


# The HILL CITY LIGHT

May 2021

<p><b>2020 - 2021 Lodge Officers</b></p>	<p><b>Hill City No. 456 A.F. &amp; A.M.</b> Chartered June 10, 1876</p> <p>Austin Scottish Rite Theatre &amp; 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</p>
<p>W.M. Luke Michels 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 M.C. Nate Stilwell Tiler Dennis Hill, P.M.</p>	<p>1876  2021</p> <p><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</p>
<p><b>Work Schedule</b></p>	<p><b>From the East</b></p>
<p><b>May 2021</b></p>	<p>Greetings Brethren, Spring is now in full bloom and the May weather is getting warmer. We are seeing a lot more attendance at meetings and we are hoping to keep it growing. We have several items on the agenda for the next couple of months and I look forward to seeing everyone come out to support Hill City. We have several degrees to prepare for including a MM degree on May 18th. We will hold a practice on May 11th for the degree team, all Hill City Master Masons are invited and encouraged to attend. If you are a Hill City past master there will be a past Master's meeting on May 18th at 5:30pm before the meal. All Hill City past Master's are welcome to attend. We have a fun event coming up you will want to put on your calendar. On July 31st we will be at the 14th annual Hill Country Rally for Kids BBQ cook off at Camp Ben McColloch in Dripping Springs. PM Robert Eschenburg will be there representing Hill City at this IBCA sanctioned BBQ competition. This is one of many events held throughout the year by the Hill Country Rally for Kids to raise money for children's charity organizations in the Texas Hill Country area. Bring your family and come on out and enjoy some world class BBQ and fellowship for a good cause! The focus of Grand Master Ken Curry's year is "Bring a Brother Back". As he has stated, every Lodge has members who choose not to be active. "These members pay dues or are endowed</p>
<p>May 4 Stated Meeting</p>	
<p><b>June 2021</b></p>	
<p>June 1 Stated Meeting / Election June 22 Memorial Service Officer Installation</p>	
<p><b>July 2021</b></p>	
<p>July 6 Stated Meeting</p>	
<p><b>August 2021</b></p>	
<p>August 3 Stated Meeting August 10 Virtual Training</p>	
<p><b>September 2021</b></p>	
<p>April 7 Stated Meeting</p>	

## From the East (continued)

members. They are healthy and not so bound by life's obligations that Lodge participation is prohibited. They are not so ill or aged that they cannot participate. They choose not to be active. We as Brothers must strive to understand why it is that our belief in Brotherhood is no longer material or relevant to those missing Brothers. Lodges must work to earn and regain the faith and loyalty of these missing Brothers. This year my wish is that we focus on Brotherhood. The Brotherhood of those who are here. The Brotherhood of those who were here but now are missing. The Brotherhood that is the rock of our Fraternity." In response to the Grand Master's initiative, Hill City will be kicking off the Bring a Brother Back Program in the coming weeks. The first important step will be to contact as many of our Brothers as we can to get feedback on our members' needs and invite them back to the lodge. Many of you should have received an email with a call list and some suggested talking points. If you are on the call list, please make those calls! If you are not able to for any reason, let us know and we will get your members reassigned.

Things are starting to get back to normal operations at the Lodge again and I am excited to see so many Brothers attending our meetings. As you know, the 2020-2021 Masonic year is coming to a close and we will soon have a new line of officers. Elections for 2021-2022 will be held at the June stated meeting on June 1st, I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Fraternally,

Luke Michels  
Worshipful Master, Hill City 456

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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](mailto: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

Brethren,

On May 13th we had a good turnout to package dental kits for the school children. This year it was different in that each lodge packaged the kits in their own lodge. In years past we met at Onion Creek Lodge with all of District 50.

After dinner we had then had a fellowcraft degree for one of our brothers..

On the 27th we had a Fellowcraft degree. We also had a Fellowcraft degree turn in. It seems that our lodge is really getting back into the swing of things.

On May the 4th we had our normal stated meeting. Brother Williams cooked the best pork chops I have ever eaten. The Scottish Rite gave a presentation of their budget for the building. They had really done a lot of improvements to the building. Future improvements will include an upgrade to the heating and air conditions. Their budget is in good shape. At the stated meeting Brother Jarrell gave a very good presentation on how we can implement the Bring A Brother Back program. This is the Grandmaster's push for his year in office. Included in this is a new method of calling all our lodge brothers when needed.

A lot of people are returning to Lodge. Brother Doug Freyberger was back in Lodge and gave another one of his great Masonic moments. And we had two visitors from University Lodge.

If you are not attending Lode, you are missing a lot of good fellowship. Think about returning to lodge and think about how you can help make this a better lodge for you and all your brothers.

There has been some confusion about the parking lot. Spectrum had some of their employees put tickets on some cars. This should not have been done, and now it has been stopped. Spectrum has the row of parking next to Colorado Street at all times. The Scottish Rite building has the row of parking next to the building at all times. Masons can park in the two middle rows after 5 pm and on weekends. (I know the sign says 5:30 pm) The Scottish Rite receives lease money from Spectrum for the privilege of parking in the lot.

Stay safe, call a Brother, and come to Lodge.

Fraternally,

Richard Garrett,  
Senior Warden, Hill City 456

## Obituary

### Clarence Lynn Cossey

Clarence Lynn Cossey passed away April 18, 2021. He was born June 11, 1935 in Wichita Falls, Texas to Clarence Cossey and Elizabeth Johnson Cossey. His father was born in a dugout in Oklahoma.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Ilene Kirby Cossey; son, Kirby (wife Ruth Ann) and grandsons David Littlestar (wife Natasha, son Benjamin) and Earl Cossey (wife Emily, daughters Cassidy and Monica). He was preceded in death by his daughter, Marcia Ruth Littlestar in 2007. His younger siblings, Bill Cossey and Maudie Ruth Day and their spouses also preceded him in death.

He was an Eagle Scout and a graduate of Baylor University, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and the University of Houston. He was a member of Mensa. He went on mission trips to Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Bolivia with Hillcrest Baptist Church. He was an ordained deacon at Hillcrest. He started a church in Twinsburg, Ohio in 1961. He was interim pastor at a Spanish mission church in Pasadena, Texas. He preached in numerous churches for Texas Alcohol and Narcotics Education. He worked with senior adults and began the Tuesday Morning Fellowship for seniors at Hillcrest. He was pastor for the Rebecca Baines Johnson Center in Austin for many years. He was a member of the Austin-Northeast Kiwanis Club for over 40 years. He volunteered for the American Red Cross for over 30 years teaching CPR and AED use. He made many trips with the American Red Cross to disasters in the U.S. and abroad. He was a chaplain for the Civil Air Patrol working with young people. He attended their camps as counselor and friend. He comforted many homesick kids. He donated over seven gallons of blood to the American Association Blood Bank. For decades, he rode his bicycle to the fitness center until his stroke in 2012. He spent his last nine years at Park Bend Health Center.

Brother Clarence Lynn Cossey was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on October 8, 1974, Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft on January 14, 1975 and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on February 25, 1975 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.

## Obituary

### William "Bill" Howard Bryant

William "Bill" Howard Bryant Sr., 99, of Smithville, Texas, passed away on Sunday May 2, 2021. A Life Member and 32° Scottish Rite Mason of the Hill City Masonic Lodge #456 was his pride.

Bill was born on January 26, 1922 in Austin, Texas to William Allison Bryant and Mary Frances Cain. He was married to Stella Mae Plier on October 24, 1942 for almost 60 years until she passed on September 6, 2002. While providing for his family in Houston, Bill worked for the Shamrock Hilton Hotel in the Upholstery Department, "spitting tacks" as he put it. He also served in the building maintenance industry for many years. Bill was a licensed Baptist Minister and served as minister to a variety of churches in the Austin and South East Texas area.

Bill is preceded in death by his parents, William and Mary Bryant; loving wife, Stella Mae Plier Bryant; brothers; Wylie and Jimmy Bryant; sister, Alta Mae Keck; and grandson, Wilson Clayton Bryant.

Bill is survived by sons, William Howard Bryant, Jr. and Douglas Gene Bryant; daughter, Nancy Gail (Bryant) Ivy; grand-children, Debra Gail (Alloy) Call, Joan Michelle (Alloy) Silves, Kandis Leigh Bryant Wells, Misty Jaye Alloy, John-Michael Alloy, William Douglas Bryant, Rebekah Seward, numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Services were held at Marrs-Jones Funeral Home at 110 American Legion Rd. in Smithville Texas on Saturday May 8, 2021 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Interment will be held at Haynie Chapel Cemetery in Garfield, Texas on Monday May 10th, 2021 at 10:00am. Services and pallbearers will be handled by his brothers of the Hill City Masonic Lodge and W.J. Nixon Masonic Lodge. The family of Bill wishes to extend our sincere thanks to the Hill City Lodge #456 and the W.J. Nixon Lodge #421.

William Howard Bryant Sr. was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on December 16, 1952, Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft on February 5, 1953, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on March 24, 1953, at Hill City Lodge No. 456 A. F. & A. M. Brother Bryant became Endowed member on November 19, 1987, received his 50 Year Service Award on November 11, 2002 and his 60 Year Service Award on October 10, 2012 from the Grand Lodge of Texas and was a faithful Mason for over 68 years.

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

### As a Man Thinketh...

As we see Hill City Lodge coming back into an active state after the pandemic and lockdowns, we have to notice something very encouraging. Brothers are coming back to the Lodge, and into fraternal interaction with renewed enthusiasm. Perhaps several have realized that they truly missed what happens when Masons meet for work. In particular, Brother Mark Heurta, returning after several months, has shown particular interest in the kitchen, projects and the degree teams. After his moving back into the Austin area, we are blessed to have Brother Hilton Crocker again as a pillar of the Lodge who has stepped up quickly to take a major role in our Master Mason degree team. And many will remember that our outstanding Master of Ceremonies, Brother Nate Stillwell, who is always looking for things that need to be done around the Lodge, was away from us for several years in the middle of his progression through the degrees, due to work and travel impositions. We should be particularly mindful of the contribution such Brothers make after returning to the Lodge and to the service of it. Probably many of you are thinking of the Biblical story of the prodigal son. Interesting note here. Having thought for many years the word “prodigal” pertained to returning after being way, I learned several years ago that it does not mean that. It actually is about the first part of that story when that son was spending money lavishly.

OK, this month’s article is not about word definitions but a larger and more interesting point. Imagine if several of the other Brothers who have been away from our Lodge returned and found a renewed interest and bond with the Lodge as these Brothers have done. How wonderful would that be ? How might that happen ? That is uncertain. But it is certain that if we do nothing, that definitely will NOT happen. Perhaps many, or just a few, Brothers who have been away, for whatever reason, can return to active engagement and participation with the Lodge, in whatever form is within length of their cabletow. Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Ken Curry, has talked at the Conference in Thorndale, in the Texas Mason magazine and other places about his program called Bring a “Brother Back”. This is a program of reaching out

## Masonic Education (continued)

personally to those Brother who have not attended Lodge in some time. As every one of us is aware, we need this kind of extra energy to strengthen and grow the Lodge membership after the devastating effects on our Fraternity from the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions. WM Michels, SW Garrett and JW Mendoza are embracing this program as a multi-year effort in Hill City Lodge. We are hoping to get all of the most active Lodge members involved in the process and have developed a means that we expect will be easy and effective.

The Lodge call list, previously thought of as just for funeral notifications, has been updated and can be used for (1) funerals, of course, (2) any initiatives in which the Worshipful Master wants to reach out to all Lodge members, (3) ongoing communication for each designated group caller to call the 10 members on his list on a regular basis. There are 22 groups of 10 members and the process begins by either the Worshipful Master, or Secretary, or whomever they designate, calling the Senior and Junior Wardens to begin the first stage calling which notifies all 22 designated group callers to begin calling their list. Each group caller should update his list, and notify Brother Jarrell, on the Communications Committee, or Brother Dewailly, as Secretary, to update the main list, when they determine that a Brother cannot be reached or is no longer interested in being called. To help guide that decision, the includes the age of each Brother. All of the designated group callers will receive their lists via email tomorrow.

Specifically for this Bring a Brother Back outreach, we will trigger the call list and wanted to provide the designated group callers with a few points that should be made in the conversation and few additional topics you might use in continuing conversations.

You will likely be more comfortable and more effective with these calls, especially the first ones, if you review the suggested elements of conversation well before calling and take some time to think about them, perhaps with your own answers to the questions. Please cover these items with each Brother:

### Masonic Education (continued)

- This call is part of the Bring a Brother Back program of GM Ken Curry that is being carried out with the support of WM Michels and the Wardens of Hill City Lodge.
- In this case “back” doesn’t necessarily mean physically in Lodge but it does mean in regular communication with members of the Lodge.
- The called Brother is a valued member of the Lodge and a part of the Fraternity and we should be communicating.
- Find out how the Brother is doing in all respects, if he has thought about Hill City Lodge and what is it the Lodge could do for him and to help him feel more a part of the Lodge.
- Ask if he would like to be visited by Brothers from Hill City Lodge.
- Provide your phone number and ask if you can call him again periodically.
- Is the Brother receiving the Hill City Light either by postal mail or email (if not get his info)
- See where the conversation goes.

To further the conversation, you might also discuss:

- Mention what has been going on with Lodge – re-emergence after COVID and restrictions, recent candidates progressing, Fantastic teeth project, upcoming elections, etc.
- Ask with what other Lodges, Grand Lodges or Appendant Bodies he is affiliated
- What has Masonry meant to him in his life (share your story to help get this going)
- If he could get a ride to Lodge sometimes would he be interested in coming to Lodge
- Who are some of the Lodge members or officers he remembers and enjoyed being with
- Are there family members, friends or others he knows that could be interested in Masonry to whom the Brother who called you might reach out.

### Masonic Education (continued)

- Does he have any fond memories of times in Lodge or interesting stories to tell about the Lodge
- What might he share as guidance to current officers, members or new Masons in Hill City Lodge

If you are a designated group caller, please keep this going and reach out periodically to those members in your group. Use or re-use the topics of conversation listed above but most of all get to know the Brothers in your group. Make the Fraternity real and demonstrate that you are “spreading the cement of Brotherly love and affection”. We should all understand, and should convey to those less active Brethren, that one need not come to sit in Lodge every week to be a true and contributing Brother of Hill City Lodge.

Additionally, we think Masons can walk and chew gum at the same time. So, we are still thinking about, planning some things, and seeking input on anything and everything that will help bring NEW people – but only good men – into the orbit of the Lodge to consider the path of Freemasonry.

We persist. Forget Me Not.

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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## **May Birthdays**

<b>May Birthdays</b>			
Robert Leonard Andrews, III	Mark Dwain Chapman	James Mitchell Goforth, Sr.	Dell Leclair Martin, Jr.
Fereidoun Bakhshi	Harry W. Elliott	Ahmad Mahmoud Hammoudeh	Clyde Junior Medlock
George D. Bryan	Ernie T. French	Theodore J. Kalenterides	Ronald Eugene Roberts
			David S. Solverson

**Food Committee is suspended until we are able to reconvene.**