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# SELAMAGRAM

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

CHARTERED JUNE 28, 1922  
3000 16<sup>TH</sup> ST. NORTH,  
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33704

**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2015**

**Email: [SELAMAGRAM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SELAMAGRAM@GMAIL.COM)**

**SESSIONS: 2<sup>ND</sup> WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH 7:30 PM**

**All Phone Numbers are in the 727 area code**

**GROTTO PHONE 727-822-3519**

**webpage: [WWW.SELAMA.ORG](http://WWW.SELAMA.ORG)**

**EDITOR – BRUCE WARD 327-7383**

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**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, 3<sup>RD</sup>**  
766 - 35<sup>TH</sup> 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**

**Board of Directors:**

**Chairman - David Vincent**

**1st Vice Chairman, Joseph L. Griffith**

**2nd Vice Chairman, P.M. Chris Webb**

**3rd Vice Chairman, Open**

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**Secretary, P.M. Bruce L. Ward**

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**2015 - William West**

**2016 - P.M. John Devore**

**2016 - Joe Glaser**

**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**

**Appointed Committee Chairmen:**

**Membership - Monarch David Vincent 289-3716**

**Enchanted Lantern - Chief Justice Joseph Griffith  
743-0817**

**Sickness, Distress – Joseph S. Glaser 498-6987**

**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**

**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**

**Junior Past Monarch - THOMAS W. MCVEIGH**

**6920 GREENBRIER DR.**

**SEMINOLE, FL. 33777 323-9192 / 492-112**

## From the desk of the Monarch

Well the summer is half over and we have had a busy one. I will expand on that in a bit, but first I would like to apologize to all the prophets and their ladies for me having been remiss in my duties as your Monarch. About 2 weeks ago I received a note from Prophet Ed Flowers. He titled the note Recognizing Death. Prophet Ed brought to my attention something that has fallen through the cracks, in his mail he reminded me that in the past "when a Prophet, or his wife died, according to the arrangements, Selama Grotto would send either a floral arrangement or Enchanted Lantern to the survivor...". Thankfully Prophet Ed brought this to my attention. It will immediately be rectified. We all have our little squabbles and differences of opinions, BUT when we work together as a group and share information, we all can learn from the experiences of others. OK off the soap box and on to happier times and we have so ahead!

### OK WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER?

At the outset here I want to mention and thank several prophets that have made a big difference in a project I am working on. These Prophets have freely given of their time - and nights off - to visit other lodges in the district. The people I wish to thank on behalf of Selama Grotto are **PM Bruce Ward, PM Richard Green, Chief Justice Joe Griffith, Chaplain Joseph Glaser, and Sentry Robert Kline**. Because of these dedicated men we have made impressive showings and either delivered or received the following petitions. St Pete Lodge 1 petition, 1 pending petition. Elmer O. Smith Lodge 1 petition, 1 pending petition (a Past Master of the lodge). Star Lodge 2 pending petitions (1 on hold because of personal medical issues in family) (1 on whether the Shrine folds, moves or raises dues again, any of which are likely) , and finally of all places -Columbia MO- and thanks to PM Rick Renshaw's help we have a member that wants to demit from another grotto south of us; since he lives right in the center of both grottos. OK so what does this mean? 2 firm commitments, 3 pending commitments and 1 demit for a total of 6 new members that really

want to join us! Just a note about the one YOUNG man from St Pete Lodge. His name is Ryan Saxer, his age is just 19 and he has already given back his Master Mason Degree! We have been to only 4 lodges so far and have 6 new members or member ready to join us, But without the generous donation of time buy the above mentioned Prophets this amount of growth likely would not have happened (oh yea and the free cakes at each lodge likely had a lot to do with it too). I have been asked the same question by everyone that wants to enter our organization and this is Why Has No One Ever Asked US? Well we are asking now and it is paying off big for everyone.

Prophets we still have a lot of lodges to visit this year Nitram and Northside Lodge when they come back from the summer vacations likely in September, AND THEN, we start in Clearwater and head north to the next 7 lodges. When we finish them we will start over to pick up those potential members we might miss (as in snow birds). The next schedule of visits will come out in the September Selama Gram.

### LOOKING AHEAD - WHAT IS IN THE FUTURE FOR EVERYONE?

OK so what is next? C.P will be returning in September to start their new year. We need to start planning for the Christmas party for the kids and the adults. Chief Justice, Joe Griffith, will need help because no one person can plan and pull off this size of a project alone. I will be proposing a to the board that in the very near future we hold a dance for Rainbow girls, Jobs Daughters, and Demolay during their holidays in either November or December. I found the old moon ball from our original grotto and am currently looking for a way and a place to remount it. I would also like to look into a pre or post( hangover) New Year's party for the adults, something simple but fun. I am also going to propose to the board that we have something like a spaghetti dinner or even maybe a fish fry dinner on a weekend to have some fun and hopefully raise funds (any ideas for meals we could do let one of the officers know) Some of you might have noticed I set out a white box on the "coffee bar". and it says CHRISTMAS DONATIONS. What I am asking is a favor from each and every member over the next 4 ½ months please bring in some canned food items and lets fill that box and more. Please remember we are

Masons first and we need to be charitable to our friends, family, and neighbors. That charity needs to start now ahead of the holiday season. Things are still really tough for many families and maybe just maybe we can help lighten that load over the holidays. We recently received a check for our portion of the Enchanted Lantern Program. Prophet Ed made a motion in our last stated meeting and it was passed that we use that money (small as it may seem to some) to be added to the Christmas Basket. It will be used to purchase some Turkeys (unless the price goes as high as some think it will then in that case) or some canned hams and fresh items like breads or pies. I know I have asked a lot of everyone this year, but this is something we all need to jump on and help with.

As some of you may or may not know Elmer O. Smith lodge is up for sale, which does propose a problem to them as far as the Jobs and Demolay units currently residing there. During our recent visit to Elmer O Smith I was approached by a couple members asking for help and if they could borrow our building? They meet every Tuesday of the month with Jobs and Demolay alternating every week.

I am aware of the Tuesday night card game and expressed my concern. I was assured that they ONLY use the lodge room and nowhere else in the building. I also expressed concern about some of the issues we had before regarding a Grotto member to open, close and stay during their meetings. One of their members that I was discussing this with is unhappy being a clown for another body in the Tampa area and asked if he were to join the grotto would he qualify as the grotto member in charge (*it would also give us another experienced clown we could use*)? I informed him that it would qualify, but, that he would have to get permission from their home offices for each group to be there, **and that they** would have to request the use of our building be brought up before our membership to be voted on. Finally we would have to work out some kind of financial agreement so as to offset the cost of power and other utilities. this is currently in the works and may not even be necessary but the question was posed and I feel I should share it with the members now so we can start to get feedback and information ahead of time.

Finally at our next stated meeting, on August 12, we will be short forming the new members (we will also do a long form ceremony in the Fall, that date to be determined by PM Barry) And that same night I have invited D.D.G.M. Worshipful Jim Mason to attend. Actually I was trying to kill 2 birds with one stone. Him to have a dinner with us and maybe be able to knock out our fall inspection by him, I might even be able to talk him into giving the charge since he does it so well. Yours in Goodfellowship  
David Vincent

### **From the Chief Justice:**

Brethren; As we all know, our Monarch's mission this year is to grow the Grotto. The best way we can do this is to support our Blue Lodge. We can still be a part of the other appendant bodies but the Blue Lodge has to come first. Without the Lodge, none of the other bodies, including the Grotto can exist. So, return to your Blue Lodge, and when you do, let them know that you are a member of the Grotto and that we would welcome them as members. Keep in mind Brethren, that this is the only source we have for membership. Talk up the Grotto and let them know about the good that we do and the fun that we have. Also, don't forget to purchase your enchanted lantern for the year. Remember that the \$50.00 is not for pin but is donation to the Humanitarian Foundation which enables us to provide dental care for children who otherwise would not be able to receive it. Thank you in advance for your generosity.  
May God bless you.  
Joseph L. Griffith Chief Justice

### **From our Cerebral Palsy program:**

The H. Lee Griffith Foundation, Inc. wishes to announce completion of a very successful year '14-'15. We have enjoyed our 1<sup>st</sup> joint operational year with Co-Directors Jeannie and David - THANKS TO BOTH OF YOU, job well done on behalf of our Clients. Also, we'd like to personally thank everyone of the volunteer workers and financial donors support, for their time and talents. A special "Thanks" to Selama Grotto for allowing us to continue to have free use of their building to carry on our C-P efforts. Your support, if you choose, can be to help underwrite our lone  
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financial expense of food (due to increasing costs) for the Clients with gift cards from Winn Dixie, where we've purchased food stuffs in the past. Consider a \$10, \$25 or \$50 tax deductible donation gift card to this worthy cause. Please forward all contributions to "H. Lee Griffith Foundation, Inc., 3000 16<sup>th</sup> Street North, St Petersburg, FL 33704"



**If you think our hands are full, you should see our hearts.**

If you have any questions on the Foundation, its activities, or contribution of your time or talents, please do not hesitate to call our President, R. D. Green, 727.345.9020 or Secretary, B. E. Dupré, 727.815.9675.

**Reminder:** Tuesday September 1, 2015 will be Ladies Night Out. Prophets bring your ladies for a great dinner and good fellowship. Ladies of Past Monarchs have their meal paid by the Past Monarchs Unit.

Friday Night Pot Luck Covered Dish Buffet most 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

Executive Board meeting, 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:selamagram@gmail.com)  
Deadline is Third Tuesday each month.  
Secretary, P.M. Bruce L. Ward

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

FSGA is holding a raffle. The prize is an AR15. The drawing will be at the Fall Convention. Tickets are \$5 each and are available from the Secretary.

**P.S.**

I try to please everyone. So if you find a mistake know that it was put there for the benefit of those

who always like to find something to complain about. Your welcome.



**From the Official Visit of the Grand Monarch July 18 , 2015 at the Masonic Home**

This space for rent. Contact the editor if you would like to have your business card or banner here.