

# The HILL CITY LIGHT

May 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 1876

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

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

Phone: (512) 655-9858

Email: [secretary@hillcitylodge.org](mailto:secretary@hillcitylodge.org)

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

### May 2017

May 2	Stated Meeting
May 9	EA Degree Practice Food Committee
May 16	Past Masters' Meeting Family Night
May 23	Opening/Closing Certification
May 27	Open House (Hosted by Austin 12)
May 30	BBQ Social Family Night

### June 2017

June 6	Stated Meeting
June 13	EA Degree Practice Food Committee
June 20	Community Builder Family Night
June 27	Opening/Closing Certification

### June 2017

July 4	Stated Meeting
June 11	Work night

## THE SYMBOLISM OF THE HOLY SAINTS JOHN AT JERUSALEM

C. F. Arkoncel, 32°, P. M.

Masonic tradition informs us that Masonic Lodges were erected to God, and dedicated to the Holy Saints John. Masonic Lodges are said to have been first dedicated to Noah, who was saved in the Ark; then to Moses, the chosen of God.

From the building of the first Temple at Jerusalem to the Babylonian captivity, Freemasonry's Lodges were dedicated to King Solomon. Thence to the coming of the Messiah, they were dedicated to Zerubbabel, the builder of the second Temple.

Saint John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus Christ, predicted His coming, and later baptized Him in the River Jordan. He was a crusader, a fervent man, a just and stern man, a man of strength and fire, an exhorter, a courageous man, a martyr to his uncompromising zeal, a heroic character, who preferred death by decapitation to a diminution or sacrifice of his zeal.

Dalcho says that "the stern integrity of Saint John the Baptist which induced him to forego even minor considerations in discharging the obligations he owed to God; the unshaken firmness with which he met martyrdom rather than betray his

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

**From the West**

duty to his Master; his steady reproof of vice and continued preaching of repentance and virtue, make him a fit patron of the Masonic institution."

By announcing the approach of Christ and by the mystic ablution to which he subjected his proselytes, and which was afterward adopted in the ceremony of initiation into Christianity, Saint John the Baptist might well be considered as the Grand Hyrophant of the Church, and by preaching repentance and humiliation he drew the first parallel of the Gospel. His festival is celebrated by the Craft on the 24th day of June, the time of summer solstice, when the heat of the sun produces abundant harvest, enough to cause human contention and disharmony which rightfully call for the zeal of righteousness, of which he was the greatest teacher the world has ever known.

As Saint John the Baptist was the greatest Teacher of Righteousness, so Saint John the Evangelist was the greatest Apostle of Love. Love and Righteousness, which are both so good, but parallel to meet or never meet, yet so fearful as to cause the prudent man and proficient Freemason to make a searching inquiry into the extent of his powers, rights and duties before it is too late, and to submit them to the cool judgment seat of reason. His constant admonition in his epistles to the cultivation of brotherly love, and the mystical and emblematic nature of his Apocalyptic visions which assimilated the mode of study adopted by him to that of the Fraternity have been perhaps the principal reasons for the veneration paid to him by the gentle Craft. His festival is appropriately celebrated by the Fraternity on the 27th day of December, the time of winter solstice when the cold, piercing weather which is likely to cause want suggests the practice of Fraternal Love, Affection and mutual Helpfulness among peoples and Freemasons throughout the world.

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

Brethren,

**What does it mean to be a brother ?**

To be a brother to a man means, among other things, to basically *understand* him. We cannot accept a man as our brother unless we are willing to *understand* him. We can call him "Brother" but to be a brother in truth, we must *understand* him, see and be willing to overlook his transgressions, to applaud his successes as our own, to take him in our arms as ourselves. And we must want him to do the same for us, for brotherhood is not a one-way street. No man is willing to give of himself forever without receiving something in return. And yet we will make the initial move, perhaps some little action, perhaps a friendly word of greeting, which will show him that we do care about him, that we respect his rights as an individual, and the we *understand* his needs, he will usually respond and we can both walk that greatest of roads, that highway of brotherhood, which is paved with mutual *understanding* a respect. Let us all be a brother not just a friend and honor that plea for *understanding*.

Hill City needs you to return your presence to our meeting. We will have election of officers Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Please come and be an active part of your lodge.

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

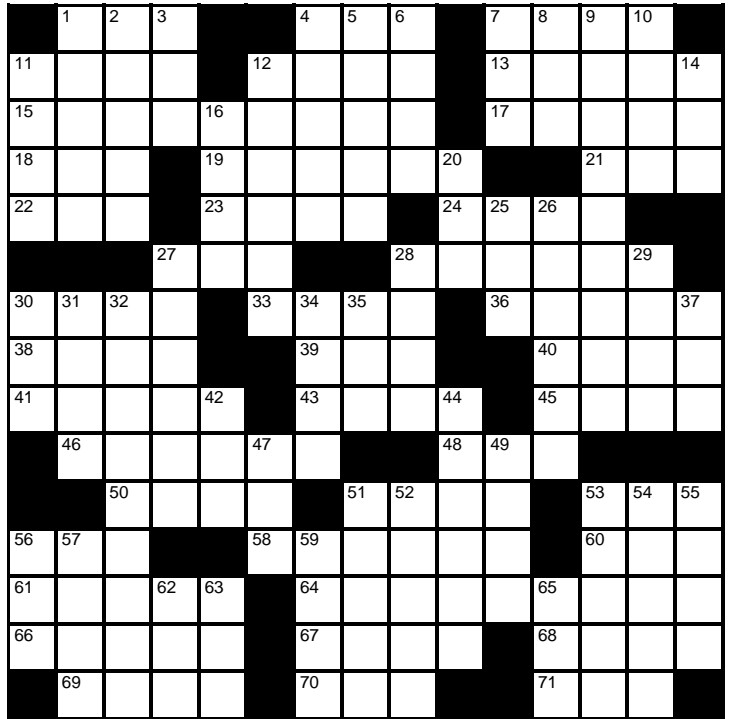
## May 2017 Crossword Puzzle

### Across

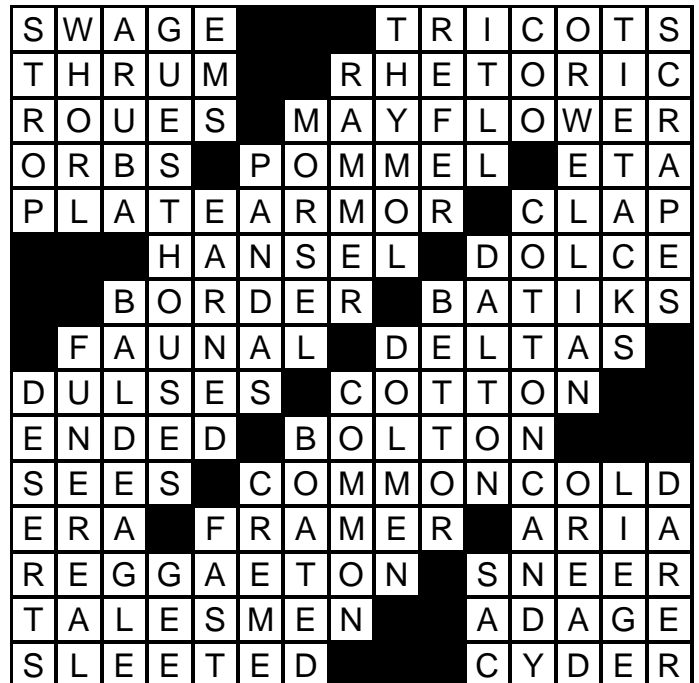
1. Watch chain
4. Moo goo gai pan pan
7. Gulf of \_\_\_\_, off the coast of Yemen
11. Expert
12. "Buona \_\_\_\_" (Italian greeting)
13. Adjective for Dolly Parton
15. Kin of friend
17. Small woods
18. "Wanna \_\_\_\_?"
19. Delivery person
21. Affranchise
22. "... \_\_\_\_ he drove out of sight"
23. "Hogwash!"
24. Data
27. Moray, e.g.
28. Blunt
30. Froth
33. Bowl over
36. They get what's coming to them
38. Blister
39. Crumb
40. Apple's apple, e.g.
41. Henry \_\_\_\_ Lodge
43. \_\_\_\_ gin fizz
45. Carbon compound
46. Gusto
48. Clinker
50. ...
51. Acts Clownishly
53. Be lazy
56. "\_\_\_\_ say!"
58. Bully
60. Absorbed, as a cost
61. Hideouts
64. Completely
66. Swedish money
67. Remnant
68. Regrets
69. Chip stone
70. A hand
71. Always, in verse

### Down

1. Enraged one
2. Be bombastic
3. Fan
4. Bob's companion
5. Gold braid
6. Send to the canvas
7. "20/20" network
8. Batman and Robin, e.g.
9. Detonation
10. Barely beat, with "out"
11. Bronx cheer
12. Slow movers
14. Big Apple attraction, with "the"
16. "Cast Away" setting
20. Barbecue offering
25. \_\_\_\_ power
26. Powered
27. Blood clots
28. "I'm \_\_\_\_ you!"
29. "Cogito \_\_\_\_ sum"
30. "Monty Python" airer
31. Apple spray
32. Mutiny
34. Brit's "Baloney!"
35. www.yahoo.com, e.g.
37. Costa del \_\_\_\_
42. 20-20, e.g.
44. Trim
47. Bottom line
49. \_\_\_\_-friendly
51. Native New Zealander
52. Single
53. Hard to pin down
54. Aromatic solvent
55. Catches on
56. Breed
57. Caper
59. Icelandic epic
62. Biochemistry abbr.
63. Chucklehead



## April 2017 Puzzle Solution



### **Dangerous Travels**

During the summer, you endured the heat of the day and hordes of insects. You might encounter highwaymen who would think nothing of robbing you of all your possessions and leaving you for dead in the wilderness. You always ran the risk of a wild animal who might see you as a threat to his domain and an easy dinner. There was no 911 or Auto Club to come to your rescue if you were in trouble. You were on your own.

No matter how you traveled, when you arrived at your destination the accommodations were scant at best. Most of these men would stay in the home of another Freemason or in a local inn. Tavern owners usually offered beds above their establishments; you paid to spend the night and you shared that bed with all the other travelers. You ate what the tavern served that day. Once your business was complete, you began your return trip home facing the same dangers and discomforts as before.

These men so believed in the Craft that they were willing to endure these hardships and dangers, not to mention the days of being away from their families and livelihoods, all to help advance the Craft.

Traveling wasn't the only hardship our forefathers had to endure. We are taught that Masons originally met in high hills or low vales, which later became the upstairs loft spaces of inns and taverns, accessible only by climbing a ladder. I have heard stories of lodges meeting in caves, in barns, sometimes even in the home of one of the brothers. One thing is for certain, most of these spaces were not ideal for a lodge meeting. Before a lodge was opened, the Masons had to get to work setting up the room, moving the chairs into position, laying out the jewels and the aprons. If degree work was to happen that night, a brother would draw out the tracing boards on the floor which had to be mopped up after the lodge was closed. Once the Lodge was closed, the furniture in the space had to be moved back to its normal position. These buildings were drafty, cold, and uncomfortable to occupy.

Over the last century, we Freemasons have become accustomed to meeting in beautiful lodge buildings. Sometimes these edifices were marble palaces in the center of a big city, other times a modest room above a storefront in a small town. These buildings all have modern plumbing, are heated for the winter and sometimes even air conditioned for a pleasant climate in the summertime. Custom furniture was commissioned and purchased which never had to be moved. Beautiful carpets lay on the floor beneath the feet of the Brethren.

It's difficult today for us to imagine the travel involved and the meeting places that our forefathers used to spread the light of Masonry. Sometimes just the events surrounding these men's lives added even more issues for these men to bear.

Most of us know that throughout the last few centuries many Grand Lodges issued emergent charters to men to meet during war time. The daily lives of these men are the hardest thing for me in my comfortable modern life to fathom.

These men would march for hours a day, usually with little sleep and even less food, to a battlefield where they had to make camp, and then risk their lives on the field of battle. Once the battle was over, if they survived the conflict and weren't too badly injured, the men would erect a tent, get out the trunk of Masonic regalia from a wagon, and open a lodge. Sometimes lodge officers had to be continually re-elected, not because the brother quit the lodge, but because the man had been killed on the field of battle. Think of it: these men were hungry, exhausted, and trying to forget the horrors of war they had witnessed that day, but they still thought enough of their obligation to continue to meet, just like they would have back in their homes.

Throughout history, our Masonic forefathers endured hardships of all kinds just to practice



*The Austin York Rite Bodies  
Spring Festival 2017*

**CHAPTER: Saturday May 20, 2017**

**COUNCIL: Saturday May 20, 2017**

**COMMANDERY: Saturday June 3, 2017**

Coffee & Registration – 7:30 AM Degree

Conferral - 9:00 AM

Lunch 12:30 PM

**Degree Fees (2017 dues included): \$105 Chapter; \$90 Council; \$185 Commandery**

**Annual Dues: \$35 Chapter; \$30 (Council); \$76 Commandery**

**Endowed Memberships: \$500 Chapter; \$500 Council; \$1,000 Commandery**

Please make 3 separate checks payable to:

**Lone Star Chapter No. 6 RAM**

Austin Council No. 2 R&SM

Colorado Commandery No. 4 KT

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2017**

Contact: Mark Dermit

[yorkriteaustin@gmail.com](mailto:yorkriteaustin@gmail.com)

(512) 478-7030

**From the West** (continued from April)

**From the West** (continued from April)

what, today, we take for granted. From rough travel, to bad living and meeting accommodations, to actually risking their lives on battlefields or being tortured in a prison camp for their belief in Freemasonry.

Sadly, not all of these hardships are in our past. Many continue to this day. I recently had the distinct honor to speak with a Brother who asked that I keep his name and his home secret, not because he was worried about his own safety (he escaped and is now in a free country) but because the Brethren of his lodge in his home country are still in peril.

This Brother belongs to a lodge in the Middle East. His government has declared Freemasonry illegal. If the location of his lodge is discovered by their local government, his Brothers will be arrested, placed in prison, and after they are tortured into confessing crimes against the state, they would be executed. In spite of the risk, they still meet on a regular basis, in a secret lodge room. They meet and discuss Freemasonry and how it helps them in their lives. While meeting, they keep an eye on each other and if a member or his family needs Masonic charity they will quietly arrange it. They don't allow a dictatorship or the threat of death to stop their belief in the obligation they took.

Brother! After reading this short piece, I want to ask you a question: if these men can attend lodge with zeal and enthusiasm despite all these hardships, why don't you attend lodge? If our forefathers could risk their lives to the elements of weather and rough travel for days to attend a meeting, why can't you get in your well heated and air conditioned car to drive less than an hour on a well built road to visit a lodge in a well heated or air conditioned building with running water and electricity to spend an hour with the Brethren of your lodge? If the men in a secret lodge living under a dictatorship can sneak away in the dark of night in secret to meet under the possibility of being tortured and executed, why can't you endure the reading of the minutes or a treasurer's report?

Is listening to Past Masters arguing about of the price of light bulbs the reason that keeps you away from a group of men you swore to treat as your Brother help him in his time of need?

No. I didn't think so.

I'm not saying dealing with our troubles are trivial. We all have a lot of current issues within our lodge rooms. But is quitting going to change them? No! The only thing not attending lodge will do is allow the problems to get worse and eventually put our Fraternity of the ash heap of history.

Instead of everyone quitting the Craft, why not find kindred spirits within your lodge and start changing what you don't like? Think of it this way: if your lodge only has eight regular attendees, if you and nine other Brethren vote to do something, you will win the majority. If your numbers continue to grow you and your brothers can start to transform the lodge into a place you can look forward to attending, chances are your changes will entice new men into joining your lodge. If for some reason this doesn't work, check with your Grand Lodge and see how many Master Masons it takes to start a new lodge.

Most of the hardships I have listed above, and many others I don't have the space to mention, can be fixed with hard work, perseverance, and time. Roads were built, money was raised for new, comfortable meeting accommodations, and lodges were arranged in secret to protect those in countries where Masonry is still illegal. Whining and quitting has never fixed anything. Neither has letting someone else deal with it. It's time for all of us to stand up, roll up our sleeves and make Freemasonry the Fraternity we want it to be and that it should be.

Well said Brother Hosler. I hope this will be read and heed taken by our lodge.

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

## Obituary

### Ralph Emerson Layne

**Brother Ralph Emerson Layne**, 78, of Pflugerville, Texas, went to be with his Lord and Savior on March 11, 2017. He became ill suddenly and after just a few days, was placed in hospice care and passed away only a few days after that.

Brother Layne was born in Akron, Ohio, grew up in Jenkins, Kentucky, graduated in the class of 1956 from Jenkins High School and attended Eastern Kentucky University. He married Barbara Owens in 1959 and is survived by his sister, Barbara Adkins; children, Autumn, Carl, Barton; four grandchildren, Carla Pastorio, Rachael, Ava, Madison Layne; and one great-grandson, Holden Waller.

Brother Layne spent his career in sales of various types, broadcasting, sports and entertainment emcee and several entrepreneurial endeavors. Always quick with a joke, or a story about the lighter side of life, he liked to bring a smile to others.

Brother Layne was a 21-year Mason, receiving his masonic degrees in Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 in Fredericksburg, Virginia before affiliating with Hill City Lodge in Austin, Texas. He was a beloved member of Hill City Lodge, where he was installed as Tiler on June 24, 2011 and served in that capacity until his untimely death.

Brother Layne was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on July 12, 1995, passed to the degree of Fellow Craft on September 16, 1995, and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on November 8, 1995.

## From the South

**What a month May has been!** I was unable to be present for the Stated Meeting because of a previous obligation but I'm sure it was great. My wife and I have been preparing our garden for the Inside Austin Gardens Tour which is billed as For Gardeners, By Gardeners. It took place on Saturday May 6 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. We had over three hundred and fifty guests walk our garden paths. We started planning how and what to do in February in order to be ready by the deadline date of April 27th. And, we needed every bit of that time.

Our daughter, Anne, is getting married on May 27th. My wife and she have been planning that event for about as long as we did for the garden tour. They have faced so many obstacles associated with planning a wedding that it makes my head spin. I know some of you must be asking what this news has to do with masonry.

On June 6<sup>th</sup> we will be electing a new line of officers. The amount of preparation and planning that goes into getting ready to be a Warden or the Worshipful Master of a lodge can span several years. This planning is not for just one single event but for a full year of activities.

It starts while sitting in the South. The Junior Warden is responsible for studying the Laws for the Grand Lodge of Texas. The Master may call on him to clarify a point of discussion or read a section of the laws that deal with the results of elections. He is also responsible for the Stewards and the kitchen.

The Grand Lodge offers a program titled, Officer Leadership Training, to help the wardens prepare for their year in the East. The training is divided into two parts, one for each perspective warden. The students are assigned to small groups that are given real life situations and asked to provide a solution. This format requires that the entire team pitch in and help solve the problem.

The Officer Leadership Training also provides many resources that help develop a calendar. It provides ideas for family nights, charity events special awards ceremonies and many other ideas that help a future Worshipful Master plan his year.

I am proud that our lodge recognizes and supports the importance of this opportunity by allowing the Wardens to attend this training.

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

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

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID**

**AUSTIN, TEXAS  
Permit No. 1675**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

---

## **Food Committee for July 4<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting**

Henry Hunt Armistead	Kenneth Morgan Gilliam	John Charles King	Joe Raymond Sanchez
Richard Lynn Bardin	Clive Noil Hartsfield, III	Kent Dawson Kinkade	James Stanley Schmidt
Kirk Broaddus	Marvin Marion Henry	Billy Bob Long	Charles James Stewart
Edward Andrew Carr, Jr.	Sammy Edward Henson	Nicholas Sammons Maulding	Joseph Edmund Touchet
Patrick Ryan Carroll	Stanford Walter Henson	Elan Daniel Mendoza	Wilbur Robert Valentine
Robert Ammann Cullen, Jr.	Bryan Patrick Jordan	Lester Lewis Munson	Shirley Drace Williams, II
Aaron Spencer Evans	James Edward Jordan	Douglas Gene Peschka	Roy Leo Wolff
Edward Iverson Franks	Olan Arthur Kelley, Jr.	Eugene Evans Rhemann	

**Food Committee Meeting is on Tuesday, June 13<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.