

2015 Wolcott Foundation Pins are now available - see your Club Secretary!



GREETINGS!

High Twelve Monthly Update

Monthly Update is 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 Twelvian's 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 February. Don't forget to make a contribution to the Wolcott Foundation, celebrating your happy event or occasion! Some members donate \$1.00 or more for every year they have been married. Seems like a very nice gesture on their part and a great tribute to a Happy Marriage to that Special Person!

International High Twelve President Winton Hewitt, PSP (PA):

Greetings Brethren, the attendance at the Mid-Year-Meeting was not as large as I would have like it to be, but from those that were there I think would agree it was a productive meeting. All the International Officers were in attendance as well as 2 PIP and 6 State Association Representatives. Some of the Representatives were first time attendees.

The Executive Board met Sunday evening to review the Agenda and our recommendations to be presented to the members of the Governing Board. After lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of all the items, we were all in agreement of what we were recommending to the Governing Board. The 93rd International Convention Minutes of June were approved.

Correspondence on the Resolutions was presented to be covered at a later time in the meeting. The International Officers presented their reports. Committee Reports were presented on the Endowment Fund, Fundraising results for the year, the High Twelvian Magazine, Forms and other items available on the Website. Our General Counsel, Will Wilkinson presented items that he thought we need to do to establish or firm up the position of High Twelve International. Don Whistler PIP, Treasurer presented a full report on the Finances of High Twelve International. Malcolm White gave a report on Wolcott to the members

On the IRS related Group Exemptions, we had a lengthy discussion on a business in California that was sending out letters to the various clubs that had lost their exemption, saying that High Twelve International Secretary Kevin Hokerk was recommending that they had his permission to contact our Clubs. You have received a letter from Kevin saying that we, High Twelve International are not recommending them. Will

Wilkinson has generated a letter which has been forwarded to the company and the Attorney Generals from Arizona; and California have also been informed of the boldness of this company saying that International has sanctioned them.

Under new business, Jerry Seville , 1st VP presented an International Bylaws change and Club Uniform Bylaws to allow EA, FC from Lodges where they are required to pay dues to become members of High Twelve (California requires them to pay dues.)

The Association Uniform Constitution & Bylaws had several recommended changes suggested.

After much discussion and participation from all that were present, the International Bylaw, Club Uniform Bylaws and the Association Uniform Constitution & Bylaws changes were recommended and approved by the Governing Board to be presented at the 2015 Convention for adoption.

It was a very busy Mid-Year-Meeting and I think that a lot was accomplished and the first time attendees enjoyed the meeting. My hopes are that everyone will return to their respective State Associations and spread the word that the International Officers are working to improve and grow High Twelve International.

Jerry Seville and I are off to the Conference of Grand Masters of North America next month to spread the word about High Twelve International.

International 1st Vice President Jerry Saville, PSP (CA):

Brethren, We had a great Mid-Year-Meeting in Las Vegas last month. The President and Secretary will cover the Agenda in their article. The attendance was better than the previous year and we hope that we can say the same this time next year. Please take time to assist me by submitting comments regarding the Mid-Year-Meeting and recommending ways for improving attendance next year. What can we do to have you join us at the next Meeting? Is it the location, dates, length of Mid-Year-Meeting, or...? We would appreciate your comments and suggestions. Our President, and the Executive Board, is working very hard for High Twelve but we need your suggestions and comments please.

I will join our President at the Grand Masters Conference of North America next month. This will be my first Conference of GM's and welcome the opportunity to talk about High Twelve. Hopefully we can open doors in other States for High Twelve. We are still in contact with Washington State to open new clubs in that great State.

The International High Twelve Executive Board is here for you. Our Secretary is working miracles with computer programs for ease of club use to make their Reports. Check out the professional International High Twelve Website at www.high12.org!

Hope to hear from you!! My e/mail is jsaville@bak.rr.com & cell phone 661-203-5747. Share your thoughts and comments please, positive or negative, so we know if we are on the right track. We work for you and without your input we can only assume you are pleased with our performance. That said, we are only 5 months away from the 2015 High Twelve Convention. I leave you with this thought - would you consider running for a High Twelve position next June? Competition is a good thing!!

Until next month...Fraternally, Jerry.

International High Twelve 3rd Vice President William Haynes (PA): This has been a very educational time for me. I attended the Mid-Year Meeting in Las Vegas where I was privileged to attend the Executive Committee Meeting and the Governing Board Meeting the following day. President Hewitt had everything exceptionally well organized and both meetings went smoothly. I will not relate the details as I am sure they will be covered later by the other officers but was impressed with the amount of work that was accomplished.

We keep talking of membership. In my humble opinion, everyone one of us has a good friend that does not belong to High Twelve. It's a simple task to ask him to join and by doing so, you have replaced yourself and if everyone does the same, the International will double in size. Ask your friend today to join! Fraternaly, Bill.

International High Twelve Secretary Kevin Hokerk, PSP (AZ):

As I tap this message out I realize how lucky I am to be in Arizona where it is going to be 75 today while looking on the news at all the bad weather crashes - hey, gas is \$1.68 today come join us. We welcome snowbirds!

Almost caught up from the Mid-Year Conference in Las Vegas, NV. It was great to see the usual attendees, met a number of first timers and was able to connect a voice to a face!

Some key points from the meeting:

- A Bylaws change to change membership from Master Mason to Mason was submitted by the California Association to allow EA & FC Masons to join. In California they have a 'restricted' dues card and pay annual dues. This proposal was approved to move forward to the 94th convention for a vote.
- A Bylaws change to use the book "List of Lodges - Masonic" published by Pantagraph Printing & Stationary Company - to determine if a Masonic Lodge/Grand Lodge (worldwide) is recognized. This is the book that you see on the Tyler's table in most Lodges that they look up visiting members' dues card to see if they can attend a meeting or not.
- The Uniform Association Constitution and Bylaws that were tabled at the 93rd Convention were again discussed. Suggested changes were reviewed, adopted, modified or rejected. When the review was completed they were approved to move forward to the 94th Convention for a vote.
- A good discussion was held on communications, what is working and what is not working with the various associations and clubs. Improvements need to be made to in Associations to their member clubs and Associations to international. The international officers are here to help in any way possible help the clubs and Associations be successful and grow High Twelve.
- The website has a lot of useful information for everyone but you have to visit the site to make use of it! When was the last time you looked at it? Suggestions for improvements are always welcome.
- Associations and clubs that have had their EIN's non-profit status revoked are being contacted by an accounting firm to assist them in regaining their non-profit status stating that Kevin Hokerk and High Twelve International is working with them - this is a false statement. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a copy of an email that went out to all impacted Associations and clubs. If you have questions or comments please contact the international office.
- A suggestion was made to consider making a "Sweethearts" Club for those members' widows so they can continue to be a part of High Twelve International. From a technical aspect this can be done with the database and will be taken under review by the executive board.
- In a letter dated February 24, 1983 by Louis Black, PIP, he references the following *"I obtained the tax exempt status for High Twelve International in 1967 and elected not to have the individual clubs covered under a blanket exemption since this would have required individual financial statements and copies of by-laws from each club. At this stage you must file annual tax returns with the IRS..."* Click [HERE](#) to see the full letter. Nothing has changed since 1967 other than the process to file the 990 paper form is now the ePostcard that can only be completed online.
- The Spring Edition of the High Twelvian magazine will contain:
 - All proposed Bylaws changes
 - Complete set of the proposed Uniform Association Constitution and Bylaws
 - Call for the 94th Convention and Registration
 - Any Wolcott Zone Trustee's that may be up for re-election
 - Any member wanting to run for International office

Some new items have been added to our available merchandise on the website are:

- Embroidered khaki baseball caps with hook and lock adjustable strap \$20 + shipping
- License plate holders \$10.00 + shipping
- Aluminum auto/plaque emblem \$5.00 + shipping

Well I have gone on long enough for this month! Peace - Kevin

International High Twelve Secretary Kevin Hokerk, PSP (AZ):

It came across my desk today and thought you would like to know that Alton Emerson, PIP, had a heart attack and also fell and broke his hip. Al's address is 287 Ave De Las Flores, Thousand Oaks CA 91360-1808, no email. PIP Alton was International President in 1990/1991.

International Office Notice:

NOTE: The following is correspondence from *MBS Certified Public Accountants OR MBS Accountancy - Non-Profit Team* to our International Secretary, which you should read and heed!

This is the email that was directed to all presidents, secretaries and EIN contacts of all clubs that have had their Non-Profit status revoked.

You have or may be contacted by *MBS Certified Public Accountants OR MBS Accountancy non-profit Team* by email or phone call from various people claiming that "Kevin Hokerk, secretary with High Twelve International wanted me to reach out to you. We are working with Kevin to help reinstate local association's tax exempt status".

Neither High Twelve International nor I are recommending, endorsing or helping this company or any other company that can provide a similar service. (Kevin.)

MBS Certified Public Accountants OR MBS Accountancy have obtained Employer Identification Number (EIN's) PUBLIC RECORD information that is published by the IRS on the IRS website for those Non-Profit Organizations that have had their non-profit status revoked for failure to file the required annual online 990 ePostcards for 3 consecutive years as prescribed by IRS statutes. Their posted service fee is up to \$1,250.00 or more.

Since November 2011 High Twelve International, through our various communication channels, has been working with the Association Secretaries to validate club and Association EIN's, update the EIN contact person information, provided reminders to file the online 990-N ePostcards, provided assistance when asked *what to do* and placed links on the International Website on how to file the 990-N ePostcards. Recently the steps with actual documents were added to the International Website on how to re-establish the non-profit status by filing the IRS Form 1024 and 8715. The IRS fee for reinstatement is \$400.

Remember that the *balance* in your checking account is not an indicator "if" you have to file the ePostcard. All income up to \$50,000 is tax free. By having the EIN you are required to file annually. If your non-profit status is revoked you are **still required** to fill out and submit a Form 990 or 990-EZ - see below from the IRS website.

Please contact the International office for additional information.

FROM THE IRS WEBSITE:

Annual Electronic Filing Requirement for Small Exempt Organizations - Form 990-N (e-Postcard) Most small tax-exempt organizations whose annual [gross receipts](#) are [normally \\$50,000 or less](#) are required to electronically submit Form 990-N, also known as the *e-Postcard*, unless they choose to file a complete Form 990 or Form 990-EZ instead.

If you do not file your *e-Postcard* on time, the IRS will send you a reminder notice. There is no penalty assessment for late filing the *e-Postcard*, but an organization that fails to file required *e-Postcards* (or information returns - Forms 990 or 990-EZ) for three consecutive years will [automatically lose its tax-exempt status](#). The revocation of the organization's tax-exempt status will not take place until the filing due date of the third year.

Website Hints:

Did you know you can:

- Order merchandise directly [HERE](#)
- Order paper forms directly [HERE](#)
- File your clubs Monthly Report [HERE](#)

Any questions please contact the international office at 623-239-6170 or secretary@high12.org

**Attention: Send your nominations for
International High Twelvian of the Year
to the international office TODAY
because tomorrow will never remember to do it!**

Illinois High Twelve Association, Northwest High Twelve Club #769:

Our January 27, 2015 meeting was called by 2nd Vice-President, John Peter Curielli with the Pledge of Allegiance and opening and closing prayers by Brother Joe Santisteban. Minutes of our December meeting was approved as emailed to members. The Financial Report was given by Treasurer Joe Pegoraro that Wolcott Foundation collected \$16 plus \$4 for our "other" contribution in December with a balance of \$549.05. Thirteen members have paid their membership dues, namely Brothers Kokalis, Maris, Pegoraro, Fabris, Pfeil, Selock, Van Cleave, Curielli, Ganitopodios, Pratt, Chapman, Tollman, Reed, Naik.

Attendance today was seven members and five guests. Mrs. Rosemarie Pegoraro, Mrs. Cathy Curielli and Mrs. Joan Rogers, Brother Ed Rund, High Twelve State Secretary were our special guests and Brother Anthony Bianchi Sr. was our speaker. Brother Anthony A. Bianchi Sr. is a Past Worshipful Master of Barrington Lodge and a Financial Consultant of Lake-Cook Group, Thrivent Financial. Our speaker covered a wide variety of services provided by the "not for profit financial business." Some of the important topics were the use of Power of Attorney, Estate Planning, Long Term Medical Care, and "QLAC" (Qualifying

Longevity Annuity Contract). QLAC will permit transferring up to twenty-five percent of your IRA (RMD'S) for a minimum of three years to thirty years into an annuity without paying taxes on the withdrawal. Normal withdrawal starts at eighty-five. QLAC is an interesting program that few companies can offer. Selected pictures from the meeting are attached.

Brother John Peter Curielli had his hunting cap on to promote Shriner's "Sportsman's Raffle." Selected rifles will be raffled. Check out www.medinah.org/sportsmansraffle or contact Brother Curielli.

Sickness and distress news is that Bruno Fabris is now home and much improved. After the meeting, a few members gathered to discuss the August State Convention program that will be held in the Chicago area thanks to Brother Joe Santisteban, 1st Vice-President, Illinois State High Twelve Association.

Submitted by Don Van Cleave, Secretary, January 27, 2015

California High Twelve Association, Oakland High Twelve Club #2:

I'm hoping that everyone had a wonderful holiday season and truly enjoyed the all too brief respite with family and dear friends. December being our Installation of Officers, we did not have a Guest Speaker but shared warmth, a delicious Christmas Lunch and the holiday spirit filled the room to "overflowing." Ladies present were presented with Poinsettias and everyone had a wonderful afternoon and a fitting conclusion to a very memorable High Twelve Year.

Our speaker for the month of November was Doctor Pam Norton, PhD, CCC-SLP, Director, Oakland Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center presenting: Oakland Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center, Organization, Purpose and Successes. We thank her for a most informative,

indeed, enlightening presentation. Our speaker for the month of January will be Captain Dan Williams, Alameda County Coordinator, The Salvation Army, presenting: "The Salvation Army, Alameda County Coordination, Serving All Of Alameda County." You will not want to miss his most informative message and presentation.

We have an impressive array of speakers presenting relevant topics scheduled for 2015, but recognize that your input and recommendations will more readily help us achieve our goal. Most of all, we thank you for your support, attendance and comradeship as we endeavor to increase attendance and membership. In that regard, we need your continued assistance to invite your friends and associates to come and join with us and make Oakland High Twelve No. 2, indeed, Number 1, in High Twelve Clubs.

We request that you please call (510) 451-1903 extension 26 and R.S.V.P. for meal reservations as soon as possible but no later than the Friday, prior to High Twelve meetings. I'm confident that you will agree that Oakland Scottish Rite's sumptuous meals, are a delight to the most discerning palate and their dedicated staff (we love them), never spare anything to accommodate us and we truly appreciate it.

Photo credits: (pictured is Dr. Norton, Oakland SR Center receiving Certificate of Appreciation from Howard Roberts, President on right and on the left PSP CW5 Cleveland Valrey US Army (Ret.)

Florida High Twelve Association, Annual State Convention:



Tri-County Past President Robert Wilson on the left, Wolcott Trustee Zone 8 Merv Harris in the center and Past State President Robert Robb on the right.

Both Brothers Wilson and Rodd received the Dr. Phillip D. Grub Award for their work with the Wolcott Foundation.

Brother Wilson for his many years as the Wolcott Representative; and collecting over \$2,000 each year.

Brother Robb received his Award for being the Club Wolcott Representative and top Club in Zone 8 for the past two years.

Both men are to be congratulated for their Dedication to the club, State and Wolcott Foundation. Thank you for a job well done my brothers!

Cortez High Twelve Club #538: The month of December was a very busy one. The Florida Masonic State Association held their 52nd Annual Convention; we inducted 2 new members (Bill Dunning & Jim Fleming) into our Club, learned from Brother Phil Billard a lot about collecting coins and paper money from around the world, held our monthly auction and more. We also elected and installed our 2015 club officers.

There is much coming up in January of 2015 but as I am writing this on December 29th of 2014 I cannot tell you all that took place but I can just about guarantee you would have enjoyed what took place.

If you are already a member bring another Master Mason and his lady, if he has one, and let them see the enjoyment and fellowship that takes place.

If you are not a High Twelvian as yet, and would like to be next to become part of Cortez Masonic High Twelve Club #538, please come? If you are a Master Mason that makes you eligible to be a member of High Twelve. Also please know that your lady is always invited to come with you. In addition, if a widow of a former Hi-12 member would like to attend she is most welcome. Also, you may bring your friends and relatives to visit with us, whether a Mason or not and maybe that will help prompt them to join our great fraternity.

Come and meet our members and see who you already know as well as see who the new friends are that you will be making. Several of our members come down for the winter from Canada. We meet most Mondays from November through April at Duff's Original Buffet at 6010 14th St. (Route 41) at the corner of

Route 41 and 60th Ave. W. in Bradenton. Arrival time is between 10:30 and 11:00 AM to socialize. Then eat at 11:00 AM, while continuing to socialize, and then 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.

As we mainly are a social organization there is no ritual to learn but we definitely have a purpose, in fact several. We support the three Masonic youth groups (DeMolay for Boys, Rainbow Girls and Job's Daughters for Girls). We also support the Florida Masonic Home in St. Petersburg. Our main philanthropy is the Wolcott Foundation which supports Graduate Students who attend the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and go into Government Service. Come and learn more about this great program. Until next month, Bob.



Induction of two new Cortez Hi-12 members

Left to right - Hi-12 Cortez Masonic Club President Jeff Davis, Jim Fleming, Bill Dunning and Installing Officer Robert L. (Bob) Rodd, PSP.



Installation of 2015 Cortez Masonic Club Officers

Left to right: Back row - David Gardner, Sgt.-at-Arms; John Sutterley, Chaplain

Middle row: Installing Officer Robert L. (Bob) Rodd PSP; Lewis Peter, Secretary; Jean Campbell, Assistant Secretary; David Hauraney, Installing Chaplain; Gene Black PSS, Installing Marshall

Front: (Seated) Jeff Davis, Club President

Zone 5 Wolcott Foundation Trustee, Michael Clark, MI:

Wolcott Foundation prepares for 2015 Fellowship Selection

The first three months of the year are exciting times for your Wolcott Foundation and the Trustees from each of the eight zones. January is the time of year when we get to review all the Wolcott Fellowship applications and find out all the wonderful things the outstanding young people who apply for our fellowships, are doing to promote the United States.

The applicants must provide us with a list of countries where they have volunteered. They also are required to list the languages they speak and at what level of competency. They also list activities they were involved in while in those countries.

They are also required to write two essays. The first essay asks why they want a Wolcott Fellowship. The second essay is what event in their lifetime has most affected the world around them. This is just some of the information required of an applicant for a Wolcott Fellowship.

The Fellowship requirements include being a United States citizen, a belief in a Supreme Being, and a minimum 3.5 Grade Point Average in their undergraduate degree. Additional academic information and certified class and grade reports help the Trustees select the "cream of the crop" when it comes to awarding our Fellowships.

If you really want to see what is required to obtain a Wolcott Foundation Fellowship, log on to the Wolcott Foundation website and review the application yourself and read the requirements to be a Wolcott Fellow. While you are there, review the past recipients and know that your contributions have and are enabling these scholars to achieve their goals and promote Masonry and our country in a positive way throughout the world.

All applications must be received by midnight January 31, 2015. The month of February allows your trustees to catch their breath after the long hours it takes to review all the applications. The first weekend in March we all gather at George Washington University (GWU) in Washington, DC to make our selections for the new Fellows. This also gives the trustees an opportunity to meet and share ideas and plans for the coming year.

The Trustees meet with officials of GWU as well as current and Senior Fellows at various receptions. The chance to talk with these individuals and hear their appreciation for what the Wolcott Foundation has done for their lives, makes us all very proud of each High Twelvian who has contributed to the Wolcott Foundation over the years.

In 2014, we awarded 6 Fellowships out of over 80 applications. We wish we could have awarded more, as there were several more applicants who could have been selected to receive a Fellowship. Unfortunately, we did not have enough money to increase the number of Fellowship Awards.

Your Wolcott Trustees work hard in their zones to promote giving, but the geographic diversity of our clubs makes it almost impossible for each trustee to visit each club personally. We rely on each state's Wolcott Representative and the representative in each club to continually remind our members of their responsibility to support the Wolcott Foundation.

Communication is essential to the success of the foundation, so let your trustee know that you would like a Wolcott presentation at your state convention about these wonderful young people we call our *Wolcott Fellows*.

The challenge is bigger every year and as our High Twelve membership continues to decline it falls on the shoulders of fewer and fewer High Twelvians to provide the needed funds. The past few years, we have not received enough Little Red School House money to pay for even one Fellowship. We have relied on the earnings of our investments to supply the needed funds.

Please remember that you can provide larger contributions to the Foundation in your Will or other types of bequests. Contact your Wolcott Trustee or access the Wolcott website for all the information to help you set up such a contribution.

The Little Red School House can be used as a fun way for your club members to part with some extra money beyond their normal contribution. Ask for a dollar for a birthday, anniversary, new family member, new job, retirements, or when relatives arrive for a visit and of course when they leave. Don't forget to get money when a cell phone rings during a meeting. If you live in an area with snow and clouds, get a dollar for a sunny day.

Also, don't forget your Wolcott Trustee has Wolcott Foundation pins to sell as well. In Michigan and Ohio and the United Kingdom, we sell these pins for \$10.00 each and I have provided each of our approximately 30 clubs with 10-12 pins to sell this year. This is another way of giving the members something to wear and show off their contribution to the foundation.

If we are to continue providing Masonic, High Twelve and Wolcott exposure at George Washington University, we must continue to provide funds for our Wolcott Fellowships. Contact your Wolcott Foundation Zone Trustee or check the Wolcott Foundation website for all the information you need to make a difference in America's future leaders.

Fraternally, Michael E. Clark PSP, Zone 5, Trustee. (Michigan, Ohio, United Kingdom)

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 4 meetings in FEBRUARY. Meeting dates for February are the 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th.

(Here we are one month of 2015 gone already. Time is moving faster than a speeding bullet.) All meetings are at **DENNY'S RESTAURANT**, 2601 52nd Avenue, Moline. Try to come about 11am 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 FEBRUARY are Duane and Shelby Parks (loud drum roll please) I know you will enjoy the program that Duane and Shelby have for High Twelve in February 2015.

FEBRUARY 6: Lloyd Murphy, Retired Illinois State Trooper will share his experiences.

FEBRUARY 13: Tom Nielsen will give us an insight of the Civil Air Patrol.

FEBRUARY 20: Jennifer Garlach will speak about the Boys and Girls Club Mississippi Valley.

FEBRUARY 27: Martin Davis, Midland Davis Recycling will present Recycling in the Quad Cities.

North Central High Twelve Association, Dubuque High Twelve Club:

A very recent Masonic funeral gave me some insights for an article you are free to use for our Minnesota LEO program... wait til the very end to see why the funeral inspired me. Off the record the Brother was Robert L. Davin; a dual member as was I at the time, at Bethel #319 in Garner, Iowa. Bob was part of the Degree teams for all three of my son's degrees. He subsequently re-retired to another city which I will leave unnamed so as not to embarrass the lodge located therein. His career was spent in Sioux City, Iowa where he rose to become V-P Sales for the Sioux City Journal. His time in the Army in Europe (rising to the rank of Captain)included a run-in during the Battle of the Bulge with Bro. & Gen George S. Patton! He edited Abu Bekr's (Sioux City Shrine) newsletter for years, was a PM, a generous buyer of Girl Scout cookies from our daughter and a man you would have been VERY proud to call 'brother'. AND always with a big smile!

Our Cable-Tows and Wine Tasting

Often a Masonic Education topic will relate to the "working tools" of a Mason. May I submit the most overlooked "tool" may very well be the most important - namely a Cable Tow. Technically not a Masonic "working tool", a cable tow can indeed be used in an operative as well as a symbolic mode. (NOTE: Having become a Mason in a community on the shores of the Mississippi, I know full well how such cables are used "operatively on the numerous tow boats traversing the lock dam.")

If we were fortunate, there were some comments made to us after becoming Master Masons, that we indeed when asked, should act on behalf of a Lodge or as a singular Brother if we can do so "within the length of our cable tow." Discussion may have centered on the symbolism, how the envisioned "length" might be measured, etc. Thereafter our respective cable tows have probably seen little mention except perhaps when a Master who, when entreating members to attend or participate in some activity, may invoke the phrase "if within the length of your cable tow."

So just "how long" is your cable tow and what does it have to do with Masonic Education? Most Brethren would agree that the symbolic length will vary depending on our situation and the degree to which we can participate without significant harm to ourselves and/or to our family. It's one thing for a Brother to ask us to help move some heavy appliance as opposed to loaning a large sum of money to buy same, especially depending on our comparative physical strength versus our financial status. However our refusal to respond to his request for help, regardless of our abilities, may make us feel more guilt-ridden if we "owe" him a favor, he is in desperate straits or we have the wherewithal to assist without any real effort on our part.

Similarly, our Lodge might ask us to either help at a fundraiser or donate money in lieu of our time. Which cable tow is longest for us as the day of the event approaches; our time or our money OR perhaps we choose not to donate neither time nor money assuming "other Brothers will be there or send money; my

not helping Saturday or giving \$10 will not be missed". We might be wrong in that assumption! I'd submit many of us fall prey to that excuse-ridden reasoning and the result is our cable tow becomes, at least for a time, virtually non-existent. In medieval France, it was the custom in a particular wine-producing area that when the fall harvest was completed, all the local winemakers would bring a cask of their best wine made from the previous year's crop to the area's seat of government. Those casks would then be emptied into a towering barrel mounted the town square. At a specified date by custom, the local Duke would approach on horseback with a troop of his men, dismount and approach that huge barrel set-up for his benefit. He would then draw out a large silver chalice, open a spigot at the barrel's base and draw down a blend of the area's best wines. Then the merriment would begin and everyone would celebrate.

However there came a year when one winemaker faced a dilemma. The crop from the previous year had yielded to him a particularly fine wine BUT his grape crop had been very small. Thus this particular wine maker did not want to give up a cask of superb but scarce vintage. "Ahahe thought, I'll fill my cask with water instead. When I tip the cask over the edge of the barrel to empty it, no one will see I am really pouring in water, not my fine wine! With so many casks being emptied into the barrel, the addition of some water will not notice". So indeed that is what he did and stood back to await the Duke's pleasure. After the many wine makers had emptied their casks into the barrel, the Duke did indeed fill his chalice and raised it to his lips. Suddenly he stopped, flung down the chalice and ordered his troops to arrest all the winemakers and throw them into his dungeon. Why? The chalice had nothing but water in it every winemaker, faced with the same predicament, had substituted water for wine.

The moral of the story is our action or inaction by itself may seem inconsequential but in some circumstances it may become very injurious or even catastrophic.

Recently a Brother I had great respect for passed away. He was 94, a WWII vet and had led a highly successful professional life, leaving behind a devoted wife and three daughters and their families. Obviously grief-stricken, they took solace in the fact that "Bob had been with them so long and had led a virtuous life." They knew too he long had been involved in Masonry at many levels. I am certain like many Masons, he had on more than one occasion assured them that "if anything happens and I'm not around to help you, just call my Lodge or one of the Brothers". In this case, the only request made by the family was that a Masonic funeral be held. They had never witnessed one but they knew they existed because on many occasions Bob had told them, "I'll be gone a little while this evening, I need to be at a Brother's funeral."

So a Masonic funeral was scheduled and Brothers of the local lodge notified. However the day of his funeral was a bitterly cold one and there had been a snowfall hours before. Yes, you guessed it. Despite his family, friends and church members being in attendance in reasonable numbers, only two Masons appeared for the Masonic Service and one of them was a sojourner! A lot of so-called "Brothers" were not Brothers despite their grandiose Masonic titles in Lodge, Commandery, Consistory and the Shrine.

It is up to each of us to decide exactly what our Cable Tow encompasses and just how long it is. Will you be the Brother who assumes "the other Brothers will take care of it, I won't be missed"???

So why do I consider the Cable Tow to possibly be the most important "working tool"? Masonry is designed to take good men and make them better. Using symbols and allegories with many tools highlighted in the process, the result is to "build a man who day by day becomes a better adherent of his faith, a better husband, a better father, a better citizen and a better brother". How do any of us successfully accomplish that on-going mission without a pretty long cable tow? A cable tow that will constantly remind us to reach out generously when called upon by God, Country and family?

Oh yes, we may very well ignore cries for help while claiming to be a just and upright Mason but as both the Bible and the Torah say, to paraphrase, 'faith without works is dead'. Keep your cable tow long Brothers so that you don't just study Masonry but that you practice it! Both the profane and your Brothers are being educated as to the true purpose of Freemasonry when they observe your lengthy cable tow.

So mote it be... Gerald A. Edgar, Mosaic #125 AF&AM - Dubuque, Iowa, gvlc6@hotmail.com

Humor: At a construction site on the 80th floor of a high rise building, the lone conservative on the crew was having a heated political discussion with the liberals on the project. Deciding to take a break, he called everyone over to the edge of the roof. Did you know, he began, that there are extremely violent invisible

updrafts that are able to keep a body floating in mid-air? They only occur at certain times during the day between buildings. Here, I'll show you! He then leaped off the side of the building, and with arms spread-eagle, floated effortlessly on an unseen cushion of air, and then gradually steered himself back to the safety of the roof. That's awesome, one of the left-wingers shouted. I want to try it. Me too another cried, - and then another, and as they leaped over the side of the roof, one after the other, they fell 80 floors straight down to the ground, SPLAT! SPLAT! SPLAT!

A crowd rushed over to witness the carnage, and while doing so, one of the spectators looked up and remarked, Boy, Clark Kent sure hates liberals!

Adam and Eve had an ideal marriage. He didn't have to hear about all the men she could have married, and she didn't have to hear about the way his mother cooked.

It was dinner time on a British Airways flight from London to New York. As the flight attendant moved down the plane, she asked one of the passengers: Would you like dinner? What are my choices? asked the passenger. Yes or No, replied the attendant.

A Doctor was addressing a large audience in Tampa.. The material we put into our stomachs is enough to have killed most of us sitting here, years ago. Red meat is awful. Soft drinks corrode your stomach lining.. Chinese food is loaded with MSG. High fat diets can be disastrous, and none of us realizes the long-term harm caused by the germs in our drinking water. However, there is one thing that is the most dangerous of all and we all have eaten, or will eat it. Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it? After several seconds of quiet, a 75-year-old man in the front row raised his hand, and softly said, A Wedding Cake.

You know you're a Senior Citizen when every time you leave your house you have to go back for something you forgot.

A man and his wife were sitting in the living room discussing a Living Will. Just so you know, I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug. His wife got up, unplugged the TV and threw out all the beer.

Pennsylvania Association of High Twelve Clubs 2015 High Twelve International Annual Convention

Fundraising Drawing

In order to raise funds to assist in the payment of expenses for the 2015 High Twelve Annual Convention to be held on June, 25, 26, and 27, 2015 in Philadelphia, PA , the Pennsylvania Association of High Twelve Clubs is sponsoring tickets for a drawing of three prizes, as follows:

First Prize

Timeshare for One Week at The Pines RCI No. 0233
Mt. Jackson, VA 22842, 2013-2014 RCI Directory Pg. 38

Second Prize

Bulova Gold Plated Blue Lodge Watch

Third Prize

Lined Jacket with Logo of your choice

The tickets are \$10.00 per ticket or three for \$20.00. Another option is to buy one ticket for \$20.00 and have your name listed as a sponsor in the Program Booklet for the 2015 Annual Convention.

Tickets may be ordered by mailing your check payable to:
"Pennsylvania Association of High Twelve Clubs 2015 Annual Convention"

Donald M. Whistler, PIP, Convention Chairman
348 Hillside Lane
York, PA 17403-4036

and indicate your selection:

One Ticket - \$10.00
Three Tickets - \$20.00
One Ticket and Sponsorship - \$20.00

The drawing will be held at the President's Banquet on Saturday evening, June 27, 2015.

You do not need to be present to win!

Fraternally, Mervyn J. Harris, PIP, Editor

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