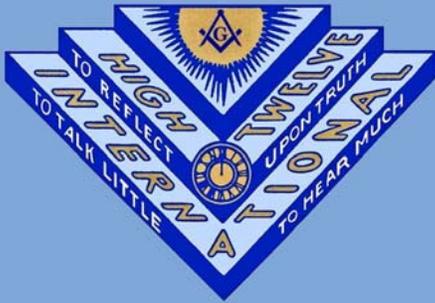


**Winter has arrived!** Now is the time to bring a friend to the High Twelve meeting, so they can see why you belong! **Think membership!**



## **High Twelve International, Inc. Monthly Update January 2018**

**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**. This publication is devoted to the interests of the Wolcott Foundation, Inc., High Twelve International, Inc., and its member Clubs for the benefit of Freemasonry and affiliated orders. Contributions of interesting, appropriate editorial matters are welcome. High Twelvians are invited to submit such material for publication. **Submit all articles by e-mail. Articles should be received by the deadline date of the 20th day of each month.** Updates will be sent out the last of the month. Depending on the volume of articles, they may be carried over to a later date by the Editor. Articles must be sent to the Editor and not called in. Mervyn J. Harris, PIP, 352-753-3505 or 352-817-0707, Email address: [update-editor@high12.org](mailto:update-editor@high12.org)



The International Officers wish you a Happy New Year and encourage you to make this the Year of greater membership and adding new clubs. We often discuss the dwindled membership in High Twelve but few actually set plans and carry through with bringing new members in.

We know that Masons do not look for High Twelve Clubs and join unless someone approaches them and tells them the advantages of being a member and give them reasons to join.

It is important for you and your members to associate with Masons at their meetings; attend meetings of other Masonic organizations and ask, ask, ask them to visit your club just to see why they should become members.

One way to encourage Masons to join your club is to set up a dinner and invite them to join you. Find a restaurant, Lodge or somewhere else and make arrangements for a nice meal. Then ask the local Lodge, Shrine club or other organization to run an article in their newsletter inviting their members to join you for an evening of Fellowship and good food.

If you have someone, who can provide entertainment, it would be great or have a vibrant speaker make a presentation. Make it interesting and just perhaps you can gain new members. If you use this approach, all you need to do is make the arrangements and let the facility do the work.

This is just one suggestion but you will know what will work in your area and club. Just make it happen and take an aggressive stand at bringing in new members. Remember, age is not a factor in our organization and you just need to make membership your priority.

Good luck in your endeavors and we hope we can count on you to place emphasis on

membership during this year and the future. We have a great organization and just need everyone to keep looking for new members. Once again, Happy New Year to you and yours.

**Congratulations** to our members and ladies, celebrating their Birthday, Anniversary or other Special Event in January. 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 with that Special Person!

**International President: William H. Haynes, PSP, (PA)**

I hope all members had a Joyous Holiday Season. The President's Club No. 1002 was recently established, The President's club serves as a gathering point for those Masons who wish to become High Twelvians but do not have ready access to a club. These may be brethren who live far away from any club in their state or those who live in a state where there are no clubs. Regardless, there is now a place for them to go and belong to High Twelve. Recently, several members from a New Jersey club joined when their club folded. I think is great reflection on High Twelve that they chose to keep up their membership when their club closed as it reflects the great fellowship that existed and their desire to keep that fellowship.

If you know of any Mason who would like to become a member, the application for membership is at the bottom of the left-hand column on the front page our website, <https://www.high12.org>

Please share this information as the best recruiting efforts are always personal and one-on-one. Who knows, perhaps when we get members from one area, a new club can be started.

Hope to see you in Las Vegas at the Mid-Year-Meeting. Fraternally, Bill Haynes.

**International 1st Vice President: Joseph Santisteban, PSP (IL)**

Greetings fellow High Twelvians, welcome to a new year! I hope everyone had a Happy Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas, and a safe and peaceful New Year. As always, I had the pleasure of spending the holidays with my family and friends in Arizona. I enjoyed a peaceful, well-earned and well-deserved vacation. My son and his family had a chance to spend a week in Sedona, my gift to them.

I've always thought that it was important to take time off from what you're doing and treat yourself. Doing nothing is okay, as long as you don't have something pending that needs to be done. I also had the opportunity to do some outdoor activities that I haven't had the time to do at home. Since I'm retired, I can spend my time pretty much as I want. As many of you know, my main 'hobby' is Masonry so I spend a lot of time involved in it. I also enjoy going to the range when time allows.

As I did last year, I plan on visiting with Kevin, our International Secretary, and a fellow PGHP, David Miller, while I'm here. I might have the chance to attend one, or more Masonic functions while I'm in the neighborhood. I will be headed to Nashville for the National Sojourners Mid-Year Convention mid-month, then I will head to Las Vegas for our High Twelve Mid-Year-Meeting. Hope to see many of you at this one.

Some Masonic philosophy/education: *The real Freemason is distinguished from the rest of mankind by the uniform, unrestrained rectitude of his conduct. Other men are honest in fear of punishment which the law might inflict; they are religious in expectation of being rewarded, or in dread of the devil in the next world. A Freemason would be just if there were no laws, human or divine except those written in his heart by the finger of his Creator. In every climate, under every system of religion, he is the same. He kneels before the Universal Throne of God in gratitude for the blessings he has received and humble solicitation for his future protection. He venerates the good men of all religions. He disturbs not the religion of others. He restrains his passions, because they cannot be indulged without injuring his neighbor or himself. He gives no offense, because he does not choose to be offended. He contracts no debts which he is certain he cannot discharge because he is honest upon principle.* From The Character of a Freemason.

I hope your year starts off right and your resolution (if you made one) comes through. Until next time, stay safe, have fun and watch out for each other. Fraternally, Joseph Santisteban.

**This Story was provided by the International 1st VP Joe and he swears it is the True!** A man in Alberta wakes up one morning to find a bear on his roof. So he looks in the yellow pages and surprisingly, there's an ad for Alberta Bear Removers. He calls the number and the man says he'll be over in 30 minutes. The bear remover arrives and gets out of his van. He's got a ladder, a baseball bat, a 12-gauge shotgun, and a mean looking, heavily scarred old pit bull. What are you going to do? the homeowner asks. I'm going to put this ladder up against the roof, then I'm going to go up there and I'll knock the bear off the roof with this baseball bat. When the bear falls off the roof, the pit bull is trained to grab his testicles and not let go. The bear will then be subdued enough for me to put him in the cage in the back of the van. He then hands the shotgun to the homeowner. What's the shotgun for? asks the homeowner. If the bear knocks *me* off the roof, shoot the dog, the man says.

**Here is another true story from our International VP Joe.** A filthy rich Florida man decided that he wanted to throw a party and he invited all of his buddies and neighbors. He also invited Leroy, the only Redneck in the neighborhood. He held the party around the pool in the backyard of his mansion. Leroy was having a good time drinking, dancing, eating shrimp, oysters and BBQ and flirting with all the women. At the height of the party, the host said, 'I have a 10 foot man-eating gator in my pool and I'll give a million dollars to anyone who has the nerve to jump in.. The words were barely out of his mouth when there was a loud splash. Everyone turned around and saw Leroy in the pool! Leroy was fighting the gator and kicking its ass! Leroy was jabbing it in the eyes with his thumbs, throwing punches, head butts and choke holds, biting the gator on the tail and flipping it through the air like some kind of Judo Instructor. The water was churning and splashing everywhere. Both Leroy and the gator were screaming and raising hell. Finally, Leroy strangled the gator and let it float to the top like a dime store goldfish. Leroy then slowly climbed out of the pool. Everybody was just staring at him in disbelief.

Finally the host says, 'Well, Leroy, I reckon I owe you a million dollars.' 'No, that's okay. I don't want it,' said Leroy. The rich man said, 'Man, I have to give you something. You won the bet. How about half a million bucks then?' 'No thanks, I don't want it,' answered Leroy. The host said, 'Come on, I insist on giving you something. That was amazing! How about a new Porsche or a Rolex and some stock options?' Again Leroy said no. Confused, the rich man asked, 'Well, Leroy, then what do you want?' Leroy said, 'I want

the name of dat sumbitch who pushed me into the pool!

**International Secretary Kevin Hokerk-Robinson, PSP (AZ):**

**Reminder for State Association and Independent Club (domestic) Secretaries:** You received from the international office in December an envelope containing 990-N ePostcard filing summary since 2008 for your information - all 2016 should have been filed by now and most 2017 filings can be done now. This time the month that your filing can be done was added. Also included was the annual **club validation** (meeting location and time(s), president, secretary and EIN contact (the person that does the 990-N ePostcard filings). These sheets need to be **returned to the international office by January 31, 2018** as the EIN updates need to be filed with the IRS by 2/15/18. If the club has been good and filed the Online F-200b Club Information Report when things change these sheets should be current!

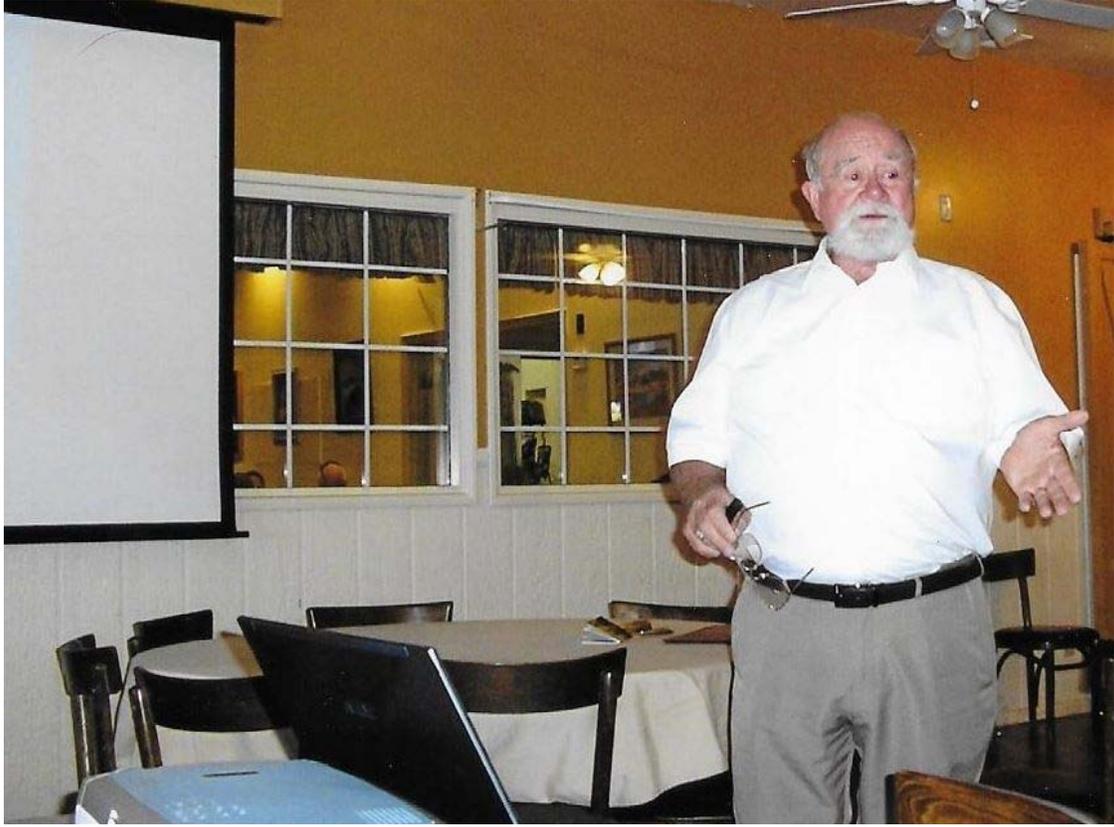
As stated elsewhere and through several mass emails the Mid-Year Governing Board Conference will be held on 1/22/18 in Las Vegas, NV. As in past years there will video conferencing available. This year Skype will be the provider and look for my user ID **klh85392** or my email address [klhokerk@cox.net](mailto:klhokerk@cox.net) - the video will be up all day except during lunch.

If you have not made your donation for the 2018 Pocket Planner *please consider doing so today*. Your support is greatly appreciated!

As usual the Return Address fundraiser mailing will be going out in mid February. If you want a duplicate set NOW is the time to let the international office know before I submit the mailing list, once submitted it is too late.

Fraternally, Kevin L. Hokerk-Robinson, Secretary

**CA High Twelve Association, San Gorgonio Pass High Twelve Club #761:**



**Guest Speaker John Walker**



### **Guest Speaker Walker and club members**

The club recognized Masonic Constitutional Observance at our last meeting with the Worshipful John Walker, PM of Redlands Masonic Lodge #300 as our guest speaker. Worshipful Walker is a scholar and instructor on the United States Constitution.

He explained in great detail how the Framers of our Constitution generated the Constitution and get it passed and ratified. Worshipful Walker gave all in attendance a pocket reference guide/hand book containing the Articles of the Constitution. It was a very informative and interesting program...pictured are the Officers of SGP High Twelve club and Worshipful Walker.

### **IL High Twelve Association:**

Featured Interview with Frank Rutter, 2017 Illinois High Twelvian of the Year. The other day, I had a chance to have a phone interview with Frank for our Ilini Newsletter. He was eager (as he should be) to tell me how he became our 2017 Twelvian Awardee and this is his story.

**Personal Background:** Frank is happily married to Irene, and both live on a 60-acre farm. They have two wonderful daughters Malinda and Angela. Frank earned his living as an insurance underwriter for 31 years (property, casualty and automotive). While working as an underwriter, Frank spent his time on many High School sports fields, Officiating

football, baseball, and basketball games around the state. He did this for 50 years but has been retired for 6 years from all that. His daughter Melinda followed her father's footsteps and been officiating for 44 years now. She told Frank that she will also retire once she reaches 50 years as well. Frank stated that the pinnacle of his officiating career was when he officiated the football state finals in 1989 and in 1991.

**Masonic Background:** Frank will be celebrating his 60th Masonic birthday in January of 2018. He was a Freeport Masonic Building Manager and set on the Temple Board, and that is how he got involved with Illinois High Twelve Club 22 years ago. Since then, he served as President of the club in 2007 – 2008 and served 15 years as the club Treasurer. Frank, emphasized that one of the club's proudest community achievements was when the late Larry Kahl donated \$20,000 and the club then donated it to the city of Freeport to build a bike path in Karape Park, where until this day is used daily.

Thank you Frank for your selfless service to your fellow brothers, community and Illinois High Twelve Association. Written by Roman Segal, Editor, Illini Association Newsletter.

Greetings fellow Illinois Twelvians By now, if you got to this page, you hopefully read the Newsletter and enjoyed it as much as I enjoyed putting it together for you Before you get to the club news, I wanted to say that we had a submission rate for articles but we still managed to put something nice for you all to read on events and things going on throughout our great state. I still looking for recipes and such, some ideas that you might consider am highlighting members in your clubs, what hobbies they are into, movies that reminds you of your clubs. Masonic Word Puzzles that might interest our fellow readers, Clubs popular dishes that your members enjoy the most?. I can go, on and on. If, you need ideas my email address is [roman.i.segal@gmail.com](mailto:roman.i.segal@gmail.com) and for those that do not have email I am a phone call away. (847-816-5085).



**Humor provided by Marlene Pickett, PM, Wildwood Chapter OES.**

**PA High Twelve Association First Capital High Twelve Club #668:**

Our speaker for the meeting is David Frye a Professor at York College. He teaches geography and will be speaking on his travels throughout the world and his passion for geography.

The meal for the meeting is Baked Smoked Sausage. Let's all make a New Year's resolution to attend as many High Twelve Meeting in the New Year as possible and to invite a fellow Mason to attend as our guest with the hopes of increasing our membership in 2018.

A few items as we close out 2017. First, thanks to the officers who worked each month to put together our meetings. Without their hard work, we would not have had a successful 2017. I would like to thank all members who attended our monthly meetings each month in 2017, your attendance and support was greatly appreciated by your officers.

We had many excellent guest speakers that helped to educate us and shared much information with us on many interesting topics.

Thank you to members who contributed \$100.00 to the Wolcott Foundation. They are William Gleaves, Galen Holtzapple, Frank Miller, John Schmitt Sr., Earl Shaffer Jr., Roger Stabley, Charles Wilson, Donald Whistler, James Young, and James Woof.

Thanks to those who sponsored our Annual Christmas Luncheon. They are as follows: Luther Sowers, Donald Whistler, Roger Stabley, James Young, Bob Hall, John Schmitt Sr., Charles Wilson, John Hynd and Galen Holtzapple.

As in the past years we need to continue to focus on our membership. If you know a brother Mason, who would make a good high Twelvian, invite him as your guest and hopefully he will want to join us each month. I am happy to report that we closed out 2017 with a membership at a strong 61 members.

**Guest Speaker Professor David Frye from York College:**

I am originally from Jefferson, New York, a small town in the northern Catskills of central New York. I served in the 82nd Airborne Division of the US Army for three and a half years before entering college. During that time, I spent six months in Egypt on the Sinai Peninsula as part of the Multinational Force & Observers upholding the Camp David Accords of 1978. After the military I backpacked Europe for three and a half months before entering college. It was at this time that I found geography. I earned my B.S. (2002) in history and geography from the State University of New York College at Oneonta. I received my Master's (2004) and Ph.D. (2008) at The Pennsylvania State University. I have currently traveled to 109 UN member states with a plan to travel to every country in the world. This is my tenth year of teaching geography at York College of Pennsylvania.

**FL High Twelve Association, High Twelve Club of Lake Worth No. 316:**

The meeting was opened by Bro. Donald Bates, lighting the Ritual Lights and opening the Bible. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the opening Prayer. Bro. Bates then greeted visitors, Caroline Perez and R.W. Lester R. Sinton.

Happy Birthday greetings were extended to Sofia Naranjo and Edna King, and Anniversary greetings to Sydney and Edna King.

The Secretary then advised that our Bro. Lee Frazier, Chaplain of Florida High Twelve,

has passed on. He was much esteemed by all members. He then informed that Florida High Twelve has a new Club, Winterhaven #782.

He noted that the Florida State Association of Masonic Clubs, will hold its 57th Annual Convention in Tavares, Florida, on December 1st and 2nd, 2017, and that he has Registration Forms for those who wish to attend. He also noted that the 2018 Government Bee will be held on April 7, 2018 at the Seminole Community High School, and the Information Meeting on April 6th at the Lake Worth Scottish Rite Masonic Center from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



The Secretary read the letter from William H. Haynes, President, High Twelve International, to Bro. Roy Strohacker congratulating him on attaining 30 years of membership in the High Twelve Club of Lake Worth.

Bro. Bates then read the 30 Year Membership Certificate in the Masonic High Twelve Club of Lake Worth No. 316 and presented it, together with his pin, to our Bro. Roy D. Strohacker. A Gift was then presented to his Lady Caroline. Bro. Roy thanked us for the presentation.

(Photo above) Bro. Roy Strohacker receiving his 30 Year Membership Certificate from The Masonic High Twelve Club of Lake Worth, No. 316, on November 14, 2017. On his left is his Lady Caroline.

Our speaker, Eduardo, was unable to attend, so each one of our members contributed with a detail of their current life, starting with Caroline Perez, who spoke about her continuing education and plans for her career; Angel Perez spoke about the Zafra; and Bro. Sinton expressed his surprise at finding himself at a Northeastern University Alumni reunion here at our meeting! The Secretary then advised that our Annual Christmas Dinner will be held on Tuesday, December 12th at the Red Lobster.

This year we will have to charge (ugh) our members \$10.00 per couple. It's the times! It would be appreciated if you would bring an unwrapped toy for Bro. Strohacker's Annual Toy Drive, and a gift marked for Male or Female valued under \$15.00 for our Gift Exchange. The Little Red School House collected \$14.00. Bro. Bates then closed the meeting with a prayer and extinguishing the lights and closing the Bible.

**International Past President Jerry Saville, PSP (CA):**



Brother Ron Jones presented Jerry Saville with the first ever "Flipper Phone Award" at the regular High Twelve luncheon meeting.

The creator of this prestigious award was none other than Kevin, our computer "geek" and outstanding International Secretary.

Jerry finally gave in and purchased a smartphone BUT admits he still misses his flipper phone and keeps it close to his award.

**Back story** - Kevin Hokerk-Robinson: At Winton Hewitt's convention Jerry forgot to bring his phone charger and mentioned it to me at the First Nighter's Party. Jerry was a "bit"

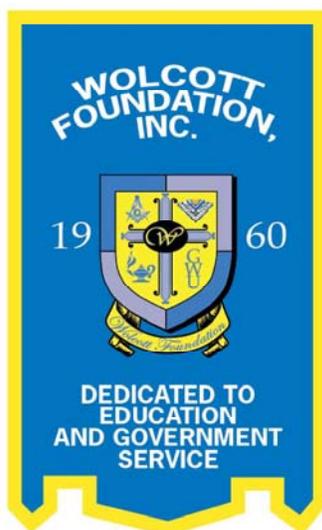
*embarrassed to ask to borrow one and figured he was the last one using a flipper phone. So shy ole me got up on a chair, got everyone's attention and asked... Well after a long pause one hand went up then a few more and Jerry was able to bum a charge for the weekend. He made a comment about it the next day where I took a picture of him with the phone demonstrating how it worked. All had a good laugh and we moved on. Well in the Fall of 2017 I was looking for something in the hall cupboards and came across a box with a Samsung flip phone I stopped using is 2008 and thus an idea was born... Oh the plaque is a recycled High Twelve one from a closed club that had a date of 1979 and see you in LA for an Annual Convention! And that is the rest of the story.*

## **THE WOLCOTT FOUNDATION INC.**

### **Monthly News**

**The Philanthropic Educational Foundation of High Twelve International**

***Providing Graduate Level Fellowships at  
George Washington University, Washington, DC***



### **The Real Purpose of the Wolcott Foundation Michael Clark, Chairman**

**The Wolcott Foundation is An Investment in the Future of Our Country.**

Each time you put money into the Little Red School House or make a contribution to the Wolcott Foundation, what is it that you are accomplishing?

The Wolcott Foundation has gained wide respect in the field of education for its work in providing Fellowship Grants at George Washington University (GWU). These prestigious Awards are greatly sought after by the incoming graduate students in International Business, Public Management and International Affairs at the University. Fellowships are restricted to only those students who exhibit outstanding scholastic achievement, social awareness and service, and high individual moral standards. All qualities we as Masons admire and respect.

So what is it that sets the Wolcott Foundation apart from any other Fellowship or Scholarship granting organization at George Washington University or any other university?

We are the oldest Fellowship granting organization providing funds for graduate level students at GWU. Each Award carries a responsibility for the recipient. Each person chosen as a Wolcott Fellow is required to enter into a legal contract with The Foundation agreeing that he or she shall serve in a non-political governmental department or agency, or in a position clearly benefiting our nation in international business for a period of four years. Otherwise the individual must repay The Foundation for the educational cost from which he or she has benefited.

The thrust of the Wolcott Fellowship Program is to bring to the brightest of young people with an interest in government service and international business, an opportunity to become our leaders of tomorrow. For this we proudly say,

**The Wolcott Foundation is An Investment in the Future of Our Country.**

So what is the real purpose of The Wolcott Foundation? It is not to promote Masonry, High Twelve or even the Foundation. However, the Wolcott Fellows are well aware that the money for their tuition comes from the Masonic Fraternity.

They learn from our conversations and publications, that High Twelve International and The Wolcott Foundation work together to raise the money required for each of them to obtain the opportunity to achieve their goals and dreams of public service to our country.

**No, the real purpose is shown below in the faces of some of the recipients of Wolcott Foundation Fellowships. These are the future leaders of our country in the many organizations within our federal, state, and local governments.**

**These are our future Ambassadors, Government Department Heads, and Government Representatives traveling throughout the world showing American leadership and managing programs that promote the good of the American people.**

**What is the real purpose of the Wolcott Foundation?**

**It is the education of those future leaders.**

**What better purpose could we as Masons support and promote!**

**Please contribute as much and as often as possible.**

**Wolcott Chairman Michael Clark:**

**Wolcott Fellow Alex Sproveri tells his Wolcott Fellowship Story**

Public service is a noble profession in that the impacts one makes extend far beyond his or her organization. Shortly after college graduation, I had the opportunity to evaluate two programs for a state-level Department of Human Services. The first program sought to incentivize employment for those collecting Medicaid (i.e. encourage work for recipients who were able to do so). The second aimed to improve the process of investigating child abuse allegations. Both programs had laudable policy goals. Through this experience, I formulated a professional goal to develop a stronger skill set in public policy analysis to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government programs.

Often, a government agency may have a goal, but lack the expertise to fully evaluate a program's performance in pursuit of that goal. In order to develop this skill set, I enrolled in the Master of Public Policy program at The George Washington University. As a part-time student and full-time professional, I have begun to apply the skills from my education and help government agencies to implement more effective and efficient programs.

I am forever grateful to the Wolcott Foundation and the High Twelve International members who have funded my fellowship and made my professional goal a reality.

Alex Sproveri

NOTE: Alex attended Allegheny College in Pennsylvania and received a BA in Political Science. He had a 4.0 GPA and attended Graduate School at American University prior to being selected as a Wolcott Fellow at George Washington University. He is attending Trachtenberg School of Public Policy.

### **FL High Twelve Association, Villages High Twelve Club #674:**

Our club has each month either entertainment or a guest speaker but we were unable to find something over the Holidays. Instead, we made up a simple Form to have the members fill out and we had everyone introduce themselves and Lady with their names, where they are from (Town/State), Lodge name and Location and what their Town or State is noted for or where people should visit when in their State.

It went over well because with the number of new members, it gave us all a chance to become acquainted. It was a lot of fun and we recommend all clubs do something similar. It took less than two minutes for people to bring us up to date.

Although we only had 34 people in attendance we found out most of them came from other states. Those in attendance came from either one of the following states: Washington (2), Pennsylvania (8), Missouri (2), Vermont (1), Connecticut (1), Michigan (4), Illinois (6), New York (2), New Jersey (2), Florida (1), Maryland (3), Minnesota (1) or Colorado (1).

Isn't Masonry great when you can bring in so many people from different locations and become so close and have such a great organization? Can you all do better than this? Let us know and we will report it to the other Associations via the Monthly Update.

On January 12th we held our quarterly dinner and had over 70 people in attendance. We invite members of the local Lodges and Shrine to join us and this was another successful Prime Rib Dinner served by the members of the Ocala Shrine Club in Ocala, Florida.

The meal was especially good this time and enjoyed by all in attendance. Several members advised us they would be at the next dinner, which we haven't even established a date yet.

Our usual High Twelve Ritual of having a drawing was won by one of our senior members and was greatly appreciated. The winning ticket was drawn by the Senior Mason in attendance. He is now in his 90's and still going strong. He never misses one of our dinners and always brings someone with him. Fraternally, Merv Harris, Club President.

### **Chaplain's Corner: (Article submitted by Paul Weathers, PM, Arizona):**

What an honor to fill in as the Chaplain for Portland 55, albeit for a few short meetings.

Due to my work, and travel schedule, I'll be out of town, at least through the end of December. In the interim allow me to add to the newsletter with a few reflections.

If you're like me, perhaps you've never reflected deeply on the opening and closing prayers. Let us focus a few moments on the closing prayer.

We are asking our creator to be so pleased with us as to so influence our hearts and minds. As always, it is our own choice as to how to identify with our God, creator and we are asking to be influenced by our creator. To me, if our hearts and minds are influenced, this indicates an indirect intervention, rather than a direct order. It is our responsibility to be still enough to listen to our creator. Perhaps that voice will come from a family member, book, Masonic brother, TV, radio or other messengers. The point is, it is up to us, each one of us, to stop, listen and consider the lessons learned within the lodge as they apply to our lives.

The prayer asks that we, each one of us might practice the great moral duties as taught to us in the lodge. Herein lays the very nature of masonry. We go to lodge to learn spiritual truths and moral duties so that when we leave, we might reflect that order and beauty of the great architect in our personal lives.

To me, this means that how we act in the lodge is only secondary to how we act and walk with our families, careers, hobbies and lives outside the lodge. We often spend hours debating how we should act within the lodge. We admonish new masons to be perfect in their oral repetition of the obligation and lectures. How much time do we spend discussing with our brothers and reflecting within our own hearts how to apply the lessons in our lives outside the lodge? This introspective search for truth is the core purpose of being a Mason. Yes, doing our rituals with precision and memorizing the lectures is important. But, without the additional work of applying the principles in our lives, Masonry becomes little more than an ongoing repetitive 3-act play. What are we doing to reach out to each other and become friends, brothers outside the lodge? Can we do more to discuss how to apply the lessons of Masonry as related to our personal lives?

Masonry is the art of learning important lessons, using the tools of architecture. When we have crisis or stress in our lives, are we reaching out to our Masonic brethren for a listening ear? When our Brothers don't show up for a few meetings, are we reaching out to call or invite our brethren to meet outside the lodge? Would meet for a fishing trip (fishing is my passion, we could go for lunch, picnic, or hiking), would we have the leisure to meet the families and know each other's joys, victories and challenges? Let us consider how we are integrating our Masonic lessons in our lives outside the lodge.

Amen.

### **WB Bill Hosler**

WB Bill Hosler was made a Master Mason in 2002 in Three Rivers Lodge #733 in Indiana. He served as Worshipful Master in 2007 and became a member of the internet committee for Indiana's Grand Lodge. Bill is currently a member of Roff Lodge No. 169 in Roff Oklahoma and Lebanon Lodge No. 837 in Frisco, Texas. Bill is also a member of the Valley of Fort Wayne Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite in Indiana. A typical active Freemason, Bill also served as the High Priest of Fort Wayne's Chapter of the York Rite No. 19 and was commander of the Fort Wayne Commandery No. 4 of the Knight Templar. During all this he also served as the webmaster and magazine editor for the Mizpah Shrine in Fort Wayne Indiana.

## Humor

A US Air Force C-130 was scheduled to leave Thule Air Base, Greenland, at midnight during a winter month. During the pilot's pre-flight check, he discovers that the latrine holding tank is still full from the last flight. So a message is sent to the base and an airman who was off duty is called out to take care of it. The young man finally gets to the air base and makes his way to the aircraft only to find that the latrine pump-truck has been left outdoors and is frozen solid, so he must find another one in the hangar, which takes even more time. He returns to the aircraft and is less than enthusiastic about what he has to do. Nevertheless, he goes about the pumping job deliberately and carefully (and slowly) so as not to risk criticism later. As he's leaving the plane, the pilot stops him and says, Son, your attitude and performance has caused this flight to be late and I'm going to personally see to it that you are not just reprimanded, but punished. Shivering in the cold, his task finished, he takes a deep breath, stands tall and says, Sir, with all due respect, I'm not your son; I'm an Airman in the United States Air Force. I've been cooped up here in Thule, Greenland, for more than 11 months now, without any leave. I have one stripe; its 2:30 in the morning, the temperature is minus 40° F, and my job is to pump crap out of an aircraft. Now, just exactly what form of punishment did you have in mind Sir?

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An elderly Florida lady did her shopping and upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle. She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun, proceeding to scream at the top of her lungs, I have a gun, and I know how to use it! Get out of the car - NOW! The four men didn't wait for a second threat. They got out and ran like mad. The lady, somewhat shaken, then proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition. She tried and tried, and then she realized why. It was for the same reason she had wondered why there was a football, a Frisbee, and two 12-packs of beer in the front seat. A few minutes later, she found her own car parked four or five spaces farther down. She loaded her bags into her own car and drove to the police station to report her mistake. The Sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing. He pointed to the other end of the counter, where four pale men were reporting a carjacking by a mad, elderly woman described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair, and carrying a large handgun. No charges were filed. Moral of the story? If you're going to have a senior moment...make it memorable!

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A little boy returned from the grocery store with his mom. While his mom put away the groceries, the little boy opened his box of animal crackers and spread them all over the kitchen table. What are you doing? asked his mom. The box says you shouldn't eat them if the seal is broken, said the little boy. I'm looking for the seal.

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There are three sisters stranded on an island. They live there until they run out of food. They decide to try to swim to the next island but it is 100 miles away. The oldest sister swims the first 15 miles, gets tired, and swims back. The middle one swims the first 25 miles, gets tired, and swims back. The youngest sister, and not the smartest one, swims the first 50 miles, gets tired, and swims back.

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A football fan is a guy who'll yell at the quarterback for not spotting an open receiver forty-five yards down the field... and then head for the parking lot and not be able to find his own car!

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The man passed out in a dead faint as he came out of his front door onto the porch. Someone dialed 911. When the paramedics arrived, they helped him regain consciousness and asked if he knew what caused him to faint. It was enough to make anybody faint, he said. My son asked me for the keys to the garage, and instead of driving the car out, he came out with the lawn mower.

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Someone in our neighborhood put a huge sofa out by the curb for trash collection. Since it was in good shape, many motorists slowed down for a look. But when they saw how enormous it was, they'd leave. Eventually, a sports car pulled up, and two teens got out. This I've got to see, I thought. They removed the cushions, turned the sofa upside down, and shook it hard. Then they picked up all the coins that tumbled out and drove off laughing.

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I was playing badminton. So I took some classes and they are paying off. Now, I play goodminton

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**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:** If you sent an article with a photo and it does not appear in this issue. I apologize as I lost one article and photo and could not locate it in my Trash or Inbox File. I spent over ½ hour looking for it without success.

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