

HIGH TWELVE INTERNATIONAL, INC.
94th Annual Convention Minutes
Renaissance Hotel Airport Hotel, Philadelphia PA
June 26, 2015

Opening Ceremonies:

- The convention was called to order by Winton E. Hewitt, International President at 9:00 AM on Friday June 26, 2015
- Invocation was given by William Hartman, acting Chaplain.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by William 3rd Vice-President and was followed by the Toast to the Flag (John Daily 1917 author).
- 9:15 AM - Rev. William Hartman acting Chaplain was then introduced and conducted the Necrology Service. Bro. Hartman was aided by Donald Whistler who read the 23 Psalm. The hymn The Eye of the Sparrow was sung a capella. The President and Vice-Presidents took turns reading the names of 145 deceased brothers. This was followed by an inspiring sermon by Bro. Hartman. President Hewitt thanked Rev. Hartman for filling in at the last minute as Jon Silver Feather, International Chaplain was undergoing medical treatment and could not travel.
- Donald Whistler announced the time and location of the hospitality room and a suite were the ladies can meet & greet and play cards etc. The ladies are now excused to go next door for a program by Kelly Gebhart, instructor of music.

General Session:

- 11:00 AM – Roll Call: Kevin Hokerk, International Secretary ran through the roll call and a quorum was established
- **Introductions** – All International Past Presidents were introduced and given a warm welcome
- **Minutes of the January 18, 2015 Mid-Year Conference** were corrected as printed in the report packet pages 3-9, that all attendee's received with their registration. *[The report packet will be referred to as RP going forward]* Malcolm White a correction to the minutes on page 3 \$500 should be \$5,000 and High Twelve donates less that ½ of one fellowship.
- **Correspondence** - 3 amendments for the international by-laws, uniform club bylaws and the Association Uniform Constitution and Bylaws and will be taken up under the appropriate order of business.
- **International Officer Reports** – are printed in the RP, Richard Kessler made a verbal report and submitted a paper copy. Kevin Hokerk, Secretary made additional comments about having only 25% of member email addresses, turning on the online registration for the first time for this convention and turned on PayPal for the foreign clubs to pay their per-capita, dealt with the 3rd party firm that contacted those clubs with revoked non-profit status on their EIN offering to do the paper work for \$800 + \$400 IRS fee or a total of \$1,200. This company made false statements saying HTI recommends them. The General Counsel & I filed the need paper work to have them to cease and desist. A lot of time and effort was spent on this with the CA & AZ attorney general's offices and MBS Accounting Firm. Online monthly reporting is going well. Need to consider using PayPal for general payments (per-capita, fees, merchandise, etc.). President Hewitt mentioned that ooVoo video conference works very well and is used often between Kevin and Don. President Hewitt reiterated that the clubs need to file monthly reports to keep membership records current. The hard dollar cost to each non-member being carried is about \$6.54. Kevin explained the online reporting and how much easier it is to

do going forward. 990-N ePostcard passwords were discussed. Don Whistler stated we are solvent and thank-you! Will Wilkinson – memo to Executive Board relating to the Wolcott Will, Mid-Year dealt with a number of issues there, represented President Hewitt at the AZ State Convention, spent significant time with Kevin on the EIN problem and a closed club refusal to turnover club property.

- **General Comments** – IL Grand Lodge has recognized Prince Hall Masonry. Will Wilkinson, AZ also recognizes Prince Hall but you cannot be a member of both at the same time. AZ has great communication line with Prince Hall. Stanley Gardner, in CO we can communicate with Prince Hall and as long as the Grand Lodges are communicating it is okay to accept members into High Twelve. President Hewitt is similar to AZ. Will Wilkinson if the Grand Lodge does not prohibit then there should no problem in accepting Prince Hall members into HTI. FL presents a somewhat confusing policy on Prince Hall as it relates to the Shrine only.
- **Budget Review** – Don Whistler, Treasurer – please refer to page 16 of the RP – general review of three funds and moving off money between them. Our IRS year end 4/30 but our convention year reporting ends 6/30 so it makes things interesting. Fund raiser income will generally be split between 2 convention years. We converted from Quicken to QuickBooks to be in line with the software our accountant uses at their request. The label vendor gave us a credit of \$1,000.00 as compensation for the fuser problem. The 2015 Pocket Planner expense doubled due to adding the auto emblem with the next mailing as approved at the Mid-Year by the governing board. Wild Apricot had a price increase (1st in 9 years) but by pre-paying for 2 years we reduced our monthly cost to \$180/month over the next 2 years. President Hewitt the treasurer and secretary are working very well together to control expenses. A long discussion was held on the various calendars. To change the international per-capita year would require a by-laws change. Club and association financial years vary through all 12 months of the year.
- **Jerry Saville** – This next year I would like to start regular ‘zone’ conference call meetings and perhaps a governing board meeting to open the lines of communications and talk about zone specific items. The details to be worked out. Jonathan Dilley – CA Association Secretary, we started something similar and it has been very beneficial.
- **Break Out Meetings** – President Hewitt, Kevin will be doing Secretaries, Jerry Saville will be doing officers responsibilities and Don Whistler will be doing Membership.
- **LUNCH**
- **Nominations 1st Report** – Jim Parker as Ross Bayer was not able to attend:
 - President: Jerry L. Saville, CA
 - 1st VP: Richard A. Kessler, AZ
 - 2nd VP: William H. Haynes, PA
 - 3rd VP: No candidate
 - Secretary: Kevin Hokerk, AZ
 - Treasurer: Donald M. Whistler, PA
- **Filler** – showed features of the website – signing into the website, membership directory, membership information, sending messages, group emails, email tracking, files kept by HTI on clubs, forms available, membership information board, IRS Form 1024 sample, looking up status of EIN’s, etc.
- Meeting in recess for the day

Saturday, June 27, 2015

- The meeting was called to order by President Hewitt
- **Update on Masonry Worldwide** – Ross V. N. Bayer, PIP – his report is included in the RP
- **Amendments** – reference to page 20 of the RP

- Jurisdiction (page 20) – Pantograph Book of Lodges – all were in favor, adopted
- International and Uniform Club Bylaws – Classes of membership - all were in favor, adopted
- Uniform Association Constitution and Bylaws - all were in favor, adopted; Wolcott added as a fundraiser in the addendum, adopted
- State President Round Table Report – Johnathan Dilley
 - In support of the zone meetings as proposed
 - Request more in person contact with international officers at state conventions
 - General visible presence in local presentations etc. to show our support and involvement locally
- **Past International President’s Report** – Donald M. Whistler, PIP – we met this morning for breakfast in the dining hall and have the following six recommendations:
 - Ladies enjoyed the music program yesterday
 - Have a greeter at the entrance to the hotel to welcome HT members arriving
 - Have a presentation at all Grand Lodges to advertise HT
 - Make the Grand Master an honorary member in the states we meet if his is not already a member
 - Have a projection screen at all meeting so participants can see clearly
 - Applicants for international office be only allowed to apply for one office
- **Final Credentials Report:**
 - 118 total votes – details were read
 - 60 votes for a simple majority
 - 79 votes for a 2/3 majority
- **Committee Reports:**
 - **Editor of High Twelvian** – Kevin Hokerk- RP page 28
 - **Long Range Planning** – Jim Parker – this committee needs to be moved further down the officer line so we are looking forward a couple of years vs. a sitting president looking to the end of his year
 - **Jewelry** – Jim Parker - Bro. Sid Leluan, PIP has been looking for someone to take over this function. Bro. William “Bill” Lofquist, also of Tucson AZ, has volunteered and is ready to take over
 - **Constitution and Bylaws** – Proposed Changes – Kevin Hokerk – RP page 42
 - **94th Convention 2015** – Winton Hewitt – we are looking for ways to raise funds and interest for this convention. We have decided on a raffle and have tickets available. The prizes are a Time Share at The Pines in Virginia, a masonic watch and a fleece lined jacket. Tickets are 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$20. It was mentioned that in OH the Grand Lodge has prohibited ‘raffles.’ So if your ‘chance’ tickets say raffle on them you cannot sell them here. A suggestion was made to have each association donate an item(s) or dollars for a cash prize.
- **Nominations Final Report** – Ross Bayer:
 - President: Jerry L. Saville, CA
 - 1st VP: Richard A. Kessler, AZ & Ronald Woods, IN
 - 2nd VP: William H. Haynes, PA
 - 3rd VP: David Neal, FL & Ronald Woods, IN
 - Secretary: Kevin Hokerk, AZ
 - Treasurer: Donald M. Whistler, PA
 - There were no nominations from the floor (Note: Ed Smallwood’s nomination from the floor was rejected as it lacked the required approvals.)

It was M/S/P to accept the report

- Elections – Winton Hewitt, President

- For those uncontested offices I would entertain a motion that they be elected unanimously, Ross Bayer made the motion and it was passed. The secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the offices of President, 2nd VP and Treasurer. The Treasurer cast a unanimous ballot for the Secretary.
- The floor was open for a 3-minute speech for the candidates running for 1st and 3rd VP
- The ballot was opened for 1st VP – Ronald Woods, IN was elected to the office
- As a result of the 1st VP election a unanimous ballot was cast by the secretary for David Neal, FL
- President Hewitt thanked everyone for their time/effort and dismissed the tellers
- PIP Sid Leluan moved that Richard A. Kessler be afforded the title of past international vice president, it was seconded and approved. Brother Rich was given a round of applause.
- **2015-2016 Proposed Budget:** Don Whistler handed out the proposed budget and explained the differences between the two years. This is the first year we will be using the projected income from the endowment fund for the next 12 months (\$1,800.00) in the proposed budget. It was M/S/P to adopt the proposed budget.
- **Election of the 3 Endowment Fund Trustees** – Richard L. Anderson was elected to 3 yr the other 2 moved up 1 year each.
 - Endowment Fund Trustee 1 yr: Donald L. Galway, MI
 - Endowment Fund Trustee 2 yr: Roger H. Hansen, PIP, NCA
 - Endowment Fund Trustee 3 yr: Richard L. Anderson, NCA

Discussion was held as to why there was not a formal presentation by Donald Galway. Ralph Clemmer indicated that an audit cannot be accomplished without the full a full report and statements.

- **Mid-Year 2016** – Jerry Saville, the question was why always Vegas so the plan is to meet in Naworlans (New Orleans, LA), Will is from the area and has volunteered to assist and Sid Leluan also offered his assistance too.
- **Red Schoolhouse** – was passed and \$167.00 was collected – Thanks everyone!
- **PA Raffle** – tickets are still available; drawings will be held tonight for the 3 prizes

Break for Wolcott Foundation Luncheon

- **State President's Reports** - additional comments were made in addition to the printed reports in the RP
- **Past International Presidents** – their comments were welcomed (mostly! LOL)
- **Executive Board Members** – their comments were welcomed – Incoming President Jerry L. Saville had a number of things to say.... 😊
- **Unfinished Business:** Winton Hewitt – None
- **Closing Remarks:** Winton Hewitt – HTI is here to help! Thanks to Don Whistler for being the Convention Chairman this year and to Kevin Hokerk for all his help this year. Their help made this a successful year for me. All committees are hereby dismissed. Rev. Bill Hartman, sent us on our way.

The General Session was recessed to get prepared for the President's Banquet and Installation of 2015-16 Officer's

Winton Hewitt made some closing remarks for his year then introduced Mervyn J. Harris, PIP as the installing officer and Michael Clark as Marshal to install the following officers:

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ● President: | Jerry L. Saville, CA |
| ● 1 st VP: | Dr. Ronald Woods, IN |
| ● 2 nd VP: | William H. Haynes, PA |
| ● 3 rd VP: | David Neal, FL |
| ● Secretary: | Kevin Hokerk, AZ |

- Treasurer: Donald M. Whistler, PIP, PA
- Chaplain: Jon Silver Feather, CA
- General Counsel: William E. Wilkinson, AZ
- Parliamentarian: Malcolm S. White, CA
- Sargent-At-Arms: James R. Morris, IL
- Endowment Fund Trustee 1 yr: Donald L. Galway, MI
- Endowment Fund Trustee 2 yr: Roger H. Hansen, PIP, NCA
- Endowment Fund Trustee 3 yr: Richard L. Anderson, NCA

Michael Clark made the proclamation declaring the officers to be duly and truly installed.

Jerry L. Saville, International President addressed the gathering and thanked everyone for their support. He then presented Immediate Past President, Winton E. Hewitt his PIP's jewel and plaque. Winton then presented Jerry his gavel and sounding block.

There being no further business to come before this convention William Hartman, acting Chaplain gave a benediction and Jerry L. Saville, International President declared the convention closed.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin L. Hokerk
International Secretary