

Time to start thinking about the 94th  
Annual Convention - June 24-27, 2015



GREETINGS!

April 2015

## *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](mailto: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 April. 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):** I am sure that we can all agree that maybe the winter is behind us. I know our heating bill has to be one of the worst in years. We had the cold and snow but we missed the real heavy ones that Boston had.

I plan to pick up on my visitations around the Pennsylvania Clubs. Where does all the time go.

The good news is that we will soon have two new clubs in California as well as in Michigan. I have written to the Grand Master of North Carolina asking for permission to start a club in N.C. I have a group that will start a club as soon as we receive permission.

I will be visiting Michigan on Saturday, April 18 for their Annual Convention and Installation. Don't know of any others that are on the way there.

Brethren we still have 8 clubs that have not paid their per capita for 2014. To the Officers of those clubs I am requesting them to get with their secretary and send in their payments. We want to start the new year with zero balance on per capita.

Don Whistler and I have just made a visit to the Renaissance Hotel to finalize the schedule with them as of now. We have most of the arrangements with the Tour Groups completed. You have to keep going over the plans so that you eliminate any over sites.

EDITOR NOTE: An longer article from the President will be in the Spring High Twelvian Magazine.

**International 1st Vice President Jerry Saville, PSP, and (CA)**: Brethren, It was an honor to join our International High Twelve President in Vancouver last February for the Grand Masters Conference of North American. We were well received and introduced in the Grand Assembly Room. We had the opportunity to speak to several Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries from across the Land. We received the OK to continue working in States that used to have High Twelve Clubs and invited to visit and work in the great state of Georgia. The President is looking for someone to contact the Georgia brothers - any volunteers?

NEWS FLASH! We have a new High Twelve Club in California -- Yorba Linda High Twelve #775. Working with the California State High Twelve Officers we met with the Lodge Master, and Brothers, of the Yorba Linda Lodge in March to present the High Twelve Story. The presentation was well received and 19 Masons signed up to be charter members. While the charter date is not until 6 June, D-DAY, they are already very active in their community.

Yorba Linda California Lodge #469 is a very active Lodge with over 200 members. We thank Worshipful Sam for putting this event together and inviting us to speak about High Twelve. I read their March Trestle Board and they are definitely Committed to the Craft. Leadership and Team Work are definitely alive in Lodge #469!

The 2015 International High Twelve Convention is only a few months away. We hope you will support, and join us, for a few days of Fun, Food and Fellowship. All the Convention information is on the professional Website at [www.high12.org](http://www.high12.org) - check it out! If you are ready to invest some time, and resources, to keep this great organization moving forward please consider submitting your name for the Officer line at the June Convention - you have to submit your letter of intent in April.

Also let us know what Committee you would like to serve on or maybe Chair! We need your help - thanks!

I mentioned the Mid-Year Meeting in the International High Twelve Newsletter a couple of months ago. The 2013 and 2014 High Twelve Meeting was held in Las Vegas â€” a very inexpensive location for rooms (\$30+) and food. The attendance has not been that great and we have been asked to consider other locations â€” more middle-America.

The High Twelve Conference is normally scheduled in January so when we consider middle-America we have to factor in the WEATHER. I know what you are thinking.....its that guy from California where the winter season starts when the temperature drops below 80 degree. While true I can think of situations worse than spending days in a closed airport BUT not many. Let us hear from you please; otherwise, we have to assume that you are pleased with the decisions made by the Executive Board. Would you be willing to work on the Conference Committee?

My space is up and I have to put another log in the fireplace - it was down to 50 degrees this morning. See you in Philadelphia in June. Fraternally, Jerry Saville, 1st VP

**International 3rd Vice President William Haynes, PSP, (PA)**: One of our state presidents is setting a very high bar for all future State Association Presidents, Dr. Ron Woods of Indiana. He has been promoting High Twelve throughout the state. He received permission to set up a High 12 display at the Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery of Indiana. He also placed an ad in the Templar Crusader that all Knights receive who attend Grand Commandery. The display will include banners of all five Indiana clubs and a fold out display of High Twelve information. He also plans to travel to several areas in Indiana that do not have High Twelve Clubs and his goal is to generate five new clubs in Indiana in 2015.

It would be great if all this efforts results in five new clubs. Congratulations to Dr. Ronald Woods of

Indiana for doing an excellent job.

**International Secretary Kevin Hokerk, PSP (AZ):** Spring is here and things are getting busy with the International Office!

By now you should have received your address labels for this year. If there are corrections needed please contact the International Office and it will be taken care of. We hope can use the labels and thank you for your support.

- Later this month you will be receiving a High Twelvian which will have a number of Convention related items:
  - Proposed Uniform Club Bylaws Amendments
  - Proposed Uniform Association Constitution and Bylaws
  - 94th Convention information [schedule, tours, registration, etc.]
- Credential Forms are available on the 94th Convention EVENT link on the Website home page
- Club Secretaries:
  - Be sure to file your March Online Monthly Report
  - 2015-16 Per-Capita is based on the March 31st membership numbers
  - Statements will be mailed to Club Secretaries on 5/1/15
  - For those clubs that have not adopted the Uniform Club Bylaws you have until 4/15/15 to get this accomplished. If not completed they will be considered adopted by default and you will receive a signed & sealed copy in the mail
  - Email addresses - we need your members email addresses! Please send them into the International Office
- Looks like we will have 2 clubs chartering this month with 2 more following shortly! Hope to have more on this next time.
- We have a new merchandise item available: a High Twelve Logo flat that is suitable for pocket name tags. They are 1" wide and 3/4" tall, \$7.00 each

Well, that is all for this month. Again the International Office Staff is here to assist the members and clubs, all you have to do is call or email. Fraternaly, Kevin

**Florida High Twelve Association, Merv Harris, Trustee Zone 8 (FL):** The Florida State High Twelve



Day was held at the Kissimmee Bay Country Club, in Kissimmee, Florida, on Saturday, March 28, 2015. The High Twelve Day Event was under the direction of the Event Chairman, Edward Smallwood, Florida State 2nd Vice President. The other volunteers assisting him were his Lady Rhea and the members of the Orlando High Twelve Club #435.

The evening prior to the High Twelve Day Program, my wife and I had the pleasure of going out to dinner with our guest speaker (Wolcott Senior Fellow Dana Sprott on the left and Merv Harris, Zone 8 Trustee on the right) and found a restaurant serving Dungeness Crabs from the West Coast waters. It was worth the time and traffic to enjoy the evening and the crabs were perfectly prepared. The wait was to be 60 to 90 minutes but we had some great luck and only had to wait 20 minutes to be seated. If you are ever in Orlando, Florida, look for a Joe's Crab Shack and you will enjoy a great meal.

The day consisted of the ladies viewing a selection of jewelry displayed by Pam Ramieh, wife of Past State President

Robert Ramieh. The table was busy all morning and into the afternoon. Later in the day, raffles were held on baskets stuffed with a variety of items, which were donated by the clubs throughout the State. The money from the baskets is earmarked for the Wolcott Foundation. Near the conclusion of the day, a drawing was held for donated gifts and a jackpot. Photo by Cecelia Hemphill, Orlando, Florida.

A delicious meal was served with a choice of Steak or Chicken and a great dessert was enjoyed by all. Those attending reported that Brother Ed had done an OUTSTANDING job and they are looking forward to the event again next year.

Prior to the dinner, Merv Harris, PIP and Trustee for Zone 8 introduced the Senior Wolcott Fellow, Ms. Dana Sprott, a George Washington University Wolcott Fellow graduate from the class of 1983. Dana has been working and living in the Caribbean for nearly thirty years and she presented a great talk on her experiences at GWU and her work in the Caribbean.

During the day, she met and visited with all in attendance and committed to visiting a couple of High Twelve Clubs in the South part of Florida and invited any High Twelve member visiting Barbados to contact her and she would take them to lunch and give them a personalized tour of the area. Several members said they would take her up on her offer.

A statement she made during her presentation was appreciated by those in attendance. She said, To say that going to graduate school at GWU was life changing would be an understatement. The synergy between politics and economics is the heart and soul of the city and no university in the world understands this better than The George Washington University.

Her presentation also gave a view of George Washington, the Mason, and his experiences in the Eastern Caribbean, the only place that George ever went outside the United States.

Dana's presentation was one of the best, if not the best, heard by any in attendance at the function. Many of our members attend the Annual International Conventions and have heard many Fellows speak over the years. They were all very impressed with Dana and fully understand why we support the Wolcott Foundation Fellowship Program.

If any Association or Club is interested in having a Wolcott Foundation fellow speak at your club, contact your Zone Trustee, who will do their best to find one to visit and speak to your members.

**Wolcott Foundation Lapel Pins:** If you are interested in purchasing Wolcott Lapel Pins and your club does not have them, please email me at [mjghi12@centurylink.net](mailto:mjghi12@centurylink.net) and tell me how many you need. They are \$10.00 each and when I receive your check, I will mail them to you. Postage is included in the price. Merv Harris, PIP, Trustee.

**Cortez Masonic High Twelve Club # 538, Robert L. (Bob) Rodd, PSP, 941-776-0937:** As another season is coming to an end we look over our past several months and see how our light has shined since November 2014. At the end of this month we will be entering darkness but what has taken place for Cortez Masonic High Twelve Club # 538 will be thought about for a long time.

The buffet we thrived on for these past several months at Duffs Original Buffet in Bradenton, the speakers and entertainers we got to enjoy, the wonderful setting we had to hold our weekly get-together's in along with the memories made, the camaraderie that developed among all of us, the great stories and anecdotes shared, the monthly auctions all have contributed to, once again having had a great year for Cortez Masonic Hi-12 Club #538 and hopefully you can say I was part of that experience.



For the past two years our Club has held the honor of being the # 1 contributor in our Zone, which includes

Florida, Alabama, Georgia and North & South Carolina to Hi-12's Main Philanthropy, The Wolcott Foundation. The Wolcott Foundation is for Post Graduate Students attending George Washington University in Washington D.C. and if they are accepted into the Fellowship program and Graduate and then spend at least 4 years in the field in Government Service, be it local, national or international they do not have to repay. Currently the Grant costs about \$62,000 per student. As you can imagine being accepted into the program is not an easy task but well worth it for those that make it. The Wolcott Foundation has their own Trustees, who spend many hours reviewing the many applications for this very prestigious Fellowship. To learn more about this program please contact me.

(Photo - Chuck Estano & Bob Rodd on the Right - Photo by Bob)

Our guest speakers/entertainers helped make the year unforgettable including but not limited to 90 year old Chuck Estano, who just lit up the room with his broad smile and his wonderful approach to life. He is a Historian and shared his knowledge about the Civil War, especially the Battle of Gettysburg and the stories of many Free Masons during that time.



Sharon Rhyno, from Canada a Country Western Singer shared her love of music and her dedication to the Shriner's Hospitals for Children with outstanding performances for all of us to enjoy. She also shared her passions at one of Sahibs Shrine Thursday Luncheons and for the Kentucky Colonels. Some of our others were Cheryl Fekete about nutrition, Phil Billard about collecting coins and Jim Hegemier bringing us up to date about the local real estate market. (Photo - Sharon Rhyno, Western Singer - photo by Bob Rodd.)

We lost four of our Brothers this past few months and they will be remembered for the many fond moments they brought to us. Robert Armstrong, Jim Jensen, Robert Manual and Lindy Nardone. May they stay in our thoughts and prayers.

In March many of us enjoyed a day at Emerson Point in Palmetto for a lovely picnic by the river with an excellent selection of dishes provided by all who participated. A special thank you goes to Sylvia Gardner and her team for heading this annual get-together up.

A very special thank you goes to our assistant Secretary, Jean Campbell for her outstanding devotion in taking minutes, making up appreciation certificates, etc. for our Club.

Hi-12 is a mans Masonic organization but at our club we always include the ladies and they are an integral part of our overall success.

One group I have not mentioned is our group of Club Officers who gave of their time and energy to make sure our Club was a very successful one and for which we all thank them.

There are still a few Mondays left in April for you to break bread with us in the event you have not done so. Put it on your schedule and remember to bring your lady. We are still at Duffs Original Buffet at 6010 14th St. (Route 41) in Bradenton. Questions or need information please give me a buzz. Fraternally, Bob Rodd

**Lake Worth High Twelve Club #316:** Our February meeting was a great success. We had an official

visit from our State President and his line Officers. A very informative talk was given by our own Roy Strohacker; and our State President, David Neal, finished the meeting with a jolly speech. Yes, a good time was had by all. Brethren, come on down to our meetings. We have fun.

**Illinois High Twelve Association, Moline Area Masonic High Twelve Club #88:** Have you asked a fellow Master Mason to visit your High Twelve Club? This method is the best way to keep your club going. We'll have 4 meetings in APRIL. Meeting dates for APRIL are the 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th.

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 chair for APRIL is David Glanz, whose April programs are centered on the Masonic Youth Organizations we support. We will all learn who these groups are, what they do, their plans and how we can help them!

APRIL 3 - Elli Hoepfer, will give us an update on the Moline Assembly of Rainbow. This young lady is currently serving her assembly, improving herself & other girls in the development of their leadership qualities for future challenges in life

APRIL 10 - David Helms, the current Chapter Dad of Templar Chapter Order of DeMolay, is a former member of that Chapter as he was growing up. Their Chapter is an outstanding example of young boys becoming men!

APRIL 17 - Judith Grimshaw, will bring us the Jobs Daughters story. This is a new Bethel in the Colona area and has a distinct difference from Rainbow for Girls.

APRIL 24 - Jennifer Hoepfer - will close the month with Faith Assembly, which is located in Silvis. This is another Rainbow for Girls group who meet in the Silvis Masonic Temple.

**Pennsylvania High Twelve Association, First Capital High Twelve Club #668:** The speaker this month is Jim May, a native of York County and former athlete who is a member of three York County Sports Halls of Fame. With competitive sports long over he just happens to have developed a passion for history.

After graduating from Dover High School and York College of PA, he was drafted (20 days before the draft ended) into the military. After active duty he began his banking career at York Bank, now M&T Bank where he remains part time 41 years later. He loves to travel especially taking unusual trips related to history.

This past year he traveled to Normandy for the 70th Anniversary of D-Day, Omaha Beach to Hitler's Eagle's Nest. However the topic today is his first bucket list trip, the 100th Anniversary of Titanic Memorial Cruise which occurred in April 1912. His goal today is three things, tell you something about the Titanic you do not already know, show you something on the ocean floor you have never seen, and the hardest one, to convey to you what it felt like to be there exactly 100 years later during the reenactment at 11:40 PM to 2:22 AM, April 15, 2012.

Jim is active in several non-profits, including York County Heritage Trust, Rotary Club of York, Farm and Natural Lands Trust and York College. Jim is married to Linda, a retired school teacher and they have two children and three grandchildren and reside in the West York area.

Known to be a bit under the weather as this newsletter is being written are Tom Shue and Ike Gerst. Hurry up and get better Brothers, you are missed.

Thanks to those of you, who are helping to serve the lunches. Your assistance is sure appreciated. Don't know if you have received any tips, but here is one! DON'T SQUAT WITH YOUR SPURS ON

**Ramblings of a Retired Mind...** I found this timely, because today I was in a store that sells only sunglasses. A young lady walks over to me and asks, What brings you in today? I looked at her, and said, I'm interested in buying a refrigerator. She didn't quite know how to respond. Am I getting to be that age?

I was thinking about how a status symbol of today is those cell phones that everyone has clipped onto their belt or purse. I can't afford one. So I'm wearing my garage door opener. I also made a cover for my hearing aid and now I have what they call blue teeth, I think.

I was thinking that women should put pictures of missing husbands on beer cans!

I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is when you still have something on the ball but you are just too tired to bounce it.

I've gotten that dreaded furniture disease. That's when your chest is falling into your drawers!

When people see a cat's litter box they always say, Oh, have you got a cat? Just once I want to say, No, it's for company!

Employment application blanks always ask who is to be called in case of an emergency. I think you should write, An ambulance.

I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older. Then it dawned on me. They were cramming for their finals. As for me, I'm just hoping God grades on the curve.

The older you get the tougher it is to lose weight because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL.

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble!

Did you ever notice: When you put the 2 words **The** and **IRS** together it spells **Theirs**...

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me. I want people to know why I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

Ah! Being young is beautiful but being old is comfortable.

Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth.

**NOTE:** We need articles, photos and news from your club for the Monthly Update. Please submit your articles to me at [mjhhi12@centurylink.net](mailto:mjhhi12@centurylink.net). Photos should be sent as JPEG or other photo formats and not as part of the article. The Update can only be as good as your articles and we want to share what

works for you with other clubs. Anyone can submit articles and we want you to become Reporters with a purpose. Please help out!

**Wolcott Foundation Trustee Report:** The following letter was received from Wolcott Senior Fellow Alec Weltzin and has been edited to remove addresses and other personal information.

January 5, 2015

Dear Mr. Mier  
Wolcott Trustee Zone 4

Thank you for your letter dated August 10, 2014. I apologize sincerely for the delay in my response. I will provide you a brief update on my activities in the past few months. I received my Masters Degree in International Affairs from the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University in August 2014. From September to mid- December I worked for the U.S. Department of State in the Office of Global Health Diplomacy as a Student Trustee in the Pathway Program. My paid internship ended on December 29, 2014. At the moment, I am awaiting information from the State Department regarding a tentative job offer for full-time employment in the Civil Service. If the job offer is not finalized, I will begin to search for another position within my fellowship Obligations.

Thank you again for the letter. I will always be grateful to the Foundation for making my graduate education possible. I look forward to the reception in March.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Weltzien

The Trustees have started a campaign to contact Senior Fellows and pass on their responses to our members.

If your Association or club is interested in locating a Fellow to speak at your club function, please check with your Zone Trustee to see if he can located one for you.

**Humor:** A man and a woman who have never met before find themselves in the same sleeping carriage of a train. After the initial embarrassment, they both manage to get to sleep; the woman on the top bunk, the man on the lower. In the middle of the night the woman leans over and says, I'm sorry to bother you, but I'm awfully cold and I was wondering if you could possibly pass me another blanket. The man leans out and with a glint in his eye said Ive got a better idea ... lets pretend were married. Why not, giggles the woman. Good, he replies. Get your own blanket.

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A little silver-haired lady calls her neighbor and says: Please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I cant figure out how to get started. Her neighbor asks, What is it supposed to be when its finished? The little silver haired lady says, According to the picture on the box, its a rooster. Her neighbor decides to go over and help with the puzzle. She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table. He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says: First of all, no matter what we do, were not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a rooster. He takes her hand and says, Secondly, I want you to relax. Lets have a nice cup of tea, and then, he said with a deep sigh...Lets put all the Corn Flakes back in the box.

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A lawyer opened the door of his BMW, when suddenly a car came along and hit the door, ripping it off completely. When the police arrived at the scene, the lawyer was complaining bitterly about the damage to his precious BMW. Officer, look what they've done to my Beemer! he whined. You lawyers are so materialistic, you make me sick! retorted the officer, You're so worried about your stupid BMW, that you didn't even notice that your left arm was ripped off! Oh my god, replied the lawyer, finally noticing the bloody left shoulder where his arm once was, Wheres my Rolex!

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A lady walks into the drugstore and asks the pharmacist for some arsenic. Ma'am, what do you want with arsenic? To kill my husband. I cant sell you arsenic to kill a person! The lady lays down a photo of a man and a woman in a compromising position. The man is her husband and the woman is the pharmacists wife. He takes the photo, and nods. I didn't realize you had a prescription!

Fraternally, Mervyn J. Harris

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