


# The HILL CITY LIGHT

November 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.		
Secretary	Charles Maddox P.M.		
Chaplain	Chuck Stewart, P.M.		
S.D.	Nate Stilwell		
J.D.	Ryan DiVincenzo		
S.S.	Sean Williams		
J. S.	Nick Grossman		
Marshal	Hunt Armistead	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <span>1876</span>  <span>2021</span> </div>	
M.C.	Bob Wheelless, P.M.		
Tiler	Dennis Hill, P.M.	<p><u>Stated Meeting:</u> First Tuesday at 7:30 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm</p> <p><u>Called Meetings:</u> Other Tuesdays at 7:00 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm</p>	
Work Schedule		From the East	
<b>November 2021</b>		<p>Greetings Brethren, Welcome back my brothers.</p> <p>I hope you are all in good health and good spirits. On October 9th I attended the Bristol workshop at Onion Creek Lodge. Also in attendance was Brother Darrell and Brother DiVincenzo. Brother DiVincenzo had a big week, in addition to a birthday, he graduated from University of Texas San Antonio. Congratulate him when you see him. Again I wish to encourage attendance at these Bristol Workshops. We have an obligation not to change the rituals. These workshops really help in keeping all the lodges on the same course. You do not need to be a current lodge officer to attend.</p> <p>Today I would like to examine Texas Masonic history. As you know, Stephen f Austin established a colony in Texas that at that time belonged to Mexico. Scottish Rite masonry was well established in Mexico among the Mexican conservatives. York Rite Freemasonry was introduced in Mexico City by more liberal Americans living there.</p> <p>In 1828 Stephen F. Austin and 5 other men attempted to establish a Masonic Lodge on Texas soil and submitted a request to Mexico City for dispensation to establish a masonic lodge. In late 1828 the Mexican government expelled York Rite masonry from Mexico. The request did reach Matamoras. But no</p>	
November 2	Stated Meeting		
November 9	FC Degree Practice		
November 16	FC Degree Practice		
November 23	Dark		
November 30	FC Degree Practice		
<b>December 2021</b>			
December 7	Stated Meeting		
December 14	Past Masters' Dinner		
December 21	Dark		
December 28	Dark		
<b>January 2022</b>			
January 4	Stated Meeting		
January 11	Degree Practice		
January 18	Degree Practice		
January 25	Degree Practice		

## From the East (continued)

response from Mexico City was ever received. Austin called another meeting of Masons in which it was decided if this was not a prudent time to push for a Lodge.

On March 1st 1835 five Master Masons met in the town of Brazoria under what now is known as the Masonic Oak and decided to petition the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. A charter was issued to establish Holland Lodge. Anson Jones carried it in his saddlebags during the Battle of San Jacinto. The lodge was opened in October 1837 in the Senate chambers of the Republic of Texas in Houston.

Two more lodges were opened, Milam lodge Number 40 in Nacogdoches and McFarland lodge Number 41 in Saint Augustine. Holland Lodge moved to Houston.

In December 1837 the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas was established with Anson Jones as the first Grand Master of Texas. Sam Houston presided over the convention that formed the Grand Lodge.

By the year 1880 the number of lodges in Texas had increased to 515.

In 1847 the Grand Lodge established a committee on education and resolved that 10% of all revenue be for the purposes of education. Even prior to this many lodges had already established schools in Texas. This Masonic influence has of course decreased as other institutions such as government and churches have taken over public education.

The influence masonry has had on Texas government, politics and education is incalculable.

Without Free Masonry, we might well be speaking a different language.

And call a brother.

Fraternally,

Richard Garrett

Worshipful Master, Hill City 456

## From the West

Hello Brethren,

I hope all are doing well this month. I first want to say I'm sorry for missing this months stated meeting. As it turns out my roommate had COVID and ended up passing it on to me. I'm hoping to be better within this coming week so I can make it back to lodge.

For this month's article I would like to talk about the strategic planning and operations committee. I would first like to thank Don Jarrell for taking the time to come up with such a detailed way for use to organize our files and hopefully make things run a little smoother in the years to come. For those who haven't come to lodge or for those who aren't sure what this committee is, let me explain it as best I can. From my understanding, the committee will consist of the three principal officers as well as the Senior and Junior Deacons, the Senior Steward and a handful of Past Masters. This Committee is formed for several reasons. First, so we can keep a correct record of whatever office needs in order to function properly. This means that those who are moving up in the line of officers can have a centralized place (Drive folder) to see what the previous officers did as well as all the materials they are going to need to fulfill the duties of their office appropriately. And example of this would be the Senior Deacon's office. The next years Senior Deacon will have a copy of all the brethren who have performed on degree teams as well as their contact information. This will make it so much easier over time to keep track of everything we need to have our lodge run as smoothly as possible.

The SPOC Committee is not just for organizing files but also to help guide us for the future. One of my favorite parts of this committee is that we get to hear ideas from those in line. This means if the Junior Deacon has a great idea that he has been planning for his year as Worshipful Master, we can start paving the path to make his idea a reality. This will make it easier to have lasting change instead of a Worshipful Master coming in for one year and attempting to make a change in such a short time.

I am very excited about this committee, and I urge all of you to help in any way you can!

I hope to see all of y'all at the next stated meeting.

Fraternally,

Elan Mendoza,

Senior Warden, Hill City 456

## November 2021 Crossword Puzzle

### Across

1. Carries
6. Affectedly creative
10. Bandy words
14. As a whole
15. Abysmal test score
16. Call to a mate
17. No French romance, it's purely factual
19. Strengthen, with "up"
20. Itsy-bitsy
21. Natives Canadians
22. Lurid, vivid
26. "Oh, my aching head!," e.g.
27. Hardy's comical pal
28. Best performer
32. Aquatic mammal
33. "Gladiator" setting
34. Bill and \_\_\_
35. Above
36. Rodeo sight
37. Fodder holder
38. Cap
39. Bad lighting?
40. Massenet opera
41. Father of nag
43. Grosse \_\_\_, Mich.
44. \_\_\_ of the Unknowns
45. Process remains
46. Handmade weapons
48. Mane wearers
50. Exude
51. was more important than
56. Biblical shepherd
57. Dash
58. 1970 World's Fair site
59. Floral arrangement
60. Essen basin
61. Set, as a price

### Down

1. Bolivian export
2. "Walking on Thin Ice" singer
3. "The Joy Luck Club" author
4. "Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice \_\_\_ Agin)" (#1 hit of 1970)
5. Glide over the surface to upset her list
6. Montezuma, e.g.
7. Curb, with "in"
8. "Iliad" city
9. "Silent Night" adjective
10. Small-time dictator
11. Ancient seafaring people
12. Bang-up
13. Bakery selections
18. Plaster the top of a room
21. Deep sleep
22. What a poor winner does
23. Sharps taps
24. Make Habitual
25. Get ready, for short
26. "Buddenbrooks" author
28. Sing like Bing
29. Axed
30. Form of limestone
31. Snares
33. "Not to mention ..."
36. Baby holder
37. FedEx, say
39. "\_\_\_ for the poor"
40. Very nice
42. Grand
43. Corn \_\_\_
45. Show fear
46. "General Hospital," e.g.
47. Bindle bearer
48. Hilo feast
49. Allergic reaction
51. "Catch-22" pilot
52. Fed. construction overseer
53. \_\_\_ and cheese
54. Barely get, with "out"
55. "Dear old" guy

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			

## October 2021 Puzzle Solution

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

**At Heart**

I'm sure that all of you understand the title and remember the time and circumstance in which that phrase became meaningful. We all also agree that a man who is "prepared" to be made a Mason is a good man, as that is the only kind whom we embrace and support on the journey to become a Mason. I want to share this month how I connect those thoughts with a further application of Masonry, education, family and service.

Of course, when we talk about "heart" in this case we're not talking about that organ that pumps your blood but that metaphorical heart involving the mind and soul. We understand that to be the product of all accumulated knowledge and wisdom, our values and principles. Perhaps the question missing in that Masonic dialog is "When and how were you first prepared ... ? ". Clearly, a bad man might do some somewhat good things occasionally, just as a good man may exhibit some indiscretions and once in a while do some bad things. But on the whole, over a lifetime, he who is truly good "at heart" will consistently show up that way. So that preparation must be deeply-rooted and begin early. Also that, I believe, is why we take and discuss that selection.

Several people in my age bracket brag that our generation had the best music and I now turn to the wisdom of the ages embodied in some good '60s music. Teach Your Children Well is a classic from 1969 performed by Crosby, Still, Nash and Young and that is worth listening to over and over. Some of us are hearing that in our heads right now. For the rest of you, here are links for the lyrics (<https://bit.ly/3w9Hp9j>) and the recorded song (<https://bit.ly/3mFzRs2>) shortened for easier typing.

I'll spare you my singing, but here is a synopsis of the song, with my respect and apologies to the songwriters and artists. In growing up, children need "a code that you can live by". Parents are imperfect but should share the better parts – their beliefs and values - and the children will figure out which is which. This is critical because the experience of parents becomes that "truth" by

which the children "Make a world ... That we can live in". The process is emotional but worthwhile because they will understand "And know they love you". Something I missed back in the day was that the perspective gets flipped in the song and later touches on the children with respect to their parents.

Like the love in a family, inter-generational teaching is as vital to our preservation of our culture, our continued civility, our progress as a people and a nation, and our economic and spiritual prosperity as is oxygen to our bodies. AND, it is bidirectional, as the song describes. The forward and backward bonds of family are so foundational to who we choose to be. I did not say who we "are" as though that were luck or happenstance. As in all things, we find the way to have our lives to be reflected, whether good or bad, in the next generation and those to come.

While that sounds like, and was meant to be, an eternal perspective, there is a focused point to it in current events. As I have said many times, don't let those with evil designs convince you that the differences in their perspective and yours are "political" as though to cover or excuse them or prevent discussion as a Mason. As natural as it is for the mama bear to protect her cubs from any perceived threat, so should parents continue to rightly claim all right and prerogative to decide the curriculum and manner of educating their children. And that applies equally whether in their own homes, in a setting that they select, or in that which is provided to them by the state solely by the delegation of that responsibility by parents, with due and appropriate review and approval. As much as people consider those rights mentioned in our Bill of Rights to be "endowed by their Creator" so should all parents see that right – and attendant responsibility – to "teach your children well".

## From the South

Brethren,

I continue to appreciate WM Richard Garrett's request, and SD Nate Stillwell's response, to build a degree team composed of Brothers under 40 years of age. That has worked well and we ... uh, cough, more senior Masons have enjoyed seeing the progress as we develop that team to do Fellowcraft and eventually Master Mason degrees. We have also been working on some of the younger Brothers to strengthen their esoteric work and begin instructing newer Masons. The Mentoring program I mentioned last month is starting to take shape but we still need more Brothers to step up as Mentors for Jonathan Handel, Sandro Sessarego, Jacob Cavazos, Tom Kennedy and three EAs who have faded from us.

Additionally, I'll put in another plug for the new Strategic Planning and Operations Committee or SPOC. This is composed of all of the Lodge officers who, "if tradition prevails", would be going into the East in the next 5 years and the Junior Past Master to share some sage and fresh thoughts about the experience and lessons learned. This Committee works as a team to understand how the Lodge is operated, what the responsibilities are for each officer position as well as those overall for the Lodge. Specific objectives are:

- Move such knowledge from an oral tradition to one of documents stored and accessible online
- Have every officer fully ready to assume his role at each July Stated meeting
- Reduce any anxiety a younger Brother may have about joining the line of officers
- Plan projects, events and improvements in Lodge functions that may take longer than one year
- Solicit and seriously work on new ideas from up and coming officers
- Develop more of an organized team effort in operating all the functions of the Lodge
- Help younger Masons develop life skills for use outside the Lodge in committee work, planning, project execution and organizational sustainability

## From the South (continued)

With these four areas – degree teams, esoteric instructors, mentoring and SPOC – one could say that our Lodge is actively and enthusiastically providing a kind of Masonic **career development** for those Masons that desire it. Our new and younger Masons **ARE** the future of the Lodge and right now our Lodge is making these efforts to ensure it is a strong one, year after year for many years to come.

Fraternally,

Don Jarrell

Junior Warden, Hill City 456

## District 50 Happenings

### Ben Hur Shrine

7811 Rockwood Ln, Austin, TX 78757

"I want to be a Shriner!"

contact: David Hoke (512) 786-3073

### Upcoming Parades

- Thorndale Christmas Parade 12/4/2021
- Liberty Hill Christmas Parade 12/11/2021

Fundraiser: Quilt Raffle benefiting the Shriners Children Hospitals.

There is a quilt made from unit and club shirts and patches that will be raffled off for the benefit. Tickets are 5.00 each or 5 for 20.00. Contact James Heineman [heineman@yahoo.com](mailto:heineman@yahoo.com) for tickets.

---

**The National Sojourners** meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month in the Holiday Inn at 6000 Middle Fiskville Rd. Austin, TX 78752.

Please RSVP by the evening before.

Any questions can be directed to Bro James Medlock at 979-575-7787 or Kyle Nigro at 203-206-0660

**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**

---

## **November Birthdays**

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

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