



High Twelve International August Up-Date

August 10, 2023

News Flash!

A member poll was sent on 8/10 concerning the pre-order for the 2024 Pocket Planner.

Good news it will be the same look as past years BUT with one BIG difference - it WILL be a WEEKLY format - one week with facing pages.

You asked and this option became this year!

Based on last year there will only be 100 available - order NOW to reserve your copy!

Oakland High Twelve Club #2 - CA

Your classically trained voice is in demand!
by Bruce A. Rick

The two speakers at a recent meeting of High Twelve Club No. 2 of Oakland California shared with the attendees the opportunities and challenges of practicing and performing operas in the Oakland Scottish Rite Center where our High Twelve Club meets monthly.

The West Edge Opera group had been searching for a new location before COVID stymied their search. They finally found the Scottish Rite as a unique place that met their principles of presenting musical works in innovative spaces that are rich in historical legacy and support of affordably priced seats to events dedicated to welcoming new, diverse audiences.

Speaker Mark Streshinsky, General Director, said, "I was in awe at my first visit here as I toured this one hundred-year old building from the first floor ballroom to the fourth floor auditorium" and added, this place is 'theatrically huge'.

is theatrically huge.

Our other speaker, Alex Sidel, the Head of Production said, "The huge amount of space here has been a challenge for us and the single service elevator requires more pre-planning for us to move our equipment, props and costumes". "But", he added, "the cast and crew have never been so happy" and "the building management here has been so hospitable and open to help us with our requests in improving the entertainment experience".

Chris Boggess, operations director of the Oakland Scottish Rite said, "Yes, we have been upgrading different areas. For example, we have added railings to selected aisles for ease of using the steps, improved our lighting to aid in having performances on the auditorium floor whereas the Scottish Rite uses the rear stage."

Questions from the audience caused rapt attention to the answers. One question was, "What is the difference between an Opera and a Musical?" Director Streshinsky said, "In my opinion, the opera singer is conservatory educated, stressing classical music and diction". Production Head Sigel added, "Yes, classically-trained singing".

An interesting further difference is that an opera season does not have back-to-back performances because the singers must have at least one day of vocal rest due to the heavy demands of opera singing.

As the wrap-up to his talk, Director Streshinsky thanked the Scottish Rite for the accessible parking lot, which provides the capability of having reserved spaces for their special donors. This is listed as the favorite perk of all donors!





(L-R) Club President Westfall, Club Secretary Strehlow present a Cub Certificate to Speakers Streshinsky and Sidel

Sahuaro Masonic High Twelve Club #523 - AZ

Submitted by Dr. William Wilkinson, Esq.

This email was sent to me by a nurse I know where I go to church. Her husband is a retired Air Force pilot and now has severe dementia, actually Alzheimer's disease, and it in his mid 80s. I think it's an important thing to contemplate and remember.

"The American flag does not fly because the wind moves past it...the American flag flies from the last breath of each military member who has died serving it."

AIRLINE CAPTAIN - You will not regret reading this one. I promise.

My lead flight attendant came to me and said, "We have an H.R. on this flight." (H.R. stands for Human Remains.)

"Are they military?" I asked. 'Yes', she said.

'Is there an escort?' I asked.

'Yes, I've already assigned him a seat'.

'Would you please tell him to come to the Flight Deck. You can board him early,' I said...

A short while later a young army sergeant entered the flight deck. He was the image of the perfectly dressed soldier. He introduced himself and I asked him about his soldier.

The escorts of these fallen soldiers talk about them as if they are still alive and still with us. 'My soldier is on his way back to Virginia,' he said. He proceeded to answer my questions but offered no words.

I asked him if there was anything I could do for him and he said no. I told him that he had the toughest job in the military and that I appreciated the work that he does for the families of our fallen soldiers. The first officer and I got up out of our seats to shake his hand. He left the Flight Deck to find his seat.

We completed our pre-flight checks, pushed back, and performed an uneventful departure.

About 30 minutes into our flight, I received a call from the lead flight attendant in the cabin.

'I just found out that the family of the soldier we are carrying is also on board', she said. She then proceeded to tell me that the father, mother, wife, and 2-year-old daughter were escorting their son, husband, and father home. The family was upset because they were unable to see the container that the soldier was in before we left.

We were on our way to a major hub at which the family was going to wait

four hours for the connecting flight home to Virginia. The father of the soldier told the flight attendant that knowing his son was below him in the cargo compartment and being unable to see him was too much for him and the family to bear. He had asked the flight attendant if there was anything that could be done to allow them to see him upon our arrival. The family wanted to be outside by the cargo door to watch the soldier being taken off the airplane.

I could hear the desperation in the flight attendant's voice when she asked me if there was anything I could do. 'I'm on it', I said. I told her that I would get back to her.

Airborne communication with my company normally occurs in the form of e-mail-like messages. I decided to bypass this system and contact my flight dispatcher directly on a secondary radio. There is a radio operator in the operations control center who connects you to the telephone of the dispatcher. I was in direct contact with the dispatcher. I explained the situation I had on board with the family and what it was the family wanted. He said he understood and that he would get back to me.

Two hours went by and I had not heard from the dispatcher. We were going to get busy soon and I needed to know what to tell the family. I sent a text message asking for an update. I saved the return message from the dispatcher and the following is the text:

'Captain, sorry it has taken so long to get back to you. There is a policy on this now, and I had to check on a few things. Upon your arrival, a dedicated escort team will meet the aircraft. The team will escort the family to the ramp and plane side. A van will be used to load the remains with a secondary van for the family.

The family will be taken to their departure area and escorted into the terminal, where the remains can be seen on the ramp.. It is a private area for the family only. When the connecting aircraft arrives, the family will be escorted onto the ramp and plane side to watch the remains being loaded for the final leg home.

Captain, most of us here in flight control are veterans. Please pass our condolences on to the family. Thanks.

I sent a message back, telling flight control thanks for a good job. I printed out the message and gave it to the lead flight attendant to pass on to the father. The lead flight attendant was very thankful and told me, 'You have no idea how much this will mean to them.'

Things started getting busy for the descent, approach, and landing. After landing, we cleared the runway and taxied to the ramp area. The ramp is huge with 15 gates on either side of the alleyway. It is always a busy area with aircraft maneuvering every which way to enter and exit. When we entered the ramp and checked in with the ramp controller, we were told that all traffic was being held for us

'There is a team in place to meet the aircraft', we were told. It looked like it was all coming together, but then I realized that once we turned the seat belt sign off, everyone would stand up at once and delay the family from getting off the airplane. As we approached our gate, I asked the copilot to tell the ramp controller, we were going to stop short of the gate to make an announcement to the passengers. He did that and the ramp controller said, 'Take your time.'

I stopped the aircraft and set the parking brake. I pushed the public address button and said: 'Ladies and gentlemen, this is your Captain

speaking: I have stopped short of our gate to make a special announcement. We have a passenger on board who deserves our honor and respect. His name is Private XXXXXX, a soldier who recently lost his life. Private XXXXXX is under your feet in the cargo hold. Escorting him today is Army Sergeant XXXXXX. Also, on board are his father, mother, wife, and daughter. Your entire flight crew is asking for all passengers to remain in their seats to allow the family to exit the aircraft first. Thank you.'

We continued the turn to the gate, came to a stop, and started our shutdown procedures. A couple of minutes later I opened the cockpit door. I found the two forward flight attendants crying, something you just do not see. I was told that after we came to a stop, every passenger on the aircraft stayed in their seats, waiting for the family to exit the aircraft.

When the family got up and gathered their things, a passenger slowly started to clap his hands. Moments later, more passengers joined in and soon the entire aircraft was clapping. Words of 'God Bless You', I'm sorry, thank you, be proud, and other kind words were uttered to the family as they made their way down the aisle and out of the airplane. They were escorted down to the ramp to finally be with their loved ones.

Many of the passengers disembarking thanked me for the announcement I had made. They were just words, I told them, I could say them over and over again, but nothing I say will bring back that brave soldier.

I respectfully ask that all of you reflect on this event and the sacrifices that millions of our men and women have made to ensure our freedom and safety in the United States of AMERICA.

Footnote: I know everyone who reads this will have tears in their eyes, including me. Prayer chain for our Military. Don't break it!

They die for me and mine and you and yours and deserve our honor and respect

Prayer Request: When you receive this, please stop for a moment and say a prayer for our troops around the world. There is nothing attached. Just send this to people in your address book. Do not let it stop with you. Of all the gifts you could give a Marine, Soldier, Sailor, Airman, and others deployed in harm's way, prayer is the very best one.

GOD BLESS YOU!

Thank you all who have served, or are serving. We will not forget! I said my prayer, I hope you do too.

The Villages High Twelve Club #674 - FL

As Villages Masonic High Twelve Club #674 is dark July and August, we have nothing significant to report. I would like to mention, however, that one of our members, Worshipful Brother Ron Gainer, passed to the Celestial Lodge above on 28 July 2023. As he had moved out of the area at the end of last year and was in hospice. We had been trying, but unsuccessfully, to get in touch with him. He had been a long-time member of Villages High Twelve and was a Past Master of Villages Masonic Lodge No. 394. Ron should be remembered and recognized at next year's Necrology.

David Windmiller, Secretary

Conejo High Twelve Club #634 - CA

Jerry Michaelson, secretary/treasurer of Conejo Valley High 12 Club #634 in Thousand Oaks, California and Past Master of Conejo Valley Masonic Lodge #807, and his wife Pat visited Japan and was guest speaker at the July meeting reporting on their trip. The cherry blossoms were in full bloom.

Our August guest speaker will be MW Art Weiss PGM of California, and his wife Barbara who will be reporting on their trip through the Panama Canal

Also, a memorial service for past president of CV #634 and past master of CVML #807, Rees Padfield will be held at the Pasadena Scottish Rite, Pasadena California at 11 am on September 16, 2023.





Middle Chamber High Twelve Club #725 - IL

Our High Twelve meetings for the last 3 months have just been luncheon meetings because we lost our Secretary/Treasurer and also our meeting place was flooded out and is still under repair.

With a small group, we cannot get a private room in many places.

I am the new secretary/treasurer and we are trying to get back those we lost after the Pandemic. We are trying our best to keep the club going.

Gerald D. Carlton, Secretary [Past State President Of Illinois]

Mt. Laurel High Twelve Club #770 - NJ

Almost a **FULL HOUSE**. President Nick Vettese is pleased to report a 99% attendance in the July monthly meeting. We are a small group, but we enjoy Fun and Fellowship at our meetings. With the help of the **AMBASSADOR COIN** we were able to get another new member. Mt. Laurel High Twelve #770 currently has 6 members and has been around for over 10 years.

Conrad Dombkiewicz, Secretary



Wolcott Foundation - Michael Clark, Chairman

Wolcott Fellows Motivate Delegates at Wolcott Foundation Luncheon at 102nd International Convention

The Annual Wolcott Foundation Luncheon held during the High Twelve International Convention has always presented as its speakers, Wolcott Fellows of various ages to help demonstrate to the convention delegates the results of their contributions to the Little Red School House and the Wolcott Foundation.

Our speakers this year were added to the list of outstanding representatives of the Wolcott Foundation and an example of the quality of the students receiving their Master's Degree from George Washington University.

Second-year Wolcott Fellow Carmella Saia gave an inspiring talk on her plans after graduation in May of 2024. The story of her journey from high school to Wolcott Fellow and her recent employment at the Office of Homeland Security had the High Twelve delegates and their guests inspired and motivated to fill the Little Red School Houses at each table, to guarantee more Carmella's will make public service their career goal.

Brother Lee Edgar a 2003 Wolcott Fellow has a distinguished public service career and is currently the Chief Engineer for the Department of Public Works for Queen's County, Maryland. Brother Lee discussed his journey through Masonry from his days in DeMolay, becoming a Master Mason and being a 7th generation Family Mason and a 3rd generation High Twelvian. Brother Lee talked about how he is working to preserve the history of Queen's County with his distinguished work in helping restore historic buildings and their infrastructure.

The delegates were also introduced to Carmella's mother Maryann who accompanied her, and Brother Lee was surprised by the arrival of his father Brother Gerald Edgar, and Lee's mother.

We thank both our speakers for their outstanding presentations and will shortly have both of their presentations on the Wolcott Foundation website at: www.wolcottfoundation.com

Information on the Wolcott Foundation Fellowship Recipients, videos of Wolcott Luncheon Speakers, and Wolcott Fellowship Application information are available at: www.wolcottfoundation.com

Wolcott financial reports are on the High Twelve International website at High12.org under the Wolcott tab at the top of the page.

Attention State Secretaries and Officers

The Wolcott Foundation would like to make a Wolcott Foundation presentation at your next State Convention. Please email the date, location and contact person to:

mikecofgr@comcast.net

Michigan Association of High Twelve Clubs



Most Worshipful Grand Master Larry Judson and Lady Mary join
Most Illustrious Grand Master Robert Cooper and Lady Sharon
at the Furniture City High Twelve Club #236 July picnic

Michigan Grand Master's Support High 12 and The Wolcott Foundation

A beautiful warm Michigan Summer day greeted the members of Furniture City High 12 Club #236 for its annual summer picnic at the home of Wolcott Chairman Michael Clark and Lady Gayle. The burgers and brats were hot and tasty, and the members' wives prepared delicious side dishes. A birthday cake celebrating Chairman Clark's 78 years was enjoyed by all.

Furniture City High 12 Club #236 is in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and is an active, fun group that meets on the first Monday of each month. The club qualified for the "Chairman's Challenge" and has always been a strong supporter of the Wolcott Foundation.

In the 74-year history of the club, many Grand Masters and other High Ranking members of the Craft have been active members. The current membership rolls are no exception, with the current Most Worshipful Grand Master and the current Most Illustrious Grand Master and their Ladies as regular attendees. In attendance also was the immediate Past Most Illustrious Grand Master Ken Simons and Lady Judy.



102nd High Twelve International Convention Delegates Raise Record Wolcott Foundation Contribution

It began about 10 years ago. A challenge was put forth at a High 12 Convention for each delegate to contribute \$20.00 to the Wolcott Foundation during the convention. The delegate received a new Wolcott Foundation pin and a chance to win an additional prize. That year a record contribution amount was collected by the Foundation.

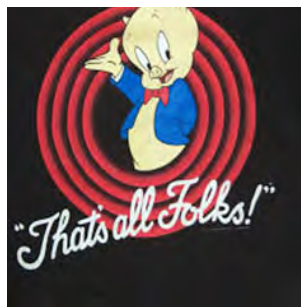
Each year since, a new challenge has been put forth, and each year the total contributions given at the convention have been increasing. The Little Red School House was present at each day's meetings and meals, and over \$2,200.00 was collected from the delegates. This, however, was just the start of the fun and excitement as another Wolcott Challenge was announced to the attendees.

This challenge was spearheaded by Brother David Windmiller, the Wolcott Foundation Trustee Representative for the State of Florida, and the attendees from Florida. Brother David discovered a Kentucky Bourbon with the brand name "Wolcott", and he purchased a case and some additional bottles to raffle off. The bottles of Wolcott Bourbon sold quickly, and the raffle for the remaining large bottle pushed the total money raised by the raffle to \$1,900.00.

The two combined Wolcott Fund Raisers set a High Twelve International Convention record total of over \$4,000.00 contributed by the attendees and guests.

The Wolcott Board of Trustees and the future Wolcott Fellows who will benefit from the contributions extend their thanks to Brother David and Lady Madelene, and to all the attendees at the High Twelve International Convention for their generous support.





International Secretary - Thomas Brotherton

Hello Fellow High Twelvians,

I hope you are all doing well and have been enjoying your summer. Below are the updates from out 103rd Annual Convention.

First our 2023-2024 Executive Board is Rick Santella International President (Rick@high12.org) Roberto Sanchez 1st International Vice President (Roberto@high12.org) Darrin Pitts 2nd International Vice President (Darrin@high12.org) and Jared Kichline 3rd International Vice President (Jared@high12.org) . The Executive Board has rezoned which states are handled by which International Officer. The Table is shown Below with the officers contact info as well as his zone.

Next, All 200a and 200b reports MUST include their Zone Officer as well as their State Association Secretary (if applicable) added to each report. You do not have to copy myself as i already will receive it.

Lastly, the proposed bylaws were adopted and the International Bylaws will be updated and posted this week. For easy clarity the Adopted Bylaws are 1) New Member Fee and Reinstated Member Fee are no \$5 dollars. Charter Member fees are now \$15 per charter member. The Endowment Fund Trustees can make changes to the investments without the permission of the Board of Governors' but MUST report to the Executive board, the changes made and a representee will give a full report in person at the Midyear and Convention. And lastly The International Secretary may use any means that have been approved by the Conference of Grand Masters/Secretaries of North America to confirm that an petitioning Brother's Lodge is in proper recognition.

Zone Responsibility Officer Zone Contact

Independents:	
President DC, HI, JP, ME, UK, Brazil, Presidents Club.	
Zone Contact:	
1st VP	MO (Indp), NCA, FL (for remainder of 103rd Convention Year), AZ (Indp)
Zone Contact:	

2nd VP	CA, CO, PA, LA, IL
3rd VP	Zone Contact: NJ (Indp), MI, OH, KS, IN, (for remainder of 103 rd Convention Year)

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Thomas J. Brotherton III, Secretary

3rd International Vice-President - PA

Greetings Brethren, and Members of High Twelve International,

It is a great honor and privilege to have this opportunity to serve as your third international vice president.

We have a great organization and have a lot to be proud of. It has only been about a month since our officer installation but we have been busy contacting our independent clubs, and various state associations. The planning for association meetings, and the thought that goes in to make your experience attending a local club is impressive and appropriated. Fun, Food, and Fellowship is always a winning combination. As long as we enjoy our meetings, and look forward to attending, I believe others will also. Our time together also gives another opportunity to support our charity the Wolcott Foundation. The videos on the Wolcott Foundation website are definitely worth watching and help motivate our fraternity to continue its distinct mission.

I look forward to getting to know you all better in the months and years to come.

Respectfully,
Jared R. Kichline, Third International Vice President

Montebello High Twelve #422 - CA

Montebello High Twelve #422 & Montebello-Whittier Lodge #323

Annually we bring together the students from Montebello, Schurr, Vail, California, La Serna, Whittier, and El Rancho high schools to receive their scholarship award certificates from both the High 12 and Lodge programs.

The students, their parents, school counselors when they can, are brought to the Stated Meeting for dinner and to share with the masons present what their high school years were like, how their grades turned out, and what their future plans are for a major and for a selected school. Each of these programs have been in effect for decades per the program chair - Donald E. Travis, PP High 12



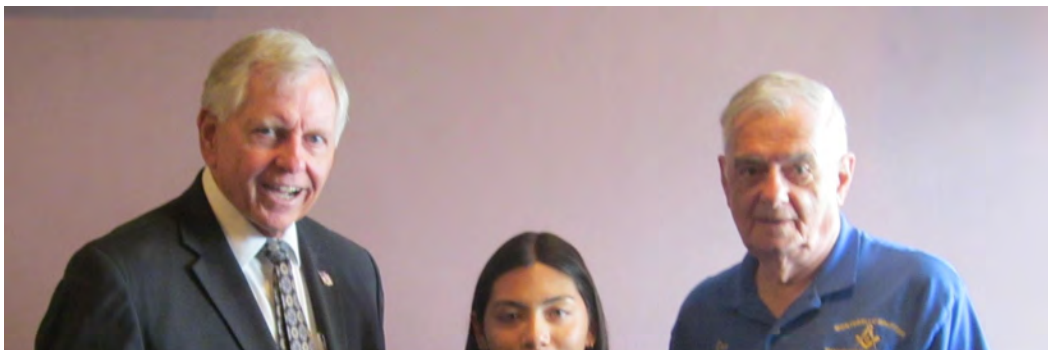
MONTEBELLO HIGH TWELVE #422 JUNIOR CITIZEN OF APRIL 2023

My name is Jade Slevcove. I am a senior at Schurr High School. I am the April Junior Student of the Month. I am grateful to be awarded with this recognition.

I am seventeen years of age. I have a younger brother, Isaac Lozano, who along with my Mom, Sarah Slevcove, and Activities Director, Claudia Monreal who were able to join with me in this Golden Skewer luncheon. My thanks go to the Masons, Robert Risher and Donald Travis, who lead this program, on behalf of the Montebello-Whittier Masonic Lodge #323, administered by the Montebello Masonic Luncheon Club #422.

In the past four years here at Schurr, I have grown so much. I have learned a lot about myself while immersing into the school culture. As part of the Track & Field team, four years and Volleyball team, two years, I was able to accomplish more than I could have imagined. Involvement in student government, and Key Club for four years, offered me opportunities to learn several skills and to employ them in service. I was involved in Christian Club and the Debate team for two years as well. Other activities on campus, within my church, and household, help round me out even more.

As I graduated on June 9, I look back as a lifetime member with CSF, highest honors by NHS. I am so thankful for my journey through high school to get me here. I have been accepted to Chapman University where I will major in Political Science. I am excited for what comes next in my life and the path God as planned for me.





MONTABELLO HIGH TWELVE #422 JUNIOR CITIZEN OF MARCH 2023

My name is Briana Gonzalez and I am the Junior Citizen of the Month for March. I am a senior currently attending Montebello High School and I am eighteen years old. I was born into a Hispanic household with two very hardworking parents and two sisters that helped push me to be better. I am truly honored to be receiving this award.

I've always had a hard time interacting with others and getting my voice out there because of my social anxiety. Although, I'm glad to have pushed myself completely outside of my comfort zone during high school. Being a part of ASB and having the chance to advocate for others and make their experience more fun has been one of the best experiences I have ever had. Some of the events are still stressful, like the football games fill me with so much fear as I see the swarm of students. However, seeing everyone's smiling faces makes it all worth it.

I try my best to be an integral part of my community. I'm part of Golf, Orchestra, Academic Mentor Program, and half a dozen clubs in our school. The people I've met in Montebello have helped me grow as a person and I'm truly thankful for every single one of them. I've learned the importance of teamwork so that you can make positive changes by working with others towards a common goal.

After high school, I plan on attending a four-year university and studying biochemistry. It's been a dream of mine to go to college and become a forensic scientist. The idea of finding out the truth about what happened and sometimes even being a voice for victims sounds so exciting. I would be able to make an impact in the world just by being nerdy like usual and working hard in a lab. I hope to go out into the world and make my community proud of me.

I thank the Montebello-Whittier Masonic Lodge #323 for this honor and for the **Montebello Masonic High Twelve Luncheon Club #422** for the program administration.

**Don forget our merchandise page of
High Twelve logo'd items**

Suggestions of NEW items always welcome!

Forms Ordering: [Forms & Ordering](#)

Merchandise Ordering: [Online Merchandise Order From](#)

**Don't forget our fundraiser with
[Rada Cultery!](#)**

We receive 40% of each order made.

Follow this **[LINK](#)** for the offer



**Current RADA Catalog
Prices Valid Thru 7/31-24**

**Click [HERE](#) to view!
From the HTI Home Page**

The **Update** is published by High Twelve International, Inc. 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 Twelvians are invited to submit such material for publication **e-mailed articles should be received by the 10th of each month.** The Update will be distributed monthly the 15th of the month following. Articles must be emailed to Update Editor @ update-editor@high12.org

[Unsubscribe](#)