



The Communicator

Grottoes From Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia

We Will Communicate To You Everything That Is Communicated To Us

This is a Promise from the Ohio Grotto Association to your Grotto

O.G.A. Officers

Larry Budd
President

David Chambers
Deputy President

Bruce Seaburn
1st Vice President

William "Gator" Fisher
2nd Vice President

Joshua Anderson
Sergeant at Arms

Thomas Bevington
Sentinel

Tim Brooks
Chaplain

Michael Tomascin
Secretary
&
Junior Past President

From the desk of the President of the O.G.A., Larry Budd

I want to thank all the prophets that attended our February Zone Conference and the members of Khana Shahar Grotto for their help. Well, spring is on its way, when is anyone's guess, but hopefully before our May Zone Conference at Teheran Grotto.

The May Zone Conference dates had to be changed due to unavailability of their grotto hall even though my request was made over two years ago.

I hope that we will see a good attendance at this Zone Conference.

Joanne and I tried to make as many Installations as possible, unfortunately we could not make all of them. The winter weather was not very good on some nights that we travel which made it quite scary at times.

The Ohio Grotto Association needs to come up with some good fund-

raisers that do not include selling chances for this year as well as next year. The Grand Master does not approve of raffle tickets so a lot of past ideas will not work. Please come to the Zone Conference with some new ideas.

My fundraiser is selling garment bags instead of T-shirts this year. We have a business suit size for \$10.00 and the long gown/clown costume size for \$15.00.

They would make good gifts to new prophets at your ceremonials.

Just a reminder that the zone conferences and the OGA convention are for all Red, Purple, Silver, and Gold tassel prophets.

I hope to see a lot of old friends and new prophets to make friends with at the Zone Conference.

Larry Budd, President

Writings of the Deputy President of the O.G.A., David Chambers

Greeting Prophets and Ladies

I hope this issue of The Communicator finds all of you doing well. I have been busy lately replacing all the door and window casings and baseboards in our home, one room at a time and painting the walls as I go. As I do this, I am reminded of the importance of maintenance on our homes and automobiles. I am also reminded of how important maintenance is to our GROTTOS, not the painting and repairs to our physical buildings but the maintenance of our membership. Just as it is important to take care of the little things around the house before they become big things, time consuming things, it is important to pay attention to the little things that affect our membership. The little things that cause our members to stop coming to meetings and events, the little things that turn into big things and then our members don't pay their annual dues because we, the active members, have not met their needs. We need to pay attention to what ALL our members need and want from THEIR GROTTOS. A candidate sees value in the grotto when they pay their initiation fee and join the grotto. But then all too often in a very short period of time they stop coming to meetings they stop coming to events. Sometimes it is our older members that are suddenly absent. Maybe we notice that our new member or veteran member is not

there, maybe we do not notice. Either way if we ignore the problem, that prophet goes away and the grotto suffers for it. A grotto with over 500 prophets slowly grows smaller first they lose ten prophets and no one notices, then ten more and no one notices, suddenly before anyone notices they are under 200. The membership of a grotto that has not been maintained is just



like a house that has not been maintained it starts slowly then suddenly

one day the whole thing falls down around them.

If we want to maintain and grow our membership we must do the little things.

We must take notice when a prophet does not show up at a meeting or event. And it is not enough to take notice we must take action. We must pay attention to the wants and needs of ALL our membership. While some member's needs are met by getting together, eating and doing the same activities we have done for the last 20 years, other members need more from THEIR GROTTOS. Maybe it is a whiskey and cigar night, maybe it is a computer game night, we all have different interests, different goals, and offer different perspectives. Perhaps when our older members stop

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Deputy President, Continued

attending meetings it is because they can no longer see to drive at night, or they can no longer drive at all. Prophets I ask you... Is it within the length of your "Cable Tow" to call and offer a ride to and from the meeting? Maybe the older member can no longer afford to pay his dues but is too proud to ask for assistance.

is paying attention to the wants and needs of ALL its members then your grotto will be the place that masons from all lodges will want to affiliate with. Give ALL your prophets fun things to do, ask and listen to their suggestions, give them the things they want to do and YOUR GROTTTO can grow and prosper.

David Chambers, Deputy President

The bottom line is that if your grotto

Have you been
to your Lodge
lately?

Words From the 1st Vice President of the OGA, Bruce Seaburn

Prophets,

I am pleased to announce that Ormus Grotto will be hosting the February Zone Conference for 2015 in Dayton Ohio. The Prophets of Ormus are looking forward to hosting this conference. It has been a long time since they have had this opportunity and they are eager to have this chance to showcase their city.

The Grand Lodge has changed the name of their candidate consular to Master Craftsman. With the change of name comes a series of recommendations to improve the program. These ideas can also be used at your Grotto to improve your attendance and then increase your membership. One simple idea is for the Master Craftsman is to bring the new member to the meetings or at least be there to meet him at the door and introduce him to the other members. This makes it easier to

get to know the members and helps make coming to the meetings a regular practice. If we can get a new member and then we can help him want to be an ACTIVE member of the Grotto. Also maybe it would be a good idea to reach out to Prophets who don't attend meetings to ask if they need a ride (our aging members may not want to drive at night, but would like to attend) or just to let them know they are being thought about and their attendance would be nice. A chance to renew old friendships and make new ones. Two simple ideas that may increase the number of members at your meetings. A Grotto that has good attendance and having Good Fellowship has a better chance of attracting new members.

Fraternally in Good Fellowship,
Bruce Seaburn
First Vice President



From the 2nd Vice President of the OGA, Bill “Gator” Fisher



Thank you to everyone for the cards and phone calls. They meant so very much to me.

Hopefully, I will see all of you at the May Conference.

Bill (Gator) Fisher

This was not a good way to end a year and begin a new one but things are looking a lot better.

From the Sergeant at Arms of the OGA, Josh Anderson

Remember,
Enchanted
Lanterns make
wonderful gifts

Consider the good times that you have at the Grotto. Consider the good times you have at OGA events. Consider the good times you have at Supreme Council. Now, consider how much more fun each of those would be with more people from your Grotto taking part.

tion on where to put your effort. Asking for thoughts and opinions during planning gives people a sense of involvement. Feedback after an event helps you to find where problems may have been and how to improve things in the future.



Often times a great event is followed up with the thought of “how could we have gotten more people to attend?” This is a thought that comes up following both successful and less than successful events. Looking back and assessing what did and what did not work is how you learn what needs to be done to make an event even better. I have two suggestions for improving the attendance at events.

The second suggestion is to communicate at all points of planning an event. Communication is such a crucial part that a lot of people overlook until the very end. Many people, especially those in certain professions, need to have upcoming events on their calendar a good while in advance to guarantee that they are able to attend. Shy of putting out so much information you get accused of spamming someone’s email, there is almost no risk to putting out as much information as you can. The amount of communicating will often depend on the size of the event, but no matter how big or small you need

First, ask what do your Prophets want. Not every Prophet has the same ideas as to what is fun or enjoyable. Getting feedback from your Prophets helps give you direc-

Sergeant at Arms, Continued



to ensure you are letting people know about it.

On that note, I now ask two things of every Prophet in the OGA. First, help us, the officers of the OGA, to be the organization that you want us to be. Do you have an idea for the OGA, something we can do to help you or your Grotto? Let one of us know. Was there something you liked about a previous zone conference or convention that you would like to do again? Let us know. We want your input, as we are your Grotto Association. This goes for all red tassels too, you have a voice in the OGA and that is

something you should feel free to use.

The second thing I would ask is that you take and spread the word of the OGA. Send a copy of the Communicator to the members of your Grotto. If they don't have email, print off a copy and let them read it.

We are YOUR Ohio Grotto Association. So, join us in May for a good time!

Thanks,
Josh Anderson
apophistoledo@yahoo.com

From the desk of your Secretary, Mike Tomascini

I wanted to thank the Board of Governors for having the confidence in me to be your OGA secretary. I am looking forward to serving you in this capacity.

If there is anything that you need from me feel free to contact me at (412) 276-3938 or email me at mjtjtj@comcast.net.

I am looking forward to working with Josh Anderson on the website and the communicator.

To Grumpy Thomas - Secretary Emeritus and Lady Sue thank you for all of your ears of service to the OGA and good luck on your future endeavors.



Have you seen what the OGA is doing?

Yeah, thanks to the Communicator!

From the Chaplain of the OGA, Tim Brooks

Be sure to share the Communicator with all of the Prophets you know. This is for everyone, so help us spread the news from the OGA!

Greetings Prophets,

Well , I hope that we have seen the last of the “Big Snows” for the year.. I don”t know about you, but I am ready for Spring to arrive.. The smell of flowers, cut grass, and the birds singing the songs of cheerfulness and love... As we come into the this Easter Season may all remember what it is about.. He was and is there for us , so let us be there for him forever end ever.. Each day as you walk through life just tell someone new that you love and care about them.. Man, wouldn’t that be awesome...

I have received a few notifications of those in illness and adversity...:

2-Jan--- Delphus C. Fitzgerald, mother of Past President Lynn Miller passed away

16- Feb--- Richard Shepard, Past Monarch (2002) of O-Ton-Ta-La passed away

Sickness; Jan. -- PP Woody Sibley was hospitalized with a bad infection in his hand, was transported to Columbus and released after 2 Days and now doing well.

3-Jan.- - PM&SCDD Paul Scheutzow, Al Sirat, fell

off a ladder and broke his knee. Doing well.

Mid Jan.—Bill “Gator” Fisher, 2nd Vice President, hospitalized for complications, doing well

Feb. --- PGM Bill Wears was hospitalized with complications and doing well now

Feb. --- Wanda Wears had a hip replacement .. doing well

21- Feb.--- PM Robert Keas, Kismet Grotto had part of his colon removed, doing well

If I missed anyone , I apologize , as these are the only one I was notified of.. May we keep these and all in our prayers as we walk our paths.... Remember your Blue Lodge and let us not forget those “Special Kids” , as they are the reason for us... Love and Prayers to All.. See you somewhere around the Realm.

In Sympathy and Good Fellowship
Tim Brooks, PM Chaplain OGA



Zone Conference Registration Form

Reservation Form – due no later than May 10, 2013

Men’s Luncheon at Teheran Grotto (\$10.00 ea) \$ _____

Ladies Luncheon at Hotel (\$18.00 ea) \$ _____

Saturday Dinner and Fun Night at Teheran Grotto (\$22.00 ea)
(Baked steak, mashed potatoes, vegetable, salad and dessert)
\$ _____

Total \$ _____

NAME: _____ GROTTTO: _____

TITLE: _____

LADY: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Make checks payable to “Teheran Grotto”. Submit completed form and check to the registration chairman, Richard Johnson, 212 Pleasant Vue Dr., Uticia, OH 43080. If you have any question contact Dick at (740) 324-0946.

Ladies Lunch at the Hotel (18.00 ea) \$ _____
Soup, salad bar and dessert

Name: _____ Grotto: _____

INCLUDE THIS FEE WITH ABOVE TOTAL. Send this reservation to: Mrs. Judy Garbrandt, 95 King Ave., Newark, Ohio 43055. Any questions call Judy at 740-344-7380.

**OHIO GROTTA ASSOCIATION
MAY ZONE CONFERENCE 2013**

May 17-18, 2013

HOTEL

Hampton Inn Heath-Newark
1008 Hebron Road, Heath, Ohio 43056
(740) 788-8991

Contact the hotel direct to make reservations. Make your reservations
By May 3, 2013 to guarantee the special rate of \$85.00 per night plus
tax.

ZONE CONFERENCE AGENDA

Friday, May 17, 2013

Hospitality Room Open (at Hotel).....3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 18, 2013

Registration (at Hotel).....8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Board of Governors Mtg.....9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
(Officers and Past President's Only)

Ladies Luncheon at Hotel.....11:30 a.m.

Registration (at Teheran Grotto).....11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Men's Luncheon (at Teheran Grotto).....12:00 p.m.

OGA Business meeting (at Tehran Grotto).....1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Social Hour (at Tehran Grotto).....5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Dinner and Fun Night (at Teheran Grotto).....6:30 p.m. to ???

Hospitality Room Nightcap (at Hotel).....??? To 11:00 p.m.
