


# The HILL CITY LIGHT

September 2021

2021 - 2022 Lodge Officers		Hill City No. 456 A.F. & A.M. Chartered June 10, 1876	
W.M.	Richard Garrett	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.	Elan Mendoza		
J.W.	Don Jarrell		
Treasurer	Kent Kinkade, P.M.	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <span>1876</span>  <span>2021</span> </div>	
Secretary	Charles Maddox P.M.		
Chaplain	Chuck Stewart, P.M.		
S.D.	Nate Stilwell	<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.	Ryan DiVincenzo		
S.S.	Sean Williams		
J. S.	Nick Grossman		
Marshal	Hunt Armistead		
M.C.	Bob Wheelless, P.M.		
Tiler	Dennis Hill, P.M.		
Work Schedule		From the East	
<b>September 2021</b>		<p>Greetings Brethren,</p> <p>I am happy to report that on September the 8th members of Hill City Lodge visited Parson Lodge #222 and had a fine Mexican meal. But the important point is that we now have the Traveling Gavel of District 50. The rule is that the visiting lodge must have at least an equal number of visiting members as the visited lodge has officers present. But there seems to be a tradition of making sure the visiting lodge gets the gavel. All in all it was good fellowship and a fine time was had by all.</p> <p>I am sad to report that we heard a rumor at our stated meeting that six members of the Round Rock Lodge tested positive for the Covid virus. I did not hear that anyone was very sick. I believe that a large majority of us have had both vaccinations which we are told very much reduces the severity of any illness from this virus.</p> <p>I appointed members of a new committee, Strategic Planning and Operations. They will study a five year plan to improve our lodge.</p> <p>We had three ladies present for the Hill City Ladies Club. This was down from five the previous meeting. But one of the ladies said she will recruit more for the next meeting.</p> <p>Last month I wrote about King Solomon. But associated with King David and King Solomon is the name Hiram, or King</p>	
September 7	Stated Meeting		
September 14	EA Degree Practice		
September 21	EA Degree Practice		
September 28	EA Degree		
<b>October 2021</b>			
October 5	Stated Meeting		
October 12	Fellowship and Practice		
October 19	Service Awards		
October 26	MWSA at Hill City		
<b>November 2021</b>			
November 2	Stated Meeting		
November 9	Fellowship and Practice		
November 16	Fellowship and Practice		
November 23	Dark		

**From the East (continued)**

Hiram I of Tyre. The word Hiram might be translated as “my brother is exalted”. He was a Phoenician king that reigned 969-936 BC. He supplied King Solomon with men and materials for the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem. He also cooperated with King Solomon in Red Sea and Mediterranean trading voyages. They went to Ophir which is thought to be either East Africa or India.. In return King Solomon gave King Hiram some small towns and tribute. I remember reading that King Hiram was not happy with the towns given to him because they were so poor. So, among friends there can be some disagreements. The city of Tyre is on the Mediterranean coast of what is now Southern Lebanon. It is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world.

But as Master Masons we are also familiar with the name Hiram Abiff or Abif. And we know what happened to him. He was the son of a widow. He had the skills to work with many different materials. He was the master craftsman in the building of the first Temple. Abif is a Hebrew word meaning “ his father” and has become a title of honor.

And call a brother.

Fraternally,

Richard Garrett  
Worshipful Master, Hill City 456

**From the West**

Brethren,

I hope all of you are doing well this month. It’s been good seeing many brothers joining us for stated meetings lately. I hope our lodge continues to have good turn outs for stated and called nights. I want to take this opportunity to thank our Worshipful Master for the lovely idea of inviting out ladies to our stated meeting dinners. I think this is such a great idea for not only growing our lodges members but also making our loved ones feel included. I would like to ask each and every one of y’all to spend these next couple of months thinking of ways we can keep our ladies entertained while we are upstairs. Any and all ideas would be appreciated.

I would also like to take this time to thank our Junior Warden for putting together some great ideas for the strategic planning committee. I know he has spent a lot of time organizing what needs to be done to get this idea off the ground. After going over what he had in mind I really do think this is a great idea to keep our lodge working towards some consistent ideas throughout the years as well as keeping us on track for goal we want to hit. I hope that all of us can come together to fully back this committee and help in any way we can. I’m excited to see what kinds of positive changes we can make when all of our minds can work as one.

I know this past year and a half have been hard for most and I know that it has taken a toll on some of our brothers so I would like to ask y'all to take some time and reach out to those who can not make it into lodge. I don't know about y'all but I sure do miss seeing a lot of faces. Let us ask ourselves what we can do for our friends who have not been able to attend or participate. Even if it is something as simple as a call to check in on them, I know it would mean a lot.

Fraternally,

Elan Mendoza,  
Senior Warden, Hill City 456

## September 2021 Crossword Puzzle

### Across

1. Flavorful
6. High-hatter
10. Essence
14. Carry away, in a way
15. Hokkaido native
16. "Green Gables" girl
17. Center of balance
19. "Cut it out!"
20. Ocean growth
21. 007, for one
23. Morgue, for one
24. Bumpkin
27. Kind of chop
29. Furnace could make Mike ill and nauseous at first
33. Mosque V.I.P.
34. Dig, so to speak
35. Clickable image
37. 27, to 3
40. Church assembly
41. Big Apple inits.
42. Goatlike Asian mammal
43. Coin opening
44. Workbench attachment
45. Astound
46. Bronx cheer
48. Fruit with taste only revolting
50. Drugs saga
52. Like a bug in a rug
53. Egg cells
54. Software program, briefly
56. Bad atmosphere
61. Snowman prop
63. Bin stealer shot in Soviet sector once
66. Far from ruddy
67. Opportune
68. Restrict
69. Ditch
70. Smeltery refuse
71. Varieties

### Down

1. Jiffs
2. On the safe side, at sea
3. Legal prefix
4. Any thing
5. Landed
6. "Do the Right Thing" pizzeria owner
7. Bubkes
8. \_\_\_ probandi
9. Hillbilly
10. Neon, e.g.
11. Within
12. Muzzle
13. Crow's home
18. Fancy little needle case
22. Starchy tuber
25. Buckwheat pancakes
26. Inclose cysts
28. Flower part
29. "O, gie me the \_\_\_ that has acres o' charms": Burns
30. Romantic interlude
31. Theses
32. Arousing
36. Arctic \_\_\_
38. Classic clown
39. \_\_\_ milk
42. In most need of support
44. Evening prayer service
47. \_\_\_ constrictor
49. Deaden
50. Certain cactus
51. Dispatch boat
55. Beach item
57. Affectedly creative
58. Berth place
59. Coal site
60. Aardvark fare
62. #13
64. Marienbad, for one
65. Integral part for a two-year old sheep

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## August 2021 Puzzle Solution

	S	C	R	A	T	C	H	Y		L	O	A	M					
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A	T	M			M	I	X			A	G	O		O	H	O		
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		F	R	E	T					T	R	E	S	P	A	S	S	

**Volunteer**

Most of you know that I can be pretty energetic when it comes to ideas for Lodge activity and organizing. And, yes, sometimes a little much to deal with. Hopefully, you all understand that it is with the best of intentions for the Lodge and the Brethren and are not offended. When socializing some idea or project I have, I have sometimes heard that I should remember that our Lodge is a “volunteer organization” as contrasted from businesses or other entities more likely to be successful in requiring action and/or compliance. As I have wondered that guidance for some time, I also remembered that another genuine volunteer organization is the U.S. Marine Corps, but they manage to accomplish a great deal based on their manner of engagement and bonding.

Now our Brethren are not about to gear up and go into battle and many Brothers deliver about the right amount of volunteer effort just by paying their dues and showing for meetings. However, there is another level of voluntary effort that comes with the Brother’s choice to join the line of officers, committees, degree teams and the occasional one-off request from the Worshipful Master. While each Mason’s cabletow is still in effect, it is important that the Brother carefully consider his own commitment before agreeing to take on such heightened responsibility, or to step up with a new idea for voluntary endeavor.

Remembering the working tool of a Master Mason, there should be no contentions and effort in the Lodge is NOT a competition. I remind myself frequently of the something occasionally seen in that profoundly source of wisdom – Facebook. Well the Freemason groups anyway. My goal isn’t to be better than others. My goal is to be better than I once was.

With that in mind, I have voluntarily taken on the biggest challenge of my Masonic career in describing and proposing a Strategic Planning and Operations Committee for our Lodge which is starting to move forward. To make the decision about this, I had to carefully examine my motives for doing this. My “why”. Here is what I have honestly and earnestly documented.

I love everything about Freemasonry – its vastness of symbolic knowledge, its tried and proven strength to survive organizational and human frailty, its unending and fundamental pursuit of truth and light, the way its principles, tenets and lessons get proven to be correct continuously, and even how the occasional challenges and frustrations teach us to be bigger and better men.

I consider Freemasonry to be so very important at this time to the support and recovery of the best vision and ideals of this nation, as the “shining city upon a hill”. Those needed tenets are morality, leadership, freedom, prosperity, faith and trust in God, human development, equality and unity, and earnest striving for strength and success in all things.

We have tremendous momentum in shrinkage of numbers and declining enthusiasm for, and commitment to, our craft that MUST be reversed.

It is most likely that many good men and their circles of interest want, but probably have trouble finding, an environment in which to learn and develop along the lines that Freemasonry can provide. Working in this structured way we can improve on this significantly.

It is in my nature to be a look-out, a fixer, an innovator and a fire-starter.

I have prayed about this and know that I must do it and convert or ignore all naysayers.

That’s my story and I’m sticking to it. Join me if you will and to the degree you choose. I am clear in my intent and vision and am determined to make it work for the benefit, strength and growth of the Lodge.

**Oktoberfest Festive Board**

Monday, October 4

Hosted by the Austin Lodge no. 12. Absolutely delicious German Kosher Cuisine prepared from scratch by callus laden hands worked to the bone. Entertainment! Festive Board Frivolity! Masonic Fellowship Fun! stayed tuned for tickets. When they go on sale; you got to buy early. Limited Tickets available!

**Cornerstone Leveling Ceremony.**

Thursday. September 30,2021 in Elgin Texas.

Elgin Lodge no. 328. 30 N. Ave C. Elgin Tx. 78621. activities begin at 8am at the Lodge. The Cornerstone leveling begins at 10am at the

Coupland ISD school addition. 620 S Commerce St. Coupland Tx. 78615.

**The Black Tie Charity Ball.**

October 16. 6pm in Waco Texas.

Benefitting the Masonic Grand Lodge Library and Museum of Texas. Celebrating Sam Houston and the Republic of Texas. tickets 75.00.

Brethren,

The Grand Lodge of Texas' Officer Leadership Training (OLT) has always covered and stressed the importance of Administration, Law, Planning and Communication in running a Lodge. While every Texas Lodge has been doing this things to some degree, my reading between the lines of this 16-hour firehose-drinking immersive course led me to the point that we could do better with some attention to two areas of perspective and practice with which I am familiar – sustainability and operationalizing. I'm not saying that the traditional topics of OLT are any less important, just that they are strengthened in practice by applying some principles borrowed from experience in business and organizations. So I am offering for the approval of the Worshipful Master and the Lodge an organized set of ideas that I am confident will strengthen and grow the Lodge and enhance the experience for seasoned Masons in the line of officers, new Masons who are observing what the Lodge is about, and all the Brethren of the Lodge.

What I am proposing to do will be seen, to some degree, as breaking from some traditions or historically-observed patterns of organic behavior in the Lodge. I promise that every bit of it is not meant to be disrespectful but to serve, strengthen and grow the Lodge. Some will understand this immediately upon reading the material I will be sharing, first with the officers and later with the Lodge as a whole. Others may take a while to understand this fully and be convinced. Hopefully quite soon all the officers, working better as a team, will demonstrate what this is about. As Brother Richard Schlaudroff, Vice Chairman of the GL Committee on Masonic Education and Service, emphasized at OLT, "Do not fear change. Fear the inability to change."

In a nutshell, the proposal will be to form a Strategic Planning and Operating Committee in which the elected officers and those coming behind them back to the Senior Steward would work as a team to document how the Lodge operates; train and develop the line of officers; build, revise and maintain a 5-year Strategic plan; and communicate regularly about needs to be done – and CAN be done – in the Lodge, both now and for the ensuing five years. The benefits to the Lodge are a stronger operating team, more accomplishments on an ongoing basis, less stress with fewer things falling between the cracks or waiting until the last minute and MORE FUN. All of this will move through a review, revision and approval process and ultimately be shared with the whole Lodge.

Fraternally,  
Don Jarrell  
Junior Warden, Hill City 456

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

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## September Birthdays

Arthur L. Connor, III	Robert Carson Fisk	David Lee Kinser, Jr.	Kip Lee Portis
Hilton Vern Crocker	Patrick K. Graham	Rodney D. Kothmann	Jack Laverne Ryle
Fred Joseph Crooks	Philip Edward Hornsey	John Tate McFarland	David Edward Schnautz
Jerry Seburn Daniel	James David Hurt	Curtis Montgomery	Ernest Serrano
Lance Barrett Dean	Michael Lee Johnson	David Kerry Parker	Robert Charles Williams
	Sammy Ronald Jones	Michael Anthony Payne	

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