

**HIGH TWELVE INTERNATIONAL – MID-YEAR GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
THE MAISON DUPUY HOTEL – NEW ORLEANS, LA ~ JANUARY 26, 2016**

Welcome – Jerry L. Saville, International President

- Invocation was given by Winton Hewitt, PIP – via ooVoo
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Winton Hewitt, PIP – via ooVoo
- Toast to the Flag was presented by Bill Haynes – via ooVoo
- There is a clipboard being passed around with a sign in sheet attached, please fill it out
- Due to a very large snow storm, Winton Hewitt, Don Whistler and Bill Hayes joined us online via ooVoo web sharing video. Additionally, joining us was Darrell Russell, Secretary of Arnold Page H-12 #298, United Kingdom

Business Session – Jerry Saville

- Roll call – Kevin Hokerk-Robinson, International Secretary, called the role of the Governing Board and reported that a quorum was present 15, in total, with 7 of 15 governing board members (*see report book for reference documents throughout the minutes*)
- Jerry Saville - The minutes of the 94th Annual Convention – are there any questions or comments? It was M/S/P to receive the minutes as printed, there was no further discussion.
- Correspondence: Kevin
 - There were no resolutions or amendments submitted
- International Officer Reports are in the attendee packet. The Treasurer's mid-year report (YTD Actual to Budget, Audits of the checking account and Endowment Fund) was discussed and approved.
- Committee Reports:
 - General Counsel, Will Wilkinson, HTI Conflict of Interest Policy – the need for the policy was explained and the policy was reviewed. And will be brought up under the regular order of business for a vote.
 - Endowment Fund – Don Whistler
 - Fundraising – Don Whistler
 - High Twelvian – Kevin Hokerk-Robinson
 - Wolcott Foundation – Roger Hopkins for Don Garrido who could not attend, extended a warm greeting on behalf of Don. A Contributions by Zone Summary was handed out for the period May 1, 2015 through April 30, 2016 – 1st 2 Quarters - \$23,229.41 was shown as donated. Per unit hour cost is \$1,650 x 40 hrs. = \$66,000 per student or a projected total of \$330,000 for the 5 fellowships that will be awarded in March. There was a 7.7% return on \$5.1m invested, as of 12/31/15. Joe Santisteban – who are the clubs don't donate – I would like their names and phone numbers – only 50% of club donated the last year. Merv – all donations should be documented with a Wolcott Receipt to identify and track donations and to make them eligible for a tax donation. A consolidated group check does not accomplish that. Joe – I still want a report on who did/did not donate. The Zone Trustee should be communicating this information. Winton Hewitt – in PA one club, if you donate \$100 (century club) the club will pay your dues for the year as an incentive to donate. Jerry – I think the trustees are doing a good job on rolling out the numbers. I have been to 4 association meetings and numerous club meetings and here is what I hear on the street; think we can get what we need from the trustees, but I think there is a snag in the process for rolling it all up. Kevin – no, there is no snag

as they are using Quick Books and should be able to run reports to show donations by club and zone but they choose not to. Jerry - with all due respect to the chairman, Malcolm White's comments on less than ½ of 1 fellowship being donated by the club the Wolcott Foundation needs to listen to what the clubs are saying. Kevin - they can produce the reports as in past years which can be distributed electronically to the clubs via the secure part of the website for any registered member. They choose not to follow the bylaws, why can't we see the budget, expenses, donations – no annual membership meetings, why? We are just asking for full disclosure as we have had in the past and as required by being a 501(c)3. Roger – Don Garrido does a good job addressing questions and having the answers – he makes the effort. Merv – wearing two hats – as a PIP I have to agree with your concerns and will write the chairman a letter when I get home to express the concerns brought up here. Jerry – this is the benefit of this meeting were we can get into the details where there often is not time at the annual convention. I will be talking to Malcolm on my return.

- Website – Kevin – if a club is submitting the F-200b report the website will be current, same goes for associations if they provide that information. A review of the individual association webpages was made. At the end of the day we can go over the website, database, forms, reporting etc.
- Uniform Association Constitution & Bylaws Adoption or lack thereof was discussed by Kevin and Will. Two associations have adopted so far – all were directed to adopt with little results. Geo. Engles gave up on IN, Tom Bevington won't move the document forward. David Patton is aware of the challenges they have in NCA.
- David Neal – lost a few clubs via consolidations. Clubs that are doing well have the ladies really involved. Going to look more into getting the ladies more involved with the clubs. Darrell Russell from #298 – sounds like the clubs stateside have the same problem we have in the UK. Joe Santisteban – Oak Park #52 has more ladies show up than men do. Bill Haynes – ladies are vital and if you don't ask/involve them the men don't come. Joe Santisteban – I got involved by the lure of a free lunch...when I left I was filling an officer chair! Roger Hopkins – in TX we have a cultural thing with our Hispanic members were the ladies are not involved.
- Monthly Reporting statistics were discussed by the Secretary – only 40% reporting on a somewhat regular basis leaving some 90 clubs being MIA
- Club Expansion – David Neal – talked about inquiries from GA, Canada, IN.

- LUNCH BREAK

- OLD BUSINESS:

- Database/Website – Kevin
 - Monthly Update is going to about 25% of the membership – requests for emails from associations and clubs not successful
 - PayPal has been integrated for new/reinstated member fees, merchandise and events
- IRS Related – Kevin
 - The HTI 990 Long Form was filed by the accountant in December - Kevin I can bring up the full return if desired.
 - 990-N ePostcard filing & reinstatements were reviewed. Applying for a new EIN generally will work but down the road the IRS will catch up and merge the revoked one and the new into one and send a bill for \$400 which is the fee the club tried to avoid in the first place. Winton – when I did the validation this for international I had one club provide a different EIN that they were filing under.

- EIN Validation went out in December for all associations and independent clubs – only 2 associations responded – Arizona and Pennsylvania. Kansas has their own group exemption
- The group exemption will be updated and sent in first part of February
- NEW BUSINESS:
 - Introduction of new legislation – None
 - Conflict of Interest Policy – A detailed description of the policy was provided by Will – applies only to elected HTI officers and committee chairmen. Vendors that are members are not a concern under this policy. It was M/S/P to adopt the policy
 - Club Officer’s manual – Jerry Saville – The notification was properly made, and can be approved here at this meeting. It was M/S/P to adopt the manuals as corrected (name badge/tag, critique vs. criticize, monthly update is an official publication due to its limited distribution).
 - HTI Convention Manual – Jerry Saville – after a brief discussion it was M/S/P to adopt the manual
 - Uniform Association Constitution & Bylaws – Will – I thought that at the last convention we stated that those associations that have not adopted the uniform version have now done so by default. Kevin - I will have to look up what the notice said and if/when the drop dead date was.
 - Grand Master’s Conference – Jerry Saville – Ron and I will be there to meet and greet the GM’s and answer their questions. North Carolina does not allow ‘Masonic clubs’ in their jurisdiction. New York – they don’t like the youth groups involvement we promote – Winton. Will - to get around the NC problem we could add after the word ‘club’ a different phrase ‘or affiliate.’ Winton – we have a group of Mason’s ready to go should a word change be made. Will – I suggest that we contact the NC GL to see if this change would meet their approval before we do a bylaws change – Winton, I will work on that.
 - Bylaws Amendment – Sid Leluan - It was M/S/P to add the words “or affiliate” to all places where club is used. This came out of a discussion on to solve a problem with North Carolina not allowing “clubs” in their grand jurisdiction. A similar action was taken by National Sojourner’s to solve their problem with expanding into North Carolina. The change will be posted in the Spring High Twelvian for action at the 95th Convention.
 - Texas – “lost & found” – Jerry Saville – The bylaws change approved at the 94th Convention to allow ‘Masons’ to be members caused HTI to be suspended by the TX GM. Though the efforts of Will, Kevin, the Governing Board and myself we retracted the approval and reinstated that membership must be ‘Master Mason.’ This was approved by the TX GL and HTI was reinstated. Pete Norman from the TX GL was our main contact. Sam Green - I would like to thank these brothers personally for all the work to solve the Texas Problem. Also, can clubs meet at other times instead of high 12? Sid - YES!!!! Clubs meet for breakfast and dinner – it is what works for the club.
 - 95th Convention – Jerry - have a great location selected, first nighters get together, meals are planned, working on a tour
 - Mid-Year 2016 Summary – Kevin
 - Merv Harris – distributed a document showing Recommended Abbreviations for High Twelve and various titles. He requested that a committee be established to review and make recommendations.
 - Around the room comments
 - Meeting attendance – invite the ladies!
 - Document meetings with pictures
 - Expansion
 - State association meetings

- Invite Masons for lunch – it works!
- This online meeting worked very well [ooVoo]
- Loosing members due to age
- Better communication to international clubs
- Clubs need to work closer/better with clubs in the local area
- Designated greeter – don't let visitors be by themselves
- It is a SIN that more people don't participate in Mid-Winter and Convention meetings
- Eat more Pralines!
- You have to TALK to people to get them to come & participate
- Congratulations to our President for a will run meeting today
- Have club members meet with their local lodges and help put on a meal *together*
- Have a videographer at the convention to record the Wolcott Foundation Fellows presentation and then have a DVD available as a marketing tool – not one time but every year! We are philanthropy that trains graduate students in government service
- Eat more King Cake
- A long and lively discussion was held on the process for nominations from the floor, who recommends (club and association) and the 10 delegates in attendance. It was M/S to delete the requirement for association endorsement for floor nominations – it failed to pass.
- International President provided closing remarks
 - We are volunteers
 - We provide a safe place for our widows to meet
 - We need to step out of the box when looking at growth
 - Tried it with the EA & FC initiative – at least we tried
 - Plan ahead! Sometimes two years is not enough time
 - A big thank you for Will for making these arrangements (he was presented with a plaque)

The meeting adjourned in peace and harmony with Winton Hewitt giving the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,



International Secretary