

The HILL CITY LIGHT

February 2017

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 10th, 1876

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

Mail: P.O. Box 1456, Austin, TX 78767-1456

Phone: (512) 655-9858

Email: secretary@hillcitylodge.org

Website: www.hillcitylodge.org

(Subscribe to receive Lodge email communications on website)

1876  2017

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 2017

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| February 7 | Stated Meeting |
| February 14 | Sweetheart Dinner Food Committee |
| February 21 | EA Degree Practice |
| February 28 | EA Degree & DDGM Reception Practices |

March 2017

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| March 7 | Stated Meeting DDGM Reception |
| March 14 | DeMolay Appreciation Food Committee |
| March 21 | EA Degree Practice |
| March 28 | 25 & 40 Year Awards Family Night |

April 2017

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| April 4 | Stated Meeting |
| April 11 | EA Degree Practice Food Committee |
| April 18 | FC Degree Practice |
| April 25 | Family Night |

Brethren,

At the February Stated Meeting, a resolution was presented and a preliminary vote taken to withdraw \$6,000 from the Permanent Fund to be used for charitable purposes, line itemed as follows: \$4,000 for scholarships, and \$2,000 to Dell Children's Hospital. An application to the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation will be filed to match funds as follows: an additional \$2,000 for scholarships, bringing the total up to \$6,000; and \$1,000 to the Dell Children's Hospital, bringing the total up to \$3,000. A second vote will be taken at the April Stated Meeting.

Ordinarily, such a resolution would not be necessary – the permanent fund by-laws allow for up to 10% of the interest to be used for charitable causes. However, this year, and I believe for the first time in its history, the permanent fund failed to generate any interest. Thus, since 10% of \$0 is \$0, a resolution was necessary for Hill City Lodge to continue performing charitable acts.

Some among you may feel this is a raid on the Permanent Fund. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, I want to assure the brethren of Hill City Lodge that the Officers consulted with the Permanent Fund Committee Members to ensure that the By-Laws were meticulously followed. Further, it was eloquently articulated by our Treasurer, Bro.

From the East (cont'd)

Bro. Kent Kinkade, P.M., in all other previous years, the unused interest of the Permanent Fund gets rolled back into the principle. This just happens to be an off year where it didn't generate interest, and as I said, this was the first year, to my recollection, that this occurred.

The officers, and especially the Charitable Committee of Hill City Lodge (the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens), feel strongly about our ability to assist those who need our help. In fact, the lodge was touched by a letter it recently received from one of our scholarship recipients: our scholarship helped her attain a 4.0 GPA in her first semester at the University of Texas at Austin as a Pre-Med student, and participating in crew. Most, if not all of you, are keenly aware of the help, aid, and assistance Dell Children's Hospital gives to children in the area. Bro. Larry Miller, P.M., knows this all too well. The Charitable Committee of Hill City Lodge joins Bros. Miller, Scrappy King, and J.D. Lafosse as they raise funds to the benefit of sick children treated at Dell Children's Hospital.

Brethren, these are worthwhile charities that help us leave our community in better shape than when we found it.

So, to make sure we are in conformity with the Permanent Fund By-Laws, please see the following: Pursuant to Article VI, Section 3 of the Permanent Fund By-Laws of Hill City Lodge No. 456 AF&AM, this entry from the Worshipful Master shall serve as notice that a resolution was presented at the February Stated Meeting of Hill City Lodge No. 456 AF&AM to withdraw \$6,000 to be dispersed for charitable purposes: \$4,000 for scholarships, and \$2,000 to Dell Children's Hospital. A second vote will be held sixty (60) days after the presentation of the resolution, and this second vote will be held at the April Stated Meeting.

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

From the West

Who was the "Widow's Son"?

Continued from the January 2017 Light

King David built a city and his palace and had sons, one of whom was King Solomon, who was responsible for the Temple of Solomon, which we all know is at the center of the teachings of our noble craft. These builders in the original line or "Alpha Lineage" the line that in Luke starts with God and leads to Jesus the Nazarene go on and on with fantastic accomplishments.

Let us not forget however that there is the allusion to the building of the spiritual temple, a spiritual artificer which Jesus the Nazarene seemed to personify and ages before then the character Freemasonry calls its patron, Hiram Abiff. The handpicked chief architect of the Temple of God. A man to emulate in his duty and fealty to his brothers, both Hiram of Tyre and King Solomon, this is the man we learn about in our degrees and indeed try to emulate.

The "Alpha Line" is synonymous with "The Widow's Son". It could merely be the separation of the generational gap and a more coded obscure way of saying "of the Tribe of Judah" without being abrasive.

It could be that the Tribe of Judah was the main branch of this line and that The Widow's Sons are an offshoot of the original line but whose closeness to the original line needed to be preserved by means of a title given to these builders.

(to be completed in the March Light)

February 2017 Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Dangerous biters
5. Advocate
9. Back, in a way
14. ...
15. "O Sanctissima," e.g.
16. Capital of Western Australia
17. Have a sudden inspiration?
18. To congratulate
20. Defective vision
22. Alone
23. "Silent Night" adjective
24. Bypass
26. Blows it
28. Prow feature
32. "The English Patient" setting
36. Antioxydant berry
37. Faithful, to a Scot
39. King with a golden touch
40. It can hit the fan
41. "Holy cow!"
43. "Portnoy's Complaint" author
44. Adjust, as laces
46. "Scream" star Campbell
47. Certain surgeon's "patient"
48. Anatomical ring
50. Judge anew
52. Barbershop call
54. And others, for short
55. Fed. construction overseer
58. MasterCard alternative
60. "So long"
64. Capable of being pacified.
67. Brio
68. Assail
69. Casting need
70. African grassland
71. Brouhaha
72. "Let it stand"
73. ___ milk

Down (continued)

1. Aquatic plant
2. Actress Phillips of Ivanhoe
3. 100 centavos
4. Dining room chair
5. With prejudice
6. ___ v. Wade
7. Hair goops
8. A-list
9. Bit of wit
10. After expenses
11. Heavy cart
12. "Beetle Bailey" dog
13. "Say ___"
19. Sonatas, e.g.
21. Babysitter's handful
25. Link
27. An ace may be up it
28. Iraqi port
29. Earthy pigment
30. Ralph of "The Waltons"
31. Selfish sort
33. Dig, so to speak
34. Hotel posting
35. Contents of some urns
38. Bank
42. Fasten it
45. Better
49. x, y or z
51. "Come to think of it ..."
53. Autocrats
55. Goes on and on
56. Particular, for short
57. ___ line (major axis of an elliptical orbit)
59. "Not on ___!" ("No way!")
61. Wasted
62. Its motto is "Lux et veritas"
63. Aims
65. Dusk, to Donne
66. "Malcolm X" director

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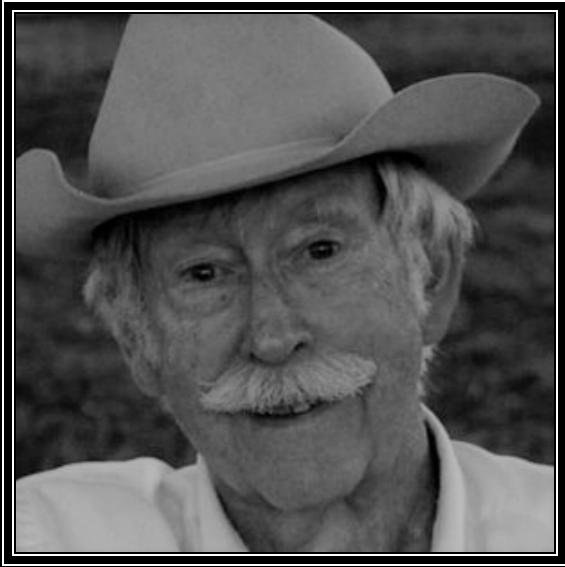
January 2016 Puzzle Solution

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| From the South | From the South (continued) |
|---|---|
| <p>I heard that nineteen members of our lodge attended Grand Lodge this year. I'm not surprised. Historically, Hill City has always been a supporter and participated in our Masonic form of government.</p> <p>I went up to Waco on the Wednesday before Grand Lodge with Lee Kinser. He helps out with the computer equipment and operates one of them during the annual communications. Getting there early is like getting to grandma's the day before a big family event. The staff is busy with the housekeeping chores, the florist is arranging flowers and five or six computer whizzes work on the new electronic balloting system.</p> <p>I have attended many annual communications of our Grand Lodge. The greatest time consumer at them was hand counting votes. The Teller Committee chair sent assistants out into the lodge room to collect the hand written ballots. This method worked exactly like it does in a church where the deacons passed the collection plates. Then the ballots are sorted into the proper order and totaled, after which the results are announced to the lodge. This process could take forty-five minutes or longer for each ballot and some ballots would have to be taken more than once. With the new electronic balloting system, the results of a ballot are known within a matter of a few minutes.</p> | <p>This year the Grand Lodge attended to one holdover Grand Master's recommendation, two hold over resolutions, twenty new resolutions and three new Grand Master's recommendations. One resolution and one Grand Master's recommendation generated the most discussion.</p> <p>Resolution Number One proposed allowing brothers who possess concealed handgun licenses to carry in the lodge room. That resolution passed, but like any other business or buildings, it is up to the owner to decide whether guns will be allowed.</p> <p>Grand Masters recommendation number three centered on declining membership in our Texas lodges. The Grand Master proposed a program named "Join the Move" would let EA and FC masons who went suspended because they did not stand for examination before their time lapsed pay a fee and receive the remaining degrees in one setting. They would be required to learn the trial lecture of a Master Mason within ninety days. This Grand Masters recommendation failed.</p> <p>One of the best surprised at this year's annual communication happened on Friday night when Brother Brandon Jenkins performed a concert at a local music venue. It was organized by the Waco Masonic Lodges and all masons received free admission.</p> <p>Fraternally, Bob Wheelless, Junior Warden Hill City Lodge, No. 456</p> |

Obituary

Obituary



Brother Neal Avery Watt, 76, died suddenly Feb. 3, 2017 while in San Antonio for a Masonic meeting. A native Austinite, he was born Jan. 31, 1941 to Terrance Watt and Marian Watt. He attended Austin schools, including Pease, Wooldridge, O'Henry and Austin High School and graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a B.A. in Finance.

He was an unwavering supporter of the Texas Longhorns football team proudly wearing burnt orange for every game. Neal especially loved being with his family at his ranch in San Saba, Tx. where he enjoyed the land and the bonds he had with many residents there.

He was an avid outdoorsman and golfer and loved playing charity golf tournaments. He was a member of The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Headliners Club, life member of the Texas Exes and the English Speaking Union. He also was a supporter of the Former Texas Rangers Association and Foundation.

Brother Watt was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on July 11, 1978, passed to the degree of Fellow Craft on August 15, 1978, and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on September 26, 1978.

His many honors reflect the passion and dedication he held for the Masonry:

Brother Watt was a Past Master of Richland Springs Lodge No. 882 (2009), San Saba Lodge No. 612, (2007), and Rising Star No. 429 (2010). He received the Golden Trowel in 2004 and 25 Year Service Award in 2003. He served as District Deputy Grand Master of District 70, Grand Lodge of Texas AF&AM in 2011.

He was Past High Priest of Llano Chapter No. 197, RAM (2010), Member of the Order High Priest of Texas, and served as District Deputy Grand High Priest for District 20 of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas. He was also a member of Lone Star Chapter No. 6, RAM.

He served as Thrice Illustrious Master of Austin Council No. 2, R&SM (1984), member of Llano Council No. 135, R&SM, order of the Silver Trowel, and served as District Deputy Grand Master of District 20 (2016) and Grand Council R&SM of Texas.

He was Past Commander of Llano Commandery No. 54 Knights Templar (2013), Order of Knights Preceptor of Texas and Holder of the Knight York Cross of Honor (2014), for having served as the presiding officer of all four bodies of the York Rite of Free Masonry.

He was Past Governor, Texian College No. 60 (2013), York Rite Sovereign College of North America, holder of the Order of the Purple Cross and Past Sovereign Master, Charles Goodnight Council N. 500, A. M. D. He was a Member of the Royal Order of Scotland, Ben Hur Shrine, and 32 Degree Scottish Rite Mason in the Austin Valley of the Scottish Rite.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Adrienne Monnig Watt and her children and their families: Bruce Barnes, Carrie Barnes and Annie Barnes; Brooks Barnes, Alli Barnes and Benjamin Barnes and Sarah Barnes Hemphill, Jim Hemphill, Meredith Hemphill and Caroline Hemphill. He is also survived by Jim Monnig, Mimi Mason and many beloved cousins from the Avery and Watt families.

Obituary Courtesy of Weed-Corley Fish Funeral Home

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Food Committee for April 4th Stated Meeting

Hugh Larry Adkins
James Ethridge Bailey
Mark Edward Bennett
John Charles Casey
Bob Day, Jr.

Douglas John Freyburger
Octavio Tripp Garza
Mario Humberto Guel, II
Douglas Dwight Gullickson
Clyde H. Hardy

William L. Hatten
Sam H. Henson
Bennie Len Hudson
Michael Eugene Kinser
Kenneth C. Newell

William Carson Shafer
Margarito R. Sosa
Henry Herbert Tomlin, Jr.
Leslie John Whetham

Food Committee Meeting is on Tuesday, March 14th 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.