


The HILL CITY LIGHT

March 2021

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-between; align-items: center;"> 1876  2021 </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	
March 2021				<p>Greetings Brethren,</p> <p>Spring is almost here and I think I speak for everyone when I say I am looking forward to the warmer weather ahead. I hope everyone made it through February okay and were not impacted too heavily by the unusual winter weather we experienced. Hill City was fortunate not to sustain any significant damage or loss of power at the Lodge building that I know of. Unfortunately, we did have to cancel our annual Sweetheart dinner due to the weather. I hope we are able to host some family nights in the next few months to make up for it.</p> <p>We have a couple of items on the agenda for this month along with some possible degrees on the horizon. On March 9th we will be presenting the Golden Trowel to a well deserved Hill City Brother. The following Tuesday, March 16th, we will have our DDGM join us in presenting the 50 year Grand Lodge Service Awards to our Brothers celebrating a huge milestone in their Masonic journey.</p> <p>I would also like to clarify current attendance guidelines in place for Hill City. Despite Governor Abbott rescinding all mask and capacity mandates, Travis County orders are still in effect for Hill City and all District 50 lodges, limiting attendance at meetings to 10 or fewer. As stated by our current DDGM, "In accordance with the Grand Master's Proclamation, lodges in</p>	
March 2	Stated Meeting				
March 9	Golden Trowel				
April 2021					
April 6	Stated Meeting				
May 2021					
May 4	Stated Meeting				
June 2021					
June 1	Stated Meeting / Election				
June 15	Memorial Service				
June 29	Officer Installation				
July 2021					
July 6	Stated Meeting				

From the East (continued)

District 50, including Hill City No. 456, are to respect the attendance limit, unless and until: (1) the courts issue a ruling voiding the Travis County Judge's Order; (2) the Travis County Judge's Order is rescinded early; or (3) the Order expires on April 21, 2021 and is not renewed." Until one of these conditions are met, we will continue to respect the Grand Master's proclamation and keep stated meetings to officers only or by RSVP. Please contact me if you wish to attend a meeting so we can keep a running head count to prevent going over the limit. I am optimistic as vaccinations become more available to the masses we will soon be allowed to return to normal capacity. I appreciate everyone's patience on this and will send out communications if anything changes.

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

The sweetheart dinner scheduled for February was canceled because of the freezing weather. We did have a zoom meeting using the Lodge's new zoom program. This new program does not restrict us to 40 people as the free version does. If you have not used Zoom, I encourage you to try it. It is being regularly used by the Scottish Rite and the Shriners. There are plans to make use of Zoom in our lodge even after Covid 19 is in our past.

We had a meeting the fourth Tuesday of February with 10 people present. Five Hill City members were awarded 25 and 40 years pins. Brother Lee Kinser and Brother Matthew Chris Kirksey were present to receive their 25 year awards. Not present were Brother Thomas Ray Schnautz (25 years), Brother David John James (25 years), and Brother Vaughn Edward Smith (40 years).

We had our monthly stated meeting March 2nd. We had a surprisingly good turn out. Brother Sean Williams served a wonderful meal of salmon, potatoes and asparagus. Normal business was conducted. For the second time I had the pleasure of serving as the prom tem Worshipful Master. I was helped by two wonderful Past Masters, Brother Chuck Stewart and Brother Kent Kinkade. These are two brothers who did not disappear after they became Past Masters. They are helping the lodge every month. I want to encourage all our Past Masters to find some way of helping the lodge. Your knowledge and wisdom would be very useful to the lodge and to our newer members and officers.

I am sure that you have heard of the Governor's announcement to open up Texas and stop requiring the wearing of masks. As of the time I am writing this, there is no change for our lodge operations. Our District Deputy Grand Master has confirmed this. I would think by the time you read this newsletter, changes will be clearly understood by all.

Stay healthy. Call a Brother.

Fraternally,
Richard Garrett,
Senior Warden, Hill City 456

March 2021 Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Hardy post
5. By way of, briefly
9. "Don't give me that!"
14. ___-friendly
15. Acquire
16. Bequeath
17. "___ Like It Hot"
18. Kind of dealer
19. Consumed
20. To gradual to be discerned
23. Moray, e.g.
24. "___ alive!"
25. Trick taker, often
26. Fold, spindle or mutilate
29. Apprehension
31. Hindu ascetics
33. "The ___ Daba Honey-moon"
34. "I" problem
36. Drone, e.g.
37. Greasy
38. Cannot be controlled or restrained
42. Beseech
43. Sign of infection
44. Chinese "way"
45. Call, as a game
46. Development developments
48. Chaotic
52. "C' ___ la vie!"
53. ___ Today
54. Kind of rule
56. Clod chopper
57. Occuring by happy chance
61. Archer, at times
63. Bit
64. Brewer's equipment
65. Start of a refrain
66. Affirm
67. Beat it
68. Good Yiddish boy
69. Home, informally
70. "Back in the ___"

Down

1. Amused
2. Chemical cousin
3. Service station?
4. Certain surgeon's "patient"
5. Piece of land
6. Nonconformist belief
7. Alternative to steps
8. Steals the show
9. Cadet contingent
10. Close, as an envelope
11. Offensive correspondence
12. "___ Maria"
13. Cyst
21. Chain of hills
22. Most frigid
27. ___-bodied
28. 2004 nominee
30. Ethereal
32. Corpulent
35. Counter
37. "O" in old radio lingo
38. Works up a rage
39. Tom Sawyer was one
40. Resident near the Danube
41. Poets' feet
42. Grand ___ ("Evangeline" setting)
46. Cry of triumph
47. Pounds
49. Prime snorkeling spots
50. Waters
51. Prefix with day or year
55. Eyeball benders
58. Congers
59. Hawk's opposite
60. Good source of protein
61. Store convenience, for short
62. Anger

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68						69				70			

February 2021 Puzzle Solution

H	A	P	S		S	H	A	W		H	A	U	L	S
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S	T	E	E	R		E	D	G	Y		S	W	A	T

Masonic Education

Those who are reading this instead of hearing it read in our March Stated Meeting may be thinking this about kicking off some new activity as a project for the Lodge. Actually, it is the verb ‘pro-jekt’ that we are discussing this month.

I have occasionally seen in degree team members, particularly among younger Masons, a tendency to speak in a soft conversational voice such that many Brothers in the Lodge room cannot hear their lines during practice. From my experience in theater as a younger man, I advise them to “project” their voice. This is different from just speaking loudly using the throat which usually brings distortions and certain harshness that make it sound like the speaker is angry. Proper voice projection comes from controlling the diaphragm to give continuous pressure to the air creating the voice. Some work on the technique definitely helps but optimal results come only when the speaker becomes confident in the lines being delivered.

We as Masons develop a “voice” of sorts that is more than sound. It carries to those who listen wisdom, compassion, graciousness, inspiration, leadership and several other inherent qualities – when developed and used properly. The ideas, along with the words and phrases, that we pick up in our Masonic experiences, share with other Brothers and sometimes impart on non-Masons are a part of that voice. So too is the deep emotion we feel from, again, our confidence in the truth of what we are saying.

All of us have been “brought to Light” in Masonry which embodies several symbolic meanings. From the recognition and reverence for the Supreme Architect of the Universe, to the appreciation of all the lessons we have learned through Masonry, to the personal experience of becoming better men, we are all filled with this light in the very way that we think, work among Masons and interact with all mankind.

Masonic Education (continued)

You may be picking up on a pattern here so I will go ahead and make this month’s suggestion. The voice and light can be projected and that is what I urge you all to work on in these metaphorical and symbolic forms I have described here. Project them among the Brethren to keep us right and strong. And project them in the world, because that is our charge to serve our community and our nation and to lead.

But there is one more thing that can and should be projected and that is the man that is the Mason. Projecting, in terms of a man, means to take action. No leader or teacher is more effective than he who leads and teaches by the examples of his actions.

With continued earning of a Mason’s wages we gain that confidence, so important in projecting the speaker’s voice, that lets us optimally project the voice of a Mason, the light of a Mason and the man of a Mason. Do not be timid in speaking the truth, do not be reluctant in sharing the right way, and do not be slow to act when others are unable or unwilling to do so. Go forth and project. So mote it be.

From the South

Obituary

Hello Brethren,

I hope everyone is doing well this month! I wanted to share a little history that I researched after talking with Brother Chuck Stewart after this month's meeting. After Lodge was closed Chuck asked some of us standing around if we knew why we used black cubes to vote. I knew the answer because I remember asking that same question when I first started my journey in Masonry. For those who don't know the answer, I must take you back to Ancient Greece where the first known secret ballot box was used. The Ancient Greece used secret ballots to ostracize members of the community as well as an elected official who they felt was effectually bad in the populace's eyes. Back then they would use shards of broken pottery (ostraca) with the name of the person they were voting on. If the candidate they were voting on had 6,000 of more favorable votes they were ostracized for ten years. After the ten years were up they could come back to the community without loss of stars, property and with no stigma. Those black shards of pottery eventually became small balls and were colored differently. Black balls are still used in lodges all around the world but some lodges have changed the black balls to black cubes for those older folks who don't have the best eyesight. So, to sum it up, we are following a very old tradition once again.

I've always thought that the term "blackballed" came from Masonry until I did my curiosity got the best of me and I did some research. I love learning about our craft!

Stay safe this month and I hope to see y'all next meeting!

Fraternally,
Elan Mendoza
Junior Warden, Hill City 456

William Carson Shafer

William Carson Shafer (aka Bill, Billy Carson, or moon dog) passed away Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at the age of 69 in Smithwick, Texas. He was born on April 18, 1951 in Austin to Alta Jackson Shafer and Norman "Red" Shafer and was the middle of three brothers.

He graduated from Marble Falls High School in 1969 and worked at Winn's Five & Dime store during High School; this is where he became a master gift wrapper. He moved to Austin in 1969 and worked at the State Board of Insurance for many years as a print press operator and supervisor. Around 1974, he began umpiring for little league and eventually transitioned to adult baseball and softball leagues. In the early 1980's he became a professional skeet puller referee and refereed several state and national shoots, as well as local shoots. He was a Master Mason with the Hill City Masonic Lodge #456 in Austin. He started his own print press business in the late 1980's until he retired in 2017 to move to Smithwick, Texas.

Bill loved his family, friends, and dogs wholeheartedly and was very proud of his family heritage and traditions. He was a keeper of symbolic family heirlooms, which he proudly framed and displayed, and loved to share stories about them. He was an amazing father and papa and he could not wait for his granddaughters to get old enough to take hunting. Bill enjoyed hunting his whole life, but in the last years had become more of a deer watcher than a deer hunter. He was the most generous and kind-hearted man you would ever meet; he would give you the shirt off of his back and the last dollar in his pocket. If you were a friend of Bill's, you were family in his heart. He was a very gifted storyteller and jokester and you were guaranteed to be laughing when in his presence. He also enjoyed water skiing, jet-skiing, country western dancing, and old country music.

He is survived by his wife, Caleen Shafer (married June 11, 1988), his daughter, Misti Shafer-Webb and husband Stacy, son, Cody Shafer, wife Alyssa, and three beautiful granddaughters, Bailey, Dakota, and Ellie Jane, brother, Mike Shafer and wife Joanie, brother, Norman Shafer and wife Debbie, numerous Aunts, Uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and many friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, Alta Jackson Shafer and Norman "Red" Shafer and his first son, Joseph Shane Shafer.

Brother William Carson Shafer was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on November 15, 1983, Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft on January 24, 1984 and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on February 28, 1984 at Hill City Lodge No. 456 A.F. & A. M. in Austin, 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.

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

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March Birthdays

Alfred Williams Boulter	Milton Eugene Francis	George Albert Pipes	Calvin Stokes Story, Jr.
Vernon L. Bracewell, Jr.	Richard Lee Garrett	Isadore Reichek	Raymond Lum Toungate, II
Bradley Cooper Cole	William Donn Haffelder	Robert Lehman Roberts, Jr.	Alfred Munoz Vasquez
David Edward Ferguson	George Curtis Holland, Jr.	Michael William Roy	Weldon L. Welch
Myron James Fischer	Russell Monroe Hur	Khalil H. Sakakini	

Food Committee is suspended until we are able to reconvene.