



HIGH TWELVE MONTHLY UPDATE February 2014 Issue



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**. 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.

Editor: Mervyn J. Harris, PIP, 352-753-3505 or 352-817-0707, E--mail address: mjghi12@centurylink.net.

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!

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 (cell) 712-251-3891.

Invocation: Lord, help us to live up to the words upon the High Twelve emblem "to talk little, to hear much, to reflect upon truth". So much of what comes to our attention is filtered by persons in the media, who are motivated to capture our attention, not to be sure a truth is told. In particular, public agencies, especially education, rarely are heard about in detail. Help us to understand that our experience in school is not like anybody else's, and open our minds to understand other experiences, other situations. Help us to understand that what we know is only partial, but that we need to try to expand our limited knowledge. That is what our club is about, but that is also what Masonry in general is about. Lord, help us to live a life seeking, not afraid of, enlightenment. Amen

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

Benediction: Supreme Grand Master, ruler of Heaven and Earth, now that we are about to separate and return to our respective 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 High Twelve Chapter 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.

They provided them for our needs and possible use at your club meeting as the opening and closings prayers.

Flag Presentation: Permission to use the Patriotic Poems has been granted by Roger W. Hancock, who's Website can be found at <http://poetpatriot.com/poemsflag/htm>. His Website is copyrighted and permission is required to publish anything from the Website. I have found that his Website is the most complete for many types of poems and other material. He has several Websites, which can be used to find a large assortment of poems. They are www.FlagPoems.PoetPatriot.com; www.FlagRules.PoetPatriot.com; or www.Veterans.PoetPatriot.com. We want to thank him for the use of the poems in the Monthly Update on a continuing basis.

Freedom's Colors

"Red is for Bravery";
Blood shed in sacrifice.
Freedom came with lives the price.

"White is for Liberty";
Freedom's purity.
Life be free from God's decree.

"Blue is for Justice";
As vast as the sky.
Over freedom's land to occupy.

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Please Note: A message was received from the family of Past International President Wally McCartney, advising us that he passed away January 27, 2014. He put up a good fight but God decided to call him home.

PIP McCartney was a member of Golden Crescent High Twelve Club #637 in Ohio. He was International President from 2003-2005.

We know he loved serving High Twelve over the years and all the Masonic branches he was involved in. Due to health problems over the past several years he was unable to participate, but never lost his interest in it. He made lots of friends over the years and enjoyed remembering the good times they had. He especially loved to talk about his participation in going to England and helping the clubs from there.

Cards of sympathy or other correspondence can be sent to The Mc Cartney Family, 2610 Scheid Road, Huron, Ohio 44839-9380.

International 1st Vice President Winton Hewitt (PA): Welcome Brethren! I just returned from the Mid-Winter Meeting in Las Vegas. The weather out there was much better than in Philadelphia. In fact, I was wondering if my flight home might be cancelled due to weather delays but everything worked out just fine.

We were very sorry that we did not have a better attendance at the Mid-Winter Meeting. We only had 5 State Associations and 1 Independent Club represented and the Wolcott Foundation. There were only 6 representatives out of 15 Associations. Arizona had the most in attendance with Pennsylvania and California second. That doesn't work too well if you are trying to get the organization working as a well-oiled machine. I don't know what the problem is and it was thought that moving to Old Town, as a change of venue, would help. We will do more on this before our next meeting.

We had some changes to the Uniform Club Bylaws suggested for presentation at the Annual meeting. Uniform State Association Bylaws were reviewed with some modifications and will also be presented at the Annual Convention.

We covered the problems of the State Associations not responding to inquires of the International Secretary requesting that the State Association Secretaries re-validate the EIN information that was provided to them last December regarding the status of Club EIN's. We need to know who is filing for the clubs and the overall status of the some State Association Clubs. Brethren, this is a serious matter concerning the IRS and we need the full

cooperation of everyone to get this item under control. This lack of response is totally irresponsible if we are to maintain any unity of High Twelve International. We can't allow any State Association to disregard a request in a timely manner made by the International Secretary on matters such as this. If your State Association has failed to properly respond to the International Secretary, I urge each State President to make sure that the information has been forwarded.

The overall membership of High Twelve is on the decline, as is every other Masonic organization, and we (**all of us**) have to visit the Blue Lodges, York and Scottish Rite bodies to let them know that our Organization is available where, they can enjoy an hour or two of comradery and fellowship with no ritual work required. Our newly publish tools for attracting new members should help in these efforts.

International Secretary Kevin Hokerk, PSP (AZ): Mid-Year Governing Board Meeting was held on [January 20, 2014](#) at the Plaza Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, NV where it was sunny and WARM! Outline of events at the Mid-Year Meeting:

Registration: 16 men and 9 ladies

States represented: AZ, CA, HI, MI, OH & PA

International Officers: President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, 3rd VP, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain

Association Presidents (or proxy): AZ, CA, MI, OH & PA

Independent Clubs: HI

Past International Presidents: 2

Wolcott: Foundation Chairman

Farthest club represented: #464 Hui Awakea, HI

Association most represented: AZ

The usual officer reports were received and/or made verbally

One Uniform Club Bylaws amendment was approved to move forward to the 93rd Convention [eliminate term restriction on club presidents]

The Uniform Association Bylaws were presented/discussed/edited and were approved to move forward to the 93rd Convention

Wolcott Foundation fiscal year end [April 30](#) – all donations must be received by your Zone Trustee prior to March 15th to be included in this year's banner awards!

The International Treasurer, Rollin Furnas (OH) resigned due to personal reasons and Donald M. Whistler, PIP, (PA) was appointed as interim treasurer to serve through the 93rd Convention

Time to start sending in your articles for the spring edition of the [High Twelvian!](#) Please have your articles and pictures of interest sent to the international office (email or USPS) by [February 28th](#). This issue will include the Uniform Club Bylaws amendment, Uniform Association Bylaws, 93rd Convention information, notice of intent to run for international office and the usual association and club happenings.

Have you visited the International website (www.high12.org)? If not please do as there is a lot of useful information there that all club and association officers can use along with where our clubs are located and contact information (for those travelers who like to visit clubs). Is your club information correct? Are your special events or association conventions/meetings listed in the event section? Every effort is made to keep this information current but the international office needs to be notified first. The monthly report Form is used to keep the club sections current – is your club submitting **Monthly Reports** monthly to the International Office?

Wolcott Foundation Trustee Zone 8 Mervyn J. Harris, PIP: Brethren, Here it is February already and we only have until March 15th to submit your Club and Member donations to the Wolcott Foundation. The procedure is for the Club Wolcott Representative to ensure all the donations for the year are recorded and sent to the Wolcott Trustee for your Zone.

The Trustee will then prepare the Report for the Donations and submit them to the Wolcott Foundation Treasurer. All donations for the year must be received by the Treasurer by April 30th or credit will not be received for this year. Late donations will be carried over to the following year.

At the Annual Convention in Philadelphia last June, the International President announced that because our annual donations for the past couple of years was only enough to fund ½ of the amount for one Wolcott Fellowship. His goal was for the clubs and members was to double our efforts and attempt to double our contributions, so we can fund at least one Fellowship.

That means we need everyone's support and assistance to reach the goal. As the Wolcott Chairman Malcolm White advises our membership, we can do it if our members and clubs will just give up a cup of Starbucks coffee or one less movie and instead, add that to their donations to Wolcott. We hope you have taken the advice of both the International President and the Wolcott Foundation Chairman and made that commitment.

Clubs are recognized for their donations and a "Best of Zone" club is also recognized. Your donation may be the one that makes your club the Best of Zone. "Try it – you will like it!"

Brethren, the ball is in your court and we hope you have taken up the challenge and have made the increased donations. Remember, the Wolcott Foundation is our primary Philanthropy and we are all members of the Foundation. Also, each one of us took an obligation to support High Twelve International, Our State Association, Youth Groups and the Wolcott Foundation. Please continue your support to Wolcott and let's reach our goal for this year.

Listed below are the Trustees and the Zones they represent:

- Zone 1 Chairman Malcolm S. White – AK; ID; No. CA; OR; WA; WY; & West Canada
- Zone 6 Vice Chairman Donald P Garrido - AR; IN; KY; LA; MS; TN & TX
- Zone 7 Treasurer/Legal Counsel George W. Tracy – DC; DE; MD; NJ; NY; PA; & VA
- Zone 4 Secretary William "Willie" Mier, PIP – IA; IL; MN; MO; ND; SD; & WI
- Zone 2 Ercil Eschbach – AZ; HI; NV; So. CA; & UT
- Zone 3 Stanley A. Gardner, PIP, - CO; KS; NE; MN; O & MT
- Zone 8 Mervyn Harris, PIP – AL; FL; GA; NC; & SC
- Zone 5 Michael Clark – OH; WV; & EAST Canada

Additional information is available for each Wolcott Foundation Trustee at high12.org or wolcottfoundation.com or wolcottfoundation.org

Thank you to all our Associations, Clubs and Members for their donations in the past and hopefully we will have another great year this year.

California High Twelve Association, Oakland High Twelve Club #2: We are 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 Mr. Joseph Haraburda, President and Chief Executive Officer, Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, presenting: "Growing Oakland, The Most Diverse City in Northern California." We thank him for his most informative, indeed, enlightening presentation. Our speaker for the month of January will be Mr. David L. Holly, Sr. a United States Navy Veteran, presenting: "Sailor, Saved By The Savior." You will not want to miss his most informative message and presentation. (See Following Article)

Oakland High 12 meets on the fourth Monday of the month at the Oakland Scottish Rite Temple in Oakland California at High Twelve. All Master Masons and their wives and accompanied guests are welcome to join us for lunch and enjoy a variety of interesting speakers and good fellowship. Fraternaly, Alan Filiau, Club President and Cleveland Valrey, State President.

Napa Masonic High Twelve Club #238. Meets first and third Wednesdays at Denny's Restaurant, 1000 Imola Avenue, (Imola and Soscol), Napa, California 94559-4004 at 11:30 A. M. Phone [707.224.2600](tel:707.224.2600). Members, friends and guests welcome. We have informal meeting with invocation, pledge to the flag of the United States of America.

We have a new president, Warren M. Brooks taking over for past president Harry Fosdick. Welcome to Warren and wife Clotille taking over command of the club, i.e. Warren of course.

We donated one hundred dollars to each Napa youth group in December, DeMolay, Job's and Rainbow. Jan Schmutz arranges our meeting reservations and conducts the women,s door prize drawing along with having some jokes to relate to the club. Like group children going to museum, man asked to be chaperone, watch one boy in particular, has problems. Enter museum, boy not anywhere. Chaperone goes out front door, boy standing there. Chaperone asks why you out here. Boy responds, went in, saw exit sign, so I left.

On a sad note, we were informed one of our members had passed away, Henry "Hank" L. Pohndorf. Lot of memories of past years.

Our Masonic Rep. is Milford D. Hodges, Scholarship Rep. Tom M. Knoblauch. Come and give us a visit.

President Warren M. Brooks wblomocm@gmail.com 707.266.2921, Secretary / Treasurer Stanley D. Waggoner knightxblues@msn.com 707.226.1138

And now for some humor: Marriage is like a deck of cards.

In the beginning all you need are two hearts and a diamond.

But before the end, you're looking for a club and a spade.

A beautiful, sexy, good looking lady was sitting next to a guy in a plane..... The lady said to him ' Can you help me remove something from my breast please? ♦The exciting young man replied, 'Wow! It will be my pleasure..... So what is it?' "Your Eyes, you idiot!"

OAKLAND High12 #2:



The guest speaker on Monday, [January 27th](#), was Brother (Ret) Chief Petty Officer David L. Holly, Sr.

Bro. Holly was on board, and on deck, the USS Benevolent a Hospital ship returning to the Bay Area which was rammed some 35 miles from the SF Bay during a foggy encounter with another ship, in [August 1950](#). There were 23 fatalities and 505 saved during this ordeal including Bro. Holly. Most of those saved were in lifeboats. The ship sank almost immediately. There were no patients aboard at this time. Bro. Holly attributes his survival to the Lord, who he felt directed him away from the sinking ship. He spent 4 hours in the water clinging to a raft and promised that he would be a better man

and do the Lords work if he was permitted to survive. CPO Holly retired from the Navy in 1970 and is now Pastor of his church in Oakland.

Oakland High12 continues to have very interesting speakers. They meet on the fourth Monday of the Month at the Scottish Rite Temple in Oakland, CA at High Noon.

Picture: PP, Loren Piper, Club Pres. Alan Filiu presenting to CPO (Ret) David Holly Certificate of appreciation. Alan Filiu, Club President Loren Piper, PP, Program Chairman

Florida High Twelve Association: Our 2nd Vice President Michael Hemphill with our 3rd Vice President Ed Smallwood have planned the 2014 Florida State High Twelve day that surely looks to be new, exciting and quite different. It will be held on Saturday, [February 8, 2014](#) from 10:00AM to 2:00 PM at the Kissimmee Golf Resort, 2801 Kissimmee Bay Blvd., Kissimmee, Florida 34744. ([407-348-4653](#))

The management of Kissimmee Bay Country Club has an agreement with the Ramada - Inn. They have extended this agreement to the High 12. If you wish to make a reservation to stay overnight tell the Ramada Inn you are making your reservations - using Kissimmee Bay Country Club Corporate account. You will receive a \$40.00 rate. The address for the Ramada Kissimmee East is 2145 E. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee and the phone number is [407-846-4646](#).

Kissimmee Bay Country Club has extended to High 12 a reduced fee to play golf - [Friday 07 February](#) through [Sunday 09 February](#). The fee is \$25.00 for 18 holes. Reservations to play will be scheduled through Ed Smallwood, 3rd Vice-President. You can contact him by phone [407-361-6706](#), by mail 2430 Flamingo Court or e-mail: edwardsmallwood@att.net.

The Officers of the Florida State Association of Masonic High 12 Clubs encourages your participation in the High 12 day celebration. We feel the Kissimmee Bay Country Club has provided extra incentives for your participation in 2014.

We would like to have every club donate a gift basket for the Chinese Raffle. If a member of your club can not make it to High Twelve Day, please send a donation of \$15-\$25 so that we can make a basket from your club. If sending a check, please make it out to Cecilia Hemphill.

The Kissimmee Golf Resort has each **Friday** night a special that can run from \$8.00 or \$20.00 and could be anything from Prime Rib to Lobster to a Pasta night – BUT - at this writing are unsure what that choice will be on **Friday** the 7th – rest assured that this premier location will be most enjoyable for those wishing to RSVP
Bring your banners – members – friends – appetite – see which club wins the Raymond Turner PSP membership trophy for 2013 – it promises to be great fun – and your State officers are doing this all for you – so let's do support their efforts and hard work by joining in – that's what we do

Florida High Twelve Association, Lake Worth Masonic High Twelve Club:



The Masonic High Twelve Club of Lake Worth No. 316, founded 55 Years ago in Lake Worth, celebrated happily 50 years of membership of its member Seymour Beninson, shown receiving his 50 Year Certificate of Recognition from Past State President William Staple. From the right. The immediate Past State President of the Masonic High Twelve Association of Florida, William Staple; Honoree Seymour Beninson; and Sydney King, Lake Worth Masonic High Twelve Club's President.

Submitted by Bernhard Kainer, Past Club President and current Club Secretary.

Illinois High Twelve Association, Moline High Twelve Club: Brother Master Masons and guest: Oh the weather outside is frightful, but the camaraderie of a Moline High Twelve Club gathering is warm and inviting.

Just a quick note and reminder that we're having our meetings of the Moline High Twelve Club at the Viking Club, 1450 41st Street, Moline. There's food and merriment for all. I believe the menu of Hamburger, Cheeseburger, Chicken Sandwich, and personal size Pizza is on hand and Mike might have something in store for us. (He didn't say as he was busy preparing for another event)

With the above sandwiches, he has a full condiment tray so a person can deck out their sandwiches to their individual taste. For drinks he has the usual sodas, fruit juices and what-ever tickles your taste buds. He's trying his best to cater to our taste. So come early, come hungry and enjoy the fellowship and share the good tidings.

The program will be Frankfurt, Germany, a trip up the Rhine and the Cathedral in Koln (Cologne) Germany.

Weather Update: Weather Conditions --- Just got off the phone with a friend who lives in North Dakota. She said that since early **this morning** the snow has been nearly waist high and is still falling. The temperature is 32 below zero and the north wind is increasing to near gale force. Wind chill is -59. Her husband has done nothing other than look through the kitchen window and just stare. She says that if it gets much worse, she may have to let him in.

NORTHWEST MASONIC HIGH TWELVE CLUB NO. 769: Our **January 28, 2014** meeting was called by Secretary-Treasurer Don Van Cleave with the Pledge of Alliance and opening prayer. Our speaker, Charles Harper Sr. introduced his seven and ten year old children who attended as their school was closed due to the extreme cold weather. The temperature managed to climb up to zero degrees Fahrenheit prior to lunch.

Attendance was low due to the weather as only four members attended, namely honorary member Ed Rund and his wife, George Rogers and his wife, John Albert and Don Van Cleave. Several copies of Brother Charles Harper, Sr. book entitled "Freemasonry in Black and White" were secured. The "black and white" title referred to the use of authority of the data versus what is hinted by clandestine lodges. Brother Harper Senior's father was a member of a recognized Prince Hall lodge but Brother Harper, Sr. was a member of a clandestine lodge in Kankakee, IL in 2004 but at the time he did not know it was a clandestine lodge. It was enlightening to discover how many clandestine Grand Lodges there are: City of Chicago (72); State of California (108); New York (92) and each grand lodge may have one to twenty lodges. By Illinois law, a Tax ID Number is all that is necessary to start up a clandestine lodge.



Since 2009, Brother Charles Harper Sr. has been a member of Pleiades Lodge No. 478 and presently Junior Warden. You are invited to learn more by visiting www.freemasonryinblackandwhite.com. Brother Harper discussed clandestine dues and initiation rites and that members sometimes do not recognize that they belong to clandestine lodges. Pleiades Lodge No 478 will be holding a Masonic Symposium on [April 26, 2014](#) at the Lodge, 10210 Canterbury, Westchester, IL

On the left is a photograph of our speaker and our new Club banner. Our next meeting is scheduled on [February 25, 2014](#) at Noon, Red Apple Restaurant, 2121 S. Plum Grove Road, Palatine, IL. Bring a friend. Submitted by Don Van Cleave, Secretary-Treasurer

Greetings from Mattoon High Twelve Club #89: The Mattoon High Twelve Club meets every Tuesday at Noon, at Pagliacci's Restaurant, 319 Logan St., Mattoon, IL 61938. Members and guest (usually spouses) average 12 to 15 per Tuesday. Our membership stands at 18 regular Members and 1 honorary member.

Thanks to Brother Jim Morris for using the annual report as last quarter's submission, it made life a little easier for those who write these articles.

August saw our club president attend the Annual State High-12 Convention in Jerseyville and come back to us as Third Vice President of the Illinois Association of Masonic High 12 Clubs. Newly elected President Ron Thomason and his wife visited the club on August 20, 2013 and he spoke to us about his ideas and objectives for the upcoming year.

September we had our usual fun, food and fellowship and on the 20th, Janet Clark, Executive Director of the Mattoon Food Pantry talked to us about the needs in our area and I think some of us were surprised that the statistics were so high. The Club presented Janet with a donation to the Food Pantry. We also welcomed back Dick Bidwell who had previously been a member, moved away but is now reinstated.

October was slow on speakers and overall not a good month for Mattoon Club. We lost a long time and Honorary Member George Allison on the 25th and had to suspend two brothers for non-payment of dues, one at his request and the other because we have lost contact with him.

November turned out to be a better month and on the 12th 1st Vice President Jim Morris and Past State Treasurer Emeritus Les King, of the Illinois Association of Masonic High 12 clubs came for a visit. 1st Vice President Morris encouraged the club to send in articles for the newsletter and to please try and make the deadlines. On the 19th, Lori from Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Care Center talked to us about keeping our heart's healthy by eating

properly. On the 26th Angelia Burgett, Director of Tourism for the City of Mattoon, told us about moving into her new office in the remodeled Train Depot and activities coming up in Mattoon.

It is now December and the weather has been really cold and hazardous so attendance has been off a little but at the age of our group that should be expected. On the 10th we had a surprise, one of our favorite speakers dropped by just to have lunch with us. We are so glad she feels comfortable being with our club.

Mattoon High 12 Club #89 keeps moving along trying to making a difference. As always if you are in Mattoon on Tuesday come join us for lunch and fellowship, but not on December 24 or December 31 because we won't be here. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

MOLINE AREA MASONIC 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 this month in January. All meetings are at the Viking Club, 1450 41st Street, Moline (New Location for HI-12). The Viking Club has a limited menu; I've eaten there 3 times and have not been disappointed. 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.

I have some sad news for the club. Most have heard, Burt Phillips passed and will be sadly missed. I looked forward to spending time with him at our luncheons. He had a kind word for everyone and was appreciated for everything he accomplished. The Irony of Burt's passing (he was the program chair for January) leaves an empty program for this month. I asked anyone to come up with a speaker to fill-in for Burt.

Fascinating Technology - Try it - MAP your street - this really works and will show a color photo of your house, probably current within the last 2 years. You can also manipulate the screen and "cruise" the neighborhood with the arrows on the streets. ANY ADDRESS - ALL OVER THE WORLD. Much faster than Google Earth. Now this might scare the heck out of you because it's unbelievable technology. Is there nowhere to hide? After opening the link below, type in the address you want slowly, one letter or number at a time, then pause, letter by letter, space by space, and watch each time where it takes you. <http://showmystreet.com/>

Pennsylvania High Twelve Association, North Penn High Twelve Club #473 of Lansdale, PA:



While we have interesting programs throughout the year, this is the one which assures the largest turnout. Each December, students from our local high school provide the entertainment which motivates wayward members to join the regulars for good food, good fellowship and inspiring music to help launch the Christmas season. This year, 70 Brothers, their partners and a couple of prospective members attended. All were thrilled with the performance.

Shown here is the 2013/2014 edition of the North Penn High School Choral Singers, 30 or so of the top talent from the 200 plus Chorus, one part of the superb music program here in the North Penn School District. Director Matt Klenk has been with the District for a few years but his predecessor brought these talented students to our December meeting many years before Matt arrived. This event can truly be considered a Tradition at the North Penn High Twelve Club December Meeting. Article submitted by P.J. Miller.

First Capital High Twelve Club #668: Time to make those New Year Resolutions?? I have some that maybe you would consider. 1) How about resolving to have perfect attendance at High 12 meetings, to do that you MUST begin with the January meeting. 2) Attend Blue Lodge Meetings. 3) Consider a contribution to the Wolcott Foundation.

Speaking of the Wolcott Foundation, Dick Graybill tells me that he sent a check to Wolcott for \$441.00. This is in addition to what is collected in the School House. Thanks to John Fromme, Mark Fischer, Frank Miller, Don Whistler, Skip Heath, John Krout, John Schmitt, and Roger Stabley for their generous financial support. Included in that amount is the \$31 that was contributed in the Top Hat at the Christmas Lunch. It is too late to get a tax deduction for 2013, but it's the right time to think about a tax deductible contribution to Wolcott for 2014.

Would you be interested in attending or visiting another High 12 club in the area? I think it might prove interesting to see how other clubs operate as well as foster the expansion of Masonic relationships. I know there are clubs in Lancaster, Chambersburg and Harrisburg, those are just a short drive and we could car pool. If you have an interest, please let Dave Werner, Lonny Neiman or Skip Heath know and with Don Whistler's knowledge of the various clubs in the area, he might be able to give us some contact information. Let's consider this as another News Year's resolution.

The last idea for a New Year's resolution involves membership. There have been some familiar faces absent over the last several months, and some faces that quite frankly I don't know if I ever saw at a High 12 meeting. Maybe we should consider a telephone appeal to those who have not attended for a while. (I know that some of you are reading this newsletter, why not come out to the meetings and save the phone call?? If you know someone who has not attended, please give them a call. Also, please consider inviting at least one of your Masonic buddies to come and visit our club, remember, the 1st meal is on the club, the only cost to you, is the time to invite a friend.

Thanks to Dick Graybill for arranging for the Standardbred Barbershop Chorus to appear at our annual Christmas lunch. All who attended had a great time and the selection of Christmas songs helped get us all into the season. Roger Stabley, Secretary has the final version of the new standard version of the club by-laws. If you want/need a copy, please contact Roger, he will see that you receive it. Thanks Roger for your prompt follow-up in getting International approval.

North Central High Twelve Association, Des Moines High Twelve Club No. 4: You may have noticed in the "Banner" that our club's Charter date is April 18th, 1925 so we are approaching the 90th anniversary next year. The peak membership in Des Moines # 4 was over 200. Our current membership is 84 and our average attendance runs in the middle 30s. Wouldn't it be something if our Blue Lodges had that many attending – or most any of the groups of the Masonic family?

As a state officer and twice Past President of the North Central Association of High Twelve Clubs, I can tell you how proud I am of High Twelve in general and how much all of High Twelve and both of the clubs to which I belong mean to me! I am also a member of Marshalltown # 617. Most members of our High Twelve Clubs are a pretty loyal lot! One benefit, of very many, is that # 4 provides a weekly forum to share the activities of lodges and affiliated bodies!

It is great to see two new faces as Vice-presidents, Jimmy and Doug, and Past President Jim stepping up again to serve! I have sent them lists of speakers, topics, really, for several years past as suggestions AND suggestions from membership for speaker / program ideas are always welcome.

Thanks are also due to Ken Meeker, P. P., Max Palmer, and Roy Boyd for lining up the prayer and

pledge leaders for each week. They are very faithful and this is NOT their first year by any means!

North Central's Annual Meeting is April 26th and 27th at West Gate/Adelphic Temple. Richard Anderson is the apparent next President of that Association. He will, as things usually go, be followed by Dave Patton, P. P. of Dubuque and then Steve Smith, P. P. and current President of Marshalltown # 617.

As members of the local club for the State Convention you are invited and encouraged to attend. There will be more information coming along.

There have been several changes from High Twelve International and they are filtering into effect. Senator Everett Dirksen said quite a few years ago: "How slowly grind these mills."

Our new International Secretary is Kevin Hokerk. As is said often, by usually the younger folk, he is *awesome!* High Twelve has been his emphasis in Masonry for literally decades!

Now, regarding the availability of petitions for our club, they are available at our meetings, in your Roster Booklets, and/or by request, either printed or by e-mail.

Speaking of e-mail, if you are not receiving our monthly bulletins and usually some other items by that method – please send you address to: desmoineshightwelve@juno.com or to Richard Anderson, Secretary at n4desmoineshightwelve@gmail.com or to Phil Enabnit at masmedia@dwx.com. Brothers, thank you and travel safe! Tom Gruis.

Announcement: Hang on to any of the new State of Arkansas quarters. If you have them, they may be worth much more than 25 cents. The U.S. Treasury announced today that it is recalling all of the Arkansas quarters that are part of its program featuring quarters from each state.

"We are recalling all the new Arkansas quarters that were recently issued," Treasury Undersecretary Jack Shackleford said Monday. "This action is being taken after numerous reports that new quarters will not work in parking meters, toll booths, vending machines, pay phones, or other coin-operated devices".

The quarters were issued in the order in which the various states joined the U.S. and have been a tremendous success among coin collectors worldwide.

"The problem lies in the unique design of the Arkansas quarter, which was created by a University of Arkansas graduate," Shackleford said. "Apparently, the duct tape holding the two dimes and the nickel together keeps jamming the coin-operated devices."

Humor: According to the Knight Ridder News Service, the inscription on the metal bands used by the US Department of the Interior to tag migratory birds has been changed.

The bands used to bear the address of the Washington Biological Survey, abbreviated as "**Wash. Biol. Surv.**"; until the agency received the following letter from an Arkansas camper:

Dear Sirs:

While camping last week I shot one of your birds. I think it was a crow. I followed the cooking instructions on the leg tag and want to tell you it tasted horrible. The bands are now marked "Fish & Wildlife Service."