

# The HILL CITY LIGHT

October 2016

## 2016 - 2017 Lodge Officers

|           |                         |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| W. M.     | Charles E. Maddox       |
| S. W.     | Oscar Orum, P.M.        |
| J. W.     | Bob Wheelless, P.M.     |
| Treasurer | Kent Kinkade, P.M.      |
| Secretary | Philippe Dewailly, P.M. |
| Chaplain  | Robert Eschenburg, P.M. |
| S. D.     | Aaron Evans             |
| J. D.     | Luke Michels            |
| S. S.     | Doug Freyburger, P.M.   |
| J. S.     | Richard Garrett         |
| Marshal   | Hunt Armistead          |
| M. C.     | Weston Floyd, P.M.      |
| Musician  |                         |
| Tiler     | Ralph Layne             |

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

Chartered June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1876

Austin Scottish Rite Theater & Museum  
Lavaca St. at 18<sup>th</sup> St., Austin, Texas

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Website: [www.hillcitylodge.org](http://www.hillcitylodge.org)

(Subscribe to receive Lodge email communications on website)

1876  2016

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

### October 2016

|            |                                      |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| October 4  | Stated Meeting                       |
| October 11 | Dark – Visit T. Neal Porter Lodge    |
| October 18 | Master Mason Practice                |
| October 25 | Scottish Rite Education Family Night |
| October 30 | Open House                           |

### November 2016

|             |                                     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| November 1  | Stated Meeting                      |
| November 8  | Fellowcraft Practice Food Committee |
| November 15 | Veteran's Day Program Family Night  |
| November 22 | Dark (Thanksgiving)                 |
| November 29 | Master Mason Practice               |

### December 2016

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| December 6  | Stated Meeting                                  |
| December 13 | Past Master Dinner Golden Trowel Food Committee |
| December 20 | Dark (Christmas)                                |
| December 27 | Dark (New Year's)                               |

## From the East

Brethren,

Time sure does fly doesn't it? It seems like just yesterday we had our Installation of Officers, and now it's already October. So I guess now is as good time as any to give the brethren some reminders on the year.

### Volunteer Community Service Hours & Mileage

Most of you remember that we started asking two years ago to submit your community service hours and mileage to the lodge. This serves two purposes: first, as a 501(c)(10) Fraternal Non-Profit, it helps us out on our Form 990 we file each year with the IRS, to show we perform community service. And second, the last two years, Hill City Lodge challenged the membership to perform 500 joint hours of community service, in 2014-15; and 1,000 joint hours of community service, in 2015-16. This year, I challenged the lodge to perform 1,500 joint hours of community service. Please send your community service hours and the mileage you drove to, from, and during the community service, to our Senior Warden: Oscar Orum. You can email them to him or call and tell him your hours. Better still, you can come to Stated Meetings and tell him personally !

**From the East (cont'd)**

Food Donations

Dinners are perhaps what Hill City is known for throughout the District. Everyone in District-50 knows that you can get a hot meal at Hill City on Tuesday night. Of course, to help finance those meals, we ask for two different types of donations: Food Committee Donations for the Stated Meeting meals, and Kitty Donations.

Every Stated Meeting Meal is planned by a Food Committee. The Food Committee for a given month is comprised of those brethren with birthdays in that month. For example, for the December Stated Meeting, the Food Committee will be comprised of those Hill City Brethren with December birthdays. They meet on the second Tuesday of the prior month, to plan the meal for the stated meeting. In addition to their idea for the meal, we ask the members of the Food Committee for a \$20 donation, to make sure the Stated Meeting meal is more special than called meeting meals. Members can donate the \$20 at the committee meeting itself, mailing it in the month of the committee meeting, or mailing it in when they pay their dues (December/January time frame.).

The other type of donation we ask for are donations to the Kitty. This helps to offset the cost of the meals we serve. We recommend that you donate \$8 to the Kitty so we can continue to feed the brethren, family, friends, and visitors of Hill City Lodge. However, whatever you can donate is perfectly acceptable and appreciated.

Like the Food Committee donation, you can donate to the Kitty either at the meal itself, or by check. Some members, myself included, write out a check for the entire year work of Kitty donations. Either method helps.

Fraternally,  
Charles E. Maddox, Worshipful Master  
Hill City No. 456 AF&AM  
(512) 567-6744

**From the West**

Brethren,

“One of the questions that occasionally eats at me when I am driving home from a Masonic event, degree, or function that has been woefully mediocre is: how can our members sit through such Masonic happenings month after month and still believe our fraternity is relevant and meaningful to men’s lives? How honest are we in claiming we make good men better while, persistently, repeating practices and behaviors, which are so distinctively, average, or worse? Self-improvement involves some form of positive change. It requires some level of progress; entails some elevated sense of being. Explain to me how a lodge facilitates self-improvement by offering its members a venue that doesn’t “feel” any different when they are inside the lodge than outside of it.

Perhaps many of us come into Masonry looking for nothing more than fraternal association, but, if that’s the case, it ought to be the best fraternal association we have ever had!

Once we encounter the preparation room, or make our progress through the degrees, it is hard to dismiss the awareness that we are engaged in something, wholly, different from our other community experiences. We, quickly, learn that Masonry has a higher calling which requires that we make an ascent into the, very, center of our being.

An endeavor of such high importance and due solemnity is not a run of the mill undertaking. It becomes clear there is nothing mediocre about Masonry. So, why do we make it that way?

*(continued on page 5)*

*By Bro. Steven L. Harrison, PM, FMLR*

**Halloween and Freemasonry:** There are probably many tie-ins what with all the costumes worn in degree work, skulls and other symbols; and that's before the conspiracy theorists weigh in. Occasionally, though, the pairing of the mysterious holiday and Freemasonry brings to mind images of Harry Houdini, a life member of St. Cecile Lodge 568, New York City.

A man of mystery, you could almost say Brother Harry lived Halloween 24/7. Aside from being, arguably, the world's greatest magician and escape artist, Houdini maintained an abiding interest in the paranormal. He did not, however, deceitfully promote it as he felt many did. He despised fraudulent seers and mediums and worked tirelessly to expose their chicanery. He felt everything he couldn't expose as being fake must be real.

He made many attempts to communicate with his mother after she died, but found no evidence of contact. Still, feeling communication with "the other side" was possible, he made a pact with his wife Bessie that the first to die would attempt to contact the other through a coded message. No one knows what the full message was, but part of the pact was that Houdini would open a pair of silver handcuffs they owned. Bessie never received any communication from Houdini after his death, but hundreds of psychics claimed they did.

On Halloween 1936, the 10th anniversary of his death, she held a final séance in which he failed to appear. After that, Bess declared the search over and said she believed he could not come back, "It is finished." Two years later she created a firestorm in the world of spiritualists when, playing herself in the film *Religious Racketeer*, she said she did not believe communication with the dead was possible.

During his life the great Houdini did everything he could to separate the fake aspects of spiritualism from what he thought might be real. Shortly before his death he testified before Congress against spiritualists and fortune tellers licensed to practice in Washington, DC. So adamant was he that they were charlatans, the hearing broke out in a shouting match and some of the spectators tried to attack Houdini.

On the other hand, still believing there was something to communication with the spiritual world, he worked with Thomas Edison in an attempt to develop a "delicate psychic detecting instrument." The object of the "ghost machine," as it was called, was to be so sensitive it could detect the presence or touch of an ethereal being from another world. There is no evidence the machine was ever built.

On October 26, 1926, Houdini received a painful blow to the stomach in a demonstration at McGill University in Montreal. Contrary to popular opinion, most medical experts believe the blow was unrelated to the appendicitis attack that followed; however, Houdini failed to get treatment thinking the pain in his stomach was due to the punch to his abdomen. After his appearance in Montreal, he traveled to Detroit where he collapsed at the end of a performance. Five days later, on Halloween, Harry Houdini died.

*Steve Harrison, 32° KCCH, is a Past Master of Liberty Lodge #31, Liberty, Missouri. He is the editor of the Missouri Freemason magazine, author of the book Freemasonry Crosses the Mississippi, a Fellow of the Missouri Lodge of Research and also its Senior Warden. He is a dual member of Kearney Lodge #311, St. Joseph Missouri Valley of the Scottish Rite, Liberty York Rite, Moila Shrine and is a member of the DeMolay Legion of Honor.*

**From the South**

**From the South (cont'd)**

Brethren,

Let's keep our Senior Steward, Doug Freyburger, in our thoughts and prayers as he continues to heal after his heart valve surgery. He said that he is going to rehab at the hospital for six weeks. He also said that it is uncertain when he will be able to return to his duties in the lodge.

I want to say thank you to Past Masters Kervin Warnken, Dennis Hill, Junior Steward Richard Garrett and his daughter Lori for the great pot roast dinner that they served at our October Stated Meeting. I would also like to thank the brothers that helped in the serving line and those who helped clean up the kitchen and dining hall.

While I was searching for a topic to insert in this column, I thought that the charge to the members of the lodge before the Marshal declares the installation of officers would be interesting.

“Brethren, such is the nature of our constitution that some must, of necessity, rule and teach, while others must of course, learn to submit and obey. Humility in both is an essential duty. The officers who are elected and appointed to govern your Lodge are sufficiently conversant with the rules of propriety and the laws of Masonic order, to avoid exceeding the powers with which they are entrusted; and you are of too generous dispositions to envy their of preferment.

I, therefore, trust that you will have but one aim and that will try to please each other and unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness.

Finally, my brethren, as the business of this Lodge has been conducted in peace and harmony, so may it long continue. May you and your associates long enjoy every

Satisfaction and delight which disinterested friendship can afford. May kindness and brotherly affection distinguish your conduct as men and as Masons.

Within your peaceful walls may your children's children celebrate, with joy and gratitude, the annual recurrence of this auspicious solemnity. And may the tenets of our profession be transmitted through your Lodge, pure and unimpaired, from generation to generation.”

I hope that a periodic reminder about our duties as Masons strengthens our resolve to make our lodge an example for all other lodges.

Fraternally,  
Bob Wheelless, Junior Warden  
Hill City Lodge, No. 456

**Masonic Open House**

*Masonic Open House !*

*Sunday, October 30  
from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.*

*Scottish Rite Temple*

*Lavaca at 18th  
Austin, Texas*

*Light refreshments*

*All Interested are Invited !*

**From the West (continued)**

**From the West (continued)**

Here's the problem. Accepting mediocrity in our lodge practices is the same as living a mediocre life. By making un-extraordinary acts and behaviors our ordinary practice, we entrap ourselves from knowing how precious life, really, is. We don't use opportunities that come our way as a means of expressing how special we, really, are. Instead, we walk the walk with the rest of the herd and soon find ourselves in such a deep rut of limitations we lose sight of our own value. We become trapped in mediocrity.

Regrettably, this, too, often seems the condition in which lodges, Scottish Rite Valleys, York Rite Chapters, Councils and Commanderies find themselves. When nothing extraordinary, educational, insightful, compelling, intellectual, contemplative, spiritual, or fraternal occurs in our private, sacred, fraternal spaces, then we become only another ordinary, average, run of the mill, dime-a-dozen organization. It is hard to see how this kind of Masonry takes good men and makes them better.

It is not the kind of Masonry we should want to share with our friends.

I believe that if we, truly want to move "from the square to the compasses," we have to dare to be different, and we can't dare to be different by following someone else's expectations. When a lodge does the same thing year after year, it is accepting, by default, someone else's expectations. There is nothing creative, inspiring, or different about parroting ritual, paying bills, and going home. That's doing only what many others have done before us.

To distinguish ourselves among men and organizations, we first have to perceive, in our own minds, that we have something to do which will, ultimately, set us above the average. We start by thinking about the choices before us.

To distinguish ourselves among men and organizations, we first have to perceive, in our own minds, that we have something to do which will, ultimately, set us above the average. We start by thinking about the choices before us.

Do we choose what is safe rather than what is right? Do we only do things right, or do we do the right things? Do we set out on a new path, or take the same old, comfortable way? Do we bring credit to our teachings, or debit them as ideals of the past? Do we become the examples that young men want to emulate, or do we seem to them as just another group of ho-hum guys?

You see, the choice, always, controls the chooser. To be exemplary men, or an exemplary organization, we have to be exceptional in our awareness of who we are, what we are here to be doing, what we know, and how we practice what we know. We have to have the courage to be different from the rest of the crowd—nobler in our expectations and more refined in our state of mind.

Because that's just the way Masonry is."

What is your lodge's choice? Quality or Quantity?

Thanks, Brother David Cameron.

Fraternally,  
Oscar Orum, Senior Warden  
Hill City No. 456 AF&AM

**HILL CITY LODGE No. 456, A.F. & A.M.  
P.O. BOX 1456  
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## Food Committee for December 6<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting

|                          |                           |                       |                         |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Thomas Seth Bonnacarrere | Raymond H Herrington      | William Riley Pampe   | David Allen Sands       |
| Anthony Hubbard Clark    | Don Boyd Jarrell          | Aaron Michael Payne   | Robert Henry Schmidt    |
| Chad Damon Collier       | Christopher DeWitt Jordan | Robert Stephen Peel   | Brian Thomas Schnautz   |
| William Sam Dickson      | Lee Edward Line           | Billy Floyd Peel      | Charles Thomas Slack    |
| Thomas Don Dickson       | Terrance Michael Linn     | Nayip Ulises Puente   | Charles Marcus Stewart  |
| Gene Leroy Freudenberg   | James Dale Loflin         | Dale William Reynolds | James Correll Tisdale   |
| Robert Warren Hensley    | Patrick H. Luckett        | Joe Craig Robinson    | Bob M. Wheelless        |
| Roy Lynn Henson          | C.L.'Buddy' McGee         | Benton Elliott Ryon   | Walter Edwin White, Jr. |
|                          |                           |                       | Timothy Earl Willett    |

**Food Committee Meeting is on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> 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 \$20 donation is requested of the food committee members unless you include a food committee donation with your Lodge dues in December.