

High Twelve International, Inc.
92nd Annual International Convention - Minutes
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
June 12 – 15, 2014

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

For those that arrived early, there was a Dutch Treat Dinner and social time.

Thursday, June 13, 2013

Early arrival tours:

- Strasburg, Lancaster County, PA – a train ride on the Strasburg Railroad and then a lunch at the Shady Maple Smorgasbord.
- Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania tour and lunch. Also free time to visit the historical sites in downtown Philadelphia

Friday, June 14, 2013

- Call to order – Don Whistler, International President
- Invocation - Jon Silver Feather, International Chaplain
- Pledge of Allegiance - Robert Barnhart, International Sargent-at-Arms
- Welcome - Don Whistler
- Announcements - Winton Hewitt, Convention Chairman
- Necrology Service – Jon Silver Feather, International Chaplain
- Ladies Program in a separate room
- Opening of General Session – Don Whistler
- Roll call – Kevin Hokerk, International Secretary
- Establish a quorum – Kevin Hokerk, a quorum was present
- Introductions – Don Whistler
 - Past International Presidents
 - Wolcott Foundation Trustees
 - Matt Dupee, Sovereign Grand Master of Allied Masonic Degrees
- Mid-year governing board meeting Las Vegas Nevada January 21 – 22 2013. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes as published
- Wolcott Report – Malcolm White, Chairman
- Update on Masonry Worldwide – Ross V.N. Bayer, PIP
- International Officers - updates were made to the published reports

Break for lunch

- Committee reports:
 - High Twelvian Editor – Kevin Hokerk – two editions were published this year. By cleaning up the membership database, the distribution decreased from 7,000 copies to 5,300 copies. It costs approximately \$.52 per copy to print and mail.

- Constitution and Bylaws – Don Whistler – this topic will be taken up tomorrow under new business. Suffice it to say that with Jim Parker’s and Matt Dupee’s work this past year we hope to adopt the two sets of bylaws.
- Expansion and Retention – Don Whistler – the membership program was completed and the eight tools posted to the website where you can view and download all information. The program was discussed in detail at the Mid-year meeting.
- Long-range planning – this will be taken up later as the chairman is still at lunch.
- 2013 – 14 International Convention – Jim Parker – it will be held in Springfield Ohio at the Ohio Masonic Home. There will be a trip to the Air Force Museum at Dayton Ohio. The date is not fixed yet but it will be in June and we will avoid conflicting with other Masonic functions. The Mid-year meeting will be held in Las Vegas in old town at the Plaza Hotel, date not set yet.
- Jewelry and regalia – Don Whistler – Sid Leluan has not returned from lunch yet but I will say at this point Sid has handled the function for five years since the Evansville office was closed. Sid has volunteered to turn it back over to the International Office. He also mentioned at the Mid-year meeting that he would be presenting a check covering the profits to date. Additionally, we are also considering adding additional items, such as but not limited to, baseball caps, shirts, jackets and other items that might be of interest.
- Endowment Fund – Don Whistler - there is not a formal report but I understand it grew by 23% this past year. Don Galway – as of March 31, 2013 the value of the fund was \$148,980.18.
- Nomination Committee First Report – Ross V.N. Bayer, PIP:
 - President: James Parker, IV
 - First VP: Winton Hewitt (Richard Kessler removed his name from nomination)
 - Second VP: Jerry Saville, Larry George, Richard Kessler
 - Third VP: Jerry Saville, Larry George, Richard Kessler
 - Secretary: Kevin Hokerk
 - Treasurer: Art Walton, Rollin Furnas
 - Endowment Fund Trustee: Donald Galway

Break

- Breakout Meetings: Don Whistler – being we are ahead of schedule the following meetings scheduled for 3:00 PM will start early at 2:15 PM
 - State Presidents Roundtable – open meeting
 - Wolcott Trustees - open meeting
 - Budget - closed meeting

Saturday, June 15, 2013

- Ladies Program in separate room

- Housekeeping – Don Whistler provided information on how and where the voting will occur later today
- Call to order – Don Whistler
- Invocation - Jon Silver Feather, International Chaplain
- Pledge of Allegiance - Robert Barnhart - Sargent-at-Arms
- Brother Jon was excused as he had an appointment for dialysis. Brother Jon was given a round of applause for support.
- Roll call Kevin Hokerk, International Secretary - a quorum was present. The role of PIP's was also called
- Old business: technology committee – Don Whistler – I will preface this report by saying the committee members (Kevin Hokerk, Chairman, Art Walton and Don Galway) were given the charge at the mid-year meeting to determine the needs by the Governing Board, and communicate those needs to Matt Seddens, the programmer, and receive back whether he can incorporate those changes and features requested.

Kevin Hokerk – at the midyear, the existing database basic functions were reviewed and compared to the access databases that I was currently using. The direction from the governing board was to determine what changes need to be made to the existing database to make it more functional at the club level. The committee met several times to develop the database requirements. When this was completed, I had a good conversation with Matt Seddens. The Access databases were uploaded at Matt's request to the International website so he could review their functionality. Matt did this review and his response was: "I am confident that the online database can be configured to accomplish the same reporting level that you seek. The question is what the programmers are going to need to make it happen. Rather than throwing board dollars into it, it might be wise to give some thought to using the online database to allow the secretaries to do the work then export and load that information into the access databases for all the varied reports. The original concept was to take some of the load off the International Sec." I believe this was a very forthright statement he made. However Matt is not able to do the programming. So the work would have to go back to the offshore developers. Matt was not able to provide any cost or time estimates.

Don Galway – the original projected cost to acquire the database was \$10,000. The real cost long-term is the maintenance (bugs fixes, development, new reports, etc.). I looked at several web based providers and all provide various security levels and functionality we need. Jerry Saville – how much have we put into the database thus far? Don Galway – since 2009 about \$20,000 between website and database, of which database purchase price was \$10,000. Website maintenance is approximate \$12,000 in the same timeframe. The question becomes how accessible does all the information need to be and at what levels. What Kevin has been doing is only accessible by him.

Sid Leluan – when the database was turned over to Matt Seddens there was a six-month period for any and all changes to be made at no cost to us. However, we dug our heels, adopted another system and that six month period has long since expired. What Kevin is using is still a local process and does not accomplish what was intended. We cannot expect the programmers to provide the six-month free service a year later. The intent was to ensure that there were club/state/international security levels and that it was web-

based to take the load off the International Secretary. Don Galway – what was presented to us for testing was not straightforward nor was it intuitive to use unless you were very computer literate and that is not what we wanted. Sid – I did not have any trouble navigating it and if that were the issue it could have been fixed during the six-month initial timeframe.

Don Galway – can the access database information that Kevin is using be uploaded? Kevin – answer is yes by exporting the information as an Excel spreadsheet and then importing the same information to a web-based product. Don Whistler – considering the charge given to the committee at midyear do you have a recommendation to make? Kevin Hokerk reviewed the specific questions given to Matt for his consideration/comment and his responses. Matt repeated his earlier statement. We still have the base problem of computer expertise at the Club and Association level. The meeting I had yesterday with the State Association Secretaries definitely indicates there still exists a big gap in computer expertise needed compared to what they can do. As a side note I still receive a lot of hand written monthly reports, supply orders and rosters which validates this.

From the floor – I don't see the problem, just do it and at the cost of \$200 a month it is worth it. Larry George - the database needs to be user-friendly, offer a class on the operation of the database. Kevin Hokerk – who is going to be the gatekeeper between those clubs and states doing online input versus manual reporting. There are too many secretaries that do not have a PC, or the wife does the work, or email is only for family. I don't want viruses, and I won't give you my home phone number are all comments I hear repeatedly. From the floor – when Ike was Secretary David Jacobs moved much of the responsibility of the International Office to the State Secretaries. We did not agree with that but it was done any way. Kevin Hokerk - the reality is there are State Secretaries that do not respond to email, phone or US mail, so how can you expect them to do online updates. Overall, we have a communication problem down and up the chain of command. Question from the floor: does the current database cover all the functions you have described? Kevin Hokerk – no, development will be required on the existing database as many of these functions were not part of the original design which happens when you are given a product versus determining what the needs are.

Ralph Clemmer – I believe we had the cart before the horse here as we have not had the budget discussion for 2013 – 14 yet so how can we talk about current maintenance expense, future expense, or a new web-based product expense at this point? Don Galway – the yearly discounted price for the new web-based product is \$2,160 per year versus a straight \$200 per month of \$2,400. We don't know what the annual maintenance fee for the existing web database going forward would be and have no way to calculate it, other than what was previously paid. Don Galway read the options and features that are available with a new web-based product for the \$200 a month. Don Whistler – to address Ralph Clemmer's question we can delay a vote on the database question until after the budget discussion. Don Galway – in the 2012 – 13 budget we have \$4,200 allocated for web and database maintenance so worst-case scenario we will save money with the new product.

Matt Dupee – Mr. President, I make a motion that we approve the recommendation of

the Technology Committee to adopt the new database information system subject to its approval in the 2013 – 14 budget. M/S to adopt the technology committee recommendation subject to approval in the budget. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

- Don Whistler recognized Ross V.N. Bayer, PIP – yesterday, I should have announced to have the nominations closed, I do so now. Don Whistler – it has been moved and seconded to close the nominations for 2013 – 14. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.
- 2013 – 14 proposed budget review – Don Galway projected the proposed budget and a line by line item review was completed along with comments about the current year actuals. The new budget is based on 5,000 regular members and 300 Masonic Home members. Don Whistler – it was M/S/P to adopt the proposed 2013 – 14 budget.
- Fundraisers: Jim Parker – we will continue the pocket planner and address label fundraisers as they have been very successful and many members look forward to them. Additionally, will we will be looking at a fundraiser for the Wolcott Foundation as support has dropped off for this very important charity of High 12 International. The goal is to raise enough funds for one fellowship in the amount of \$56,000. I would like to try the neighbor to neighbor mailing that is used by the American Cancer Society. Question from the floor: how many clubs support the Wolcott Foundation? Malcolm White – about 50%. Additionally, are there any plans on generating more support from the local clubs? That is up to the Wolcott Zone Trustees. The Wolcott Foundation Treasurer should have financial reporting available after July 31. Too many High 12 members do not take being a Wolcott Foundation member seriously as it is incumbent for you to support the Foundation. High 12 created the Foundation and is incumbent for all High Twelvian’s to support it. Sid Leluan – Jim Parker, I do not like the concept of mailing to your neighbor. We need to do an all member appeal mailing and have it done professionally to our membership. I think then you will get a much better response versus what you suggested where they don’t know what High 12 or the Wolcott Foundation is. Please consider a professional direct mail piece to the members versus mailing to your neighbors. Don Whistler – this will be addressed at the Executive Board level for approval as it is not an approved program at this time.
- Bylaws – Matt Dupee –
 - The International Bylaws were thoroughly discussed at the mid-year meeting and approved to move forward for a vote at this convention. The proposed version was published in the High Twelvian and on the website. A brief discussion was held and there were no changes made. Being there were no changes, it was M/S/P to adopt these bylaws in total as published.
 - Uniform Club Bylaws – these were also thoroughly discussed at the mid-year meeting and approved to move forward for a vote at this convention. The proposed versions were published in the High Twelvian and on the International website. Discussion was held and the following changes were made:
 - Article 1, A, eliminate the word “Masonic”
 - Add a new section: The term “Masonic” in the club title may be used in those jurisdictions that do not expressly prohibit it
 - Article 3, Officers and Committees: add a new office of Secretary/Treasurer. The separate offices of secretary and treasurer may be combined into one office of secretary/treasurer.

- Article 6, Governance: update Robert's Rules of Order Revised to Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

It was M/S/P to approve the amendments to the Uniform Club Bylaws. A motion from the floor was made to adopt in total the amended bylaws, it was M/S/P.

- Trademark – Don Whistler – this was brought up at the Mid-year meeting and I will ask Kevin to update us now. The question was do we have a valid trademark for the logo and words contained therein. The paperwork was done in 1996 for a renewal but they were never filed with the appropriate fees at that time. The serial numbers we had went to “dead status.” I contacted a Phoenix law firm that specializes in the field of patents and trademarks. With the approval of the Executive Board I contracted with the law office for them to do an online filing for the logo and words. The law firm's fee was \$199 and the USTPO was \$325. Received a confirmation email from the USTPO giving us a temporary serial number of 85954380. The application is now going through the USTPO approval process which can take 3 to 6 months or more. Don Whistler – one reason for the doing this is if there is a club that turned social or someone who wants to use our name we now have the ability to make them stop legally. Kevin Hokerk - the filing that the attorney did gives us the broadest coverage possible.
- Election of 2013 – 14 officers:
 - Nomination Committee final report - uncontested offices:
 - President: James Parker, IV
 - First VP: Winton Hewitt
 - Secretary: Kevin Hokerk
 - Endowment Fund Trustee: Don Galway
 - A motion was made from the floor to elect the uncontested offices by acclamation – M/S/P
 - Contested offices:
 - Second VP: Jerry Saville, Larry George, Richard Kessler
 - Third VP: Jerry Saville, Larry George, Richard Kessler
 - Treasurer: Art Walton, Rollin Furnas
 - Don Whistler – Paul Fulton, Credentials Chairman, will be assisted by Bill Haynes to be the tellers. We will conduct the balloting process immediately outside these doors in the lobby. The International Sec. will call the delegates by the delegate card color, you will then proceed to the tellers and receive your ballot. Kevin Hokerk – there are 188 eligible votes it will take 95 votes to elect (50% plus one).
 - The following were elected by ballot:
 - Second VP: Jerry Saville
 - Third VP: Richard Kessler
 - Treasurer: Rollin Furnas
- PIP report – Merv Harris – we met for breakfast this morning. We commend the High 12 International Officers for the job they had been doing to keep us moving forward and solvent. The concurrent meetings held yesterday were informative. We thought maybe we should have some successful clubs and associations do a presentation on what they are doing to be successful at the next convention. Also, we should have no conflicting dates on the calendar for next year's convention. We have not seen a detailed Treasurer's report nor is it on the agenda. Hopefully this year is an anomaly with the contested offices, this does make it a bit confusing. It was M/S/P to accept the report.

- Don Whistler – in regards to the Treasurer’s report Don Galway did make comments about the current year income and expense while going through next year’s budget proposal. Don Galway – our income was \$72,209.98 versus expenses of \$65,650 or \$6,559.98 to the good for the year.
- Kevin Hokerk - Live from the United Kingdom via Skype! It is a pleasure to introduce Darrell Russell, Secretary of the Arnold Page Club #298. Brother Darrell extended greetings from the club and their President, David Hedges. Darrell was updated about the convention election and the goings on. Malcolm White thanked the club for their support through the Wolcott donations they make.
- Verbal State President reports were made.
- President’s roundtable – Richard Kessler presided as the person who was to chair the meeting.
- Unfinished business”
 - Announcements:
 - Winton Hewitt – it has been a pleasure for the Pennsylvania Association to host the convention this year. In two years, we hope to return to this location.
 - Malcolm White – do you like the new Wolcott banner? If so, they can be ordered from the International Office. Remember, we need to support the youth groups.
 - Don Whistler – thank you for coming to the convention this year. It has been a pleasure to serve as your President. Much has been accomplished and there is still more to do which will be carried over to the next term. This truly has been one of the high points of my Masonic career.
- It was M/S/P to close the 92nd Annual Convention.
- Benediction was given by Jim Parker as the Chaplain is on his way back from dialysis and his chauffeur is Bill Hartman, the Associate Chaplain
- The 2013-14 Officers were duly installed following the President's Banquet – see the attached program. At the installation banquet Immediate PIP Don Whistler presented a Monte McMinn All-Star Award to Winton Hewitt for his work as Convention Chairman. Plaques for dedicated service were given to Matt Dupee, three years; Don Galway, four years; Kevin Hokerk, one year. The International High Twelvian of the Year Award this year goes to William E. Lofquist, PSP, a member of Sahuaro Masonic High 12 Club #523 in Tucson Arizona. Third VP Richard Kessler accepted on Brother Lofquist’s behalf and will make the presentation at their next meeting. And finally, IPIP Don Whistler presented International President James Parker, IV his gavel and sounding block.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin L. Hokerk
International Secretary 2012-2014