

The HILL CITY LIGHT

February 2013

2012 - 2013 Lodge Officers

W. M.	Anthony Clark
S. W.	Ricky Wilson
J. W.	Philippe Dewailly
Treas.	Kent Kinkade, P.M.
Sec.	Oscar Orum, DDGM
Chaplain	Chuck Stewart
S. D.	Charles Maddox
J. D.	Jon Cohorn
S. S.	Dale Reynolds
J. S.	Marcus Mosley
Marshal	Hunt Armistead
M. C.	Philip Marshal
Musician	Brandon Jenkins
Tiler	Ralph Layne

Hill City No. 456 A.F. & A.M.

Chartered June 10th, 1876

Austin Scottish Rite Theater & Museum
Lavaca St. at 18th St., Austin, Texas

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(Subscribe to receive Lodge email communications on website)

1876  2013

Stated Meeting: First Tuesday at 7:30 pm.
Dinner at 6:30 pm.

Called Meetings: Other Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.
Dinner at 6:30 pm.

Work Schedule

From the East

February 2013

February 5	Stated Meeting
February 12	Family Night Sweetheart Dinner
February 19	Work Night Food Committee
February 26	Work Night

March 2013

March 5	Stated Meeting
March 12	Work Night Food Committee
March 19	Work Night
March 26	Work Night

April 2013

April 2	Stated Meeting
April 9	Work Night Food Committee
April 16	Work Night
April 23	Work Night
April 30	Work Night

Greetings Brethren:

Welcome to our February 2013 Hill City Light newsletter. I want to open this newsletter, as I have in the past, with a note of thanks. Our Stewards have done a phenomenal job this year! Dale Reynolds our Senior Steward and Marcus Moseley, our Junior Steward, have consistently provided excellent meals to our lodge almost every week of this Masonic year. Most lodges do not meet every week as Hill City does so they are putting in the extra work for us. I would also like to thank all those who have helped our Stewards behind the counter. They are too numerous to mention here as I would likely leave out a name or two.

Being in the kitchen affords those behind the counter to truly get to know the membership who attends our meetings. I have fond memories of my years in the kitchen and have created a stronger tie to the brothers because of it. I also have memories of the hard work that it takes to shop, store, come up short, prepare and serve a meal to a crowd. Cooking for a family of four is something very different than cooking for a family of 40 ! My hat is off to all of you that have worked in the

Hill City kitchen.

Our February stated meeting was a special meeting in my mind. We received our DDGM and, I believe, represented Hill City in good form. I would like to thank all the Past Masters who assisted with the reception. As with most meetings there are adjustments that are made to the team that is being fielded in the officers' chairs. I would like to especially thank PM Lee Kinser for fulfilling a very late request to fill the station of S:W:. That part can be a tongue twister and I thank Lee for his excellent effort.

Grand Master Conferences

Grand Master conferences are coming to our area: During the 2012-2013 Grand Lodge Year, seventeen Grand Master's Conferences will be held at convenient locations around our grand jurisdiction. Please be aware that contrary to recent practice, **the 2012-2013 conferences will be open to Master Masons only. Admission will be by current dues card ONLY!** All Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts are encouraged to give due diligence to learning the lessons required for advancement and raising in order to be qualified to attend one of the conferences to be held at a location near them. Our closest conferences will be on April 6. The morning session will be in Waco and the afternoon in Marble Falls in the afternoon (3PM).

Grand Secretary's Message

Freemasonry and patriotism are closely intertwined. Many of our great leaders, from General George Washington through the heroes that created the Republic of Texas, were Freemasons. Most of our patriotic documents – Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, Constitution – appear to embody the tenets, precepts, and principles of our Ancient Craft. Freemasons seem to have either wrote or influenced the writing of these documents.

Every Freemason should understand that Freemasonry has always been an integral part of America's and Texas's history and destiny. Our strength rests on our demonstrated values, our belief in freedom and the dignity of man, and our patriotism. Each Grand Master of Texas is installed with the admonition to be loyal to his government, obedient to its laws, and prompt in the duties to society. Every Mason should recognize that the rights of citizenship carries corresponding duties of voting, serving our community, and demanding our members live a life of decency, civic righteousness, and public order. Stand up for truth, justice, and Brotherly love.

Freemasonry - The Secret

I am often asked about Freemasonry and ultimately I get the question what is it and what is the secret? I answer as best I can while trying to remember what I had heard others say to the question. So I thought I'd do some of my own

research. Where do I research in the 21st century? Where else – Wikipedia! I suspect many of the young men coming to our dinners look us up on the Wikipedia site. So here – through the beauty of the internet, is a ‘version’ of the explanation of who we are. I beg your indulgence and encourage your input to future newsletters with your wisdom on the subject.

The Grand Lodge of Texas, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons is the largest of several governing bodies of Freemasonry in the State of Texas, being solely of the Ancients' tradition and descending from the Ancient Grand Lodge of England, founded in 1751. It was originally founded as "The Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas, A.F. & A.M." on 16 April 1838. With 890 lodges and 105,000 members it is the fifth largest Grand Lodge in the world.

On 11 February 1828, Stephen F. Austin called a meeting of Masons at San Felipe de Austin for the purpose of petitioning the York Grand Lodge of Mexico for a charter to form a lodge. Although the petition reached Matamoros, and was to be forwarded to Mexico City, nothing more was heard of it. By 1828 the ruling faction in Mexico City feared that the liberal elements in Texas might attempt to gain independence, and being aware of the political philosophies of English-speaking Freemasons, the Mexican government outlawed Freemasonry on 25 October of that year. The following year, Austin called another meeting of Masons who, in an attempt to alleviate the fears of the Mexican government, decided it was "impolitic and imprudent, at this time, to form Masonic lodges in Texas.

In March 1835, five Master Masons met "in a little grove of peach or laurel" at the town of

Brazoria, "near a place known as General John Austin's," and resolved to petition Grand Master John H. Holland of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana asking for a dispensation to form a lodge in Texas. Foremost among these five Masons was Anson Jones who would later serve as Grand Master, and as President of the Republic of Texas.

That charter, creating Holland Lodge No. 1, was issued and signed on 27 January 1835. It was given to a Mr. John M. Allen, originally of Louisiana Lodge No. 32 to carry to Texas. Allen had been recruiting volunteers for the Texas Army in New Orleans, and would not reach Texas until just before the Battle of San Jacinto on 21 April 1836.

Freemasons and the Texas Revolution

Meanwhile, Texas was in the midst of war. The first shots of the Texas Revolution had been fired in October 1835 at Gonzales. Delegates had gathered at the small town of Washington-on-the-Brazos and signed the Texas Declaration of Independence on 2 March 1836. The Mexican Army under General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna had crossed the Rio Grande and attacked and defeated the small garrison at the Alamo in San Antonio de Bexar. Among the nearly 200 defenders who died at the Alamo were Freemasons James Bonham, James Bowie, David Crockett, Almaron Dickenson, and William Barrett Travis.

There has existed for many years the story or myth that General Santa Anna, captured on 21 April 1836 after the defeat of the Mexican Army after the Battle of San Jacinto, was able to save himself from execution by giving secret "Masonic signs" when he was captured, and again when he was brought before General Sam Houston.

Texas historian James D. Carter recorded in his book, *Masonry in Texas*, that "Texas Masons contemporary with [the Battle of] San Jacinto stated emphatically that Santa Anna 'filled the air' with Masonic signs after his capture and had given a Masonic grip to Houston." C.R. Wharton, in his book, *El Presidente*, stated that "Santa Anna, fearing for his life, gave the Masonic distress signal to John A. Wharton." Where it may be true that the captured Mexican dictator did appeal to his captors to spare his life, using his knowledge of Masonic signs and grips, they were under no obligation to do so for several reasons. Santa Anna had disowned the Masonic fraternity and outlawed its practice in Mexico, further his many offenses against Mexican and Texan Freemasons placed him outside the protection of any Masonic obligations, and most importantly, Santa Anna was worth more to Texas alive than dead. President Andrew Jackson, a member of the same Masonic lodge as Sam Houston, Cumberland Lodge No. 8 at Nashville, Tennessee, wrote to Houston and implored him to spare Santa Anna's life, reminding Houston that "while he is in your power, the difficulties of your enemy, in raising another army, will be great.... Let not his blood be shed, unless imperious necessity demands it.... Both wisdom and humanity enjoin this course in relation to Santa Anna.

In Closing

Please double check for the small envelope requesting your annual dues. It would come through regular post and can easily get lost in the shuffle. If you did not receive your notice, please stop by the office so we can get the books straight and get your new membership card in your hands. I thank you for your attention to this most important matter. Your continued membership allows

"Texas Masons" license plates are now available!



You may order online at,

www.txdmv.gov/vehicles/license_plates.htm

(please note the _ between license and plates)

Click on Order Specialty Plates Online (on the left side of the page).

Click on organizations. Scroll down to Texas Masons and click...and there you go!

You may also order by mail using the online process or...

Go to your local County Tax Assessor's office and make your purchase there. If they are not aware of the availability of the Texas Mason plates, have them check online (their screen is different from your computer). The TEXAS MASONS plates were not posted until early on the morning of June 1, 2011. Your County Tax Assessor would not have known about them prior to June 1 and may mistakenly send you to MyPlates. The TEXAS MASONS plates are NOT available through MyPlates.

Our plates are listed with the TxDMV as TEXAS MASONS and that is how to ask for them not (Masonic plates, etc.). There may be problems finding the application form, however, the generic form VTR-999 is being used successfully.

The Grand Lodge benefits from each sale and each renewal.

From the East (continued)	Charity Prize Valuation
<p>Hill City to move forward for generations to come.</p> <p>This Masonic year is slowly drawing to its close. We continue to bring focus on our charities while looking forward to the raffle drawing and presenting the proceeds to Austin Meals on Wheels and More and Vic Robertson Elementary School. Thank you for your continued financial support of our charities.</p> <p>Thanks for reading...</p> <p>Please join us on Tuesdays for our meetings. I look forward to seeing each of you!!</p> <p>Tony Clark, W.M. Hill City #456</p>	<p>42" Vizio LCD Television 1080p/60HZ with warranty- \$566</p> <p>Visa Gift Card (2) - \$100 Each</p> <p>Hand Crafted Ring 1 – Yellow, White, Rose gold tri-band set with diamonds - \$1,999</p> <p>Hand Crafted Ring 2 – Serpentine with Rubies, Sapphire, and Diamond set in yellow gold - \$1,700</p> <p>Hand Crafted Ring 3 – Oval Pink Tourmaline set in Silver and Gold \$600</p> <p>Please see the raffle flyer for images of the rings.</p> <p><i>All prizes are held in the Secretary's office at Hill City Lodge #456 for inspection.</i></p> <p>Thank you for your generous support.</p>

**HILL CITY LODGE No. 456, A.F. & A.M.
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Food Committee for April 2nd Stated Meeting

Hugh Larry Adkins
James Ethridge Bailey
John Thomas Bass
Mark Edward Bennett
John Charles Casey

Bob Day, Jr.
Henry Fouts, Jr.
Octavio Tripp Garza
Mario H Guell, II
Douglas Dwight Gullickson
Clyde H Hardy

William L Hatten
Sam H. Henson
Bennie Len Hudson
Michael Eugene Kinsler
Kenneth C Newell
William Carson Shafer

Margarito R. Sosa
Walter Conrad Swanson
Henry Herbert Tomlin, Jr.
Marvin Clyde Toungate
Leslie John Whetham

Food Committee Meeting is on Tuesday, March 12th at 6 pm.

Duties of the food committee: We don't place many demands on our food committee members. The only business at the food committee meeting is to set the menu for the coming stated meeting. Then, on the afternoon of the stated meeting, your presence is earnestly solicited. Help cook if willing and able, or just sit in the kitchen and keep the Stewards company – it gives our future Masters the opportunity to get to know you.

A \$15 donation is requested of the food committee members unless you include a food committee donation with your Lodge dues in December.