


The HILL CITY LIGHT

February 2022

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	1876  2022	
J.W.	Don Jarrell	<u>Stated Meeting:</u> First Tuesday at 7:30 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm	
Treasurer	Kent Kinkade, P.M.	<u>Called Meetings:</u> Other Tuesdays at 7:00 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm	
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		
M.C.	Bob Wheeless, P.M.		
Tiler	Dennis Hill, P.M.		
Work Schedule		From the East	
February 2022		<p>Greetings Brethren,</p> <p>I am currently reading the biography of Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow. It is a number one New York Times bestseller. This book was the inspiration for the Broadway musical. I will next read his biography of George Washington which is also a New York Times bestseller and winner of a Pulitzer Prize. Alexander Hamilton was not a mason. But as we all know our first president, George Washington was a Freemason. This got me thinking about Freemasonry in Colonial America.</p> <p>George Washington became an Entered Apprentice when he was 20 years old. It cost him 2 lbs and. 3 Shillings. I calculated this to be about \$130 in today's dollars. He was raised to the 3rd degree of Master Mason in 1753. His mother Lodge was renamed and numbered as Fredericksburg Lodge Number 4. This lodge is still in existence. George Washington has been quoted as saying Free Masonry was “founded on benevolence and to be exercised for the good of mankind.” When he died one of the doctors at his bedside was an original lodge brother. His lodge brothers performed Masonic rites at his funeral. After Martha Washington died, his lodge received many of his Masonic items including an apron that was made in France in 1793.</p> <p>I can find no evidence that George Washington held any Masonic position in any lodge. However; he was active in</p>	
February 1	Stated Meeting		
February 8	Degree Practice		
February 15	Degree Practice Sweetheart Dinner Post- poned due to Covid		
February 22	Degree Practice		
March 2022			
March 1	Stated Meeting		
March 8	Degree Practice		
March 15	50 & 60 Year Awards		
March 22	Degree Practice		
March 29	Degree Practice		
April 2022			
April 5	Stated Meeting		
April 12	Degree Practice		
April 19	Scholarship Awards		
April 26	Dark—MWSA Meeting		

From the East (continued)

Masonic activities; for example he acted as Grand Master Pro Tem at the masonic ceremony of the laying of the cornerstone for the United States Capitol building.

Masonry grew rapidly in the 18th century. In England and Scotland many powerful and intellectual elites became masons to include aristocrats and members of the Royal Family. This rapid growth was also copied in the colonies. It became a social phenomenon to join the masons. Masonic Growth was most rapid in the cities and amongst the intellectual, commercial and political elites. Lodges frequently met in local taverns where food and drink was available. But, there were some lodges with their own buildings and they provided their own food and drink. Early on there were meetings without aprons or any other masonic items.

Benjamin Franklin published the first Masonic book in the colonies. In the 1720's and 1730's there were pamphlets and books published that revealed secrets and rituals. Guess they did not have the worldwide Internet then.

Famous Masons during the revolution were George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, James Otis and Paul Revere. Many other famous people became Masons after the revolution. Masonry as an organization to include local lodges stayed neutral during the revolution. Only about 45% of the population supported the revolution. About 15 to 20% of the population supported the British crown and the rest were neutral.

Stay healthy and call a brother.

And call a brother.

Fraternally,

Richard Garrett

Worshipful Master, Hill City 456

From the West

Hello Brethren,

I hope everyone is doing well this month. This past month I was at an event and a man came up to me and started a conversation. He eventually asked me if I was a traveling man. I've only been asked that a few times in my life and I knew what he was really asking but it made me start to think about what that term really means. In the world of operative Masonry, Masons were often required to move around from job to job, kind of as we do today in our normal jobs. Back in the day, master masons were more likely to travel great distances than those of lesser ranks like Fellowcraft and entered apprentices. Thanks to their experience in the field (and today, usually a membership in the labor union representing their craft), they were free to move from job to job. Those doing so were normally members of a Masonic guild, whose members would, if known, vouch for the qualifications of or recommend another "traveling" mason. This is very similar to how we work in a lodge or in our craft. As a speculative master mason you are free to move from lodge to lodge either visiting or moving membership. In ancient times, operative Masonry Masons were not able to carry their work with them to prove they were expert workmen. This is where certain signs and tokens come into play. Instead of carrying your work with you, you carry certain signs and tokens to prove yourself to be a more expert workman. Today we have photographs and portfolios to make this a bit easier. Also, a Master Mason is a traveler from west to east, as east is the where the sun comes up, hence the source of light. This is why the master sits in the East. Because it is the source of light. Thus being a traveling man represents our journey from darkness to Masonic light (enlightenment). We "traveled" symbolically when we were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Remember the words, "It will be necessary for you to travel"? And the condition of the road we would have to travel? In Masonry we are told to seek the light. Light in Masonry is knowledge and from that knowledge comes information and understanding.

Fraternally,

Elan Mendoza,

Senior Warden, Hill City 456

February 2022 Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Ivory source
5. "Rocks"
8. Spread
13. Companion of Artemis
15. A little of this, a little of that
16. Command
17. Rocket fuel ingredient, for short
18. Drivel
19. Keeper of the teas
20. Place of learning
23. "Seinfeld" uncle
24. Sundae topper, perhaps
25. Made of silver (arch.)
27. Police, with "the"
30. Russian assembly
32. "Fantasy Island" prop
33. Accused's need
35. Basketball maneuver
37. Clash
41. After prayer, golden couples bury small trinkets
44. Abominable Snowman
45. ___ Bowl
46. Destiny
47. Ed.'s request
49. "Cast Away" setting
51. Anderson's "High ___"
52. Error
56. Bindle bearer
58. "___ moment"
59. Beast barked, getting upset stomach
64. Care for
66. "Aladdin" prince
67. The currency of Nigeria, introduced in 1973
68. Astrological ram
69. Gun, as an engine
70. Bond, for one
71. skim grease from
72. "Malcolm X" director
73. Times to call, in classifieds

Down

1. A load
2. Acid first discovered in kidney stones
3. Actor Green of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer"
4. High plateau in South Africa
5. Composition in this person's concert put off
6. "Bye now"
7. Montreal team
8. Ship's living quarters, to sailors
9. Victorian, for one
10. Befuddle
11. Exodus commemoration
12. Check for fit
14. All-out
21. Place I quit to make money abroad
22. Exploits
26. Peace Corps cousin
27. Delicate
28. Healing plant
29. Weaken
31. Garlicky mayonnaise
34. Seventh heaven
36. Evasive maneuver
38. Chipper
39. BBs, e.g.
40. Boris Godunov, for one
42. All alternative
43. President to prohibit one form of art from Japan
48. Ideally
50. Court ploy
52. A single unit
53. Accustom
54. Printing flourish
55. Necklace item
57. ___ orange
60. On the safe side, at sea
61. Capital on the Dnieper
62. Coastal raptor
63. Makes lace
65. Caribbean, e.g.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12
13			14		15				16				
17					18				19				
20					21			22		23			
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52	53	54				55		56		57			
58				59		60					61	62	63
64			65			66			67				
68						69			70				
71						72				73			

January 2022 Puzzle Solution

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

Disagree

I bet some readers stiffened up just seeing the title of this month’s article. Various Masons have various understandings about the word. Some think we are immune from disagreement in, and because of, the “fraternity”. Others think we are obligated to always agree with whatever another Brother says or remain quiet. As I have promised, I am not going to tell any other Brothers what they should think, about this or anything, but I will offer an alternate way to consider the subject, which I believe is better.

All Masons are humans and humans have a vast set of knowledges, experiences and perspectives resulting in infinite possibilities for seeing a situation differently. So disagreements are everywhere, natural and inescapable. Many, myself included, recognize disagreement as an outcome of people exercising their God-given freedoms. In just the past few weeks, including Grand Lodge and elsewhere, I heard several Masons and good, wise non-Masons say “I reserve the right to disagree, but no one has the right to be disagreeable”. It is important to recognize that difference and believe that expression of disagreement, in itself, is NOT rude, disrespectful, evil, or a form of hate. It sounds really odd that I even have to say that but here we are.

So, I contend that it is an enlightened perspective to think of disagreement not as a problem, but as an opportunity. Decades ago I thought I read something that either Descartes or Bacon had said. I cannot find the correct attribution - even with the power of Google – so I’ll just have to claim it for myself. The quotable statement is “Debate is the most productive form of communication.” With one-directional communication, AKA a speech or lecture, one person might teach the other something. Or maybe not. Much interactive conversation is simply banter, chit-chat or shooting the breeze, hopefully with overtones of entertainment. But when a topic exists that has meaning and value to two or more people, about which they have different perspectives, by expressing and explaining their beliefs, positions, rationale outlooks, BOTH people can very likely

come away from the discussion of the disagreement in a better state. Both can gain facts they had not possessed, see logic they had not seen or understood, and learn about the diversity of perspectives and values of other people.

Accomplishing value from disagreement or debate requires skills that can, and I think should, be learned by all, but certainly by Masons and most especially those in positions of leadership in Masonry. We know that public discourse in this country has gotten away from civility, rationality and this sense of productive exchange. So I want to break down my experience and views on how two or more people can deal with a disagreement and both come out better on the other side – even when the conclusion is to “agree to disagree”. It is all about how the discussion, perceptions and reactions are handled. As a starter, readers may want to re-read, or read of the first time, some of my previous articles to best understand what we will be covering in the articles for March and April:

“To Know to Think and to Believe” – January 2020

“Freemasonry for the 90 percent” – December 2020

“The Deal” – December 2021

We will touch on a bit of psychology, the arts of negotiation and debate, structures of misinformation, and a few bits from the basics of intelligence interrogations. Perhaps someone will come up with a way to build an event, on a Lodge night or not, including some kind of discussion or exercise on this theme.

From the South

Brethren,

Probably a lot of our Brethren are not familiar with this regular occurrence on Tuesday nights. No, I'm not talking about our Stated and Called Lodge meetings but what takes place afterward. Yes, I'm talking anywhere from a handful of us to well over a dozen gathering at the nearby Dive Bar. The fact that, on those occasions, we're drinking adult beverages is not really the point to made here. What is the point is that in addition to the ritual, ceremonial and good work we do in Lodge itself, the Fraternity is importantly served by this unstructured, relaxed opportunity to socialize and really get to know each other. With the workstyles and lifestyles today, our diverse Brethren typically do not work together or run into each other outside Lodge and in the normal course of our lives. We all enjoy sharing the richness of our humanity, our common interests and our outlook for future growth, both individually and within the Lodge. I can tell you that several ideas for projects or other things in the Lodge were originally discussed and socialized at our sessions at the Dive. We know that historically many of the first Lodges in the country were tied to pubs and taverns so we consider this keeping those important traditions. OK, that was a bit of a stretch.

I'm not sure anyone is going to come to Lodge just to attend these after-Lodge events, and I know that some Brothers have responsibilities that require them to head home right after Lodge. But for those who are able to come to Lodge, and can plan a little extra time, I invite you to join us. Since this is not an official Lodge thing, we don't even need to ask the Worshipful Master's permission. But he is invited too.

I bring this up with an additional thought in mind. Several Brothers have discussed planning some additional non-Tuesday social gatherings for Brothers and/or families for the very same reasons mentioned above. I believe WM Garrett is going to appoint a committee to work on this sort of thing and I think we will, and should, try to carry that forward for years. People have mentioned a billiards evening, poker parties, and field trips. What suggestions do you have ? What could you help host or organize ?

As many of our wise Past Masters and several others sprinkled around the District and the State have said, bringing the Brothers together has got to be about more than seeing the opening and closing, hearing the minutes and paying the bills. We truly need to have

Obituary

Richard Scott Miller

Richard Scott Miller was born on February 23, 1931, in Creston, Iowa. The son of Thomas Finley Miller and Arlene Louise Ewing. Richard passed away in Austin, Texas on January 26, 2022.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Katherine Lentz Miller. They were married in San Antonio, Texas on Jan 12, 1957. Dr. Perry F. Webb performed the wedding vows.

Richard Miller graduated from Woodward High School in Woodward, Iowa. After graduation, he joined the United States Air Force, where he served for 20 years. He started his college career in Grand Forks, North Dakota. He also attended the University of Minnesota in Duluth. When he retired from the Air Force, he was accepted at the University of Texas, where he received his degree in Accounting.

In later years, he joined the Hill City Masonic Lodge, where he was a member for 25 years. He also joined the Eastern Star Fidelis Chapter, where he was a member and had the honor to serve alongside his wife as Worthy Patron and Worthy Matron. Richard Scott Miller will have a Military, Masonic, and Eastern Star Funeral.

Brother Richard Scott Miller was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on November 17, 1981, Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft on June 8, 1982 and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on July 27, 1982 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.

From the South (continued)

FUN together as our Brothers used to do more regularly in our Lodge. Come on. Jump in and let's have some fun.

Fraternally,
Don Jarrell
Junior Warden, Hill City 456

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February Birthdays

Stanley Chester Anderson	Clarence Joe Haney	Charles Edward Maddox	Kenneth Christian Nicolas
Donald D. Beach	John Ross Hepburn	Paul M. McCarty, Jr.	Michael Blake Olson
Roberto S. Cantu	Huie H. Lamb, Jr.	Burdette Rex Melton	William Oscar Orum
Kenneth W. Evans	Robert Leon Ligon, Jr.	Chad Wright Miller	Lavan R. Parker, Jr.

Important Announcement Regarding COVID-19

Due to the number of Brothers and/or spouses that are ill and concern to protect everyone, meals at Hill City Lodge meetings are temporary suspended. You will be notified when meals are again provided.

We will continue to meet at 7:30 pm each Tue. Masks and hand sanitizer will be provided for those who want them. Stay healthy and have a blessed New Year.

Food Committee is suspended until we are able to reconvene.