


The HILL CITY LIGHT

April 2020

2019 - 2020 Lodge Officers		Hill City No. 456 A.F. & A.M. Chartered June 10, 1876		
W.M.	Aaron Evans	Austin Scottish Rite Theatre & Museum 18th St. at Lavaca St., Austin, Texas Mail: P.O. Box 1456, Austin, Texas 78767-1456 Phone: (512) 655-9858 Email: secretary@hillcitylodge.org Website: www.hillcitylodge.org		
S.W.	Luke Michels			
J.W.	Richard Garrett			
Treasurer	Kent Kinkade, P.M.			
Secretary	Philippe Dewailly, P.M.			
Chaplain	Chuck Stewart, P.M.			
S.D.	Elan Mendoza			
J.D.	Richard Bardin, P.M.			
S.S.	Chris Enders			
J. S.	Nate Stilwell			
Marshal	Hunt Armistead	1876		2020
M.C.	Doug Freyburger, P.M.	<u>Stated Meeting:</u>	First Tuesday at 7:30 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm	
Tiler	Dennis Hill, P.M.	<u>Called Meetings:</u>	Other Tuesdays at 7:00 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm	

Work Schedule	From the East
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April 2020		<p>Greetings Brethren,</p> <p>I hope you are all staying healthy and safe during the coronavirus epidemic.</p> <p>This edition of the Hill City Light will be a little different because usually, I talk about the upcoming schedule and direction of the lodge. But as I write this in April, no one truly knows what the lodge will be doing for the remainder of the Masonic year.</p> <p>I apologize for missing the March issue of this newsletter. We wrote and printed it, but shut the lodge down before it we were able to mail it.</p> <p>It's just as well we never sent it because the March newsletter talked about upcoming events like the Grand Lodge Service Awards and other activities like Open House and Beach Cleanup, which are now unfortunately canceled. That's how uncertain and unpredictable the weeks ahead are for us now.</p> <p>Currently, the Grand Master has closed all lodges in the Grand Lodge of Texas until further notice. Remaining dark is a wise policy. The fellowship and work are significant to us all, and not meeting interferes with that agenda and with the progress of new brothers working through the craft. But, the health of our</p>
April 7	Virtual Meeting via Video Conference	
May 2020		
May 5	Virtual Meeting via Video Conference	
June 2020		
June 2	Stated Meeting (Tentative)	
June 9	Practice for Memorial Service and Installation	
June 16	Golden Trowel Family Night	
June 23	Memorial Service	
June 30	Open Installation of Officers	

From the East (continued)

families is of more importance. The lodge will do its best to reschedule what we've missed, and get running again at full steam once it is safe to do so.

In the meantime, Hill City masons need to reach out and stay in contact by other means. Because of the challenges of getting the Light out the door - between print-shop, post office, and assembling this newsletter, I cannot guarantee reliable delivery of The Light during months when we're dark.

Some of the brothers are meeting online using their laptops and smartphones to video-conference with each other. Meeting up using a video camera requires higher technical knowledge, but it's also possible to dial into our teleconference and speak via phone for those inclined. Information about when we're meeting, along with the necessary details for connecting, is sent out via our email list.

The best way to stay up-to-date with the lodge is by subscribing to its emails. You can do this by visiting <http://hillcitylodge.org> on your computer and clicking the link that says "subscribe to our mailing list." You can also send an email to communications@hillcitylodge.org and ask to receive it. And, if you're on Facebook, "like" the Lodge there, and you'll also receive information about our upcoming schedule.

Please stay safe.

Fraternally,
Aaron Evans
Worshipful Master, Hill City 456

Many brothers out there might be feeling stress because of their economic situations, or for being forced to isolate all day.

If you've lost your job or your business is struggling, the lodge has information to help navigate filing for unemployment or small business loans. Contact communications@hillcitylodge.org for more details.

Some of our members might become infected with the coronavirus and lose their ability to shop for groceries and other essentials. If, for any reason, you need help, call Aaron Evans at 512-921-4160.

From the West

Brethren,

The last few weeks have been unusual to say the least, it has been a trying time for everyone and I am sure it is no different for our Hill City Brothers. I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy as we navigate through this period of quarantine. While normal operations and Hill City gatherings may be put on hold, it is times like these that the light of Masonry should shine brightest.

For the month of April I would like to address something I find extremely important to the Fraternity, Brotherly love. Brotherly love is the love for one's fellow-man as a Brother, it is an extension of the natural affection associated with near kin, that goes beyond the mere duty in Leviticus 19:18 to "love thy neighbor as thyself". As Masons, we have the profound duty to not only love thy Brother but to help them to the full extent of our abilities. Most of us have come here to seek a path that will help us improve ourselves, improve upon all that came before, and truly craft our own perfect ashlar. This is why I ask each and every one of you to check in on that Brother who you haven't seen in a while. Find out how they are doing and ask if they are in need of any assistance. And remember, you can always contact me or any Hill City officer if you need help with anything. It is important that we show our fellow Brethren that we are here for them. We are all human, emotional beings, who may yet still need that outreached hand of another Brother and I can't express how meaningful it is to know that others care. For the month of April I challenge you to make that call and reach out to a Brother. Especially in current times, that small action could mean the world to them.

I encourage everyone to remain optimistic and keep your faith steadfast. The Lodge will resume labor soon. For now, let's take care of each other. I leave you with an excerpt from Philippians 4 I find comforting; "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds."

Fraternally,
Luke Michels,
Senior Warden, Hill City 456

April 2020 Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Bartender's supply
6. Priestly garb
10. At one time, at one time
14. Spinach like plant
15. Diamond dust
16. Dash
17. Female demon
18. Paramour
20. Chooses
22. Comprehend
23. "For shame!"
24. Ballet move
26. Grave words for those that are late
28. Family recorders
32. Bank offering, for short
33. "Once ___ a time..."
34. Corporate department
38. Baltic capital
40. "A Lesson From ___"
43. Deep
44. Chow line?
46. "Yes, ___"
48. "Bingo!"
49. Obviously a home-bird!
53. Make use of waste material
56. Strengthen, with "up"
57. Egg cells
58. Its motto is "Industry"
60. Brown shade
64. Support one view
67. Prefix with surgery or transmitter
68. Horace volume
69. Blemish
70. Occupied, as a lavatory
71. Medical advice, often
72. Eye
73. Was a secretary

Down

1. Lacquered metal ware
2. Face-to-face exam
3. Finger, in a way
4. Frozen dripping
5. French mansion
6. "20/20" network
7. Check this out!
8. Old character into AC/DC? You might get stoned for that here
9. Leather products
10. "... ___ he drove out of sight"
11. Bob Marley fan
12. Diving duck
13. Extra inning
19. Dweebs
21. Sea squirt
25. "Dirty" activity
27. Boris Godunov, for one
28. Demoiselle
29. Ashtabula's lake
30. NE Indian people
31. Fairy tale figure
35. Pinocchio, at times
36. Bounce back, in a way
37. "Heartbreak House" writer
39. Far from ruddy
41. "___ of Eden"
42. Flavor
45. -- - pocus
47. Free
50. Last month
51. Gob
52. Viscous
53. Chopper blade
54. Circumvent
55. Candle holders?
59. Hot spot
61. Atlantic fish
62. European language
63. Pigeon-___
65. "C' ___ la vie!"
66. "Comprende ? »

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March 2020 Puzzle Solution

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Grand Master's Message

As Texas Masons continue to live through the challenges of the existing global COVID-19 with governmental “shelter-in-place” orders and no stated or called meetings of their Lodges, I encourage all Masons to communicate, as permitted, with other Masons. This can be done by telephone, or the on-line platforms. I also encourage all Texas Lodge officers to regularly meet in the above manner to review and authorize the payment of necessary Lodge expenses that cannot be deferred until traditional meetings are again permitted.

It is also possible that Lodge members may request financial assistance from the Grand Lodge Assistance Fund covered in Art. 123 of our statutes. The Lodge of the applying Mason should prepare and submit the appropriate application to the Grand Secretary's office with information provided by the member. The application form can be obtained by the lodge secretary through the Secretary portal. If applications for assistance are received, the five principal Lodge officers are to meet in the above manner and get approval of the DDGM who will forward the application to the Grand Secretary's Office.

Many questions have been asked as to whether and/or how the election and installation of Lodge officers will take place. Your Grand Lodge Trustees are well aware of the need to hold elections and install officers as our Laws require. Be assured that the Grand Lodge Trustees have contingency plans to provide for elections and installations if the meetings restrictions imposed by this crisis do not lift before June. However, it is premature to implement those plans at this time. We are praying that the threat will be abated by June so that Lodges may hold their elections and installation in a timely fashion. If so, there should be no problem in carrying on this business in the normal and usual manner. However, if the pandemic has not evolved such that traditional meetings can resume, the Grand Lodge Trustees will advise you on the alternative methods we will use in our elections and installations.

Please be assured that I am in almost daily communications with the officers of your Grand Lodge, the Masonic Jurisprudence and Civil Law Committees, and our other resources. I also realize several Texas Lodges meet quarterly and that the restrictions of the pandemic may disrupt their

Grand Master's Message (continued)

elections. When the Grand Lodge Trustees determine when elections can be held, an appropriate Order or Dispensation authorizing the elections and installations will be issued to all Texas Lodges.

Paul D. Underwood, Grand Master 2020

Grand Master's Decision 2020 No. 1

QUESTION: Does the Grand Master have authority to indefinitely suspend stated and called meetings of the Lodge?

ANSWER: Yes, if a local, state, national, or world crisis exists that would warrant such action. This would include pandemics or other crises that result in national, state and/or local orders directing or requiring such suspension of such meetings. Although, at present, there is no specific authority in our Grand Lodge law authorizing such action, nevertheless, the Grand Master has the power and duty to superintend and direct Masonic activities and to ensure compliance with all national, state or local orders directly pertaining to the operations of the Craft.

Paul D. Underwood,

Grand Master 2020 (Published March 27, 2020)

Grand Master's Decision 2020 No. 2

QUESTION: May the esoteric work of Masonry be studied by telephone between two brothers known to each other?

ANSWER: Yes. The two brothers must know each other as Masons and must assure each other, as far as practical, that the telephonic “voice-only” conversation is secure and is between those two brothers only. No other electronic or digital video or audio platform, service or device is permitted.

Paul D. Underwood,

Grand Master 2020

What political party had the first national nominating convention and offered the first platform of party principles? It was the third political party organized in the United States. It was the Anti-Masonic Party.

The movement that brought this political party into existence started in 1826. It was caused by the mysterious disappearance of William Morgan. He was a Freemason and a bricklayer who lived in New York state. He apparently became angry with his Lodge and said he would publish all the secrets of Freemasonry. He disappeared . Some rumors were that he had been killed by Masons. There was also a rumor that he had been told to go to Canada and not return. In any case he disappeared. This was at a time of the Western movement of settlers, the Industrial Revolution and the great religious revival known as the Great Awakening. Many people were distrustful of the government and any long-standing institution. Distrust of the Freemasons began to grow and local politicians got elected by being against masonry. This movement caused the creation of the new party. At this time Andrew Jackson was a prominent Freemason who often spoke about the fraternity. The Anti Jacksonians needed a party to rally around. So the new party was as much about defeating Jackson as it was anti Masonry.

In September 1831 The Anti-masonic Party had a National Convention in Baltimore Maryland and nominated William Wirt for president and created a party platform condemning Freemasonry for its secrecy, exclusivity and undemocratic character.

In the 1832 election Mr. Wirt won the state of Vermont only. He had a total of 7 electoral votes. After this the party went into decline. Much of the political energy was going into the anti-slavery movement. Many members of the Anti Masonic Party moved over to the newly-formed Whig party. The party never nominated anyone else and faded away after about 10 years of existence.

Fraternally,
Richard Garrett,
Junior Warden, Hill City 456

The Larger Charge

At several times, in building his Masonic edifice, a Mason is given a *charge* in which the values and principles that define being a Mason are expressed in rather succinct instructions. The first, and possibly simplest, charge is given after the conferring Master of the Lodge has asked the Supreme Architect of the Universe for the blessings and “competency” that will enable the new Mason to live up to these subsequent charges, and he has successfully completed the “forms and ceremonies”. He is simply instructed “ever to walk and act as such” only to begin a lifetime of figuring out what that really means. After that, each degree ceremony is completed by a longer, more comprehensive charge, and the Mason experiences additional charges in being installed as a Lodge Officer and on other occasions. We said earlier that these charges are succinct instructions and it is true that they sound that way. But is that really all ?

We very often talk about symbols and symbolic learning in Masonry, in which an iconic symbol, word or phrase represents not just a small denotative meaning but a connection to a much larger body of thought or knowledge. That symbolic knowledge is synthesized from all we read and experience in Masonry, especially through discussion and sharing among our Brethren. It grows over years and decades and we understand that our enrichment through symbolic learning never really ends. Why should this idea not apply to each and every one of the charges placed upon us ?

If the charges were just those words and instructions, could a Mason “check the box” indicating that he had fulfilled one of these charges or even a part of one ? Or, just as we spend a lifetime building our Masonic edifice, do we continue to define, refine and expand that sense of what we must do, going forward, to best exemplify the Masonic ideal. Surely it is a personal matter, just as each Mason has his individual understanding of the vast subject of Masonry and his own blessings and cable tow. But this Mason does believe that we all should strive to move forward and grow, not satisfied with the degrees we have, the esoteric work we can recite, the history of Masons we understand, or any aspect of past Masonic service, projects and accomplishments. And, perhaps it is necessary that we extend our sense of Masonic charges, in their symbolic forms, to the greater world around us.

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

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April Birthdays

April Birthdays			
Hugh Larry Adkins	Bob Day, Jr.	Douglas Dwight Gullickson	Michael Eugene Kinser
James Ethridge Bailey	Christopher M Enders	Clyde H Hardy	Margarito R. Sosa
Mark Edward Bennett	Douglas John Freyburger	William L Hatten	Leslie John Whetham
John Charles Casey	Mario Humberto Guel, II	Bennie Len Hudson	

Food Committee is suspended until we are able to reconvene.