

High Twelve International, Inc.
96th Annual Convention
June 7-11, 2017 ~ Indianapolis, IN

Thursday, June 8, 2017

The tour group left the hotel on schedule for the Scottish Rite Cathedral for a tour of the building and lunch. Next stop was the Indianapolis Motor Speedway where the museum was enjoyed by all. Unfortunately, the tour of the track could not happen due to the track being reserved by a Mustang racing club. Later at the hotel there was an informal get-together in the hospitality room from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. The Executive Board convened in the hospitality room at 8:45 to review the agenda and prepare for the general meeting tomorrow. Registration was available in the lobby during the day and evening.

Friday, June 9, 2017

After breakfast on your own, registration and credentials opened in the lobby.

9:00 am – Ronald Woods, President

- Called the 96th Annual Convention to order
- The invocation was given by Rev. William Hartman, Chaplain
- The pledge of allegiance was lead by Daniel Schauer, Sergeant-at-Arms
- The Sojourner’s Toast to the Flag was given by Winton Hewitt, PIP
- Some general announcements were made and one specific one:
 - All attendees received a Report Packet (61 pages) that will be referenced throughout the convention

9:00 am – Necrology Service, Rev. William Hartman, Chaplain

- Opening Prayer by Rev. Hartman
- 23rd Psalm was read by Donald M. Whistler, PIP
- Recognition of deceased brothers by:
 - Ronald Woods
 - William Haynes
 - Joseph Santisteban
 - Jonathan Dilley
- A time of devotion by Rev. Hartman
- Benediction

Break

10:00 am – General Session Convenes – Ronald Woods, President

- Roll call by Kevin Hokerk-Robinson
 - There was a quorum of the governing board present – 18 members with in attendance
 - There were 8 PIP’s present
 - Total of 36 votes or 17 votes for a simple majority – contested votes will be settled with a paper ballot utilizing credentials voting procedures.
- The 2017 Mid-Year Minutes were M/S/P as published in the report packet (Hewitt/Whistler)
- Correspondence – Kevin Hokerk-Robinson, Secretary
 - There were no resolutions
 - There was one HTI Bylaws amendment related to New Clubs and per-capita and will be taken up under new business
- International Officer’s Reports
 - In addition to the printed reports
 - 1st VP Haynes described the Replace Yourself program and the base pin and triangle pins
 - 2nd VP Santisteban talked about Prince Hall and the efforts to gain a club or two – there should not be any restrictions between the two Grand Lodges in IL and similar in TX

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- 3rd VP Dilley – we recently took in 3 members that were 19-20-year old's! Here I am at 40 and representing the hope of youth. I will be attending DeMolay International and Job's Daughter's Grand Sessions. It is amazing how absent Mason's are at these sessions.
- President Woods – there has been an interest in possibly 7 new clubs in FL – new club kits are in the works to Michael Hemphill. I have been working in Southern IN and KY.
- Secretary Hokerk-Robinson – the lack of Monthly Reporting hurts us when not done. REF; page 14 to see the filing frequency of club filings – 40% do not file and have not filed for multiple years. The process has been made as simple as can be.

- Committee Reports

- In addition to the printed reports

- Wolcott Foundation – Michael Clark, Chairman – The Trustee's have been listening and the WF manuals, procedures and documents have been or are being revised. Donations received that are less than \$100 go to the Fellowship Fund, donations over \$100 go to the Scholarship Fund. The WF bylaws will be reviewed over the next 6 months and presented as prescribed for approval at the next convention. A full 40-hour scholarship will rise to \$72,000 in 2018. The minimum GPA for applicants was raised from 3.75 to 3.80. 1/3 of applicants don't meet qualifications. 2 fellowship awards will be made for the fall 2017 term. We are the oldest fellowship being awarded at GWU. We are also looking for outside corporate fundraising opportunities. The GWU Deputy Provost, Theresa Murphy will be speaking to us at the luncheon tomorrow along with Sherry Rusneck a 1989 Wolcott Fellow. Mike then issued a \$20 challenge for donations, and his youngest son, who works for Cobalt Tools, is giving an autographed emergency tire compressor to sweeten the deal. \$472 was donated and Winton Hewitt won the compressor.
- HTI Endowment Fund – Don Whistler
- HTI Wally's Fund - Don Whistler
- Insurance – Don Whistler
- Current year expenses vs. budget – Don Whistler
- 2017-18 proposed budget – Don Whistler
- Fundraisers – Don Whistler & Kevin Hokerk-Robinson:
 - 2016 Address Labels Net + \$5,699.70 final
 - 2016 Pocket Planner Net + \$2,982.99 ongoing
 - 2017 Address Labels Net + \$3,996.66 ongoing
- High Twelvian – Kevin Hokerk-Robinson
- Monthly Update – Merv Harris
- Forms – Kevin Hokerk-Robinson
- Merchandise – Kevin Hokerk-Robinson
- Parliamentarian – Winton Hewitt

Break for Lunch

- President Woods had Michael Clark read a donation he made on behalf of the 2016-17 Officers to recognize their service this year.
- WF Donations by Zone/Club for the current year – Robert Morton, WF Treasurer. We provide the report to the HTI Secretary for publication/posting. Donations need to come in timelier, so it can be invested to work. Bob reviewed the financials for the fiscal year. A note was read from Malcolm White. The Wolcott Century Club/Wolcott Club donation awards were explained.
- Preliminary Nomination Committee Report [Richard Anderson & David Patton]

- Old Business

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- Non-responsive/inactive associations
 - Missouri Association closed on 1/14/17, received checking funds, waiting on a CD
 - New Jersey Association closed on 1/11/17, received checking funds, property of the association “lost” in transit, but sender can not provide any receipts or tracking numbers for the shipments
 - Louisiana is non-responsive and has no officers
- Per-capita status:
 - 2015-16 6 clubs delinquent for \$1,130.00 outstanding - NO VOTE at this convention
 - 2016-17 20 clubs delinquent for \$3,014.00 outstanding – NO VOTE at this convention
 - 2017-18 68 clubs outstanding for \$15,158.00
 - Why haven’t the club charters been pulled? Because we hope they will pay. The six clubs have received registered, return receipt and no responses received. MI, we have no authority to make a club do anything. We are playing the nice guy, but it has not work. The bylaws state 18 months delinquent charters are pulled automatically.
 - It was M (amended)/S/P that the secretary “A letter to be written to all clubs and membership thereof who’s annual per-capita has remained unpaid since 2015 stating that their charter will be automatically suspended in thirty days unless arrears are paid to the international secretary. Reference HTI bylaws, presented by Jerry Hamilton.
 - Bottom line the clubs (and associations) are business and the elected officers have inherent responsibilities that go with their office. Club monies should be in a club account not someone’s personal account AND there needs to be more than one “live” persons signature on the account signature card.
- Only 4 of the 13 Associations responded for the annual officer and club validation request
- Group Exemption Annual Validation
 - Validation ignored by 9 associations
 - Updates were filed with the IRS on 2/24/17
 - IRS responded that updates were completed 6/1/17
 - Clubs with non-profit status revoked can not be added to the group exemption and must file the paper 990-N EZ tax form annually.
- HTI being incorporated Arizona – at the last mid-year it was approved to register as a foreign corporation doing business in AZ – this would allow us to do signature changes etc. The paper work was filed and rejected because there isn’t a registered agent in MO and it is impossible to do per the MO Secretary of State Office as being a perpetual non-profit there are no officer filings. That said the secretary moved that he be allowed to file HTI in AZ as a non-profit organization 501(c10) for banking purposes. The motion was approved.
- Database – the 2-year pre-pay at Wild Apricot expires on 6/17/17 and the renewal for 1 year is set at \$2,592.00. Access databases continue to be used for Club Officer, EIN, Per-Capita, Form/Merchandise ordering and Fundraising.
- 14 PayPal payments were received for labels, pocket planner, general support and \$100k Endowment fund – minimal use. It will not be utilized for per-capita payments because of the fees involved
- The website was upgraded to HTTPS – meaning it is now a ‘secure’ website with the green padlock
- President Woods:
 - Dress tonight is business dress, not casual
 - Communications – to have a Wolcott representative on our monthly conference calls and we have a representative on their calls – excluded would be just internal meeting discussions. This would keep the door open for future discussions.
 - Get out there and talk to your Prince Hall members

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- Indiana Prince Hall is having their annual communication in July and I would like to have a table there to spread the word about High Twelve if the PHGM will allow it
- Become more proactive in your states – give the clubs you know are having problems the assistance they need and follow-up with them.
- HTI needs to establish a goal in establishing 20 new clubs per year for the next 5 years
- Jerry Saville announced the PIP breakfast tomorrow morning at 7:00 AM and there are 8 PIP's present this year. I have been waiting for 4 years to make this announcement! Don Whistler stated the senior PIP runs the meeting and the Junior is the secretary.

Adjourn for the day

6:00 pm Grand Master's Dinner

Saturday, June 10, 2017

7:00 am PIP's Breakfast; everyone else breakfast on your own

8:00 am Credentials open

- 9:00 am General Session reconvenes – Ronald Woods, President
- New Business
 - The 2017-18 budget was discussed and adopted
 - Preliminary Credentials report – Richard Anderson & David Patton
 - There are 135 registered votes
 - 56 clubs represented
 - PIP's provided their sage wisdom
 - Recommend the approval of the bylaws amendment
 - Need to consider raising the per-capita and new/reinstated member fees
 - Recommend that all attendees introduce themselves – go around the table
 - Reinstate training sessions at conventions
 - International Bylaws amendment:
 - Article VI – Revenue; Section 2 – Per-Capita Dues; New Clubs page 21: - A newly chartered Club shall not be liable for per capita dues until ~~expiration of the current dues cycle~~ **the first anniversary of the club charter. Upon the first anniversary, the club will be billed for a pro-rated (1/12th monthly) amount based on the remaining whole months left in the current billing cycle. And to be made retroactive to 7/1/16 for clubs chartered after this date.** This amendment was **APPROVED** to move forward to the 96th Convention for a vote.
 - The amendment was approved
 - State Representatives provided verbal updates to the printed reports.
 - Nomination committee report – Walter Williams
 - There was one floor nomination for treasurer (Daniel K. Schauer), nominations were closed,
 - It was M/S/P to accept the report
 - President William H. Haynes
 - 1st VP Joseph H. Santisteban
 - 2nd VP Jonathan Dilley
 - 3rd VP Jerry Hamilton – PA
Richard A. Kessler – AZ
 - Secretary Kevin L. Hokerk-Robinson
 - Treasurer Open – Don Whistler not continuing
 - Final credentials report – Richard Anderson & David Patton
 - 136 total votes, 69 votes needed to elect

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- It was M/S/P to accept the report
- Election of 2017-18 HTI Officers
 - It was M/S/P that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the uncontested offices – done
 - By paper ballot Jerry Hamilton was elected 3rd VP
- Election of 2017/18 3yr Endowment Fund Trustee
 - Nomination committee reported there was one nomination floor, Mark D. Nokes – IL.
 - Nominations were closed, the report accepted, and the secretary was directed to cast a unanimous ballot – Done
- 2018 Mid-Year Conference time & place
 - President elect Haynes announced the 2018 Mi-Year Conference will be in Las Vegas NV at the Plaza Hotel & Casino in the latter part of January.
 - The Governing board approved
- 97th Annual Convention – time & place
 - President elect Haynes announced the 2018 annual convention will be held at the Philadelphia Renaissance Airport Hotel on June 13-16, 2018.
 - The Governing board approved
- President Woods then dismissed all committees and appointments for 2016-17

Adjourn – Wolcott Foundation Luncheon

Reconvene – General Session

- Closing Remarks
 - Executive Board
 - President Ronald Woods provided closing comments
 - President Elect Haynes – officers to be installed please hang around to go through what will happen tonight after the WF organizational meeting concludes
 - 2nd VP Santisteban last night met a brother from IL at the hotel on other business and commented on his collar
 - Secretary Hokerk-Robinson – on the heels of the WF meeting we need to go back to our associations and clubs that changes have been made and we need to move forward and see what comes up at mid-year. Wolcott is our philanthropy not breast cancer, halfway houses etc., clubs can still donate to those organizations, but Wolcott is where the focus should be. Remember: Fun, Food and Fellowship!
 - Treasurer Don Whistler – in 2008 mid-year, Jim Satterthwaite’s year, a motion was made to sell (liquidate) all stocks in the Endowment Fund. Don was asked to speak about how the markets work etc., the motion was voted down and Don was appointed an Endowment Fund Trustee, which eventually led to the elective officer line.
 - IPIP Jerry Saville gave a tearful farewell speech as he leaves office
- The benediction was given by William Hartman, Chaplain

Adjournment

6:00 pm – Installation Dinner

7:30 pm – installation of 2017-18 Officers

- The installation of officers was conducted by Donald M. Whistler, PIP
- Past President Ronald Woods made several presentations.
- President William Haynes present IPIP Woods with the PIP Jewel
- PIP Woods then presented President Haynes with his gavel and sounding block
- President Hayes then made his remarks and closed the 96th Annual Convention

Sunday, June 11, 2018

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8:00 am Executive Board Meeting – Bill Haynes

- The appointment of Leonard Altieri, III, Esq. was ratified as General Counsel
- The appointment of Daniel K. Schaurer as Treasurer
- Signature cards for JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo will be updated with the change in treasurer
- The pocket planner fundraiser was approved for the fall
- Monthly Conference calls will change to the 1st Monday of the month
- Reminder to turn in final expense reports as soon as possible
- Kevin stated his upcoming foot surgery to remove the 2 screws will be 6/14 and be unavailable for a short time
- Daniel announced that he will be undergoing back surgery on 6/23. It was agreed that Don Whistler will do the convention financial wrap up etc. until signature cards are updated and the laptop can be transferred. This will allow Dan to recover from his surgery.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin L. Hokerk-Robinson
International Secretary