

The HILL CITY LIGHT

January 2018

2016 - 2017 Lodge Officers

W. M.	Oscar Orum, P.M.
S. W.	Bob Wheelless, P.M.
J. W.	Aaron Evans
Treasurer	Kent Kinkade, P.M.
Secretary	Philippe Dewailly, P.M.
Chaplain	Chuck Stewart, P.M.
S. D.	Luke Michels
J. D.	Richard Garrett
J. S.	Elan Mendoza
Marshal	Hunt Armistead
M. C.	Doug Freyburger, P.M.
Tiler	Dennis Hill, P.M.

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

Chartered June 10th, 1876

Austin Scottish Rite Theater & Museum
18th St. at Lavaca 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  2018

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

January 2018

January 2	Stated Meeting Food Committee
January 9	Ritual Practice
January 16	Work Night or Degree
January 23	Certificate Practice
January 30	Work Night or Degree

February 2018

February 6	Stated Meeting Food Committee
February 13	Sweetheart Dinner Family Night
February 20	Ritual Practice
February 27	Certificate Practice

March 2018

March 6	Stated Meeting Food Committee
March 13	Work Night or Degree
March 20	Ritual Practice
March 27	Certificate Practice

Those Symbols

“I think I shall have to take an evening off and read a book about symbols!” said the Very New Master Mason to the Old Past Master at refreshment. “I find I don’t know all about them.”

“When you find the book which teaches you all about them, lend it to me, won’t you?” asked the Old Past Master.

“Why, I’m sure there must be such a book,” answered the Very New Master Mason, surprised. “And I know *you* know all about symbols, anyway.”

“I have never read a book which even attempted to tell ‘all about symbols’” answered the Old Past Master. “I never knew a Mason who was willing to admit he knew all about them. And I never thought I knew very much about them, although I have studied them for forty years!”

“Why, you amaze me! There are only half a dozen symbols in the lodge; surely they cannot have so many meanings. The tools, the apron, I suppose the pillars on the porch; that’s about all, isn’t it?”

The Old Past Master turned and looked curiously at his questioner. Satisfied that he was serious, the Old Past Master explained, gently, as to a child.

From the East (continued)

“I doubt very much that any one has ever had the temerity even to count the Masonic symbols,” he began. “Certainly I have not. But there are enough to keep a great many Masonic scholars and antiquarians busy for a great many years to come, as they have in the past, trying to dig out of literature, history, archeology, sacred writings, religion, philosophy and kindred branches of study, a few of the more important meanings of our symbols. You innocent little catalog of lodge symbols would be pathetic if it wasn’t funny, and humorous if it wasn’t sad!”

“Certainly you could not have meant to overlook the Great Light as a symbol, and...”

“Oh, but I don’t understand that as a symbol,” interrupted the Very New Master Mason. “That’s the Bible, the Book. I thought a symbol was something that meant something else!”

“It is true that in our American and in British Lodges, the Great Light is the Holy Scriptures,” agreed the Old Past Master. “But in another lodge, in another country, some other sacred Book may lie on the altar. The important thing is not what book there lies open, but that it be the book which the Masons who kneel before it, venerate as the earthly repository of spiritual knowledge. The Book of the Sacred Law is what Masons reverence, not necessarily any special book. Thus, to our Jewish brethren, the New Testament in our Great Light is not a Sacred writing as is their Old Testament. Yet our Book contains both.”

“But the Book of the Las when used in Masonry is more than a repository if Divine Will and Knowledge. It is a symbol of the fountain head of all learning, and a symbol of a Mason’s belief in Deity. It is also a symbol of many other things, of which you will find much in the books you will read, but I none of them will you find it at all.”

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From the West

Brethren,

I want to wish a Happy New Year to all of the brethren of Hill City Lodge AF&AM. I also want to commend the brethren who braved the extremely cold weather to attend our January Stated Meeting. Uncle Bob smoked brisket for the meal. There was not a lot of business so the meeting went pretty quick. We did elect our Secretary Philippe Dewailly to be the proxy for the lodge. The proxy is allowed to cast ballots on behalf of the lodge in the absence of the three principal officers.

The 182nd Grand Annual Communication opens on January 18th in Waco. All five of the lodge’s principal officers will attend all or part of the event. This year there is one hold over resolution from last year that deals with moving the money that Texas masons pay in their dues to the Masonic Home and School to the Grand Lodge Building Maintenance Fund.

In addition there are eighteen resolutions and two Grand Master’s Recommendations. All of them are available on the Grand Lodge’s web site. Resolution number four wants to add language to Article 417 of the Grand Lodge laws so that only members of the lodge in which the petition was read are allowed to vote. This action would prohibit all other Masons of the Grand Lodge of Texas from voting on the petitions for the degrees.

Resolution number eight, if passed, would do away with Article 401 and Form 27 which relate to physical maims and defects. The American Disabilities Act of 1990 provides certain rights to the disabled and this resolution recognizes these rights by eliminating obstacles to becoming a mason.

Continued on page 5

January 2018 Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Heating device
5. Anxiety
10. Death on the Nile cause, perhaps
13. Boat in "Jaws"
14. Poet's "below"
15. Junk E-mail
17. Retiree pad, possibly
19. Ad headline
20. Touring crew member
21. Black gold
23. Free from, with "of"
24. "Ragged Dick" author
25. Find fault with
28. Merlin, e.g.
29. Biddy
30. Unsaturated alcohol
31. Brewski
32. Item with a ladder
33. It's typically 10 Digits
39. Candidate's concern
40. Above
41. Offspring of Gaia
43. Backstabber
44. Numero uno
48. Irish symbols
50. Clean
51. PC linkup
52. "So ___ me!"
53. Denmark city
54. And others, for short
56. violation
59. "La Scala di ___" (Rossini opera)
60. Small drupes
61. The "A" of ABM
62. Clinch, with "up"
63. ___ apso (dog)
64. 1987 Costner role

Down

1. Coconut kernels
2. Brooks Robinson, e.g.
3. Cooling-off period
4. Hierarchy
5. A chip, maybe
6. Given a start in life, as in France
7. Long-jawed fish
8. Razor sharpener
9. Belonging to those guys
10. Balaam's mount
11. A dish for Adam
12. Recantation by friend in poem
16. one tempering with sound rose tree
18. Balloon filler
22. Eases
25. Change
26. Catch
27. Bridge site
29. "Come again?"
31. Talks
33. Printing dots
34. Hot countries may become steamier
35. Like traditional Catholic Masses
36. Auspices
37. Flight data, briefly
38. "___ a chance"
42. Kind of network
44. Pub worker
45. Aromatic hydrocarbon
46. Biological holes
47. Male gonad (Anat.)
49. Percolate
50. "___, humbug!"
53. ___ Minor
55. Police, with "the"
57. ___ Appia
58. ___ and outs

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59					60					61			
	62				63					64			

December 2017 Puzzle Solution

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

From the East (continued)

“Did you ever stop to ask yourself why Masons circumambulate in the lodge? Or why they perform this rite at various times and in various ways? Or why that rite in the Blue Lodge is always done in one direction? That is a symbol, my brother, and a very beautiful one. It is a connection, tenuous, but very direct, with those far progenitors of Masonry who lived thousands of years ago and worshipped the Sun as the only god they knew.”

“It is human to be like those we strive to admire. The small boy plays at being a soldier or a fireman, and struts with a small cane to be like his father. Imitating, we feel that we are like that which we imitate. Our savage forefathers had this same bit of humanness. They believed that when they imitated that which was powerful, the in turn received power. They worshipped the Sun. The Sun, to them, travelled always from the East to the West, swinging north in the summer and south in the winter. Therefore they believed that if they, in their simple prayers and rites, imitated the course of the sun, they, too, would become godlike and have power. Many religions, rites and ceremonies of a spiritual significance have followed in the footsteps of those early men, and thought to find in circumambulation a power which comes from the Divine Something they worship.”

“Of course there are other meanings of circumambulation; these too, you will discover in the books you will read.”

“Not all our symbols are so ancient, although some are even further back in time. You are familiar, of course, with the ‘certain point within a circle.’ That is a symbol and a great one. It has many meanings; meanings not attributed to it haphazard, but meanings born in it, as you might say. A Mason may not materially err if he circumscribes his passions

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From the South

Brethren,

Masonry means many things to those who embark on that path. One such thing is the improvement of oneself and those around him.

We also look at the improvement of our lodge and ask ourselves how to attract new Masons; how do we compete for attention, when attention itself is now the modern economic currency.

We can seek to do so through improvement. To that end, I'm happy that several of the Hill City brethren are organizing to attend the Beach Cleanup put on by Texas's Adopt A Beach program.

The statewide Beach Cleanup this year is on April 21st, and I hope all interested Hill City brethren can attend.

The reason for traveling to the beach to work improving it is foremost because the Texas coasts belong to all citizens of this state, present and future Masons included. In the words of Theodore Roosevelt, "We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune."

It's merely a bonus that doing so allows us to be seen by Texans throughout the state (including many from Central Texas) doing our part to contribute to that heritage.

I mentioned that our society is now monopolized by the competition for attention. Young people today (though often derided as cynical by older generations) in fact desire more than those before them a means to transcend gross materialism and discover higher values than what is commonly offered. I hope that through service to our community we can build an institution to resonate with those future Masons.

Aaron Evans
Junior Warden, Hill City 456

From the East (continued)

within that circle, not because the ritual says so, but because our ancient brethren, who actually built Temples and Cathedrals, for that the point, or center in the circle, and another dot or two, were their easiest means of making their squares perfect, and absolutely at right angles. This is a little problem in geometry with which you are doubtless familiar; if not, the books you will read will explain it to you.”

“Get out of your mind, my brother, the idea that any symbols in Masonry are arbitrary; that some man said, for instance ‘here is an oblong square; I will make it into a symbol which means the lodge, just because I like its shape!’”

“The ‘oblong square’ my brother, was the shape which our ancient brethren conceived the world to be. We use it as the ‘shape of the lodge’ because the lodge itself is a symbol of the world and thus of our life in it.”

“My brother, symbolism in general and Masonic symbolism in particular is a life-time study. It is ever new, never ending. The more you read and study, the more you understand and enjoy this Masonry of ours. But you will learn it not on one evening or two not even in many shall you learn it all.”

“Unless I spend them all talking to you,” smiled the Very New Master Mason.

Oscar Orum, P.M.
Worshipful Master, Hill City 456

From the West (continued)

The employees of the Grand Lodge work for all Masons in Texas. They maintain the facilities and perform the many duties that are the responsibility of the Grand Secretary. I personally know this because I was Secretary of our lodge for many years. Resolution 12 wants to delete paragraph 9 of Article 163 this action would stop the Masons of Texas from contributing the 10 cents of our dues and fees that goes to their retirement fund.

The Annual Communication is open to all Master Masons. To be in the same building with several thousand Texas Masons is a wonderful and exciting experience. Come to lodge and visit with your brethren soon.

Bob Wheelless, P.M.
Senior Warden, Hill City 456

Join Us !

There was a reason we all petitioned Freemasonry. Fellowship is a great enjoyment to all of us and I have never attended lodge that I was disappointed. In fact, the exact opposite - many of my most enjoyable evenings were spent in lodge with my brethren. If you haven't attended within the past few months or even a year, I hope you will attend your lodge or visit another and relive the enjoyment of your membership in the world's oldest fraternity. I know if you will attend this lodge you will be greeted with warmth, fellowship and meal that you will enjoy. This is especially aimed at our members who, due to many reasons, have not attended in past months. Please come and enjoy our fellowship. We have missed you and look forward to seeing you at lodge on Tuesday at 6:30 pm.

**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 March 6th Stated Meeting

George W Botbyl
Alfred Williams Boulter
Vernon L. Bracewell, Jr.
Bradley Cooper Cole
David Edward Ferguson

Myron James Fischer
Milton Eugene Francis
Richard Lee Garrett
Frank Hubbard Gore
William Donn Haffelder

George Curtis Holland, Jr.
Russell Monroe Hur
George Albert Pipes
Isadore Reichek
Robert Lehman Roberts, Jr.

Michael William Roy
Khalil H. Sakakini
Calvin Stokes Story, Jr.
Raymond Lum Toungate, II
Alfred Munoz Vasquez
Weldon L. Welch

Food Committee Meeting is on Tuesday, February 6th 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 from the food committee members at the food committee meeting unless you included your food committee donation with your Lodge dues in December.