


The HILL CITY LIGHT

November 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.	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> 1876  2020 </div>	
Secretary	Philippe Dewailly, P.M.		
Chaplain	Chuck Stewart, P.M.		
S.D.	Don Jarrell	<u>Stated Meeting:</u> First Tuesday at 7:30 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm <u>Called Meetings:</u> Other Tuesdays at 7:00 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm	
J.D.	Chris Enders		
S.S.	Ryan DiVincenzo		
J. S.	Sean Williams		
Marshal	Hunt Armistead		
M.C.	Nate Stilwell		
Tiler	Dennis Hill, P.M.		
Work Schedule		From the East	
November 2020		<p>Greetings Brethren,</p> <p>I hope everyone is enjoying the Fall weather and looking forward to a cheerful Holiday season. With the Grand Lodge's proclamation giving us the green light to resume degrees, October was a somewhat busy month for the Hill City degree team. We held two degree practices and put on an EA degree for a new Brother on October 20. He is very eager to begin his journey into Masonry and I expect we will be getting ready for a Fellowcraft Degree in the near future.</p> <p>We have a few notable events taking place in November. On 11/10 we have another candidate who will receive their EA degree. On Thursday 11/12, at 6:30 PM, Past Master Charles Maddox is hosting a district wide Zoom meeting. We will be sending out an email prior to the meeting with a Zoom invite and instructions on how to join. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the Grand Lodge Resolutions and Recommendations we will be voting on at the Grand Annual Communion this year. This is open to all Master Masons in District 50 and I would like to encourage everyone to get on the call, especially if you plan on attending the Annual Communication. This is a great way to stay informed on what we will be voting on in January.</p>	
November 3	Stated Meeting Officers Only !		
December 2020			
December 1	Stated Meeting Officers Only !		
January 2021			
January 5	Stated Meeting Officers Only !		
February 2021			
February 2	Stated Meeting Officers Only !		
March 2021			
March 2	Stated Meeting Officers Only !		

From the East (continued)

Due to current COVID-19 recommendations and restrictions from the State of Texas, McLennan County, and the Grand Lodge of Texas, attendance at the Annual Communication will be limited this year. For those members who wish to participate but do not wish to attend in person, they can now view the proceedings and vote from home. If you wish to attend, you can register online now through December 15th at the Member Portal on the Grand Lodge of Texas website. This is a new and unique opportunity we have this year which allows all Texas Masons to participate in Grand Lodge, not just those in physical attendance. I would encourage everyone who can to register and attend.

I want to wish you all a happy Thanksgiving and I hope everyone is able to enjoy some time feasting with family and friends. Let's all take time to rejoice on those things we are thankful for in our lives and the many blessings He has given us. All of us at Hill City would like to offer you a happy and hearty Thanksgiving.

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 Luke Michels at (903) 926-4203.

From the West

Welcome my brothers to the November newsletter. I miss seeing all of you. Hopefully things will change. As for Covid 19, AstraZeneca reported their vaccine showed promise in the immune response and low levels of adverse reaction in elderly and older adults. I certainly fit in that category.

I want to apologize for misspelling Brother Cruse's name last month. This shows the danger of relying totally on technology. I use a speech to text system and spell check. Sometimes one must also use the brain.

We had an Entered Apprentice degree on 20 October for Brother Sandro Sessarego. Of course we had a practice also. Brother Sessarego flew from Amsterdam, Netherlands just for the degree. And had to fly back. Brother Robert Eschenburg noted that history must have been made for the person to have traveled the greatest distance for his Entered Apprentice degree.

Because of our being restricted to ten people at a meeting, you are probably missing coming to meetings. Our degree work continues. You might consider asking to be on a degree team. Make your desires and abilities known to our Senior Deacon, Brother Don Jarrell. We will have another Entered Apprentice Degree on Nov 11, 2020—probably before you get this letter.

We had our November Stated Meeting with seven officers present. We will buy a Zoom subscription for our lodge. Our Worshipful Master is getting necessary business taken care of. It must be a difficult year to lead the lodge.

When the Great Architect of the Universe allows problems to come upon us, there is something good to come out of our problems. This applies to our lodge also. We have been struggling with membership for a long time now. And this virus adds to our problems. However we are being forced to adopt new methods to communicate, for example Zoom. Many of us older brothers struggle with technology. But our younger brothers have already adopted to many different technologies before joining our lodge. I think being forced into using technology will be the savior of our fraternity. We need new members from the younger age groups. I also believe that technology can be used to perform the Tiler's duties. We need to be open to new ways of doing things. Or if we keep doing what we have been doing, we will get the same results, decreasing membership. Let us adapt and grow our wonderful fraternity.

Fraternally,
Richard Garrett,
Senior Warden, Hill City 456

November 2020 Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Winged
6. "Remember the ___!"
11. "My man!"
14. High land
15. Dead duck
16. Black gold
17. 1955 Little Richard hit
19. Make sense, with "up"
20. Bluish gray
21. Fill up
23. Fear
27. You can find it in the west or south
28. Weapon of mass destruction
32. Annex
33. Russian novelist Maxim
34. "Crikey!"
37. Got bigger
38. Acquiesce
39. Frau's partner
40. Ring bearer, maybe
41. Bouquet
42. Argentine dance
43. Rants about assignment in TV broadcast
45. Studio effect
48. On one's back
49. Certain Arab
50. Canadian opera singer
53. Animal house
54. Willingly
60. Charlotte-to-Raleigh dir.
61. Lyme disease carriers, technically
62. Three-reeler, e.g.
63. "That's ___..."
64. Put on, as cargo
65. All thumbs

Down

1. Amazon, e.g.
2. Tip in Bucharest
3. Appropriate
4. Sylvester, to Tweety
5. Omission of a vowel or consonant
6. City on the Yamuna River
7. Boor
8. A chip, maybe
9. Big Apple attraction, with "the"
10. The Maori introduces an American Soldier to his fold
11. Get on
12. Chain of hills
13. Ancient
18. Football penalty signal
22. Sun, e.g.
23. Bacteriophage, informally
24. Monster in Binchy drama
25. More eccentric
26. Something often penciled in
27. Slang term meaning conscious of social injustice
29. Encourage
30. Standards
31. Catch bishop suppressing papers
34. Bottled spirits
35. About 1% of the atmosphere
36. Go on and on
38. Kuwaiti, e.g.
39. Door fastener
41. Advent
42. Salt shaker?
43. Big ___ Conference
44. "___ It Romantic?"
45. Isuzu model
46. Correct, as text
47. Fickeld
50. Garden bloom, informally
51. Artificial bait
52. "Idylls of the King" character
55. Mozart's "L'___ del Cairo"
56. Howard of "Happy Days"
57. "___ fallen ..."
58. Back talk
59. "Are we there ___?"

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October 2020 Puzzle Solution

	B	A	A			S	H	H			F	A	C	T		
S	W	A	N			S	T	O	A		E	B	O	O	K	
C	A	R	D	S		H	A	R	K		E	A	G	L	E	
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Marvin Marion Henry

July 20, 1915—September 10, 2016

Marvin Marion Henry, born July 20, 1915 passed away peacefully on September 10, 2016. He was preceded in death by his wife Martha Young Henry after 63 wonderful years of marriage. For the past 60 years, he was a 32nd degree Master Mason at Hill City Lodge No. 456 A.F. & A.M., a member of the Jesters, Alzafar and Ben Hur Temples.

Brother Henry is survived by his daughter Martha Jo Henry Blaylock and husband Brent; his son Marvin Chet Henry and wife Liz; 6 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

He was an avid trumpet player who loved Dixieland Music and was still entertaining at the age of 100. Marvin, a World War II veteran and one of the survivors of the greatest generation was the longest tenured Texas CPA.

Brother Marvin Marion Henry was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on February 14, 1956, Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft on January 22, 1957 and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on February 26, 1957 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 16, 2016 by the Grand Lodge of Texas.

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.

Absolutes

Our article for this month, perhaps more than most, is intended to guide the mind of the reader from some fairly clear and simple concepts into one of the most complicated realms of thought and practice in which Masons are expected to excel. We hope that each of you will revisit this topic over months and even years and we will endeavor to make it available for your repeated reading.

Among all of our working tools, three stand out as being most fundamentally important to ourselves, as individual Masons, to our Lodges and to our Fraternity as a whole – the square, level and plumb. These tools are held in the highest esteem and importance by being used as the emblem of those “indispensable” officers of the Lodge. There is little doubt that the use of these working tools by operative Masons provided the most critical reference points required for the excellent practice of the builder’s craft. They were, and are, known to represent absolutes – a 90-degree or right angle, a true horizontal and a true vertical. We are taught that the building of King Solomon’s temple represented excellent craftsmanship but could still only be called high on the scale that was recognize to distinguish the “handiwork” of God from that of human hands.

We all remember the lessons drawn from those operative working tools and their parallel use by speculative Masons, where they still represent absolutes and should be taken as such. But perhaps that simple description of King Solomon’s temple was to instill upon us that absolutes, or perfection, are the domain of the Supreme Architect of the Universe. Today, engineering could be considered a modern-day derivative of the operative Mason’s craft and skills. In the language of engineering, a permissible deviation from a specified measurement of a building or object is called tolerance. How fitting is it that the same term is so frequently mentioned as Masons discuss how we symbolically apply our Masonic edifices to our Brothers, our family and our neighbors ?

Does the application of tolerance mean that we no longer need to contemplate the absolutes in our own behavior or that of others ? Certainly not. Too much deviation from the square, the horizontal and the vertical would cause a physical building to fall and so it is with our speculative Masonic edifice that equips us for our journey through life. How then, do we as Masons come to understand the right amount of tolerance to apply to our daily lives and interactions ? Perhaps this is the most difficult question faced by man or Mason, or any person in all of humanity. Fortunately, the majority of Masonic lessons, both esoteric and historical, the symbols, landmarks and traditions given us, and the ongoing earning of our Master Mason’s wages, all contribute in one way or another to our understanding of that right amount of tolerance.

One of the first things to contemplate in purposefully building our practice of tolerance is that it is not a uniform thing that covers all things

From the South

Hello Brothers,

As we all know, this month is the month we all get with our families and feast. Thanksgiving is one of the biggest holidays in the United States and it's been a tradition for several decades. When we think of Thanksgiving decorations we typically picture a turkey, some falls leaves and the cornucopia. When I was growing up, my family used to always throw the holiday get-togethers. I remember always seeing my mom place a cornucopia in the middle of the table and never really thought much about it until now.

The cornucopia is most commonly associated with Greek mythology and Zeus. Legend states that Zeus was hidden from his father by his mother when he was a child. Kronos, Zeus' father, had eaten Zeus' siblings to prevent the prophecy that one of his children would destroy him. While Zeus was in hiding from his father, he was fed and cared for by various divine attendants including Amalthea (the Nourishing Goddess) who appeared in the form of a goat. The legend states that Zeus accidentally broke off one her horns. Later he gave the horn to the world of man as it would provide whatever was desired.

As we all know, the cornucopia is the symbol and jewel for the stewards in freemasonry and referred to as the horn of plenty. The Stewards are stationed in the masonic south and the masonic south tied with nourishment of the brothers. It makes sense because the cornucopia is a symbol of plenty and abundance, and as such has been adopted as the jewel of the Stewards of a Lodge, to remind them that it is their duty to see that the tables are properly furnished at refreshment, and that every Brother is suitably served.

I hope every single one of you has a safe and wonderful holiday and I hope to see all of you very soon!

Fraternally,
Elan Mendoza
Junior Warden, Hill City 456

Masonic Education (continued)

and all situations like a blanket. It has texture and contours as was discussed in one of our articles last year titled "Trust". My wife clearly holds the definition of a clean kitchen as an absolute and almost always affords herself little tolerance. I have a bit more tolerance when I clean the kitchen on a normal day, and even greater tolerance when my wife is visiting her sister for 10 days. Yet I have a completely different view and tolerance about paying our bills on time.

Perhaps it is a penalty for failing to adhere to a requirement as an absolute in our lives that has the first, and most dramatic, impact on the tolerance we apply in a given situation. Even so, as we build our model of tolerance, and mature in our practice of it, the virtuous aim point moves further from, and becomes more of our operative guide than, the point at which a penalty is applied. This is well understood when we recall our Masonic obligations and respective penalties and in the common adage "Character is what you do when no one is watching".

But this discussion of absolutes and tolerance is not strictly about ourselves but also about our view of others. That is where it becomes even more challenging and more important. There are so many elements to consider in a decision on the tolerance given to another that cannot be completely covered here. But these points remain, to this writer, as particularly important in continuing to build a fine and robust Masonic edifice. And, as is typically the case with these articles, these are not complete answers or guidance but only signposts toward further contemplation by the reader.

Don't take the easy route of ignoring, accepting and excusing every transgression by every person in every circumstance in the name of politeness or social accommodation. That is likely to eventually lead to real harm to oneself or others. We are put on this Earth to make a contribution, not to simply watch it go by.

Remember the earlier discussion on actively teaching. Sharing one's perspectives on discipline and virtue, when others are notably lax, is a form of giving when delivered in the appropriate time and manner. Just remember that kindness is always appropriate.

Finally, true character is demonstrated when the one applies to others at least as much tolerance as one applies to himself. Remember that we never fully understand everything in the mind or experience of another, or his cabletow.

I believe that most people spend much of their lives figuring out how to use appropriate tolerance. Hopefully, our previous articles on Knowing, Thinking, and Believing, on the Soul, and on prayer can help you in this important aspect of your Masonic edifice.

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

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November Birthdays

Herbert E Adams	Weston Wayne Floyd	Nicholas Collins Maulding	J. Robert Stone
Kendall Elliott Bardin	Evan Michael Holmes	Boaz Mell	Frank Burke Sykes
Vernon Earl Cole	William Paul Hunt	Luke Allen Michels	Byron T. Townsend
Ryan James Divincenzo	David John James	Marcus Jerome Moseley	Christian James Wagner
William Frank Farley	Matthew Chris Kirksey	Vance Edward Powell, III	Charles Michael Wentz
Hugh Monroe Farmer	James Paul Leigh	John Charles Shirley	Robert Steven Whatley
Roberto T Flores	Philip Peter Marshall	Vaughn Edward Smith	Ricky Sherrill Wilson

Food Committee is suspended until we are able to reconvene.