



# High Twelve International April Update

April 12, 2024

**HIGH TWELVE IS FAMILY FELLOWSHIP FUTURE**



**103rd ANNUAL HIGH 12 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
PROGRAM GUIDE  
JULY 12-14 2024**

**ORDER FORM**

**INSIDE BACK COVER \$200.00  
OUTSIDE BACK COVER \$250.00  
FULL PAGE \$100.00  
1/2 PAGE \$50.00  
1/4 PAGE \$25.00  
High 12 "Booster" Ad \$10.00**

**\*\*\*\*DEADLINE FOR FINAL COPY IS MAY 26, 2024\*\*\*\***

(I) (WE) AGREE TO PURCHASE A \_\_\_\_\_ AD.

ENCLOSED IS A CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO: **HIGH TWELVE INTERNATIONAL INC.**  
FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE \_\_\_\_\_  
ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

PROGRAM BOOKS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL ATTENDING THE  
CONVENTION AND WILL BE AVAILABLE ON LINE.

PLEASE SEND ARTWORK TO [klhokerk@live.com](mailto:klhokerk@live.com)  
THEN SEND A CHECK AND ATTACH A COPY OF THE AD TO THIS ORDER  
FORM. PLEASE USE A SEPARATE SHEET FOR EACH AD.

*MAIL TO:* 2024 High Twelve Convention Book  
C/O Kevin Hokerk-Robinson  
12638 N. 105th Ave  
Sun City AZ 85351-3429

Note: the back page has been reserved/paid for.

**103rd Convention Program Guide PDF Version [HERE](#)**

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## **International President - Rick Santella**

Fellow High Twelvians,

Two weeks ago, I was blessed with the birth of my second grandchild, Eliana. An absolute gift from God!

Children, as we know, are our future leaders, so we can never prepare soon enough to open that pathway for them.

It's the same within our High Twelve family. We support our Youth Groups and The Wolcott Foundation. Both excellent pathways to guide and prepare them for life's challenges and successes.

I encourage you all to continue and step up our commitment to them. When was the last time you invited your children, Youth Group members, or Wolcott recipients to your Club or Association Meetings? Our Future Leaders need exposure to what we all have to offer thru High Twelve. It is one of the many ways we insure not only their success, but the success of High Twelve going forward.

God Bless, stay safe and hug your loved ones!

Rick Santella, President  
High Twelve International

**FAMILY FELLOWSHIP FUTURE!**

**It's not just a saying....it IS High Twelve!!**

**HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW  
PERSONALIZED BUTTONS FOR  
OUR HIGH TWELVE MEMBERS  
AND LADIES?**

**CHECK THEM OUT ON OUR  
MERCHANDISE PAGE AT**

**[WWW.HIGH12.ORG](http://WWW.HIGH12.ORG)**

PERSONALIZED, INEXPENSIVE  
AND LOOK FANTASTIC!!

HAVE YOUR CLUB SECRETARY  
ORDER ONE FOR EACH MEMBER  
OR ORDER YOUR OWN TODAY  
.....!!!

**FAMILY FELLOWSHIP FUTURE!**  
It's not just a saying....it IS High Twelve!!

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**International 2nd VP - Jared R. Kichline**

Greetings High Twelve Members,

Hopefully, April fools was kind to you. As we travel through the month of April we see signs of spring, and this gives the opportunity for High Twelve meetings outside weather permitting before it gets to hot. I often forget about the many pavilions available for rent at our local parks, and what a nice afternoon of fellowship that could be the result of grilling a few hamburgers a hotdogs. Those of us attending the annual meeting in Atlantic City hopefully you get your registration in I look forward to seeing you there.

Fraternally,

Jared R. Kichline, 2nd VP

**FAMILY FELLOWSHIP FUTURE!**

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**International 3rd VP & Parliamentarian - Conrad Dombkiewicz**

Greetings Brother High Twelvians. My name is Conrad Dombkiewicz and I have been appointed by the Executive Board to fill the position of 3rd Vice President until

the upcoming 103rd Convention, this July, in Atlantic City. I also function as the current International Parliamentarian. My home club is Mt. Laurel #770 in New Jersey where I function as Secretary / Treasurer and also a Member of the Masonic Villages Club #640 where I served as President in 2008. As 3rd Vice President, I oversee the following states; California, Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana and Pennsylvania. Please feel free to contact me personally for any assistance you may need in your clubs. Club Secretaries, please complete your 200 reports. They are a valuable tool and need to be accurate. Expect to be contacted by me to review your reports.

Communication is key in the success of any organization and I encourage you to open a dialog not only with International but also other area clubs. We all face the same problems and challenges and can only help one another.

The 103rd Convention is this July in Atlantic City and I encourage your attendance. You have a voice in High Twelve which needs to be heard. The Convention Committee has worked very hard to make this an experience of a lifetime.

Remember, we're all part of the same Masonic **FAMILY**, sharing **FELLOWSHIP** which ensures our **FUTURE!** Hope to speak with you soon or see you in AC.

Fraternally,  
Conrad Dombkiewicz

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## **International Secretary - Thomas J. Brotherton, III**

High Twelvians All!

The 2024 Board of Governors Midyear Meeting was held in January in New Orleans, and Brother Rick Santella, International President has announced that **The 103rd Annual Convention will be held in Atlantic City, New Jersey beginning on July 12th till July 14th at the Tropicana Hotel.** Brother Rick and the Convention Committee have a lot of Great things planned. So save the dates and we will be getting the registration open as soon. Make/View the **EVENT DETAILS [HERE](#)**

Also attached is our **[Ad Book Form](#)** which is a fillable PDF form. The following have met the 4/1/24 deadline for nominations of officers for High Twelve International for the 104th Convention year.

- Roberto Sanchez - President - TX
- Jared Kichline - 1st VP - TX
- Terry Hills- 2nd VP - PA
- Ben Castellamare - 3rd VP - NJ
- Dan O'Rourke - Treasurer - PA

- Tom Brotherton - Secretary PA
- George Hixon- Trustee -

Applications received after April 1, 2024 at 11:59 pm EST will be accepted late, BUT will require a Nomination from the Floor Form at the 103rd Convention!

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## **This and That....Kevin L. Hokerk-Robinson, Treasurer**

**Secretaries** - March is the time to "clean up" club rosters by using the F-200a Online Monthly Report. The 2024-2025 Per-Capita statements are based on March 2024 Monthly Report. If you need a current club roster to validate let me know @ [treasurer@high12.org](mailto:treasurer@high12.org) - please don't wait until the last minute! **2024-25 Per-capita statements will be mailed April 30th!**

**A grocery tote bag** has been added to the merchandise offering HTI - 51 15" x 13" x 10" and can hold up to 33 pounds cost is \$6.00 ea + shipping, use the link at the bottom of this eNewsletter to order.



**Annual Address Label Fundraiser Under Way**

If you have mailed your donation **THANK YOU!**

If you haven't a reminder will be delivered soon by your Mail-person.

**3" Custom Member Badges HTI-52** are now available! Single orders are \$3.75 including postage. Group orders by the club secretaries will be \$2 each plus the group mailing cost. Club secretaries, I will use your HTI club roster to create the badges. If you want to see the list first make a note on the order form in **COMMENTS**.

Badges and Tote Bags along with all merchandise items can be viewed and ordered [\*\*HERE\*\*](#).



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**Don't forget our fundraiser with  
[Rada Cultery!](#)**

We receive 40% of each order made.

Follow this [\*\*LINK\*\*](#) for the offer



## **Current RADA Catalog Prices Valid Thru 7/31-24**

**Click [HERE](#) to view!  
From the HTI Home Page**

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### **Oakland High Twelve Club #2 - CA**

The Little Red Schoolhouse at the High Twelve Club #2, in Oakland California, was center stage for our March meeting. Club member Jim Strehlow, based his talk on details from the High Twelve website and shared that High Twelve International had its beginning by founder, Edgar C. Wolcott, in Sioux City, Iowa in 1920 and expanded beyond the confines of Sioux City to Oakland, California (that's us, also in 1920) and the Midwest. The earliest reference to High Twelve considering a scholarship program was over 20 years later in 1946 with the start of the "Founders Fund", which later became the Wolcott Foundation Scholarship Fund. For a Club-wide symbol and collection device, the "Little Red Schoolhouse" was created and distributed to the Clubs. As the name implies, it is a miniature red schoolhouse with a chimney that blows no smoke, but accepts folded contributions for the benefit of the Wolcott Foundation that awards fellowships to U.S. Citizens attending George Washington University. Our Club's schoolhouse is over 50 years old. Only once each year in December is our schoolhouse roof opened, and the donation sent to the Wolcott Foundation.

Fraternally, Secretary  
Bruce A. Rick





(L-R) Speaker Jim Strehlow and Club President Jim Westfall with the Club's Little Red Schoolhouse

Fraternally,  
Bruce A. Rick, PSP

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### **East Valley High Twelve Club #765 - AZ**

At our March 8th meeting our guest speaker was our own Brother Kevin L. Hokerk-Robinson, PSP, HTI SE and HTI Treasurer - topic was the Wolcott Foundation which was presented at the January Mid-Year Governing Board meeting by Michael Clark, Wolcott Foundation Chairman.

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### **Des Moines High Twelve Club #4 - IA**

Submitted by,  
Dr. Tom Gruis, Secretary



## **Des Moines High Twelve Club No. 4**

*April of 2024*

Meets Wednesdays at 11:15 A. M.  
Downtown Holiday Inn located at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and I-235

Chartered Saturday; April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1925  
[n4desmoineshightwelve@gmail.com](mailto:n4desmoineshightwelve@gmail.com)

\*Please send Bulletin information to  
[dsm.hi.12.4@gmail.com](mailto:dsm.hi.12.4@gmail.com).



**President for 2024 is Duane Wachter.**

➔ **LADIES ARE ESPECIALLY WELCOME ON FOURTH WEDNESDAYS! \*\***

➔	Date	Topics	Speakers	Notes
	04/03	T. B. A.		
	04/10	Religion in China	Steve Churchill	# Board Meeting
	04/17	York Rite - Commandry	Rusty Hill, Past Grand Commander	
**	04/24	ZaGaZig and the Shrine	Potentate Matt Forrest	

➔ Updates as needed.... \* = Member of our Club #4 # = Board meeting following

### **President - Duane Wachter (632)**

Vice-president – David Ashby

Treasurer - Douglas Stephenson

Secretary – Richard Anderson

Assistant Secretary and Bulletin: Dr. Tom Gruis \*-2 \*\* -2

Trustees: (Last three Presidents): David Ashby \*(636), Robert

West \*-2 (407), and

\* - Past President of our club \*\* - Past State President

Senior Active Past-president – Larry Crist (1976)

Tom Gruis \*-2 \*\* -2 (633 & 205)

Auditing and parliamentarian – Ken Brickman\*

Installation of new members – Ken Brickman\*

Junior Past President - Dr. Tom Gruis \*- 2

Membership – Jim Mason and Phil Enabnit \*\*

**Our dining out will be at Maxie's supper club on Grand in West des Moines.**

<https://www.maxiesrestaurant.com/>

<https://www.allmenus.com/ia/west-des-moines/664997-maxies-restaurant-lounge/menu/>

Details will follow.

**The 2024 N. C. A. Annual Convention IS scheduled for 18 May, 2024**

**at West Gate-Adelphic Lodge # 509 in Windsor Heights.**

**Lunch will be prepared by 1<sup>st</sup> V.P Duane Wachter and Irene.**

### **North Central Association 2023-2024 Officers**

**President, Russell Royce, Cedar Rapids (7)**

First V. P., Duane Wachter (4)

Second - Vacant

Third V.P., Tom Gruis \*\* – not advancing or travelling

Assistant Secretary, and Chaplain (633 & 205)

Treasurer, Steve Smith \*, Marshalltown (617)

Secretary, Phil Enabnit \* Des Moines (4)

Jr. Past State President Steve Libby, \* Cedar Rapids (7)

\*Past State President

**Subject:**  
**North Central Association (NCA) of High Twelve Clubs,**  
**visit to clubs in Sioux City, IA, Sioux Falls SD and Huron, SD**  
**Newsletter from Russell Royce, President of NCA, March of 2024**

As one of my goals as President I wanted to reach out and visit as many clubs in our association as possible. To that end I made a sweep of the western end of our area. The following is a brief description of my visits.

**\*\*Club 1: Sioux City #1 "Founders"**

The club meets at the Scottish Rite Consistory in downtown Sioux City. The Daughters of the Nile provides a pre-meeting meal. President Larry Finley conducted the meeting which consisted of the usual business, a prize drawing for the members and a video program regarding the United States flag. The meeting was well attended with brothers from across the Missouri River in Nebraska present.

**\*\*Club 2: Sioux Falls #91 "Gavelers"**

The club meets at the Alliance building which houses an American Legion Post and VFW Post. A buffet was available. There was a large screen projector showing veteran themed videos. A fair number of brothers attended. Their secretary is Roger Hansen, P. I. P., who is the Walcott representative for NCA, he discussed the foundation and its support of students at Washington University. One unique item this facility had was a shooting range.

**\*\*Club 3: Huron #145**

The club meets in a portion of the old Masonic building in downtown Huron. One of the brothers provides the meal. The meeting was well attended with discussions led by president Greenfield and secretary Hepper on the history of the building and masons in Huron.

At every meeting I talked to the brothers about growing our clubs and what was happening with High Twelve.

**The NCA annual meeting will be May 18 in Des Moines, IA.** With this group of club meetings, I have been able to visit all the clubs in the North Central Association with one exception. This club has shrunk to just two active members and rarely meets. A sad commentary. However, I am hopeful we can overcome this issue. I myself have visited several blue lodges in my area to spread the word about High Twelve.

Thank you for being a vital part of our dynamic association. Together, we can continue to foster a supportive and enriching community.

Best regards,  
Russell Royce, President, North Central Association of High Twelve Clubs  
319-721-3115 [Wapsidog12@hotmail.com](mailto:Wapsidog12@hotmail.com)



From Tom –

Last month I included several important citizenship documents and thanks to Brother Edgar for this reply:

**From Gerald Edgar, P.P., N.C.A. – 2021-2022**

“Bro. Gruis quoted our Pledge of Allegiance. It should be noted, for Masons AND perhaps even more so for ‘prospects’, that it was written by BROTHER Francis Bellamy as similarly our National Anthem’s lyrics were written by BROTHER Francis Scott Key set to music composed by BROTHER John Stafford Smith and lastly our National March was composed by BROTHER John Phillip Sousa. (AND of course, Bro. Washington was sworn in as our 1<sup>st</sup> President using a Masonic Bible which remains in the custody of its Lodge\*.

“Soooo - Americans who thru ignorance become anti-Mason must no longer recite the Pledge, applaud the National March or sing the National Anthem!!!

\*\*The Bible has since been used for the inaugurations of Warren G. Harding in 1921, Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953, Jimmy Carter in 1977, and George H. W. Bush, whose 1989 inauguration was in the bicentennial year of Washington’s. The Bible was also intended to be used for the first inauguration of George W. Bush, but inclement weather didn’t allow it. However, the Bible was present in the Capitol Building in the care of three freemasons of St. John’s Lodge, in case the weather got better.[6] Because of its fragility, the Bible is no longer opened during meetings of St. John’s Lodge.[7]

“In addition to its duties, the Bible has been used in the funeral processions of Presidents Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The Bible has also been used at the center-stone laying of the U.S. Capitol, the addition of the Washington Monument, the centennials of the cornerstone laying of the White House, U.S. Capitol, and the Statue of Liberty, the 1964 World’s Fair as well as the launching of the aircraft carrier USS George Washington. [8] It has also been used at cornerstone ceremonies for Masonic temples in Boston in 1867, Philadelphia in 1869.[9]”

“Have a super w/e.”

Gerald Edgar - Waterloo Club; Past NCA Pres

Thank you, Brother Gerald! Tom “Doc” Gruis, KYGCH

**Des Moines #4 2024 Joining Fees**

Month	Wednesdays	\$ Fee	\$ DUES*	\$ TO JOIN
May	5	15	52	67
June	4	15	45	60
July	5	15	38	53
August	5	15	31	46
September	4	15	24	39
October	4	15	17	32
November	5	15	10	25
December	4	0	--	80 – 2025 Dues
√	53	165	218	660

\*Dues decrease by \$7.00 each month.

\*\*NO DUES OR FEES for December joiners but collect the 2025 dues.

**REVIEW** - Information about joining our club: a.k.a. ye fine print: You must be a Master Mason in good standing to become a member of High Twelve. Remember that there is a petition in your Roster booklet – and you can copy it to your heart’s content! All members MUST be current on dues in their lodge. Any objections to the candidate must be received by the President or Secretary within five (5) days and it takes two (2) negative votes to preclude him from joining. The dues are \$80.00 per year and there is an initiation fee of \$15.00. The fee to join decreases each month by month as per the number of meetings in the previous month. **The total fee to join in May is \$67.00 including 2024 dues.** Members transferring to # 4 or initiated dual members do not pay the \$12.00. Article II, Section One of our Bylaws (Page 6) states: “A former member of the Club may be reinstated as an active member by action of the Governing Board and the payment of a fee of \$7.00.” Those elected in one month can be installed at or following the second (2nd) meeting of the following month. \$5.00 is payable to High Twelve International for each new member.

31 March 2024, A. D. - ☪ - ☪.

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## The Villages High Twelve Club #634 - CA

In recognition of Masonic Youth Month, Villages High Twelve High Twelve #674 took up a collection of its members along with money from our charity account and collected \$300 to be split equally among our three local Masonic Youth organizations: Rainbow Girls who meet at Mount Dora Masonic Lodge, DeMolay who meet at Peninsular Masonic Lodge and Job's Daughters who meet at Clermont

Masonic Lodge. The donation to Rainbow Girls was presented Monday, 25 March. The donation to DeMolay was presented Tuesday, 26 March. The donation to Job's Daughters will be presented during its next meeting, which is Sunday, 15 April.



David Windmiller, Secretary, presenting the donation to the current Master Counselor (Brock Krussell) and pictured with us, among others, are the current DeMolay Dad (Right Worshipful Brian Zeppa), DeMolay Mom (Tori Houlberg), Master Counselor-elect (Jacob Krussell) and a few other of the DeMolay members



Madelyn (my wife) and I attended meeting of Rainbow Girls at Mount Dora Masonic Lodge this evening and presented them with our Club's donation of \$100. Tomorrow night I will do same with DeMolay at Peninsular Lodge. Job's Daughters will have to wait until 14 April. In the picture is Rainbow Mom Elizabeth Carlson, Rainbow Girl Lynn, Madelyn and I.

Entertainment for March 6th was Major Marie Harris, Salvation Army, whose husband is also a Mason, was the Guest speaker. Maj Harris spoke about the

formation of the Salvation Army, now in 134 countries, and in the U.S. since 1880. The Salvation Army works in Homeless Outreach providing meals, community breakfasts, also

Senior Programs such as: "Forever 55" which provides meals and social events. After school programs to help kids who are unsupervised after school. Bell ringing to help with collection of funds. Major Harris made of point of mentioning that groups, such as High Twelve, can become volunteers to be bell ringers.







President Larry Lace thanked Major Harris for her informative briefing and presented her a \$200 check donation for the Salvation Army.

Certificates of transfer of membership and new membership cards to DeWayne Weisenmiller and Ray Trudeau were presented by President Larry Lace and State President Fred Kidwell. President Lace also conducted an induction ceremony of new members Gary Kadow and Carl Chew. He was assisted by State President Fred Kidwell.





Fraternally yours,  
David Windmiller, Secretary

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## **Conejo Valley High Twelve Club #634 - CA**

Our guest speaker was Officer Ryan Ayers, a Moorpark California California Highway Patrol Officer who comes to our High Twelve meeting each year to inform us of new laws and changes to the California Department of Motor Vehicles driving handbook.

Officer Ayres was awarded the 2023 governors public safety officer medal of valor the highest honor presented by the state of California to a public safety officials.

Officer Ayers, a 13 year veteran of the CHP Was presented with the medal by Governor Gavin Newsom during the ceremony on February 3 in Sacramento.



Ayers was driving with his family along Highway 101 when he witnessed the aftermath of two semi's that had crashed one semi was stopped in the center median while the other had run off the side of the roadway.

Ayers pulled over and climb down the hillside to rescue the driver of the second semi.

The big rig was carrying a flatbed trailer with pallets strapped on. Smoke, rose from the engine compartment. Ayers tried to open the drivers door, but it had been too badly damaged in the crash.

Ayers then maneuvered around the pallets and opened the passenger door. The driver was slumped over the steering wheel, unconscious and bleeding.

He cleared debris out of the cab, encroaching flames threatened both men as Ayers tackled the driver to carry him out as the driver regain consciousness.

Once he was out of the cab shortly after Ayers and the driver started walking away from the wreckage, the semi burst into flames. Ayers stayed with the driver until local firefighters and paramedics arrived on the scene.

Hilton Kaufman, President



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**Lake Worth High Twelve Club #316 - FL**

**Celebrating 65 years in Lake Worth  
The Masonic High Twelve Club of Lake Worth, #316**

## Meeting Minutes (abbreviated), March 18, 2024

The President Allan Mason lit the candles, opened the bible and led all in the pledge of alliance. He then asked Harold Zimmerman to lead us in Prayer. He then asked for a vote to close the meeting which was agreed by all.

A happy reunion then continued with a speech of Roy Strohacker. This was the Anniversary of Roy and Caroline Strohacker and the Birthday of Bernhard Kainer. The celebrations concluded by the cutting and distributing the Anniversary provided by the President Allan Mason.

Attending this event were

### **Guests:**

Jim and Pat Gueretzky  
Howie and Iris Zimmerman  
Lane Sternberg

### **Members:**

Roy Strohacker and Caroline  
Jay Reeve Bright  
Donald Bates and Mal  
Bruce Leffler and Janice  
Allan Mason and Claudia  
Samuel Goldstein and Susan  
Paul Goldstein and Kathie  
Bernhard Kainer  
William Garrison

Submitted by,  
Bernhard Kainer, PP, Secretary



Bernhard Kainer and Roy Strohacker



Allan Mason, President





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## **Conejo Valley High Twelve #634 - CA**

We have been meeting at Cisco's, our favorite Mexican restaurant in two locations for many years. It is one of the few restaurants that serve mole (pronounced mow-lay) sauce as an added topping for many items. On tamales, it adds a great taste. Encouraging all High Twelvians to give it a try.

Our February meeting consisted of 14 members and Ladies who braved coming out while a major storm was flooding the Los Angeles area. Although no speaker was on schedule, several members shared some "feel-good" stories. One member shared finding a long lost son through Ancestry.com after 59 years.

Jerry Michaelson, Secretary/Treasurer

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## **Waterloo High Twelve #46 - IA**

### **Is OUR Club site safe?**

*(Editor's Note: This a [General Information Article](#).  
HTI General Liability is provided to all clubs & members  
via your HTI per-capita for regular meetings. Picnics,*

*conventions, etc. require a special request  
for coverage via to the HTI Treasurer)*

Most of us have insurance on our vehicles and either home-owner's or 'apartment' policies on our homes. Certainly our employers' have extensive policies on their physical plant, "Work Comp", product liability, etc. If self-employed, we likely have liability insurance in event customers are dissatisfied with our work or feel we caused property damage or personal injury. So, what about YOUR club meeting site?

You may have worked with a local insurance agency to protect your Masonic building from claims due to storm or fires OR made by members or visitors who are injured while on the property. Regardless of how your site is insured, we want no harm to come to an increasingly aging membership while attending meetings.

Typically, the MTA or a designated Lodge member has the responsibility of acquiring insurance coverage including additional special coverage for a passenger elevator or an on-site third-party usage such as a community food bank, Scout troop, etc. Ideally one or more members of your Property, Finance, Education or similarly named 'Board' have some background in insurance or have significant property ownership so they are familiar with property and liability insurance. That said, even a smaller Masonic facility has some members that are employed with an area manufacturer, 'grain elevator', school, are volunteer firemen or ambulance attendants or ideally an EMT, etc. and may even have served on their employers' respective 'Safety Committees'. If you have a licensed plumber or electrician among your members, they have expertise in at least their occupation. These members may not be the ones who step forward to serve on your various Boards or Council Committees but reach out to them. If you are truly fortunate you may even have a Safety Manager among your members!

Note: **not** all insurance agents and agencies are pro-active. Feel free to ask them or far better, a Risk Manager with said insurance company, to look your building over. There is no charge for this. Include every nook & cranny including that old furnace room and janitor's closet. You are paying sizeable premiums; get your full money's worth!

At a minimum, someone in your host building is currently responsible for looking after your furnace and air conditioner, changing air filters annually, checking off the fire extinguishers monthly, etc. Each meeting some one is responsible to turn off the lights, adjust the thermostat and lock the doors after meetings. However, if that is the extent of the on-site protection of your physical plant, it's time to become far more proactive.

So, let's consider typical aspects of safety any business needs to address. These are terms anyone who has gone thru "New Hire Safety Orientation" has read and listened to and then heard them repeated during the required annual 'refresher'.

"Confined Space" Typically in older buildings, this will be your furnace room, particularly if someone goes into the boiler every fall to make sure it's ready to "fire-

up” as temps drop. I’ve seen so many that are filled with junk as you squeeze between the only door to the back of the room. Clean that room out! Remove the flammables and place them in a separate cabinet away from heat. Some closets may also fit these descriptions and certainly ANY ‘crawl space’.

“Personal Protective Equipment” (PPE). This can range from the oven mitts and aprons in the kitchen to covers over fans. Are they worn-out, have cracks or holes?

“Hazard Communications” (HAZCOM) These are all those chemicals which when in an industrial plant need appropriate labeling and documentation via Safety Data Sheets. Ever read the fine print on your bottle of detergent, motor oil, toilet bowl & oven cleaner, etc? Lodge Halls tend to accumulate so many odd, outdated chemicals that someone ‘donates’ and/or use old coffee cans to put who-knows-what’ in them. Keep all cleaners and the like in their original containers!

“Fire Safety” So does the designated ‘inspector’ actually remove the extinguishers from their holder, turn/shake them (per whatever the instructions say?) or just go thru the motions each month? They all have expiration dates! Ditto for smoke alarms. NOTE: fraternal buildings have a much higher rate of fires than homes and businesses as a) they often are only occupied a couple hours a week & b) no one person is strictly responsible to keep an eye on things. This is NEVER the sole responsibility of one person!

“First-Aid kits & Defibrillators” Are their locations clearly marked and placed in the highest traffic area? Who checks them monthly? Are they easily accessible?

“Exits” Are these clearly marked, ideally with illuminated signs? Small, older lodges often have only two exits: the big front doors and one small one out of the basement. Is the latter easily accessed? Does the door still open easily (especially in winter)? “What if?” How easy is it to exit your basement??

“Walking Surfaces” This may be your biggest hazard. Carpets become worn and torn, especially on stairs. (and are your stair railings in good shape??) Throw rugs are a “no-no”. Whether a young member running in late or an elderly member climbing stairs, remember Murphy’s Law (and the corollary to said law: “Murphy was an optimist!”).

These are a just few of the major areas to consider. Again, a passenger elevator requires an annual State inspection. Be certain a responsible member of your Lodge, Shrine or Consistory accompanies him or her; watch, listen and ask questions. I.E. get full value of that inspection that Dues pay for!

I cannot speak for all my peers but it never hurts to ask an EH&S or Safety Manager at your place of employment to stop by your Masonic building sometime and give it a once-over with a few members. Just like social workers, medical professionals and



teachers, they are in those careers because they care about people. Certainly Masons care about their Brothers!

Fraternally,  
Gerald Edgar, PSP  
Career Industrial Enviro, Health & Safety Mgr married to an RN!

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## Wolcott Foundation - Michael Clark, Chairman

### Brother High Twelvians:

The following documents were developed to assist you when promoting **The Wolcott Foundation** at your association, club or other Masonic Body presentations.

1. [Wolcott Representative Letter](#)
2. [2024 Revised talking points](#)
3. [Club contribution report](#)
4. [George Washington University continues the Masonic tradition](#)
5. [Wolcott Foundation brochure](#)
6. [Wolcott Foundation Class of Fall 2023 - 2025](#)

Documents links can be found below to view and print.

Michael Clark, Chairman  
The Wolcott Foundation, Inc.  
<http://www.wolcottfoundation.com>  
616.818.5820



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## North Central Association - NCA



As one of my goals as President I wanted to reach out and visit as many clubs in our association as possible. To that end I made a sweep of the western end of our area. The following is a brief description of my visits.

**\*\*Club 1: Sioux City #1 “Founders”**

The club meets at the Scottish Rite Consistory in downtown Sioux City. The Daughters of the Nile provides a pre-meeting meal. President Larry Finley conducted the meeting which consisted of the usual business, a prize drawing for the members and a video program regarding the United States flag. The meeting was well attended with brothers from across the Missouri River in Nebraska present.

**\*\*Club 2: Sioux Falls #91 “Gavelers”**

The club meets at the Alliance building which houses an American Legion Post and VFW Post. A buffet was available. There was a large screen projector showing veteran themed videos. A fair number of brothers attended. Their secretary is Roger Hansen, who is the Walcott representative for NCA, he discussed the foundation and its support of students at Washington University. One unique item this facility had was a shooting range.

**\*\*Club 3: Huron #145**

The club meets in a portion of the old Masonic building in downtown Huron. One of the brothers provide the meal. The meeting was well attended with discussions lead by president Greenfield and secretary Hepper of the history of the building and masons in Huron.

At every meeting I talked to the brothers about growing our clubs and what was happening with High Twelve. **The NCA annual meeting will be May 18 in Des Moines, IA.** With this group of club meetings I have been able to visit all the clubs in the North Central Association with one exception. I myself have visited several blue lodges in my area to spread the word about High Twelve.

Thank you for being a vital part of our dynamic association. Together, we can continue to foster a supportive and enriching community.

Best regards,  
Russell Royce  
President, North Central Association of High Twelve Clubs|  
319-721-3115  
[wapsidog12@hotmail.com](mailto:wapsidog12@hotmail.com)

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Any club in need of a schoolhouse? Please let **Conrad Dombkiewicz, Parliamentarian**, know at [cwdombkiewicz@verizon.net](mailto:cwdombkiewicz@verizon.net)

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### **Omaha High Twelve #68 - NE**

On March 19th Omaha Club No. 68 was please to welcome its new banner.

Shown below are Lycurgus Curry, David Greenberg, VP John Grant, Sgt. at Arms T. J. Brumfield, President Sean W. Reed, Tom Greenlee, and Sec'y/Treas. Carl Highman.

Other pic VP and President

Fraternally, Sean Reed, President



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## **Mt. Laurel High Twelve Club #770 - NJ**

Nicholas Vettese is our **Spotlight Member** of the Month for Mt. Laurel # 770 in New Jersey.

Nick has been president of our club since 2022 guiding and directing the club through good and bad times, always wearing a smile and lending a helping hand. He is very active in masonry and Has served as Worshipful Master for St. John's Lodge #115 GLPA.

Nick is usually out nightly at masonic events in the Tri-State area. Not only active in Pennsylvania he is member of the York Rite Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of New Jersey. He served as High Priest in Zerubbabel and Boudinot Chapters. Also a member of Cryptic Council Royal and Select Masters, AMD and Joshua Association of PA. How about Scottish Rite? Yes, Nick is a member of the Valley of Philadelphia where he received the MSA and is currently the Most Wise Master of Kilwinning Chapter of RoseCroix.

Nick is well known for various masonic presentations both in New Jersey and PA. Some topics include The Compasses, The Level, Chamber of Reflection and many more. Just ask and he will be more than willing to share these with your group.

He is a hobby photographer taking pictures during his morning walks. Also an avid reader enjoying a date night at Barnes and Nobles with his wife Christina of 19 years. Thank you Nick, for all you do.

Fraternally,  
Conrad Dombkiewicz, Secretary



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## **Ohio Association - OH**

### Ohio Update

We are happy to announce that during May we have an initial meeting scheduled for a new High Twelve Club. This club would most likely meet on a Sunday evening and be comprised of many working Masons many of whom are younger members. We are hoping to follow that up later with another initial meeting elsewhere in the state to potentially start another nighttime club (again to encourage younger working members to be able to join and be active. Hopefully starting new nighttime clubs will encourage younger members to become interested in High Twelve as are many retired members who belong to existing clubs get to currently enjoy.

Jeff Shaw  
OH State President

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## **Sun City West High Twelve Club #567 - AZ**



Our speaker this morning 4/12 was Pastor Mike Turner of Light of Hope Bible Church, Sun City AZ. Topic was the Passover and Easter meaning.

Below is Don Winscot, President presenting a speaker certificate to Pastor Turner.



Also at today's meeting Brother Robert Carhart, Secretary, was presented a certificate for his outstanding service to the club for chairing the Annual Pancake Breakfast again this year at Sun City Lodge #72 in February. Additionally the DeMolay, Rainbow Girls, Job's Daughters and Boy Scouts were also presented checks for \$100 each.

Below is Don Winscot, President presenting Robert Carhart his certificate.



Lastly, at our March 8th meeting Brother Randall Sturdevant of Edward Jones Investment gave us an update on where the markets have been currently are where they *might* go.

Below is Don Winscot, President presenting a speaker certificate to Brother Randall Sturdevant.



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### Who Dat?

Special Prize for the first correct response via return email.





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# FAMILY FELLOWSHIP FUTURE



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