

95th Annual Convention - June 15-18, 2016  
See YOU there!



GREETINGS!

June 2016

## *High Twelve Monthly Update*

**Monthly Update is published monthly** by High Twelve International, Inc. at 743 Palma Drive, Lady Lake, FL, 32159. Telephone numbers **(352) 753-3505 or (352) 817-0707**, email [update-editor@high12.org](mailto:update-editor@high12.org). This publication is devoted to the interests of the Wolcott Foundation, Inc., High Twelve International, Inc., and its member clubs for the benefit of Freemasonry and affiliated orders. Contributions of interesting, appropriate editorial matters are welcome. High Twelvian's are invited to submit such material for publication. **Submit all articles by e-mail. Articles should be received by the deadline date of the 20th day of each month.** Updates will be sent out the last of the month. Depending on the volume of articles, they may be carried over to a later date by the Editor. Articles must be sent to the Editor and not called in. Mervyn J. Harris, Editor.

**Congratulations** to our members and ladies, celebrating their Birthday, Anniversary or other Special Event in June Don't forget to make a contribution to the Wolcott Foundation, celebrating your happy event or occasion! Some members donate \$1.00 or more for every year they have been married. Seems like a very nice gesture on their part and a great tribute to a Happy Marriage to that Special Person!

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

Greetings to All. Its Convention time again in beautiful San Diego! There is still time to register and we hope you will join us for the 95th International Convention - it's your Convention! Join us for lunch on Saturday June 18th and meet the Grand Master of California.

This has been a very busy, but enjoyable High Twelve year. I'm extremely proud to have served as your President for this past year. It's been an awesome and rewarding experience. I thank you for your support and ask for your continued support of High Twelve going forward. I look forward to seeing you in San Diego. Sincerely and Fraternally, Jerry!

## **Zone 2 Wolcott Foundation Trustee Election**

**Clubs in Southern California and Arizona have received their ballot - the deadline for returning the ballot to the Wolcott Foundation Secretary is June 8, 2016. If you have not mailed the ballot back please do so today.**

### **International 1st Vice President Ronald W. Woods, CA (PSP):**

Brothers I really liked International 2nd Vice President Brother Bill Haynes article in the High Twelvian this spring. Do you make each and every member feel welcome? Are all your programs interesting and do you take time to talk to any new person that comes to your meeting?

This is good advice for the members. It reminds me about two new members we received in our church recently. A month ago my wife noticed a lady she did not know setting alone in the front left side of the church. Marilyn said, I am going over and sit next to her, so off she went. Now, that lady and her husband both regularly attend our church.

The husband told me last Sunday that his wife said it was the first time in the various churches they has visited that anyone has taken the time to meet and to talk with them. Question??? Do you as a member of your High Twelve Club take the time to talk and greet any new Master Mason or visitor who attends your club; and does your club have a greeter at the door??? Something for you to think about!  
Fraternally, Ron!

**International 2nd Vice President William Haynes, PSP (PA):**

We humans need food to satisfy our needs for energy, vitamins, etc. It is usually a very enjoyable time to dine and share fellowship with your brethren. This is one of the reasons that High Twelve is a favorite body of many of us Masons. Many clubs meet at restaurants and order from the menu or from a limited, pre-planned menu.

My club meets at the Masonic Lodge at noon for our meetings. The meal is usually a variety of sandwiches, soup (or sometimes choice of soups) and desserts. This simplistic meal has several advantages: since the food is made by two or three volunteers, it costs neither the club or the members, There is a delightful variety of food as different members have different likes/dislikes, it's always good as no one brings something that is not well prepared and those volunteering to make the food feel (rightfully so) that they have contributed to the club. Our annual picnic is hot dogs and hamburgers (provided by the club) plus everyone brings a covered dish. The food in both cases is always good, the fellowship is great and everyone (including the ladies) goes home feeling satisfied and happy. Perhaps your club could try this approach.

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

**Association Presidents:** if you are not attending make sure the Brother you are delegating has their Credential Form signed and has instructions on how to vote.

**Masonic Representatives:** if you are coming be sure to have your signed Credential Form. You must be present to vote as it cannot be delegated.

**Clubs:** if a member is not attending, use the Credential Form on inside back cover of the Spring Edition of *The High Twelvian* to Proxy your vote to someone who is going.

All who are attending in the Spring Edition of *The High Twelvian*:

- Page 24 has what to do when you arrive at the hotel by car or from the airport
- Page 12 has the proposed Bylaws amendment
- Page 21 has the list of those running for office
- Page 21 has the handmade quilt that will be raffled off
- Additional copies will be available at the Convention

Per Capita Statements for 2016-17 are in the hands of all club secretaries. If you have paid your statement THANK YOU! If you have not paid the statement what are you waiting for? Do it today!

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Convention and will be happy to demonstrate the Online Monthly Reports filings or anything else related to the High Twelve International Website or Membership Data Base - all you have to do is ask. The International Office will be present to help and

assist. Also, I will have the International Jewelry/Merchandise with me.

See you at the Convention! Kevin Hokerk-Robinson, International Secretary

**Past International President Merv Harris, PSP, (FL):** As the Wolcott Trustee for Zone 8, it is my responsibility to prepare the article for Wolcott this month. The other Trustees have done a great job submitting their monthly articles, so this month I will include another article from one of the Senior Wolcott Fellows we met at the Selection Board Meeting in March at George Washington University.

**Article provided by Chris Conrad, Senior Wolcott Fellow:**

Whenever I'm asked, it's always difficult for me to fully articulate the tremendous impact of the Wolcott Fellowship on my life. Most concisely stated, the Program has enabled me to serve national economic and security interests pursuant to the public good in ways I could never have imagined prior to accepting the Grant.



Also important to note is the Program's role in granting access to industry-leading thinkers in the classroom, unparalleled career development resources, and the reputation of one of the finest international affairs programs in the world.

In my view, the greatest overall value of the Wolcott Foundation is that it continues to successfully equip promising young people with the resources required for them to actualize their visions for national advancement. Without the Wolcott's unwavering commitment to supporting those who have the aptitude and desire to work on the international stage, I would not be the person I am today. I would not be in the position to strengthen our nation's technological competitiveness; I would not be challenged to do great and creative things on a daily basis; and, perhaps most importantly, I would not have met my wife at the Elliott School - the love of my life.

I am currently employed as an Engagement Manager at the Avascent Group, a boutique consultancy with a dedicated focus on government-driven sectors. I manage projects which support the development of mission and industrial base strategies for US and allied government clients, and advise US aerospace and defense firms on joint venture formation, international expansion, acquisition and divestiture strategy, and market positioning.

To provide a few concrete examples of my work, I've supported NASA Glenn in its formulation of a strategy to increase partnership with other US federal entities (e.g., Department of Defense research laboratories) and to increase public awareness of the center's immense contributions to aviation security and aeronautical research. I also recently traveled to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where I helped to establish a joint venture between a US satellite technology provider and a Saudi government entity to improve the diversification of our national space sector.

Sincerely yours, Chris Conrad, Senior Fellow.

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Selections have been made for the Wolcott Fellows, who will be attending George Washington University in 2016-2017. Those selected and schools attended are listed below:

**Erin Amato:** Calls North Carolina home. Graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Second Major in French and a Minor in Psychology and will attend Elliott School of International Affairs.

**Jarek Buss:** Calls Wyoming home. Graduate of Brigham Young University-Hawaii. Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and will attend Elliott School of International Affairs.

*(Email received from Jarek Buss on May 26th): Thank you for your letter. I am still deeply humbled by your generous selection of me as a Wolcott Fellow, and I look forward to making good on your investment through a career of service for our country and the world. This career is already on the right track - in addition to the Wolcott Fellowship, I was recently selected as a State Department Pickering Graduate Fellow. This award will provide additional funding for my room and board while attending the Elliott School, as well as (more importantly) two summer internships with the State Department and a fast track into the Foreign Service following graduation. I feel incredibly blessed by these opportunities, and I know I have a responsibility to pay it forward.*

*Thank you very much for your time; I appreciate your effort to reach out to me and I look forward to working with you in the future. Best, Jarek Buss*

**Alex Sproveri:** Calls Pennsylvania home. Graduate of Allegheny College. Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and will attend Trachtenberg School of Public Policy.

**Megan Mattson:** Calls Texas home. Graduate of George Washington University. Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs with a Minor in Arabic and will attend Elliott School of International Affairs.

**Laura Newman:** Calls Colorado home. Graduate of University of Denver. Bachelor of Science in Economics with Minors in International Studies and Business Ethics and will attend Elliott School of International Affairs.

### International General Counsel Recognized!

**Arizona Masonry - May 2016 - Volume 30 Number 2:**

## Meet Our Grand Lodge Attorney!



*William Wilkinson, Esq.*

Our Arizona Grand Lodge Attorney, William Wilkinson, Esq., from Tucson Lodge No. 4, received the highest High Twelve International honor possible, the High Twelve International President's All Star Award in 2015 and "For Exemplifying Our Motto: In Service to Freemasonry" from the High Twelve International President at the 95th Annual Mid-Year Conference in New Orleans on Jan. 26, 2016, for his work as their High Twelve International General Counsel.

**Arizona High Twelve Association:** Arizona's High Twelve Clubs are developing plans for Summer activity. Several of the Clubs continue meeting during the summer months, while several of the Clubs have special activities to continue Club activity but not have regular monthly meetings.

Sun City West Club No 567 recently celebrated 35 years as a Club with an Anniversary Luncheon. The gathering featured the presence of International Secretary Kevin Hokerk-Robinson and State Association President David P. Miller. The Club's history includes many activities to support the local Masonic community as well as outreach support for local Food Banks, Salvation Army activity, Masonic youth groups, Boy Scouts, Veteran support activities, and local community fund drives. Past State Association President John Geyer has been a member of the Club for 30 years and has a distinguished record of service to the local Club as well as the State Association and High Twelve International. He



has served as the Club's Wolcott Representative for many years. It was unfortunate that John Geyer was absent from the Anniversary Luncheon due to ill health.



Arizona welcomes any High Twelve Club members, who are visiting the Tucson or Phoenix areas during the year. A reporting on the various Arizona club meeting dates, times, and locations can be found on the High Twelve International Website ([high12.org](http://high12.org)) selecting the Association tab and then selecting Arizona. Many of the clubs include Ladies in their meetings. Arizona High Twelve Clubs offer an opportunity a relaxing environment with warm Masonic fellowship. If you need additional information, contact the State Association President, Dave Miller, at 623.875.2149 or [gdmillerak@msn.com](mailto:gdmillerak@msn.com)

**Illinois Association of Masonic High Twelve Clubs, Joe Santisteban, State President (IL):**

Greetings fellow High Twelvian's, by the time you read this newsletter, I will probably be on the road headed for the High Twelve International Convention in San Diego, where a new chapter of High Twelve will begin. I'm looking forward to the trip and want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Illinois State officers for their support, advice, counsel and involvement this year. As we all know, no one individual can do it alone. There is no I in Team.



In April, I attended the reception of our Jr. Grand Warden in Springfield. I think I did a good job of

representing High Twelve. Besides it being a very enjoyable event, I also got a chance to share some High Twelve trivia with some of our prominent Masons. Two were receptive to investigating whether or not there might be any interest in starting a High Twelve club in their area. Guess we'll have to wait and see if anything comes out of this.

In May, I attended the Masters Dinner at the Medinah Shrine Center. Although I was wearing a different name badge, I did get the chance to talk about High Twelve, as I usually do. The result of this was that we got another member into our Cornerstone Club. I also attend the meetings of the Cubs in my area regularly and they seem to be doing well. I always brief them on what activities may be upcoming and of interest to the members.

Also in May, I had the pleasure of making my 'official visit' to our Jerseyville Club. What a nice reception I received from the members and ladies present. The fine food also made the trip worthwhile. I also had the privilege of installing the officers for the upcoming year. Also on hand, and assisting in the installation were our 1st VP, Charles Coffey and our 2nd VP, David Liesen. This is definitely one of the fun parts of my *job!*

In June, I am scheduled to 'officially visit' our Belleville Club. I'm looking forward to seeing some of my Southern Brothers again. Also in June, I will be installing the new officers of our Cornerstone Club. So far, this has been a busy and fun year...but wait! I'm not done yet. I will do my best to represent Illinois High Twelve well at the International Convention. Until next time stay safe, keep having fun and watch out for each other. Respectfully and fraternally, Joe Santisteban.

**Illini No. 768 (Illinois)** held our installation of officers for 2016-17, at our May 19th meeting. Illinois High Twelve Association Vice President Charlie Coffey was our installing officer with former club Presidents Brad Cronk as Chaplain and Ray Cummings as Marshall.



The newly installed officers are: President Dale Rascher, 1st Vice President Steve Guess, 2nd Vice President Eric Buzzard, Secretary (for life) Darin Lahners, Treasurer Greg Knott, Chaplain Paul Noerenberg, Sergeant at Arms Denver Phelps, Wolcott Representative Ron Peyton, Masonic Representative Todd Creason, and Youth Representative Todd Burhmeister.

We are located in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois which is the home of the University of Illinois Fighting Illini. Illini No. 768 is an active club with guest speakers each month. Join us on the 3rd Thursday of each month at noon, we meet in the Urbana Garden Restaurant 810 W. Killarney, Urbana IL.

You can keep up with our club on the web at <http://illinihightwelve.blogspot.com/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/illinihigh12/>

**Mystery Time!**

**Do you know who this is in the photo?**  
**The first person to identify the couple will receive a cold drink at the Convention this year!!!**  
**Email your answer to [mjghi12@centurylink.net](mailto:mjghi12@centurylink.net).**



## High Twelve International Annual Convention

Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside  
4875 N Harbor Dr  
San Diego CA 92106

[www.holidayinn.com/san-baysideca](http://www.holidayinn.com/san-baysideca)

Group Room rate \$139.00/day + tax  
Single and Double - Run of the House

June 15, 2016 [Wed.] is the arrival day  
7:00 PM Executive Board Meeting

June 16, 2016 [Thur.] is tour day  
9:30 AM to 3:30 PM - Personalized H-12 Narrated City Tour with Luncheon in Old Town - cost \$79.00 inclusive per person. **There must be a minimum of 36 reservations to have the tour! As of 5/31/16 we are short by 10 to have the tour - please consider going on the tour!**  
8:00 AM - 10:00 PM - Hospitality Room Open  
7:00 PM - Informal Get-Together in the Hospitality Room

June 17-18, 2016 [Fri. & Sat.] is the convention  
6/17 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM Convention Meeting  
6/17 Noon - Wolcott Foundation Luncheon - all invited  
6/17 12:30 PM to 10:00 PM Hospitality Room Open  
  
6/18 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM Convention Meeting  
6/18 Noon - Grand Master's Luncheon - all invited  
6/18 12:30 PM to 10:00 PM Hospitality Room Open  
6/18 5:30 - 10:00 PM Dinner and Installation of Officers'

June 19, 2016 is the departure date

The group rate [\$139 +tax] is available for three days pre and post event based on room availability via the provided link or contact hotel reservations directly at Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside. Call 1(619)

224-3621, ask for reservations (Ext: 701) or call toll free (in USA only) 1(800) 662-8899.

The group code is **IHA** and your group rates were valid for booking through **5/26/16** - now it is on room availability/rate, first come basis.

Click here [International High 12 Association room reservations at Holiday Inn Bayside](#) to proceed directly to your reservation desk.

The above link goes to the standard reservations page with the group code pre-loaded. The individual guests need to input their arrival and departure dates which need to fall with-in the group contract dates (+/- 3 days) and click "Check Availability" to go to the group's specific rate and availability page. From there select a room type that they prefer and input the personal details to complete the reservation (please scroll down to see all available room types). Guests may also use their IHG Rewards number with the group rate.

Parking fee \$5.00 per day (reduced from the normal price!)  
WiFi is complimentary throughout the hotel

### **Humor:**

One spring afternoon, I came home to find two little girls on the steps of my building. Both were crying hard, shedding big tears. Thinking they might be hurt, I dropped my briefcase and quickly went over to them. Are you all right? I asked. Still sobbing, one held up her doll. My baby's arm came off, she said. I took the doll and its disjointed arm. After a little effort and luck, the doll was again whole. Thank you, came a whisper from the girl as I handed her the doll back. Next, looking into the tearful eyes of her friend, I asked, and what's the matter with you, young lady? She wiped her cheeks and said, Oh I'm okay, I was just helping her cry.

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As I was going to visit a friend, I saw my neighbor's little child at the street corner holding two dollars and crying. I asked him, Junior, what is the matter? He replied, My mummy gave me one dollar to buy sugar and one dollar to buy soy milk, and now I can't remember which dollar is for sugar and which dollar is for the milk.

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In a software design meeting, we were using typical technical jargon to discuss a data exchange interface with a vendor. One co-worker said the programming we had ordered was delayed because the vendor was suffering from a severe non-linear waterfowl issue. Curious, the team leader raised his eyebrows and asked, what exactly is that? The programmer replied, they don't have all their ducks in a row.

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As a kid, parent-teacher conferences were embarrassing and awkward for me and my parents. My teacher made my parents write on the blackboard one hundred times, We will not have any more children.

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A widow recently married a widower. Soon after the marriage she was approached by a friend who laughingly remarked, I suppose, like all men who have been married before, your husband sometimes talks about his first wife? Oh, not any more, he doesn't, the widow replied. What stopped him? I started talking about my next husband.



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Fraternally, Mervyn J. Harris, PIP

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