



High Twelve International, Inc.
2021 Mid-Year Conference – Via Zoom
January 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM EST by Jerry Hamilton, International President.
- The Invocation was given by Rev. Bill Hartman.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Eric Klienbach, Sergeant-at-Arms
- The Toast to the Flag was given by Winton Hewitt, PIP, Parliamentarian.
- The Roll Call was taken by Thomas Brotherton III, Secretary. There were 14 Governing Board members present out of 22. The quorum met. There were 6 PIP's presents, for a total of 20 votes or 11 needed for a simple majority. (86 members on line)
- The 99th International Convention Minutes were not read as there it was canceled due to Covid.
 - Per recommendation of General Counsel at the time that each of the progressive officers advance one level and that the office of 3rd International Vice President, if uncontested should be elected as should the Treasurer and Secretary. The Endowment Trustees to rotate as normal while the 1 year to remain open. It was approved by the Executive board. Motion Made, seconded and unanimously approved.
- Update by 1st Vice President Mike Haxton on the Life Membership Proposal was that it is being worked on to be able to be presented in proper form for the Annual Meeting.
 - Motion made to approve the Life membership program as published in the High Twelvian with the exception to the future alterations to put into proper form as an amendment. Motions was seconded and approved by majority.
- Announcement made that on July 26th of 2020 Previous Secretary Donald Joe submitted his resignation due to other commitments. Brother Kevin Hokerk-Robinson stepped in as Interim Secretary until a replacement could be found. The Executive Board ratified on November 2nd 2020 the appointment of Thomas Brotherton to fill the remaining term.
 - Motion made and seconded to approve the Resignation of Donald, the Interim filling by Kevin and the ratification of Tom, was approved unanimously.
- Correspondence/Resolutions
 - Proposed Amendment to decrease the number of members to start a new club from 10 to 7 to be taken up under new business.
 - Proposed Amendment to increase international Per capita dues from \$10 to \$15 for regular members and \$2 to \$5 for Masonic Home Members to be taken up under new business.
 - 2 Letters of interest in running for 3rd International Vice President and 1 for Endowment Fund Trustee. All with proper support letters from their Clubs' as well as their Associations' if applicable.
- International Officer verbal reports
 - 1st VP Mike Haxton – as printed. 1 Addition: in Kansas where lodges are going under, there is talk about opening new clubs to ensure that where lodges may be at a greater distance to the smaller towns, those who want to remain a member can still attend a Masonic function.
 - 2nd VP Mark Nokes – as printed. 1st Addition was to thank Brother Kevin for him taking on the roll of interim secretary until the position was filled. 2nd Addition was to inform the brethren whose clubs could not meet, to utilize the zoom app or other online formats to increase the attendance rates.
 - 3rd Vice President Rick Santella – as printed. 1st Addition. Reach out to your members. 2nd Addition, a new club starting in Pennsylvania who had to cancel their first planning meeting utilized social media to sign on over 30 charter members.
 - President Jerry Hamilton – As printed. 1st Addition Due to covid and the absence of members, we may not see them return, stay in contact and keep them engaged so this way High Twelve is not forgotten by our members. 2nd addition When we return bring a guest with you to a High Twelve meeting to get them interested in High Twelve.
 - Secretary Thomas Brotherton – as printed 1st Addition Thank everyone for their support.
 - Treasurer Kevin Hokerk-Robinson – as printed. 1st Addition; Wanted to thank Tom for his willingness to take the position.



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- Associated Presidents Reports:
 - Walter Williams (AZ President) – They are starting to meet again and doing well. There is 1 club that was unable to start due to the restrictions placed upon them.
 - James Wooder (CO President) – Not present due to other obligations.
 - James Davis (FL President) – 3 to 4 clubs meeting in person while the rest are meeting on Zoom. A new club is started in Ft. Meyers and a new one starting in Delan. Eric spoke on a potential club starting in the Keys, 1 in Miami and one in Venice.
 - John Curielli (IL President) – Due to limited activities from Covid there was a minimal attendance. They Held their Annual in August. And Due to restrictions they held their dinner at a country club who was set up by a friend of Brother Curielli who was not a Mason. As money was collected by all who were present and was to be paid for a later date, was covered by the friend. So the money collected was donated to Wolcott. The total was in excess of \$1000.
 - William Short (IN President) State Association meeting was held earlier in the month. The Indianapolis Club has moved and is better placed between a few lodges and has seen an increase.
 - John Robbins (KS President) – Followed up on Mike's Comments on the work with the Grand Lodge to start High Twelve Clubs where lodges have closed. They have invited non- masons as this put a face on masonry, they also had appendant bodies present so that should they have any questions they could ask. One of the wives present Joined eastern star. Also made mention that they have several members who due to covid refused to leave their home for fear of catching Covid.
 - John Baker (LA President) Not Present.
 - Kenneth Simons Jr. (MI President) Spoke on their Governor allowed restaurants to begin opening they are having a tough time getting members to come out. They are hoping that next month they will see an influx in attendance.
 - Frank Swallow (NCA President) Not Present
 - Tom Hagan (OH President) Not Present
 - Harry Beers (PA President) Announced that Pennsylvania has only been open for the past 2 months. 2 Clubs have been meeting and have been well attended. There was only able have 1 Pennsylvania Executive meeting.
 - Darren Pitts (Representing TX) Clubs doing well. We have had interest of 3 new clubs Dallas, Longview, and El Paso. Their State Association meeting will be held May 8th. And Houston will be hosting the Mid Year for 2022 (January 21st – January 23rd)
- Independent Clubs
 - Red Buttons (CA Club) – They have not had the chance to meet due to governor's restrictions. When they did meet they had a good showing and a good showing from the younger masons.
 - Oakland Club (CA Clubs) Had been meeting before covid and excellent programs and speakers.
 - Cornerstone Club (DC Club) Noted that their club was chartered during Covid. Due to the high case rate in DC they are still not meeting in person but have been meeting virtually. They have donated a lot of money to Wolcott during this past year. Moving forward they plan on continue to meet virtually until they are able to meet in person again.
 - Mount Laurel Club (NJ Club) IS still meeting but in a restaurant in a small gatherings. Hoping to meet back in normal conditions and begin visiting lodges to maybe start new clubs again.
 - Arnold Page (UK Club) They have been meeting virtually through Zoom with average numbers of 6-10. They have been making donations to Wolcott and have received 1 new petition. No lodge meetings due to the harsh restrictions due to the high number of covid cases.
 - Bulgaria Member – Planning to meet as soon as they open up from Covid restrictions. They want to spread the word of High Twelve to the lodges



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○ **Bylaws Proposals**

- Proposed Amendment to decrease the number of members to start a new club from 10 to 7. Proposed by Brothers Eric Kilenbach and Jim Davis.
 - Motion moved and seconded that this proposal to be voted on at the Annual Convention.
 - Questions on the proposal: None Asked.
 - Comments on the proposal. Brother Winton felt that 7 was to low a number to sustain longevity, should something happen to the original 7 the club could suffer. Brother Jim Davis made comment that in the past he had signed to a club just to give them the number needed to make the charter. Brother Eric stated that several clubs attempted to start but someone passed or someone moved and they always had the number to fill the offices but never to get it started to then begin their membership programs to build membership.
 - Mike Haxton Calls for the question and Seconded by Mark Nokes. Unanimously in favor for the proposal to be Moved to the June Convention.

- Proposed Amendment to increase international Per capita dues from \$10 to \$15 for regular members and \$2 to \$5 for Masonic Home Members. Proposed by Brothers Rick Santella and Thomas Brotherton.
 - Motion moved and seconded that this proposal to be voted on at the Annual Convention.
 - Brother Boone asked for an amendment to the amendment that would exempt those members who live in masonic homes be exempt from the per capita.
 - Discussion on the proposal: Brother Rick stated that is have been at least over 12 years since a dues increase has. Brother Eric stated that when someone enters a masonic home in Florida that there dues are waived to his knowledge. A Brother stated that the Masonic Homes in PA can not take al of your income to his knowledge. Brother Jerry asked Brother Eric to look into the situation in Florida. Brother Kevin stated that Florida did have a masonic home club but has since ceased since that had failed to function he also stated that in Ohio the association donates money to the clubs to cover those in Masonic Homes dues. Brother Kevin also stated the Masonic Home per capita has been \$2 since the 1940s.
 - Comments on the proposal. Brother Winton felt that 7 was to low a number to sustain longevity, should something happen to the original 7 the club could suffer. Brother Jim Davis made comment that in the past he had signed to a club just to give them the number needed to make the charter. Brother Eric stated that several clubs attempted to start but someone passed or someone moved and they always had the number to fill the offices but never to get it started to then begin their membership programs to build membership. Brother Tom reminded the brethren this proposal is not to raise the dues of the members, but the per capita that the International is paid by each club. Brother Sid had a question of the amount of members to High Twelve? Brother Kevin answered 3,000 members. Brother Sid asked that the members consider that membership has dropped to a third of what is was since 12 years ago. Brother Lacey asked do the Masonic Home Members cost anything to the International. Brother Kevin answered that they do cost the international. Brother Lacey stated that Masonic home membership dues should be optional. Brother Kevin reminded all present that the international does not bill the members, that the clubs bills the members. Should the club decide to do that would be for them to decide. Brother Winton stated in PA there was a club that would pay the masonic home member's dues and when the club asked its members to pay only the per capita, the club folded due to no one wanted to pay the per capita. Brother Eric made mention that he had members question why the club has to pay per capita to the International as well as the state association. Brother Kevin responded that the largest



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expense is the Liability insurance the international covers for All Clubs which is \$12,000. Brother Clemmer reported that if a club had to go out and purchase that insurance it would cost that club at least \$400. Brother Tom also stated that this covers all materials that clubs request as well as postage that the international does not charge the clubs. Examples are Dues cards, Membership certificates, Get well cards, and birthday cards. These items are Printed in house and sent on to the clubs at no cost of their own. Brother from Ohio requested that we put an email or something in the High Twelvian. Brother Walter stated he believes if the per capita is raised we will lose clubs in Arizona.

- Mark Nokes Calls for the question. Brother Johnathan moves.
- Brother Boone withdrew his amendment to the amendment.
- Roll Call vote was had with 18 yea 1 nay. The Amendment moves to the June Convention.

○ Committee Reports

● Endowment Fund

- Both Trustees report that they had not received any statements to make a report on.

● Treasurer – Kevin Hokerk-Robinson

- 2020 Labels net summary = \$5,609.39
- 2020 Pocket Planner net summary = \$1,145.40
- Endowment Fund balance 12/31/20 = \$233,261.29
- Wally's Fund balance 12/31/20 = \$179,463.64
- Checking balance 12/31/20 = \$ 11,350.48
- Savings balance 12/31/20 = \$ 20,025.43
- Net worth as of 12/31/20 = \$450,855.63
- Since there was no 2020 Convention to approve the 2021 budget Mark Nokes Moves that we approve the budget for 2021 seconded by Mike Haxton. Motion approved unanimously.
- The 2020 pocket planner is the most expensive of our fundraisers on only turned a profit of \$1,145.40 this year. 593 we sent out and we received 177 donations back on this fundraiser.

● High Twelvian- Mike Haxton

- Looking for an Editor still.
- Please submit your articles.

● Forms – Thomas Brotherton

- In my short term of 2 months 435 Dues cards sent out, 15 Rosters, 15 New member packets. Roughly 37 members lost due to death or resignation. 2 new club Charters, and 6 new club packets.
- Please Stress to your clubs if they need or want Birthday cards, sympathy cards, new member certificates, any documents that are provided to the Clubs by the international at no cost to the clubs, not even postage, we will provide them. Please make note on your month,y Form 200a.

● Parliamentarian – Winton Hewitt, PIP –

- Keep the clubs and state organizations up to date.
- If you go to High12.org you will see all that the international does for its clubs and members.

● Monthly Report Filings – Thomas Brotherton

- We have only received an average return of 24% of all clubs.
- We cannot keep your clubs information and member's info up to date with out these forms being filed. This the international's way of keeping your clubs history.



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- Weather your club meets or not, weather they are meeting virtually. The form 200a must be filed.
- 21 emails were kicked back just in the sending of the invite for the Mid year convention.
- Ask or Appointment of an Assistant secretary to do the emails. This keeps your clubs overhead cost down rather than sending the hard copy using postage.
- Club Expansion – Mike Haxton
 - Nothing New to add.
- Wolcott Foundation – Mike Clark
 - A club in Pennsylvania has been utilizing our Wolcott Fellows and the Wolcott Treasurer as speakers for their Zoom Meetings.
 - Also on the Wolcott site has two 15 minute videos that can be used for your meetings.
 - The Wolcott went down to \$3.5 million when the market dropped. But now that the market has gotten better, Wolcott is up to \$5.8 Million as of this date.
 - They get a weekly report on how the money is doing.
 - We are down 41% down from this time last year.
 - Mike would like to thank all the clubs and associations for their continued support.
 - If any clubs are still holding money, Please send it in before their fiscal year ends which is in April.
 - There are Wolcott Trustee elections coming up for 2 Zones. If interested in running. Please submit your intentions and support to the Wolcott Secretary by March First.
 - Thank you to the 8 Wolcott Deputy Trustees for visiting the Clubs.
 - Latest estimate is we have over 50 senior Wolcott Fellows working in Washington DC in various departments.
 - All Wolcott Donations are an investment in our Country's Future.
- Database – Kevin Hokerk-Robinson
 - All databases being utilized are working as intended.
- Monthly Update – Eric Klienbach
 - No longer a monthly update it has been made a Bi-Monthly.
 - He tries to coordinate with Mike Haxton as not to double up.
 - When submitting please submit your name as well as your clubs name and number.
- Online Forms – Thomas Brotherton
 - Please keep all of your members information and officer information up to date.
 - Kevin made mention that that previously you were unable to donate to Wolcott Directly through our site. That has been change and you can now do so.
- Merchandise – Kevin Hokerk-Robinson
 - Items continue to sell.
 - No new items have been added.
- IRS Related – Kevin Hokerk-Robinson
 - 2019 International Tax form was filed. No invoice has been received as of yet.
 - In December Annual validation has been to the EIN name holder looking to verify all information is correct.
 - Those who have been revoked get it reinstated but still file their paper 990ez as you are still required.
 - All instructions for filing, how to apply for a reinstatement can be found on the high12.org site.
 - 53 Validations so far received for the 140 that were sent out.
 - They are due back by January 31st for the international filing by February 15th.
- Delinquent Clubs Per Capita – Kevin Hokerk-Robinson
 - Baton Rouge has been paid.



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- Little River has been revoked and have been removed from our rolls.
- 2018-2019 - 2 Clubs owe \$442.00
- 2019-2020 - 5 Clubs owe \$912.00
- 2020-2021 – 23 Clubs owe 4,994.00
- All per capita is due upon receipt. As this is a part of your clubs approved budget there is no need to meet in person to send these in.
- Next Mailing will be in the mail April 30th.
- 100th Convention – Jerry Hamilton
 - Dates will be: June 11-12
 - Hotel will be: Hilton Garden Inn
1132 Larsen Park Road
Sioux City, Iowa, 51103
 - Schedule:
 - Thursday June 10 Arrival
 - Friday June 11 Tours to Lewis and Clark Museum and grave of E.C Wilcott
President's Dinner with Sioux Indian Entertainment
 - Saturday June 12 Annual Meeting and Election of Officers.
Grand Master's Banquet and Installation of Officers
 - Sunday June 13 Departure
 - Room Rate is \$ 129.00 per night
 - Registration Fee \$ 25.00 Includes Hospitality Room and President's Gift to all attendees.
 - Meal cost To be determined in March.
 - The first 100 to attend receive the Centennial Tie Bar.
- High Twelvian – Mike Haxton
 - All articles due by March 15th.
 - A new editor is needed.
 - How to get printed is needed.
 - And how to get mailed is needed.
- 2021 Labels – They will continue.
- New Fundraiser Ideas.
 - New Necktie.
 - Send Submissions for neck ties and fund raisers to the Executive board.
 - Brother Demitris said selling mugs, wine glasses or glasses of sorts may be a good idea.
- Past International Presidents.
 - Roger Hansen 2005-2006
 - Looking forward to attending the 100th Convention.
 - 6 People from his club had covid.
 - He has visited every member of his club.
 - Governor of South Dakota has mostly everything closed down.
 - James Parker 2013-2014
 - Pleased be here and please with this format.
 - Suggest making this a permanent process as it will keep the cost down.
 - Winton Hewitt 2014-2015
 - Wanted to Congratulate President Hamilton on this meeting as well as his programs for this year.
 - Hopes to be able to attend the 100th Convention.



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- Johnathan Dilliey 2019-2020
 - Wanted to thank all the brethren who were able to make it today.
 - With setting a goal of 100 new president club members he was hoping to present them the fun experience of receiving the sign, grip and word and all the fun things we do in High Twelve at the 99th Convention but now hopes that they can make it to the 100th to receive it all and have a great time.
 - Also agrees maybe we have both a virtual format as well as an in person convention and see so much more brethren able to attend.
- Joe Santisteban 2018-2019
 - Doing well and very active in High Twelve.
 - He is enjoying his role as Association Vice President.
 - Please all take care.
- Final Comments:
 - Kevin Hokerk-Robinson.
 - Anyone interested in running for an International office Must have their letters in by March 15th so they can be published.
 - By laws will be in that High Twelvian
 - Video and Packet will be published on the High12.org site.
 - Recommends that the bi monthly be moved back to monthly.
 - Covid is still running rampant in in AZ.
 - Only neck ties available are thru pin world.
 - Thomas Brotherton.
 - Make sure you have your support letters from your club and association to run for international office.
 - Make sure you fill out the form 200a every month.
 - Make sure to fill out the form 200b letting us know who is the presidents and secretary of your clubs and associations.
 - Everyone stay well and healthy.
 - Rick Santella
 - Congratulations to President Hamilton on a successful meeting.
 - Thank you to all who came and participated.
 - State officers please make sure you stay in contact and engaged with your clubs.
 - Mark Nokes
 - Clubs and State association please stay in contact with your club widows.
 - With the meetings being in Hybrid format is a positive thing for the international and all associations and can be done very easily.
 - Mike Haxton
 - I enjoyed this meeting and it was very successful.
 - But I notice a demand for in person.
 - 2022 Mid year is tentatively January 22nd in Huston Texas.
 - Jerry Hamilton
 - Costs for the convention are expensive and usually the cost or covered by program books, tours and the banquet.
 - Cost are \$400 a day for the meeting room.



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- Included is a hospitality room but must be stocked by the hotel. The chairman for the hospitality room will be Bill Haynes PIP.
 - We owe to our founder to come to Souix City IA. And pay homage to our founder.
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- The Closing Benediction was given by Rev. Bill Hartman.
 - Mid year Meeting Closed at 2:11pm EST.

Respectfully submitted,


Thomas J. Brotherton III
International Secretary
February 28, 2021