


The HILL CITY LIGHT

December 2023

<p style="text-align: center;">2023-2024 Lodge Officers</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>W.M.</td><td>Hilton Crocker</td></tr> <tr><td>S.W.</td><td>Nate Stilwell</td></tr> <tr><td>J.W.</td><td>Ryan DiVincenzo</td></tr> <tr><td>Treasurer</td><td>Kent Kinkade, P.M.</td></tr> <tr><td>Secretary</td><td>Charles Maddox P.M.</td></tr> <tr><td>Chaplain</td><td>Chuck Stewart, P.M.</td></tr> <tr><td>S.D.</td><td>Nick Grossman</td></tr> <tr><td>J.D.</td><td>Mark Huerta</td></tr> <tr><td>S.S.</td><td>Jeremy Stinglein</td></tr> <tr><td>J. S.</td><td>Jacob Cavasos</td></tr> <tr><td>Marshal</td><td>Robert Darrel</td></tr> <tr><td>M.C.</td><td>Tanner Dennis</td></tr> <tr><td>Tiler</td><td>Dennis Hill, P.M.</td></tr> </table>	W.M.	Hilton Crocker	S.W.	Nate Stilwell	J.W.	Ryan DiVincenzo	Treasurer	Kent Kinkade, P.M.	Secretary	Charles Maddox P.M.	Chaplain	Chuck Stewart, P.M.	S.D.	Nick Grossman	J.D.	Mark Huerta	S.S.	Jeremy Stinglein	J. S.	Jacob Cavasos	Marshal	Robert Darrel	M.C.	Tanner Dennis	Tiler	Dennis Hill, P.M.	<p style="text-align: center;">Hill City No. 456 A.F. & A.M. Chartered June 10, 1876</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">1876  2023</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Stated Meeting:</u> First Tuesday at 7:30 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Called Meetings:</u> Other Tuesdays at 7:00 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm</p>
W.M.	Hilton Crocker																										
S.W.	Nate Stilwell																										
J.W.	Ryan DiVincenzo																										
Treasurer	Kent Kinkade, P.M.																										
Secretary	Charles Maddox P.M.																										
Chaplain	Chuck Stewart, P.M.																										
S.D.	Nick Grossman																										
J.D.	Mark Huerta																										
S.S.	Jeremy Stinglein																										
J. S.	Jacob Cavasos																										
Marshal	Robert Darrel																										
M.C.	Tanner Dennis																										
Tiler	Dennis Hill, P.M.																										
<p style="text-align: center;">Work Schedule</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">From the East</p>																										
<p style="text-align: center;">December 2023</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>December 5</td><td>Stated Meeting</td></tr> <tr><td>December 12</td><td>Master Mason Degree</td></tr> <tr><td>December 19</td><td>Past Master's Dinner</td></tr> <tr><td>December 26</td><td>Dark</td></tr> </table>	December 5	Stated Meeting	December 12	Master Mason Degree	December 19	Past Master's Dinner	December 26	Dark	<p>Greetings Brethren,</p> <p>I hope this holiday season brings you closer to your Supreme Grand Master and the world at large. Hill City Lodge continues to be very busy with Degrees and as always we could use your help. Whether you do a part in a Degree, or simply show up to support the Lodge, both are important. Imagine the candidate having his being brought to light and having very few people sitting in the Lodge. We continue to do courtesy Degrees for Lodge 12. Their case should be presented at The Grand Annual Communication and their future will be decided by The Grand West.</p> <p>There will be a Past Masters Meeting December 5th before the meal and followed by The Stated Meeting. December 12th there will be a Fellowcraft turn in followed by a Master Masons Degree. December 19th will be our annual Past Masters Dinner and December 26th we will be dark.</p> <p>Attendance at Hill City Lodge and all Lodges fell off dramatically during Covid-19 lock downs and has still not recovered to pre-Covid levels. Past Master Luke Michels did an incredible job of keeping the Lodge going during Covid-19 and he deserves our admiration and thanks for doing so. This disease will be a part of American life from now on, however it is much</p>																		
December 5	Stated Meeting																										
December 12	Master Mason Degree																										
December 19	Past Master's Dinner																										
December 26	Dark																										
<p style="text-align: center;">January 2024</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>January 2</td><td>Stated Meeting</td></tr> <tr><td>January 9</td><td>Fellowcraft Degree</td></tr> <tr><td>January 16</td><td>Dark</td></tr> <tr><td>January 23</td><td>Called Meeting</td></tr> <tr><td>January 30</td><td>Called Meeting</td></tr> </table>	January 2	Stated Meeting	January 9	Fellowcraft Degree	January 16	Dark	January 23	Called Meeting	January 30	Called Meeting																	
January 2	Stated Meeting																										
January 9	Fellowcraft Degree																										
January 16	Dark																										
January 23	Called Meeting																										
January 30	Called Meeting																										
<p style="text-align: center;">February 2024</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>February 6</td><td>Stated Meeting</td></tr> <tr><td>February 13</td><td>Called Meeting</td></tr> <tr><td>February 20</td><td>Called Meeting</td></tr> <tr><td>February 27</td><td>Called Meeting</td></tr> </table>	February 6	Stated Meeting	February 13	Called Meeting	February 20	Called Meeting	February 27	Called Meeting																			
February 6	Stated Meeting																										
February 13	Called Meeting																										
February 20	Called Meeting																										
February 27	Called Meeting																										

From the East (continued)

less dangerous now as we all built up antibodies. It's time for everyone to return to Lodge and celebrate being Masons. The Lodge has lost 700+ members since I joined Hill City and we need everyone who has the ability to attend.

Next month we have a Stated Meetings, a Fellowcraft Degree and The Grand Annual Communication. February remains open at this time, however I am quite sure that it will fill up before then.

This holiday season, love your friends and family and pray that our country comes together. Continue to live the life of a Mason and pray for your Brethren in need. We are our Brothers keeper.

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

From the West

Hello Brethren All,

It seems that scholarly historians shy away from mentioning Freemasonry as a contributor to the ideals and unity required to bring about revolution. Perhaps Freemasons are a contributing cause to this hesitation. Many of the Freemasons who have written on the subject often embellish the importance of Freemasonry far too much. Antagonists of the fraternity are also to blame because they do the same, only with the aim of making the fraternity look bad instead of good. While it is difficult to gage the exact impact, any single group had on the development of Texas, it cannot be denied that Freemasonry was an important contributor.

Freemasonry came to central Mexico from Spain. A Grand Lodge was formed in Spain in 1729. But the Catholic Church, a long-time opponent of the Masonic fraternity, slowed its expansion there. Freemasons promoted religious toleration and had a liberal philosophy. The Church viewed this as dangerous to their influence in Spain, thus subjected Freemasonry to great persecution. In 1738, Clement IX issued a Papal Bull against Freemasonry, and in 1740 the members of a lodge in Madrid were arrested by the Inquisition as ‘dangerous to religion and good government.’ All of these men spent time in prison, and eight were sent to the gallows. Freemasonry went underground in Spain until May of 1808, when Napoleon placed his son, Joseph Bonaparte on the throne of Spain. Joseph was the Grand Master of Masonry in France, and all restrictions on Freemasonry in Spain were immediately lifted. The Freemasonry of Spain and France differed from that of England and Scotland in that Mainland European Masonry was strongly political, while English Masonry discouraged ties to politics.

Steven F. Austin worked hard help Texas maintain good relation with Mexico. In February of 1828, Austin had petitioned to the York Grand Lodge of Mexico for a new lodge charter. A response to this request was never issued from the York Grand Lodge. Although no record of why a response was not returned exists, most likely the turmoil between the York and Scottish Rite factions in Mexico at this time led to the neglect of Austin’s request. It was not until 1835 when Anson Jones, with four other brethren of the fraternity, gathered together and decided to petition the Grand Lodge of Louisiana for a charter that an official Masonic organization in Texas was once again pursued.

In addition to the support of schools, Masons have developed hospitals for children and homes for the elderly. In 1992, the nationwide dollar value of donations from Masonic organizations to charities was over 2 million dollars per day, and this does not include the countless volunteer hours given by members of the

Continued on page 4

December 2023 Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Concrete section
5. Marvelous, in slang
8. Nags
13. Frost
14. Building additions
16. Deflect
17. City on the Yamuna River
18. Plug
19. Ogee
20. Tideline
23. Bonehead
24. Ed.'s request
25. "Acid"
28. Screened
33. Costa del ____
36. "Don't give up!"
37. Ranch
38. Property recipient, at law
41. Earthly
42. Bleaker
43. Blackguard
44. Blubber
45. Lauraz
49. "It's no ____!"
50. Afflict
51. Easy out
55. Reinvestments
60. All excited
62. Okay
63. Fizzy drink
64. "That's it!"
65. "Buona ____" (Italian greeting)
66. Months
67. About 1% of the atmosphere
68. Calendar square
69. Adjudge

Down

1. Persian potentates
2. Coherence
3. Eek
4. Rinaldo
5. Greek cheese
6. "Thanks ____!"
7. Ether
8. Legal prefix
9. "... happily ____ after"
10. Vees
11. Computer monitor, for short
12. In-flight info, for short
15. Rein, e.g.
21. Came in first
22. Hookups
26. Theme song
27. Dork
29. God, with "the"
30. "____ we having fun yet?"
31. "To ____ is human ..."
32. Alt. spelling
33. Yogi
34. Hodgepodes
35. Training
39. Dash lengths
40. "The Matrix" hero
41. Butter holder
43. Biased
46. Coquettes
47. Decide to leave, with "out"
48. Mouthed off
52. His Family
53. Excessive
54. Church song
56. "Cogito ____ sum"
57. Long, long time
58. "The Last of the Mohicans" girl
59. "Shoo!"
60. "The ____ Daba Honey-moon"
61. Alpine sight

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	
13					14				15		16			
17					18					19				
20				21					22					
23							24				25	26	27	
			28		29	30				31	32			
33	34	35			36				37					
38			39	40				41						
42							43					44		
45						46				47	48			
49					50					51		52	53	54
		55	56	57				58	59					
60	61						62				63			
64							65				66			
67								68			69			

November 2023 Puzzle Solution

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

Notice

The Craft Is Being Assaulted

Brethren,

This is very important. In the last 48 hours, a lodge in our district has received disturbing phone calls.

These phone calls are threats.

It is imperative that all of us keep our heads on a swivel when we are entering and exiting our lodge meetings. We will be implementing heavier security measures.

Here is the message from Brother secretary, Scully of Onion Creek Lodge:

Over the past several days, a man named Richard Paul Valdez has called the Lodge and left threatening messages toward Freemasons. On one call he stated he was from North Austin and on a voicemail he said he was from Travis County.

A police report has been filed with APD. Please be aware of your surroundings on and off Lodge property and especially if you have a Masonic emblem on your vehicle. It's easy to lose situational awareness when pumping gas or loading groceries!

Robert Eschenburg, P.M.
District 50 Communications

From the West (continued)

order and their families. With so much involvement in the history of Texas, and more especially Texas education, it seems strange that few history books used in our education system even make mention of their contributions. It appears, as James Carter wrote, "that historians and political theorists have overlooked a major influence in American history," and perhaps a greater influence in Texas history. Freemasonry, because of its active role in communities and its progressive philosophy, is one of the most powerful forces that contributed to the shaping of the Republic and State of Texas.

- Summary of an article by Jack Pace, Arlington Lodge #438

Fraternally,
Nate Stilwell
Senior Warden, Hill City 456

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,

It has been a busy time at Hill City! November had a full schedule, and December is already coming along strong. It is exciting to see and participate in all the degree work we have had the opportunity to do. We hosted a fantastic family night last month in which we expressed what we were thankful for. As the year comes to a close and I reflect on 2023, I again feel the necessity of expressing gratitude to the brethren of Hill City Lodge for the love and support so present here. Thank you all for all that you do and the environment you create.

In last month's Hill City Light, Brother Senior Warden Nate Stilwell wrote about the importance of a mission statement and vision statement. He also provided an example of each from Fort Worth Lodge #148. I believe that, as a Lodge, we would greatly benefit by formulating both a mission and vision statement by providing a clear direction and goals to work for. These statements also affect greater unity within an organization as they are not formulated by a single person or small group but from joint discussions of all participants. With this in mind, I would love to hear from you with your ideas for Hill City. What is your vision for Hill City? What are our strengths? Where can we improve? What do we need to be doing more of? Please email me your thoughts, call me, or pull me aside for a discussion. You can reach me at my email rjdivincenzo@hotmail.com

This month will be a short one. The Stated Meeting has already come and gone, and the year feels just about finished. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the Past Master's Dinner, our final meeting of the year. I hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday season and returns in the New Year feeling refreshed. January will be a busy month between Grand Lodge and more degrees to put on. Here's to another year of hard work and great fellowship!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Ryan DiVincenzo,
Junior Warden, Hill City 456

The Past Master's Corner

There was a moment when Moses had the nerve to ask God what his name is. God was gracious enough to answer, and the name he gave is recorded in the original Hebrew as YHWH.

Over time we've arbitrarily added an "a" and an "e" in there to get YaHWeH, presumably because we have a preference for vowels.

But scholars and Rabi's have noted that the letters YHWH represent breathing sounds, or aspirated consonants. When pronounced without intervening vowels, it actually sounds like breathing.

YH (inhale): WH (exhale).

So a baby's first cry, his first breath, speaks the name of God.

A deep sigh calls His name – or a groan or gasp that is too heavy for mere words.

Even an atheist would speak His name, unaware that their very breath is giving constant acknowledgment to God.

Likewise, a person leaves this earth with their last breath, when God's name is no longer filling their lungs.

So when I can't utter anything else, is my cry calling out His name?

Being alive means I speak His name constantly.

So, is it heard the loudest when I'm the quietest?

In sadness, we breathe heavy sighs.

In joy, our lungs feel almost like they will burst.

In fear we hold our breath and have to be told to breathe slowly to help us calm down.

When we're about to do something hard, we take a deep breath to find our courage.

When I think about it, breathing is giving him praise. Even in the hardest moments!

This is so beautiful and fills me with emotion every time I grasp the thought. God chose to give himself a name that we can't help but speak every moment we're alive.

All of us, always, everywhere.

Waking, sleeping, breathing, with the name of God on our lips.

- Unknown Author

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID

AUSTIN, TEXAS
Permit No. 1675

December Birthdays

Thomas Seth Bonnacarrere	Robert Warren Hensley	Terrance Michael Linn	Benton E. Ryon
Chad Damon Collier	Roy Lynn Henson	Carol L. McGee	Brian Thomas Schnautz
Thomas D. Dickson	Raymond H. Herrington	Billy F. Peel	Charles Marcus Stewart
William Sam Dickson	Don Boyd Jarrell	Dale William Reynolds	James Correll Tisdale
Gene L. Freudenberg	Christopher DeWitt Jordan	Joe Craig Robinson	Bob M. Wheelless
			Timothy Earl Willett

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.