


The HILL CITY LIGHT

November 2023

2023-2024 Lodge Officers		Hill City No. 456 A.F. & A.M. Chartered June 10, 1876	
W.M.	Hilton Crocker	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.	Nate Stilwell		
J.W.	Ryan DiVincenzo	1876  2023	
Treasurer	Kent Kinkade, P.M.		
Secretary	Charles Maddox P.M.	<u>Stated Meeting:</u> First Tuesday at 7:30 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm	
Chaplain	Chuck Stewart, P.M.		
S.D.	Nick Grossman	<u>Called Meetings:</u> Other Tuesdays at 7:00 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm	
J.D.	Mark Huerta		
S.S.	Jeremy Stinglein	Work Schedule	
J. S.	Jacob Cavasos		
Marshal	Robert Darrel	From the East	
M.C.	Tanner Dennis		
Tiler	Dennis Hill, P.M.	Greetings Brethren, Another month has passed and we are staying very busy at Hill City Lodge. We are doing a lot of Degrees. Our SD and JD are heading up the Degree Teams, so if you are interested in participating or just watching a Degree, come on down. We are still doing courtesy Degrees for Lodge 12 as well as own candidates. At the latest Stated Meeting the members discussed The Hill City Lodge Policies Manual. I have been a member of this Lodge for 21 years and I have never seen this Policies Manual until 3 weeks ago. Most of the members had never seen it either. The Policies outline the duties of the different officers and who they report to. It also describes the Lodge dress code for Officers and members. Officers are required to wear a suit or coat, slacks and tie to Stated Meetings and for of special importance, such as the Service Awards, Golden Trowel, Community Builder, ttc. Called Meetings are more casual and can wear jeans or slacks and a collared shirt. The exception is for the Stewards, as they are needed to prepare the meal and clean-up. Members in general should wear a collared shirt with jeans or slacks. The following is a list of items not appropriate for wear at any meeting. Shorts T-shirts	
November 2023			
November 7	Stated Meeting		
November 14	EA Degree		
November 21	Family Night		
November 28	Grand Lodge Awards		
November 28	Master Masons Degree for Lodge 12		
December 2023			
December 5	Stated Meeting		
December 12	Master Mason Degree		
December 19	Past Master's Dinner		
December 26	Dark		
January 2024			
January 2	Stated Meeting		
January 9	Fellowcraft Degree		
January 16	Dark		
January 23	Called Meeting		
January 30	Called Meeting		

From the East (continued)

Sandals or flip-flops
Jeans with holes in them

Ryan Divinchenzo, Chuck Stewart and Tom Jackson are on the Scholarship Committee.

I need 10 members to volunteer to upgrade the Membership List. So far I have 3 volunteers. Robert Eschenburg, Alex Dubois and Paul Hunt.

We will be participating in Fantastic Teeth again this year.

Give me your thoughts about doing the Beach Cleanup again this year.

Keep the following members in your prayers.

- Oscar Orum,
- Kervin Warnken and his wife,
- Forrest Cruze and his wife.

Please let me know if there is more.

Fraternally,
Hilton Crocker, P.M.
Worshipful Master, Hill City 456

From the West

Hello Brethren All,

I know I'm ready for the Holiday's coming up! Turkey and stuffing, ham, and pies, good stuff. We here at Hill City #456 have plenty of degrees coming up too. And regular attendance is highly encouraged to assist in raising our new brethren.

At our recent MWSA meeting, we discussed funeral teams and overall funeral attendance, which is sometimes, only one brother giving the eulogy by himself. Masonic funerals are one of our primary duties and we should attend as many as our cable tow allows. A large presence can be very impressive and impactful for family, friends, and loved ones. Believe it or not, this can inspire those in attendance to be part of our uncompromising order, and can start a conversation about initiation into the craft. If any brethren are interested in assisting our chaplain with funeral duties, or can attend, please do so. Our communications director quickly emails all funeral service details as the information is given. If you need to update your email address to receive this communication, please don't hesitate to come to lodge or call us to update your information. Perhaps this could be part of our mission statement as a lodge. Simply put, a visible statement when you walk in the door, that states the purpose of our lodge and organization as a whole. For example, Fort Worth lodge #148 states: "Accomplishing the advancement of Freemasonry and ensuring quality in the Masonic experience by initiating well qualified men, providing quality Masonic education and engaging all its members in continuing Masonic fellowship and activities." As well as, a vision statement that states: "To be known as a lodge that ensures the advancement of Freemasonry and the quality of the Masonic experience." To most of us this, this is well known information. But for new candidates, coming in for the first time, they get a sense of what they are walking into. Which leads me to the proposed idea of a lodge workday! Where we can schedule to pressure wash the entryway, paint the handrails, clean up the bathroom and library. Make the "card room" more inviting and comfortable. Generally, clean up the entryway like it is your house, because it is. And it requires cooperation and coordination to get the ball rolling. It's up to us to be the change what is needed, no-one else is going to do it. Any suggestions or assistance would be very welcomed. Perhaps you own a pressure washer, or you have cans of black paint in the garage. It is extremely important to create an atmosphere that makes people comfortable, and want to come back for both Masons and non-Masons alike.

Well, here's to a great holiday season, and may the supreme architect of the universe bless you and your family.

So, mote it be.

Fraternally,
Nate Stilwell
Senior Warden, Hill City 456

November 2023 Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Old World duck
5. Muhammad's religion
10. Commanded
14. "Unforgettable" singer
15. Destitute
16. "Beg pardon ..."
17. Found in waste water
18. Broadcasting
19. Forbidden: Var.
20. Oscillating support - Front had collapsed
23. Adjust
24. Himalayan people
28. One anti local building
32. Blood carrier
33. Hooter
36. Spray can
39. "Get ___!"
41. Town or city leader
42. And others, for short
43. Respected for longevity
46. "___ moment"
47. Say "Li'l Abner," say
48. South African porch
50. Put off again
53. Kenyan tribesman
57. Wobble
61. Delhi dress
64. Pang
65. Forum wear
66. Assortment
67. Plantain lily
68. Give off, as light
69. Communicate silently
70. Banana oil, e.g.
71. Level, in London

Down

1. Young scout in S.Africa used to swim down under
2. Fable finale
3. Bumper sticker word
4. Flag
5. Knowing, as a secret
6. E-mail, e.g.
7. Book part
8. "Bye"
9. Biblical gift
10. After-shower wear
11. "Bingo!"
12. Center of a ball?
13. Australian runner
21. "Mi chiamano Mimi," e.g.
22. Blue hue
25. First: Prefix
26. The personal soul, in HARidwar
27. Black
29. Exec's note
30. Breakfast staple
31. Goes up and down
33. Aquatic mammal
34. Unspecified amount of time
35. Calculus calculation
37. Breed
38. Sundae topper, perhaps
40. Medecinal calming
44. Daughter of Zeus
45. Audition tape
49. Sideshow spiel
51. Oblivion
52. Character
54. Leaf opening
55. Auspices
56. About to explode
58. At one time, at one time
59. Automatic
60. Binge
61. "Help!"
62. "Aladdin" prince
63. Fix, in a way

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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17					18						19			
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66					67						68			
69					70						71			

July 2023 Puzzle Solution

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

Obituary

William “Sam” Dickson

William “Sam” Dickson age 88, a native of Austin, Texas passed away on July 7, 2020.

He was preceded in death by parents, Lewis Frank Dickson and Zelma Barber Dickson; and siblings, Louise (husband, Wilmar), Lewis (wife, Leslie), Don (wife, Mary) and John (wife, Faye). He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Jean; his daughters, Diane Vickers (husband, Dan) and Terri McIlvenna; his granddaughters, Kara, Laura (wife, Sierra); great granddaughter, Demi Rose; and many nephews and nieces.

Sam graduated from Austin High School and soon went into the grocery business working at French Place Foods in East Austin. He and a business partner later formed a company, Guerrero and Dickson Wholesale produce. His business was in downtown Austin on Sabine St. and served many local restaurants and small grocery stores in the Central Austin area for 33 years.

Sam loved getting together with his friends and family at the 200 acre family retreat “Dickson’s Pine Ridge Farm” in McDade, Texas. Many happy days were spent at the “Farm” working on house projects, playing dominoes and card games, horseshoe throwing, cutting brush and firewood, building bonfires, shooting fireworks and raising a can of beer on the pavilion while laughing, partying and telling stories. Sam was the quintessential story teller and he loved to “kid” folks that he was serious about a story only to catch them off guard and make them laugh. He liked listening to vintage country music and spending time with his many pets through the years. His last pet was a Great Dane named Brooklyn who brought him and Jean much comfort. In his last months he enjoyed sitting on his front porch swing with Jean while smiling, waving and conversing with many of his neighbors. During his final days, Jean his loving wife, took great care of him and he passed away in their only home that they shared together for 64 years.

“Sam”, “Daddy”, “Granddaddy” will be greatly missed by his family and soulmate, Jean. Borrowing a line from one of Sam’s favorite songs, “It’s Funny

Obituary (continued)

Baby, How Time Slips Away”.

William “Sam” Dickson. was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on June 9, 1953, Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft on August 18, 1953, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on September 29, 1953, at Hill City Lodge No. 456 A. F. & A. M. Brother Dickson received his 50 Year Service Award on September 24, 2003 and his 60 Year Service Award on June 24, 2013 from the Grand Lodge of Texas and was a faithful Mason for 67 years.

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.

There Once Was An Old Mason...

There was once an old Mason who hadn't attended his lodge for 20 years. One day he thought he'd go and see what's been going on with his lodge in his absence. When he arrived he found boards on the windows, and a padlock on the door with a sign saying CLOSED.

As he stood staring at this sad lonely building, a younger man walked up and looked along with the old man.

The old man said; I was a member here for many years.

The young man replied; I was the secretary.

I just can't understand how this lodge could have gone dark. I bought my life membership 50 years ago. Said the old man.

To this the young man replied every member here were life members as well.

Puzzled the old man said; if everyone had life memberships, then what happened? How did it go dark?

The young man replied; no one attended the meetings or became involved.

My point is just this; It isn't enough to buy a life membership, it isn't enough to pay dues, and it isn't enough to say you're a Mason. You have to attend, get involved, and claim your benefits.

From the South

Greetings Brethren,

October was a busy month in the district and in the state. We had a great MWSA meeting this quarter sponsored by Hill City Lodge, the York Rite had the Annual School of Instruction in Waco, and there were Scottish Rite Reunions in both San Antonio and Waco. These state and district-wide events highlight the importance of Masonic travel. It is a beautiful experience to build bonds with brothers away from home and to reunite with others.

Travel provides fraternal benefits and also deepens our understanding of our Masonic Ritual. In his lecture at Mid-Atlantic Esotericon in 2020, Brother David Bacon highlighted the fact that behavioral and cognitive habits might reduce the effectiveness of ritual as a tool, for with repetition, we are putting on blinders hampering our ability to look for what is new or different in ritual, as well as limiting our capacity for extracting new information. I believe that traveling to a different lodge and seeing the same ritual put on by a different group of brethren can be beneficial in pulling us out of this mental rut.

We also know that repetition benefits us by strengthening our neural pathways. As we repeatedly watch or participate in Masonic ritual, neural connections are strengthened. When we travel to a new location, our brains produce new neural pathways. By participating in our familiar rituals in unfamiliar places, we are building new neural pathways connected to a strong matrix of neural connections. Perhaps this can aid us in gaining new insights into our rituals. My knowledge of neurology is minimal, to be generous, so I would love to hear from anyone with thoughts on this topic or anyone who has a stronger understanding of the subject matter. I hope to see you around the district and the state. On the 18th of November at 10 a.m., Onion Creek will hold a workshop on investigation committees. The year is drawing to a close, and Grand Lodge will be here before we know it. There are plenty of opportunities abound. Happy Travels!

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Ryan DiVincenzo,
Junior Warden, Hill City 456

The Past Master's Corner

The "Past Masters" of the Lodge are Lodge Officers who served as the Worshipful Master of the Lodge. Their experience and wisdom gained during their service to the Lodge is always available to the current officers of the Lodge. Hill City Lodge no.456 has an active Past Master's group. The "Governor" of our group by acclamation is; Kervin Warnken, P:M:. In May of this year, Brother Warnken called a Past Master's meeting. Traditionally, the incoming Master, tradition prevailing, addresses the Past Masters with his plans and vision for the upcoming Masonic year. Our Worshipful Master, Hilton Crocker, shared his plan and vision at the Past Masters meeting. His report was very positive. It included protection of Lodge traditions; continuation of wonderful meals, Esoteric excellence; Family nights, and Lodge Peace & Harmony.

Traditionally, Past Masters meetings are held quarterly unless a Special Called meeting is required.

Twenty One Years Ago...

Twenty one years ago, when I became a Mason, a Past Master ask me, "will you be a real Mason or a ring rapper "? I asked, what is a ring rapper? He replied, a ring rapper is a person who becomes a Master Mason and gets their ring only to rap it onthe table, so everyone knows that they are a Mason. They don't participate in Degrees or even come to Lodge on a regular basis. I hope that I am considered a real Mason, having been Worshipful Master twice and District Deputy Grand Master once.I participate in Degrees and mentor new Masons. I don't say this to toot my own horn, but to hopefully motivate you to toot yours. Come to Lodge whenever you can. Learn a part, or all the parts in the Degree Teams . There are Masons who will help you learn. As they say, you get out of Masonry what you put into it. My hope for you, is that you get a lot out of Masonry.

HILL CITY LODGE No. 456, A.F. & A.M.
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November Birthdays			
Herbert E. Adams	Evan Michael Holmes	Philip Peter Marshall	John Charles Shirley
Kendall Elliott Bardin	Mark Anthony Huerta	Nicholas Collins Maulding	Vaughn Edward Smith
Vernon Earl Cole	William Paul Hunt	Boaz Mell	J. Robert Stone
Ryan James Divincenzo	David John James	Luke Allen Michels	Byron Thomas Townsend
William Frank Farley	Matthew Chris Kirksey	Marcus Jerome Moseley	Christian James Wagner
Roberto T. Flores	James Paul Leigh	Vance Edward Powell, III	Robert Steven Whatley
			Ricky Sherrill Wilson

Important Announcement Regarding COVID-19

We have fully reinstated meals. Austin is now at level 2 Covid stage.

Masks and hand sanitizer will be provided for those who want them
 Stay healthy and have a blessed New Year.

Food Committee is suspended until we are able to reconvene.