

2015 Mid-Year Conference
Monday, January 12, 2015
The Plaza Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas NV



GREETINGS!

High Twelve International Monthly Update

Monthly Update Published monthly by High Twelve International, Inc. at 743 Palma Drive, Lady Lake, FL, 32159. Telephone numbers (352) 753-3505 or (352) 817-0707, email update-editor@high12.org. This publication is devoted to the interests of the Wolcott Foundation, Inc., High Twelve International, Inc., and its member clubs for the benefit of Freemasonry and affiliated orders. Contributions of interesting, appropriate editorial matters are welcome. High Twelvians are invited to submit such material for publication. Submit all articles by e-mail. Articles should be received by the deadline date of the 20th day of each month. Updates will be sent out the last of the month. Depending on the volume of articles, they may be carried over to a later date by the Editor. Articles must be sent to the Editor and not called in. Mervyn J. Harris, Editor.

Congratulations to our members and ladies celebrating their Birthday, Anniversary or other Special Event in December. Don't forget to make a contribution to the Wolcott Foundation, celebrating your happy event or occasion!

Invocation Prayer submitted by Gordon Berry, Secretary, Morningside Lodge #615, A.F.&A.M., P.O. Box 2718, Sioux City, IA 51106-0718, (home) 3115 Seger Ave, S.C. IA 51106-3239, (home, preferred) [712-276-6834](tel:712-276-6834) (cell) [712-251-3891](tel:712-251-3891).

Invocation: Lord, we thank you for the many blessings we receive each day, remembering that both rain and sunshine represent the balance of nature so well provided by you as the Great Architect of the Universe. The river that flows, the forest that grows, all are part of the grand scheme that guides our lives. We thank you for the many people who help us each day, from those who prepare our food to those who make it possible for us to travel, to come together in fellowship. Forgive us our trespasses, and help us to be forgiving of the manners and slights at which we too often take offense. Help us make it through our time going forward in your path. Amen.

Benediction Prayer provided by R.W. Reverend Mark Megee, PDDGM & Past President of the Union County High Twelve Club (NJ).

Benediction: Supreme Architect of the Universe, accept our humble thanks for the many mercies and blessings which thy bounty has conferred on us, and especially for this friendly and social intercourse. Pardon, we beseech thee, whatever thou has seen amiss in us since we have been together; and continue to us thy presence, protection and blessing. Make us sensible of the renewed obligations we are under to love thee, and as we are about to separate, and return to our respected places of abode, wilt thou be pleased so to influence our hearts and minds, that we may each one of us practice, out of the Lodge, those great moral duties which are inculcated in it, and with reverence study and obey the laws which thou hast given us in thy Holy Word. Amen.

International President Winton Hewitt, PSP (PA):

The Uniform Club Bylaws that were passed at the 2013 Convention still have not been adopted by all Clubs. We adopted the Uniform Bylaws because, in previous years, any Bylaw changes were required to be approved by our General Counsel which, because of the uniqueness of the Bylaws of the different clubs, was not always an easy task. In adopting the Uniform Bylaws, which has a provision for adding items unique to a club, your Bylaw changes can now be approved by the International Secretary.

We then had an Amendment to the Bylaws at the 2014 Convention. The purpose of the Amendment is to remove the term restriction on officers serving in their positions. If you have adopted the 2013 Club Bylaws, you can either: complete the 2014 Amendment; or the 2014 Uniform Club Bylaws, which includes it, and send it to the International Secretary, Kevin Hokerk for sign-off. By completing the 2014 Uniform Bylaws, you will be covering the amendment and have only one document in your file, as opposed to two. You can find the 2014 Amendment to the Bylaws and 2014 Uniform Club Bylaws on the International Website. I encourage you to print a copy or, if you do not have a computer, have someone else do it for you, complete it and have it signed by the proper officers and then send it to Kevin.

We also need your help with the Monthly Reports. They are also on the Website and are easy to complete and then send to the International Secretary. I understand there are some Secretaries, who do not use the computer but it does not relieve the Secretary from filing a Monthly Report on the membership for his Club each month. The International Secretary needs this information in order to keep our records current.

I will be traveling to Florida next month for their Annual meeting and Installation. They always have a cookout the night before and I have been told that it is a nice affair. This will be my first visit to the Florida Clubs and I am looking forward to my visit.

The Mid-Year Meeting will be at the Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas as it was last year. The dates are January 11 thru 13, 2015. The 11th is a Sunday or travel day with the meetings on Monday and Tuesday. I think that we will be done early Tuesday morning for those that may want to travel home Tuesday after lunch. The rates are good for the rest of the week thru Friday. The rates go back up on Saturday. I hope to see a good turnout for our meeting.

Our numbers are still declining and we need to get some new Clubs opened and add new members to existing clubs in order to insure the future of High Twelve. We have had several inquiries on what it takes to start a new club, so I hope they are successful in getting them started. We encourage our members to look at those areas of their State where there are no High Twelve Clubs and where you may know a Mason, whom you believe would have the interest and energy to start a club and talk with him about it. If there is interest, we can help you and the member through the opening process. We have started a new program where we are awarding a new High Twelve polo shirt to all Club members, who bring in 3 new members to their Club this year. You, too, will qualify for one. Let's see who will be the first to get their new shirt.

For those Clubs having received a notice from the IRS that the Club's Tax Exempt Status has been revoked automatically because you have not filed for three years. We have quite a few Clubs that have received this notice. In an effort to add some assistance in requesting the renewal of the exempt status the International Secretary has put a template for filing the required forms. This was successful in getting the Tax Exempt Status restored. It may not cover every situation but it will give you a good idea of what is required. Good luck to those that need to file and I hope all will do so. Fraternally: Winton.

International First Vice President Jerry Saville (CA):

Greetings! I was honored to Chair the California State High Twelve Convention in Bakersfield, California last month. Our State President was recovering from surgery and was unable to travel. We had a pretty good turn out and was joined by our International High Twelve President

President Winton served as the Installing Officer and did a great job. He also spoke with the members regarding the status of High Twelve and the International Projects/Fundraiser's during the convention sessions. His remarks were well received and appreciated by the members. Thanks Winton!

California added a third Vice President this year and now we have a 4-year line of outstanding High Twelve Officers.

California Grand Lodge also sent Grand Marshall Christopher R Holmes as their representative for the Grand Master's Luncheon. He was also well received and his attendance was most appreciated with our thanks to Grand Lodge for their support of High Twelve.

Just a few days ago the International Office received an email from the Master-Elect in the Yorba Linda, California Lodge asking how to start a High Twelve Club - music to our ears. Kevin and PIP Don, in their typical outstanding manner, notified me and emailed Brother Sam the High Twelve Story and the history of Wolcott. I contacted Sam and he's already searching for the magic number of 10 to start a new Club. He will clear his schedule for a luncheon meeting and we will meet with him and walk through the process. Yorba Linda is also the home of Richard Nixon's Presidential Library and Museum - just thought you would want to know this bit of info when you visit California!

Now let's turn our attention to Conferences and Conventions. Please join us at the Plaza in Old Town Las Vegas for the January 11, 2015 Mid-Year-Meeting. The Registration info is on the Website. If you do not share your voice with us we can only assume we are doing everything according to your desires and wishes - what other assumptions could we possibly make! Now that I have your attention let us hear from you. Also please make sure your have the 26-28 June 26-28, 2015 on your schedule to attend the International High Twelve Convention in Philadelphia.

And for your long range (2016) planning we have signed a contract with Holiday Inn Bayside in San Diego for the 2016 International Convention. I'm sure you do not even have a 2016 calendar but make a note of these dates please --- June 17-19, 2016. Plan your 2016 vacation is beautiful San Diego. Guess I'll wait until 2015 to give you the details!

My allotted space is full, so have a Happy Holiday and I hope to see you all in Las Vegas. Fraternally, Jerry.



International President Winton Installing the California State High Twelve Officers in Bakersfield, California on October 25th, and yours truly as the Installing Marshall. (One of us is US Navy and the other is US Air Force and we still get along!)

International 2nd Vice President Richard Kessler (AZ):

Not a whole lot to report. As you may remember, I had a total knee replacement late last month and was laid up in rehab for 10 days. I am home now and healing pretty well. My P.T. says that I am way ahead of the point where I should be.

In rehab, they almost killed me. I got there on a Saturday night after the hospital stay and was sick for the next three days. Couldn't keep anything in my stomach, eat and it came right back up. On Tuesday I complained to the nurse and asked her what was going on. She said, I don't know. That night when they came in to give me my medicine, I refused to have it. I told her that they were over medicating me. She said No, we give you the same medicine in the evening that we give you in the morning. That's what's doing it. I don't take that much medicine at home. I told her, no more evening medicine. I was receiving double my medicine and insulin. If they had continued, I would probably not be here now. On Wednesday, I told my wife when she came up about the mix-up. She brought a copy of my medicine and the way I take it at home. She gave it to the Nurse and asked them to follow our print-out. Wednesday night when they came in to give me my medicine, I refused it again. The Nurse said I will report this and I said ok, go ahead. She didn't. When my wife came up on Thursday, I told her I am coming home on Friday, either they discharge me or I am walking out the door one way or another. I was to be there for two weeks. They reluctantly processed my discharge, it took them until 7:00 P.M. to do it and my wife brought me home. I am doing great now and can walk with a cane. It's good to be home. No problems. It still hurts when I put my weight on it, but it is healing nicely. The Doctor is very pleased with my progress. The moral of this story is being aware if you are placed in a rehab center. Be sure you know what is going on. I learned the hard way.

As for High Twelve, we are doing great. High Twelve Club #505 is treating the kindergarten kids at Sopora School on December 8th to Santa Claus and Gifts for all, plus we will give them an ice cream treat when the party comes to an end. I will have some pictures and a write-up on that for next month.

Happy Holidays to all and kindest personal regards!! Yours in Good fellow-ship!!! Happy New Year yu'all! Rich Kessler.

International Secretary Kevin Hokerk (AZ):

Club Secretaries: Many of you will be issuing Dues Cards for next year -- do you have custom Dues Cards that are per-printed with the Club and Member information? If not you can order them from the Website or by contacting the International Secretary's office.

The online Monthly Reporting is going well. A number of tweaks have been made to the Form layout as suggested by the users. The ordering of Forms has also been moved to an Online Form, which is a much easier and smoother process.

Two items have been added to the available merchandise on the Website:

- A 3 in.x 2 in. hard plastic logo emblem with adhesive backing suitable for cars or plaques
- A limited number of chrome car license plate holders

Lastly, the 2015 Mid-Year Governing Board Meeting will be held January 11-13, 2015 in Las Vegas at the Plaza Hotel & Casino. This is the same place as last year and it worked out very well. The International Mailing List received a detailed email about this important event on 11/21/14. If you missed it just go to the home page and it is the first item in the events list.

Thanksgiving was last week and I hope everyone had a wonderful time with friends and families and wishing you a very Merry and Blessed Christmas!

Kevin Hokerk, High Twelve International Secretary, [623.239.6170](tel:623.239.6170), www.high12.org.

Message below sent to all members! (Edited Version)

Brethren:

All High Twelvians are invited to attend the Mid-Year-Meeting as this is an open meeting for everyone, but particularly for Association Presidents as they are the Governing Board Members by virtue of the office they hold. So, come attend a 1 day meeting and then enjoy the sights, sounds and entertainment that Las Vegas has to offer! The Plaza Hotel & Casino is located in the heart of old town. There is convenient city bus and taxi's available to get to the other casinos.

**High Twelve International
2015 Mid-Year Conference
January 11-13, 2015**

The Plaza Hotel & Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada

1/11 Sunday, is the arrival day
1/12 Monday, is the meeting day
1/13 Tuesday, is the departure day

The following are the room rates by day for those wishing to come in early or stay late - all rates will be taxed 13% and there is a \$15 per day Resort Fee that includes parking, fitness room, 2 bottles of water, in-room internet access, boarding pass printing & coupon book valued at \$300+:

Friday 1/9 & Saturday 1/10 \$75.00
Sunday 1/11 thru Wed 1/14 \$32.00

Reservations

Members can make hotel reservations by calling the hotel at [800-634-6575](tel:800-634-6575) and mention High Twelve International **Group Code SPHTL15** to obtain the group rates. Room Reservations cut-off for the group rate is Wednesday, December 10, 2014. Reservations made after 12/10 subject to space and group rate availability.

Assistance Needed:

Does your club have any celluloid round High Twelve Name Badges that are not being

used? If so, please contact or send them to the international office, so they can be recycled to clubs in need or so new clubs can have a set.

California High Twelve Association, Fresno High Twelve Club: Brethren, our December 2014 meeting will be held at Denny's Restaurant at 1110 E. Shaw Avenue. We hope that many of our members and their wives, together with our widowed ladies can attend this meeting. We will have one of the Fresno High School Chorus groups entertain us.

Ms. Lisa Owens from JC Penney Company gave a very good talk on her career with JC Penney last meeting and what we can expect from JC Penney during the holidays.

This will boggle your mind, I know it did mine! The year is 1914 --- One hundred years ago. What a difference a century makes!

Here are some statistics for the Year 1914: The average life expectancy for men was 47 years. Fuel for this car was sold in drug stores only. Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub. Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone. There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads. The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph. The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower. The average US wage in 1910 was 22 cents per hour. The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year,

Napa High Twelve Club: Hello everyone. Napa's High Twelve has enjoyed many attendees for the past three luncheons, about 10-12 each time we meet. Several birthdays has us singing Happy Birthday each week. A great place for all to continue and further everyone's friendship. Our Secretary will give reports for the next three months, while the President is avoiding the eminent foul weather. See you in the spring. Warren Brooks, President.

Florida High Twelve Association, Cortez High Twelve Club # 538, Article by Robert Rodd, PSP: Welcome back to our current Cortez Masonic High Twelve Club members, ladies and guests. Many of our members have been traveling all over this past Summer and is great to see them again as each week brings more and more of them back to Florida from around the U.S. and Canada and return to our great club.

Just think a month has already gone by since we started back. In just 3 weeks winter will have begun and before you know it spring will come and we will be getting ready to go Black again in just a few short weeks. Don't let those weeks just pass you by without checking us out.

I want to thank you for taking the time to read this article. Hopefully it will be interesting and will give you a little push to come out and meet the members, ladies and friends of the Cortez Masonic High 12 Club #538, which meets most Mondays from November through April at Duff's Original Buffet, 6010 14th St. (Route 41) at the corner of Route 41 and 60th Ave. W. in Bradenton. Arrival time is between 10:30 AM and 11:00 AM to socialize. Then eat at 11:00 AM and start the rest of the day's program around 11:45-Noon. We usually finish between 12:30 and 1:30 PM depending on what we are doing for the day.

We invite you to come and meet our new club officers for 2015. Several of us are just getting ready to leave for the Florida State Masonic Hi-12 one day Convention, which will be on December 9th at the Lake County Shrine Club in Tavares. Members, you all should have received the information regarding the Convention. However, if you need additional information or have questions go to FLHI12.ORG and you should find it there. We do hope you are among the ones that will be attending.

We invite all Master Masons and their ladies to come and check us out. I believe you will find we are a fun group with lots of good times ahead just waiting for you. Please come and join in the fun.

Usually the first Monday of each month we hold an auction from items brought in by our members and friends that are either new or in good condition but no longer needed. Come see the items and then bid and you may find you are the new proud owner. Part of the money raised is used to fund our Annual Picnic, which usually has a really great turnout. We also do one or two other outings during the year.

On the Website you will find information regarding a cruise, which will be taking off from Tampa for a 5 night cruise (Feb. 9 to Feb. 14, 2015). They will be going on the Royal Caribbean, Brilliance of the Seas out of Tampa. They will be going from Tampa - Grand Cayman - Cozumel in Mexico and then back to Tampa. For additional information go on the Website above or to see about Reservations contact Teresa Rund at Ocala Travel Cruise and Tours, 351-753-9969 or 352-732-7511 or Fred Neilson, PSP at 352-365-1483.

Hope to see many of you at Duff's for our next meeting. Till then, Bob Rodd.

Pennsylvania High Twelve Association, First Capital High Twelve Club #668, York, PA:

THIS MONTHS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 15, 2014 AT 12:00 NOON, THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE MASONIC CENTER OF YORK. PARKING AVAILABLE IN REAR LOT. THE PROGRAM THIS MONTH IS: LEGACY, A VOCAL ENSEMBLE FROM WEST YORK HIGH SCHOOL THE GROUP "LEGACY" IS SPONSORED BY SAM CORWELL, JOHN SCHMITT, ED SHEARER, LUTHER SOWERS, ROGER STABLEY AND JIM YOUNG

Legacy is the select vocal ensemble from West York Area High School under the direction of Mrs. Regina K. Siple, Choral Director. The ensemble consists of 21 students from West York's Music Department representing Grades 9 through 12. Legacy performs at various times during the year at several school concerts and sings within the surrounding community for many different functions. In addition, Legacy performs annually at the Pennsylvania Christmas and Gift Show held at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, PA. The year 2014 marks the 23rd year Legacy has performed during this nationally recognized event.

Illinois High Twelve Association, Moline Area High Twelve Club #88: Have you asked a fellow Master Mason to visit our High Twelve Club? This method is the best way to keep your club going.

We'll have 3 meetings in DECEMBER. Meeting dates are 5th, 12th and the 19th. There will not be a meeting on the 26th or the 2nd January 2015. **MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.**

All meetings are at DENNY'S RESTAURANT, 2601 52nd Avenue, Moline. Try to come about 11:00 am and have time to eat and enjoy the fellowship before the program at noon (High Twelve). Ladies and guests are always welcome.

Program chairs for DECEMBER are Al Giesecke and Arlin L. Neumann. Thanks to Al and Arlin for putting together this month's fine programs.

DECEMBER 5: Jason Legare with Orthopaedic Specialists, P.C. of Bettendorf, IA. Jason presentation is on complete joint replacement surgery.

DECEMBER 12: Deryl Miller, Special ED who will talk about Basic ED and teaching English to foreigners.

DECEMBER 19: Kris Leinicke's topic is on the Rock Island Arsenal Museum.

DECEMBER 26: No meeting (Christmas here already?)

Abe Lincoln High Twelve Club # 38: Location: MCL Restaurant and Bakery, 2151 Wabash Ave, Springfield, IL. Meeting Time: 12:00 Noon, members and guests eat at 11:30 a.m.

Our club was honored to receive Illinois High Twelve Club Association Past President Dean Lillis and our 3rd State Vice President David Liesen as guest visitors to our club on Friday, September 5th. Each of them gave a wonderful report on what's happening throughout the State and encouraged us to continue working on membership and the support of our charities.

At our September 12th meeting, it was approved unanimously that our club send a generous donation to our State High Twelve organization to support the Illinois Masonic Outreach Services Program. The motion passed. We will also continue to support the Wolcott Foundation through our Little Red School House Program.

Hopefully in the future, we will be able to visit some of our fellow High Twelve Clubs in the central Illinois area.

High Twelve International PIP Merv Harris, Editor Monthly Update: Brethren, In 2003, when the Monthly Update started as an Official Publication of High Twelve, every Association agreed to furnish articles.

Over the years, the articles have been declining and now only a very few Associations and clubs submit articles. If the Update is to continue, I need support from the International Officers (check out this issue and notice we are receiving articles from most of the officers.)

Next, we need articles from the clubs and members to make an interesting monthly magazine. I know from visiting clubs around the country for several years that members are recognized for their contributions to the clubs. Officers and members also receive Awards and Decorations as well as letters for Outstanding actions in their Lodge, Shrine and many of the other Masonic organizations.

My own club has a dinner each month at different locations such as restaurants, Shrine Clubs, picnics and other functions. We send an Invitation to the local Shrine Club, Shrine Ladies Club, and Shrine Units. The Invitation is also sent to the two local Masonic Lodges and will be sent to another local Lodge, inviting them to the dinners.

In the last three months, we have had 40 or more people attend a Lobster Dinner, Prime Rib Dinner and we will visit a new Italian Restaurant in January.

An article from Tri County High Twelve Club was sent in for publication in the High Twelvian, which should be coming out in the near future. If you have any events in your club, we would like to hear about it and better yet, include photos of the event.

When you send in your articles, please insure you have the club name and number, the city and State where you are located. If photos are included, send them as an attachment and don't print them on the article as it is almost impossible to transfer it to the newsletter.

If your Association or club publishes a newsletter, please send every issue to me and I can scan your articles and include it in the Update. You would be surprised how other clubs read about events and then duplicate what you did. I would say it is a win, win situation when someone copies what you did and then has the same enjoyment.

We can use black and white or color photos and ask that you include a line about who is in the photo and what the event was about.

Please help High Twelve, and me publish a better and more interesting Monthly magazine. We will both be glad that you did!

Articles should be submitted to Merv Harris at update-editor@high12.org before the 20th of the month for enclosure in the next month's issue.

Thank you for your support and assistance. Your club members will appreciate seeing their name and photos in the Update and they may even start bringing in new members because they know you care about them.

Humor:

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son; You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car.

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut.

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

(You're going to love the Dad's reply!) Did you also notice that they all **walked** everywhere they went?

Sincerely, Mervyn J. Harris, PIP, Editor

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