

## PGA Contacts

All Prophets listed are Past Monarchs. "PP" denotes a Past President of the PGA.

### Elected Officers

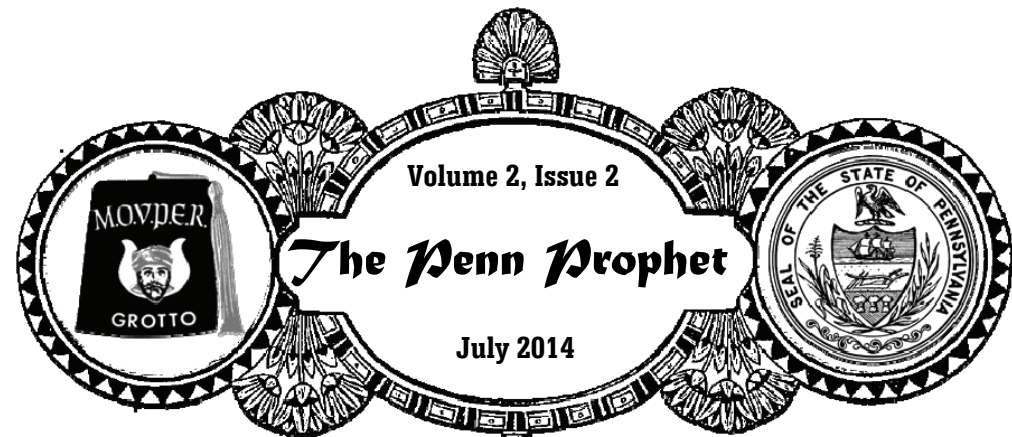
<b>President</b>	Pro. David Ingalls Information removed from online edition for privacy.	Home Grotto: Kismet
<b>First VP</b>	Pro. Seth C. Anthony Information removed from online edition for privacy.	Home Grotto: Ubar
<b>Second VP</b>	Pro. Ray P. Suarez, PM Information removed from online edition for privacy.	Home Grotto: Delco
<b>Third VP</b>	Pro. Russell B. Combs Information removed from online edition for privacy.	Home Grotto: Delco
<b>Treasurer</b>	Pro. Max J. Pokorski, PP Information removed from online edition for privacy.	Home Grotto: Islam
<b>Secretary</b>	Pro. Robert J. Lorenz, Jr., PP Information removed from online edition for privacy.	Home Grotto: Islam

### Appointed Officers

<b>Chaplain Marshall</b>	Pro. Robert Keas, PP Vacant	Home Grotto: Kismet
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**PGA Website: <http://www.pagrotto.com>**

*The Penn Prophet is edited and distributed by Pro. Seth Anthony.*



## From the Desk of the President

Pro. David Ingalls, PM, President

Dear Prophets,

I hope you are having a wonderful summer. Lady Jodi and I had a wonderful time at Supreme Council and saw a lot of old friends. I wished more Grottoes had been in attendance. There were many red tassels there this year. These men are our future and we need to make them feel welcomed and get involved in committees and started up the line as officers. We need to mentor them and encourage them to do new and exciting things that younger members want to do.



The PGA 2014 Fall Session will be held October 3 and 4 in Meadville, Pa. at the Days Inn; the same venue as the Spring session but with a few other changes. Our hospitality room will be in a separate building at the Days Inn; this room is larger and will hold more people. A block of sleeping rooms will be held in that building, with close proximity to the hospitality room. We will use the same meeting room that we had for the Spring session. The hotel has a dining room and a Friday night fish special for anyone arriving on Friday.

Please bring a red tassel and his lady with you this year to the session. The hospitality room, sponsored by Kismet Grotto, will be open Friday and Saturday nights for your fellowship. I hope to see you there and welcome Seth as our next President.

Yours in Sympathy and Good Fellowship,

*Dave*

## Upcoming Events in the Realm

*If you have any upcoming events that you would like featured in this area, please send them to the editor at [sethant@gmail.com](mailto:sethant@gmail.com).*

July 23—Kismet Grotto Theme Party  
Meadville, PA

July 25—Steak Night at Erepa Grotto with Entertainment. Reservations required. Contact Erepa Grotto, in Erie, PA, for more details.

August 23—Erepa Grotto Annual Corn Roast  
Erie, PA

September 13—Fall Ceremonial at Islam Grotto  
Pittsburgh, PA

October 3 & 4—Annual Convention of the PA Grotto Association  
Held in Meadville, PA.

October 4, 2014—Buffalo Blues Night at Islam Grotto  
Held in Pittsburgh, PA.

October 26—Ubar Grotto Annual Halloween Night and Ceremonial  
Event to be held in Middletown, PA.

## A Little Masonic Humor



## Just who was Mokanna?

By Pro. Seth Anthony, PM, First Vice President

Every now and then it's a good idea to learn a little bit about the organizations you belong to. The ritual of the Grotto makes no qualms that represents the story of the Veiled Prophet – "Mokanna." His likeness is the official emblem of Order and even our ladies branch is named for him. But, just who was Mokanna, and where did this story come from?



Let's start at the beginning; way back in time, around 779 AD. It was in that era that there lived a Persian man named Al-Muqanna, which roughly translates from Arabic as "the Veiled One." Starting life as a clothes pleater, he became a follower of the radical Abu Muslim of Khorasan. After Abu was murdered, Al-Muqanna founded a religious sect based upon the idea the Abu was a reincarnation of God and that when he passed, that mantle then came to Muqanna. This was as pretty much as radical as you can get, and Al-Muqanna was much reviled among the more mainstream members of the religious community.

It is said that Muqanna wore a veil to hide the splendor and magnificence of his features from his followers. However, locals (who didn't find his radical version of Islam all that enticing) believed he wore the veil to hide the fact that he was bald and missing an eye. He and his followers would eventually rebel, but it was short lived, as the authorities had him burned to death in his house. Doesn't sound like much fun, huh?

So, where does the story go from here? Flash forward about a thousand years (literally) when Sir Thomas Moore writes a romance called Lalla Rookh. In his novella, Moore describes a beautiful Princess, the aforementioned Lalla Rookh. She is set to marry a prince in a far off city and has just set out on her journey to meet him for the first time. She is understandably nervous, but finds distraction in a musician and story teller that is travelling with her. She listens to his wonderful tales, one of which is called the Veiled Prophet of Khorasan, which was about a man named Mokanna, who was likely derived from the historical figure. She later learns that the story teller was her Prince all along. They live happily ever after... yadda, yadda, yadda...

The ritual of the modern day Grotto is loosely based upon the story as presented by Moore, with plenty of Masonic embellishments along the way. Every Grotto has a slightly different interpretation of the work, if you ever get the chance to visit a Grotto doing an initiation, take them up on it! It's a great story that you will surely not want to miss!