

# The HILL CITY LIGHT

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

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

### 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

### April 2018

April 3	Stated Meeting Food Committee
April 10	Work Night or Degree
April 17	Ritual Practice
April 24	Certificate Practice

## Ancient Landmarks

“I bought me a Masonic Manual today,” announced the Very New Master Mason to the Old Past Master. “Into what strange paths I am about to venture I don’t know, but I am going to try...” rather shyly...”to learn some of the work.”

“That is very commendable,” agreed the Old Past Master. “You will find it a fascinating study.”

“But there are a lot of things in it I don’t understand,” went on the Very New Master Mason. “For instance, in the charge to a Master Mason the Master says ‘the ancient landmarks of the order, committed to your care, you are carefully to preserve and never suffer them to be infringed’ and so on. But nowhere can I find any explanation of just what the ancient landmarks are !”

“Well, that is rather a problem, isn’t it ?” smiled the Old Past Master. “If you will get Mackey’s Jurisprudence you will find a list of twenty-five, Roscoe Pound has a list of seven in his book of the same name, Brother Joseph Fort Newton considers five is the number and several Grand Lodges have lists of up to fifty or sixty !”

“Do you mean to say there is no universally known and understood list of ancient landmarks ?” demanded the Very

**From the East (continued)**

New Master Mason.

“I do. There is no such list.”

“But...but...but then how can we ‘carefully preserve them’ and ‘never suffer them to be infringed?’ “

“Well, it really isn’t as difficult as it sounds !” smiled the Old Past Master. “There is none, or hardly any, disagreement among Masonic authorities on the fundamental Masonic las. The ancient usages and customs of the fraternity are the same the world over and generally recognized as such by all Grand Bodies. But a ‘landmark’ is something which cannot be changed, according to our understanding of it. Therefore, different authorities have thought differently about our ancient usages and customs, some saying that such and thus, while ancient and honorable, is not a landmark, and therefore can be changed, while others hold that the same custom *is* a landmark and *cannot* be changed.”

“The old manuscripts which give us so much light on our Masonic forbears; the Regius, the Harleian, the Antiquity, etc., have various charges, rules, regulations, and laws. These are all very old, yet many of them could hardly be considered a landmark; for instance, one such old regulation forbids Masons to indulge in games of chance except at Christmas ! That would hardly do for a Masonic landmark, would it ? So, just because a rule or custom is old does not make it, per se, a landmark.”

“On the other hand, much that is beautiful in our fraternity is new; that is, it is less than three and often less than two hundred years old. There was no Grand Lodge before 1717, and Masonry was not divided into three degrees at that time, I believe. Yet many authorities consider the division of the work into three degrees as a landmark.”

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**From the West**

Brethren,

First, I want to single out our Treasurer and Past Master Kent Kinkade and say thank you for chairing the Blood Bank program in our lodge. I can’t recall how many years he has served our lodge in that capacity but I do know he has donated two or more gallons of blood himself.

Once again Hill City will participate in the Grand Lodge’s Fantastic Teeth Program. The Lodges in our fiftieth district meet at Onion Creek Lodge #220 and assemble kits of toothbrushes, paste, and floss which are given out to first graders in various elementary schools in Austin. The schools are selected based on where the neediest and underprivileged children attend.

All five of our principal officers attended Grand Lodge during the Grand Annual Convention held from January 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>. The lodge received its Vanguard award which is awarded to lodges that fulfill certain requirements aimed at improving the quality of their lodge programs. We also gave 2,000 dollars to the Masonic Charities Foundation and 1,000 dollars to the Masonic Retirement Home. These donations are given in the memories of Roy I. Irwin and Robert Redfield, two of our brethren that made significant donations to the Lodge’s Permanent Fund. Congratulations to our Brother and Past Master Robert Eschenburg. He is the first District Communications Officer. Most Worshipful Grand Master Chapman created this position and awarded the distinction of this office to Brother Eschenburg.

One of our brothers and affiliated Past Master Weston Floyd participated in reconstructing a Little League Ball field down on the coast. Weston is the head grounds keeper for the women’s softball field at U.T.

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**Obituary**

**Obituary (continued)**

**Charles Edward Bryant**

Charles Edward Bryant, 87, born August 11, 1930 passed away Wednesday, January 24, 2018, peacefully at home. Beloved husband for 62 years to his beautiful wife, Joyce Boling Bryant. Charles was a committed devout family man.

Charles also known as 'Charlie' and 'Daddy-O' was a great life-long friend to many, an honorable (41 years) Austin Firefighter, a loyal Mason, the staunch patriarch of his family. Charles has touched many lives with his genuine generosity, he will truly be missed.

Charles met the love of his life while both were high school students at Austin High.

An avid sports fan he went on to play football at Del Mar University in Corpus Christi for two years, upon his return to Austin he married Joyce Boling on June 16, 1950.

Charles was a loving husband, and a dutiful, attentive father to his 3 children. A valued supporter of North Austin Optimist sports serving multiple terms as president of the Little League board, as his children became older Charles stayed supportively involved in their activities such as FFA, band, UIL, football, wrestling and rodeo bull riding.

Charles later in life became known as "Pops" to his grandchildren remaining just as involved and supportive to their activities. A great passion he shared with his boys was spending time together hunting wildlife in the great outdoors.

A tenure consisting of over four decades as a Austin firefighter, Daddy-O began his profession in the Navy where he was widely known as a top-flight firefighter. Charles proudly served his country in the Navy approximately 5 years.

A member of the Crestview Baptist Church, degreed Mason dedicating over 60 years to freemasonry, brethren vested at Hill Country City Lodge rare to be absent from a meeting. Charles Bryant is preceded in death by his parents Charles Newton Bryant and Annie Laurie Bryant, as well his sister Georgia Youngblood and his wife Joyce Boling Bryant.

Charles Edward Bryant was an active member of Hill City Lodge No. 456 A. F. & A. M. He was a Life and an Endowed Member. Brother Charles Bryant was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on September 11, 1956, Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft on February 19, 1957 and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on March 26, 1957. Charles Edward Bryant served Hill City Lodge as Worshipful Master during the 2004-2005 Masonic year. He also received the Golden Trowel Award on November 2, 2010 and his 50 Year Service Award from The Grand Lodge of Texas on November 14, 2006.

He is survived by his children Regina Bryant McNeal, Bradley Charles Bryant, Blake Edward (Shawna) Bryant as well nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Visitation was held at Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Funeral Home, Pflugerville, Texas on Monday, January 29, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. Funeral Service was held the following day, Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Funeral Home, Pflugerville, Texas beginning promptly at 1:00 p.m.

And so it has come to pass, a Brother Master Mason, having completed all the design's laid down on the Trestleboard of Life, has answered the summons of the Grand Warden of Heaven and Earth and has entered into the Grand Lodge over which the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe presides.

**From the East (continued)**

**From the South**

“So where doctors disagree, only the patient can decide !”

“There are a certain body of laws, usages, and customs which are universally recognized and universally regarded. From these, different authorities select certain ones which in their judgement are landmarks. Other authorities say ‘no, this and such is a law, statute, rule, judgement, agreement, or custom of the fraternity but isn’t a landmark !’ Brother Shepherd has just brought out a book on the subject which gives the ideas of many authorities, writers, and Grand Lodges. What strikes one on reading it, is not the difference in the lists of what are called landmarks, but the fact that all so well agree as to what is fundamental in Masonry !”

“Now it is a fact that we agree that the ‘ancient landmarks’ are fixed and unalterable. It is also a fact that Masons themselves have altered their own unalterable landmarks ! The very fact that Grand Lodges were invented, or discovered, or created, is a change in the old, old custom, made necessary by change in times and people. The issuing of diplomas was a change; our ancient brethren had only the ‘Mason work’ to prove themselves Masters. We do not prepare a man to be made a Mason as was done two centuries ago, nor is our ritual the same, nor our obligation the same; antiquarians have even discovered where parts of our obligations came from, and it was not from a Masonic source that all of them were derived !”

“But let not your heart be troubled ! Masonry herself ways of herself that she is a progressive science. How can she progress and stand still ? Brother A. S. McBride, that whom no more spiritually minded or common-sense writer ever spread Masonry before the Craft for their better understanding, asks the literal-minded Mason who says nothing can be changed in Masonry, why not work in Hebrew, since Solomon and his workmen used that tongue ? And does Masonry suffer because the English of today is not the English of the 17th century ?”

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Brethren,

Recently I picked up the book *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* to learn about narrative archetypes. The author, Joseph Campbell, presents the thesis of "The Hero's Journey" which explains that most stories are the same (e.g., Luke Skywalker storming the Death Star deconstructs to the same story as Theseus and the Minotaur).

But the book was much deeper than that. It posits that these universal myths exist across cultures because of the innate human need for a "recurrence of birth." To grow and transcend as individuals and cultures there is a need to let die that which no longer serves us so that better possibilities already dormant within us can take root.

To that end, the monomyth tells the drama of a hero and his mystic quest. He begins in the "known world" and receives a call to adventure taking him into the "world of the unknown." There, through initiation, he must face his trial, achieve apotheosis, and return to the world of the known as a transformed person.

Can I tell you how the drama of our Masonic degrees maps onto that same narrative structure? Not on its face (and not that I would be able to print here anyway).

However, we may still be employing the same process through our initiations, because as candidates we pass through the same experience. On the other side of the door before a degree, is an unknown world that we must enter and return from, transformed, as a master of both worlds.

Aaron Evans  
Junior Warden, Hill City 456

**From the East (continued)**

**From the West (continued)**

“I personally believe that the ancient landmarks which cannot suffer change are few in number; A belief in Deity, a belief in a future life, a book of the Law at the altar, a secret mode of recognition, that only men, of good character, can be made Masons, these and one or two more seem to be to be the real landmarks. Other landmarks so prescribed seem to me...and to many deeper Masonic students...to be common law, custom, usage, rather than landmarks.”

“But I only think these things. I do not try to convince anyone I am right, for those who decide have authority and scholarship behind them. I follow where they lead. But Masonry teaches a man to think, and so I do her no injury if I do think. And if my Grand Lodge says forty-seven laws are landmarks, I keep them like Kipling’s Mason ‘to a hair.’ That I choose to disagree with my Grand Lodge in my heart doesn’t make me a law-breaker; only a minority; And there is no harm in being a minority as long as once conforms !”

“Therefore, read your manual, learn your ritual, consult your Grand Lodge records, and abide by the laws, resolutions, and edicts you have sworn to uphold. And when you have done that, tolerant charitable Masonry says to you ‘my brother, having done as you pledged you would, you may now think whatever you want is right !”

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

Let me say thank you for a job well done Weston.

I have to say that I am continually amazed by the vast amour of Masonic knowledge that our Marshal and affiliated Past Master Doug Fryeburg possesses. He spoke about the Latin phrase “memento mori” at our February Stated Meeting. It translates to “remember death” in English and is represented by the skull and cross bones. This symbol is sometimes seen in Masonic literature. It reminds us of the certainty of death and the vanity of all earthly ambitions.

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

**Thank You !**

Brethren,

I especially want to thank Fred Bakhshi, Kent Kinkade, Dennis Hill, Chuck Stewart, and Elan for helping with the Past Masters’ Meal in December. It was very fine food and had a wonderful attendance.

Let’s try for attendance next. Also, Richard Vardani.

Yours Fraternally,  
Uncle Bob, P.M.

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

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## **Food Committee for April 3<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meeting**

George W Botbyl	Myron James Fischer	George Curtis Holland, Jr.	Michael William Roy
Alfred Williams Boulter	Milton Eugene Francis	Russell Monroe Hur	Khalil H. Sakakini
Vernon L. Bracewell, Jr.	Richard Lee Garrett	George Albert Pipes	Calvin Stokes Story, Jr.
Bradley Cooper Cole	Frank Hubbard Gore	Isadore Reichek	Raymond Lum Toungate, II
David Edward Ferguson	William Donn Haffelder	Robert Lehman Roberts, Jr.	Alfred Munoz Vasquez
			Weldon L. Welch

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