany United Methodist Church and Pastor Sheri Clifton will be officiating the service.

Brother Pack was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on May 11, 1965, Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft on August 10, 1965 and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on September 28, 1965 at Hill City Lodge No. 456 A.F. & A. M. in Austin, Texas. He received his 50 year service award on November 14, 2006 and his 60 Year Service Award on August 11, 2015 by the Grand Lodge of Texas at Hill City Lodge No. 456. Past Master Kent Kinkade performed Masonic burial services on March 27, 2020 at Austin Memorial.

And so it has come to pass, a Brother Master Mason having completed all the design’s laid down on the Trestleboard of Life, has answered the summons of the Grand Warden of Heaven and Earth and has entered into the Grand Lodge over which the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe presides.

Masonic Education

We have all heard lately that term, “New Normal”, applied to behaviors, circumstances and restrictions that most of never expected we would be experiencing. It was interpreted to be an attempt to provide comfort and guidance that several changes to the ways we interact and go about our lives and how we as a society function – which we had been told initially were short-term measures – were going to be permanent. Each of us has to decide how we view such changes and will deal with them. However, let us be clear on understanding the meaning of this term as it is being used.

The word “normal” is rooted in statistical analysis. A statistical norm is a prevalent occurrence or outcome across a sample of observed events with multiple variables or factors affecting them. A statistical norm is very seldom one thing or value but a range related to the distribution of the data points. Much of science involves studying the norms derived from manipulating those variables. It is a norm that most people walking down a hallway will walk toward the right side. That is certainly true in the U.S. and many suppose that that “normal” behavioral is influenced by the fact that we drive on the right side of a two-way roadway in this and many countries. But most behavioral scientists would not call driving on the right a real statistical norm, because there is no real freedom of choice to it. Doing so is a requirement and a law governing our behavior. Norms represent observed behavior not instructions or mandates.

Drawing on an education in psychology, this writer has scrutinized a few dozen examples, in verbal and written form, of people, over the last few months, describing or advocating this particular expression of a “new normal”. Those explanations were usually covering those things imposed on us by mandates and ordinances in recent months – wearing masks, staying home, social distancing, and avoiding those kinds of gatherings that embellish or even define our lives for some of us, like Lodge functions. As we said, such behaviors are usually not analyzed for norms. But the context of those arguments for the new normal were consistently selling the altered behaviors as if they were in fact observations of what a large majority are choosing to do. Wearing masks everywhere is described to be the new normal because “everyone is doing it”.

It is not my intention to advise any Brothers on whether they should, or should not, wear masks to comply with COVID-19-related guidelines and ordinances or to judge the objectives of those promoting the notion of the new normal. I just want to share some perspective on what this pattern of communication is. “Everyone is doing it”

From the South

Hello Brothers,

I hope all are doing well! As most of y'all know, during these Covid times we are unable to perform degrees for those waiting to be passed, raised or wish to be initiated. As unfortunate as it is that we cannot carry out these practices at the moment, I remain enthusiastic that our existing members are still interested in moving along with the work as well as new candidates interested in joining. When I first joined Hill City back in 2016, I was the only candidate who had joined the lodge in a good while. I believe I was also the youngest active member for quite some time. A few years later I was standing in the kitchen talking with those preparing our meal when I noticed they were all new members or newly raised Masons. We should feel fortunate that our lodge is growing, bringing youth and new ideas for decades to come.

Unfortunately not many lodges across the states can say the same. Over the past 6 decades we have seen Master Mason memberships decline from 4.1 million to 1.1 million in the United States. In 1997, only 20 years ago, we had twice as many Master Masons as we do today. We have to ask ourselves "Why?". Why are we seeing this number drop so significantly, especially in an era where it is easier than ever to connect with others near or far? Could the rise of social media platforms be giving us a false sense of community thus leading us to forgo seeking out connection in more interpersonal and hands-on ways? How can we utilize the technological advancements of our time as tools to better our craft and generate more interest? What can we do as a lodge to help bring these number up so our craft can stay alive for generations to come? What can we learn from other lodges? These are the questions we should be asking.

Our lodge is one of the of lucky ones, as we have had steady growth over the few years I have been a member. It's encouraging to see the younger generations taking action and being so involved, whether it be by joining the line of officers or taking it upon themselves to teach esoteric work to rising members. Seeing the young Masons in the kitchen that day has driven me to think about how we can continue making good men better by sparking interest in our communities. I implore all of us to do the same.

Fraternally,
Elan Mendoza
Junior Warden, Hill City 456

Masonic Education (continued)

is an expression very much akin to "Everyone believes ...", "Everyone understands ..." and "Everyone knows ...". Here is a real question. Do you think that there is ANY premise that could follow one of those lead-ins and make a true statement? I have heard it said that, whenever someone starts a sentence with one of those expressions, what follows is not truth but propaganda. It is a message that if the reader/listener does not do, believe, understand or know what is being described, then they are somehow not a part of "everyone" and should be denigrated or demonized.

Going hand-in-hand with this tactic of enforced inclusion in statements about "everyone" is the enforced exclusion from a position of shared piousness, by describing a disfavored condition or behavior as "not who we are". Such an expression of uniformity in all aspects of human thought, behavior and character, across a very large chunk of the population, is very troubling to many who hear it, whether stated as a believed current condition or even an aspiration. It entices the weak-minded to join in the popularity, power and satisfaction of belonging to a big group, for which the price of admission is merely surrendering one's individualism. It is easier to take away freedoms by convincing those affected that all of them are already doing what they are told to do as a matter of free will and social solidarity.

Now wait a minute. We have spoken in the past about the great benefits we, as Masons, enjoy by becoming part of something "Bigger than Ourselves". We Masons learn from each other in many aspects of life, morality and leadership, we reinforce our values among each other, and we take on service projects that no one person could handle alone. How are the good things about our Fraternity different from what we described about directing uniformity in all aspect of human behavior? First, we engage the outside population differently. We require that only those who desire to join us "knock", and we guard the West gate. We certainly don't believe that "everyone" thinks, knows or believes what we Masons do and we would never pressure anyone to conform to such things. But we do remain steadfast and strong in that understanding as we have talked about diligently sorting out for ourselves what we "Know Think and Believe". We teach our lessons in the form of "questions and answers" not simply by making statements or demands. We talk repeated about the responsibility of each Mason to think for himself in building his unique Masonic edifice. We practice regularly the recognition of the many similar values and beliefs that bind and cement us to each other, while properly managing and subordinating the differences that admittedly, and inevitably, exist between us. Our Fraternity is what it is because we ARE Masons. None of us need to be told by any person in a position of civil importance, or with "worldly wealth and honors", the things that do, or should, define us.

HILL CITY LODGE No. 456, A.F. & A.M.
P.O. BOX 1456
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767-1456

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID

AUSTIN, TEXAS
Permit No. 1675

September Birthdays

Arthur Lee Connor, III	Patrick K Graham	David Lee Kinser, Jr.	Jack Lavern Ryle
Hilton Vern Crocker	Philip Edward Hornsey	Rodney D Kothmann	David Edward Schnautz
Fred Joseph Crooks	James David Hurt	John Tate McFarland	Ernest Serrano
Jerry Seburn Daniel	Michael Lee Johnson	Harold Ray Pack	Leroy Eugene Steadman
Lance Barrett Dean	Enoch S. Johnson, Jr.	Michael Anthony Payne	Byron Wayne Weaver
Robert Carson Fisk	Sammy Ronald Jones	Kip Lee Portis	Robert Charles Williams
			Rudolph Edgar Willie, Jr.

Food Committee is suspended until we are able to reconvene.