
SELAMAGRAM

SELAMA GROTTTO, M.O.V.P.E.R.

CHARTERED JUNE 28, 1922
3000 16TH ST. NORTH,
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33704

JUNE / JULY 2015

Email: SELAMAGRAM@GMAIL.COM

SESSIONS: 2ND WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH 7:30 PM

All Phone Numbers are in the 727 area code

GROTTO PHONE 727-822-3519

webpage: WWW.SELAMA.ORG

EDITOR – BRUCE WARD 327-7383

MONARCH - DAVID VINCENT
7824 STARKEY RD.
LARGO. FL. 33771 289-3716

CHIEF JUSTICE - JOSEPH L. GRIFFITH
1680 OWENS DR.
CLEARWATER, FL. 33759 743-0817

TREASURER - P. M. HARDY BRYAN, 3RD
766 - 35TH AVE N. ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33704
522-0732

SECRETARY - P.M. BRUCE WARD
PO BOX 530302 ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33747
327-7383

MASTER OF CEREMONIES - P.M. Chris Webb,
393-6007

VENERABLE PROPHET - OPEN

MARSHALL - WILLIAM WEST - 804-4463
CAPTAIN OF GUARD - OPEN
CHAPLAIN - JOSEPH S. GLASER 498-6987
SENTINEL - ROBERT KLINE 825-3783

Junior Past Monarch - THOMAS W. MCVEIGH
6920 GREENBRIER DR.
SEMINOLE, FL. 33777 323-9192 / 492-112

**C. P. Recreation Program 2nd and 4th Thursday (DARK June, July, August)
Mornings starting at 9 am and ending after lunch. Jeannie and David will welcome anyone interested in volunteering, to feed, talk or help in any way. Volunteers are urgently needed; any questions call Jeannie 366-5089 or David Vincent 289-3716**

Friday Night Pot Luck Covered Dish Buffet
some Fridays at 6:30 p.m. Open to everyone, friends, Neighbors. A SOCIAL TIME. The main dish will be provided; it is up to you to bring the sides. In April we will only meet on the second and fourth Fridays, the 10th and 24th. Come out on March 27th to find out why.

Executive Board meeting, 4th Tuesday, 7 p.m.
(except December). All Selama Prophets are welcome and encouraged to attend and contribute. Find out ahead of time where YOUR Grotto is headed and what is going on.

Send articles and information to the editor of this Newsletter: selamagram@gmail.com

Deadline is Third Tuesday each month.
Secretary, P.M. Bruce L. Ward

Appointed Committee Chairmen:

Membership - Monarch David Vincent 289-3716
Enchanted Lantern - Chief Justice Joseph Griffith 743-0817

Sickness, Distress – Joseph S. Glaser 545-1475
Public Relations and Web Manager - P.M. Bruce Ward - 327-7383

Toothbrush Chairman - William West 804-4463
Doctor of Smiles - P.M. Chris Webb, 393-6007
Youth Coordinator - P.M. Bruce Ward, 327-7383
Cerebral Palsy Recreational Program - Jeanni Kinney, 366-5089 / 858-3078 or David Vincent 289-3716

Audit Committee:

P.M. Richard D. Green
P.M. Tom McVeigh
P.M. Bruce Ward

Board of Directors:

Chairman - David Vincent
1st Vice Chairman, Joseph L. Griffith
2nd Vice Chairman, P.M. Chris Webb
3rd Vice Chairman, Open
Treasurer, P. M. Hardy Bryan
Secretary, P.M. Bruce L. Ward
2015 - P.M. Barry Dupré
2015 - William West
2016 - Open
2016 - Open
2017 - Pete Bengston
2017 - Robert Kline

Board of Trustees:

2015 - P.M. Richard Renshaw
2015 - Phillip Barret
2016 - P.M. Richard Green
2016 - Ed Flowers
2017 - P.M. Roger Webb
2017 - Fred Kalkenbrenner

We are selling shirts, show your pride, only \$30, see David Vincent or Bruce Ward

From the desk of the Monarch

Well this will be our last news letter for the next 60 days because of summer. It is with great pride that I bring up some of the things that are new and proposed for everyone to think about. The biggest and best thing is that the parking lot is complete! Please see picture below.

This has been a busy year so far for Selama, but with everyone's help we have accomplished all of the goals so far and each and everyone of you should be proud of how YOUR Grotto looks.

Trees are completed, parking lot is repaved, and thanks to a Past Monarch the sidewalk is safe again, the awnings are repaired and replaced AND we have put on our first ceremonial of the new year. Though it has been a long time coming I think we can all agree that the Prophets and the Grotto are better for all of this effort. I would be remiss in not mentioning OES for their hand in all the goings on also. their contribution to Friday night suppers has had a big impact on members and their opinion to others of our Grotto. I would also like to thank Ed for his assistance in getting out the Friday night supper information to everyone.

We had a heck of a good turnout for the Kentucky Derby Night party. Everyone had a good time, some great food and beverages also. Congratulations to the winners of the best head dress for the men's and ladies. They received \$15 gift cards for Wal-Mart. We even had a visit for a gentleman that looked a lot like a cross from a Kentucky gentleman and Abraham Lincoln without the beard- though the age was very close it might have been him without the beard, thanks Richard you were great.

Projects for the rest of the year that are either regular things we have done in the past or are being purposed as income producing programs.

1) From June through December we are going to have a very active push on for new members. Here is the proposed meeting schedules with the Masonic Lodges in District 21:

Gulf Beach Lodge - June 11

St Pete Lodge - June 16

Nitram Lodge - July 9

Daylight Lodge - July 11

Elmer O Smith Lodge - July 13

Star Lodge - July 20

Northside Lodge - August

District 20 will be in the August Selamagram. The above dates may change but as of this writing they are all in session on these dates

2) In the works is a Monte Carlo Night for some time October. It has been brought to my attention this has been a very good form of income in the past and that OES has also been interested in doing one with us.

3) A proposed Christmas food drive with a collection location within the Grotto. We would

collect donations from members and then provide it to the St Pete Police Department for distribution since they are aware of the most needy in our city.

4) A Thanksgiving supper for our members and their friends as well as all the local lodges.

5) NOW is the time to start the planning for our annual Christmas party, While this will be Joe Griffith's project as Chief Justice any and all help I am sure will be welcomed by him since this is such a large task for just one person to put together.

Finally the Prophets have voted on and offered ZENDAH GROTTO and the Cauldron the use of our building during the transition to their new location.

RUMOR CONTROL-

Zendah Grotto is NOT closing. Having attended the last 2 meetings here is what I have to report about everything that is going on there. ONLY the building is closing. The reason? Because of the increased meeting spaces and locations being built in the Tampa area less and less people are using their hall for rentals. Bottom line is they can no longer justify the operating costs of around \$5000 per month just to keep open underutilized space. Zendah is alive and well. May 18th was the last official meeting in the building and then there is a wedding scheduled for May 30 and the building will be locked forever. This does not mean that Zendah does not meet at all, they will be meeting at the Community Lodge located on West Waters in Tampa until the new facility is ready. They are currently looking for that location so they can get the permits and build out completed before the end of the year. They are looking for a more central location in Tampa and also more toward the I-75 corridor to draw in more Tampa members.

Also for those of you that might not be aware the Monarch Jerry Haywood of Zendah had emergency surgery and is currently recovering. But he is now facing two more major operation in the next few months, even so that is not stopping the plans to relocate, but has thrown a kink into the line with people having to step up and others to fill in for him.

IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE that I wish to thank Past Monarch and current Secretary Bruce Ward for his generous donation to Selama of the Original Charter and Member list of Prophets that formed Selama Grotto. The Hotel Dennis in Saint Petersburg was the original location of Selama Grotto. It was thought that the Charter was lost through time as well as the founding members names. Sometime recently they were located and given to Bruce by the Dennis Family. Bruce had them mounted and sealed under urethane after which he presented them to us at the May Stated Meeting. They will be placed in the dining room

area in a place of distinction and bronze plate will be placed under them to memorialize the donation of them.

C.P. as well as all units will be dark until September, this does not mean to forget about them or their contributions to OUR Grotto, our families and our friends. In addition we do have programs that will continue over the Summer.

Our Supreme Convention will be held in Columbia, Missouri, June 28-July 5, 2015, for the 125th Annual Supreme Council Session, headquartered at the Holiday Inn Executive Center. The Prophets and Ladies of Aleppo Grotto will be hosting a fun-filled week of activities for one and all to enjoy.

Our own F.S.G.A. (Florida State Grotto Association) will be holding their F.S.G.A. Annual Convention. September 24-26, 2015 in Saint Augustine Florida. there will be lots of fun and activities planned for that time as well as the election of new officers and their installation. Come and be part of the fun and see how things are run at a convention.

Nominations for Selama Grotto Officers will be held in October with the election to be held in November and installation to be determined by the new Monarch but usually we try for December if at all plausible.

From the Chief Justice:

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you, that as Chief Justice, to support the Humanitarian Foundation by asking you to purchase Enchanted Lanterns. We take cash, check, or credit card. If \$50.00 is too much to of a strain on your budget, you can purchase the Lantern in installments. I have the forms and will be happy to help you with them. My phone no. is 743- 0817.

Thank you in advance and may God bless.
Joe Griffith

From the Secretary:

We have two vacancies on the Board of Directors. Terms to expire in 2016 for Bruce Ward and Chris Webb. These need replaced because the first is on the Board due to his position as Secretary and the second due to his position as Master of Ceremonies.

We also have the position of Venerable Prophet open.

Next year we will also need a Master of Ceremonies as Chris is not planning on moving through the line again.



Yours in Goodfellowship
David Vincent