

ISLAMITE

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Officers

Ed Hanke----- Monarch Elect
Kyle Golik -----Chief Justise Elect
Ron Davidson, PM----Master of Ceremonies Elect
Mike Karkalla, PM-----Treasurer Elect
Michael Tomascin, PGM-----Secretary Elect
Mike Kasyan -----Venerable Prophet Elect
Scott Sims----- Orator Elect

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Appointed Officers 2024:

Jeramey Wieloch PM-----Marshal Conrad Wieloch III PM----- Sentinel
George W. Dering -----Captain of the Guard William Woods PM-----Steward
David G. Rasch PM-----Chaplain All Past Monarchs----- Advisors

Trustees

Purple Tassels

William Woods PM 2025
David Rasch PM 2026
Robert Lorenz Jr. PM 2024

Red Tassels

Ed Grimes 2025
Bob Binnie 2024

Committees 2024:

Membership -----Kyle Golik
Suspension ----- Conrad Wieloch III PM
Special Olympics -----Robert Lorenz Jr., PM
Rep to MFS -----Jeramey Wieloch PM
Islam Grotto Historian ---- David G. Rasch PM

Enchanted Lantern ---- TBD
Dr. of Smiles ----- Robert Lorenz Jr., PM
Director Ceremonial Crew – Kyle Golik
Alt Rep to MFS-----Dennis Fleckenstein

Monarch Elect's Message – Ed Hanke

In ancient Roman religion and myth, Janus is the god of beginnings, gates, transitions, time, duality, doorways, passages, frames, and endings. He is usually depicted as having two faces. The month of January is named for Janus and for us, it is a time of new beginnings. The newly elected and installed officers of Islam Grotto are prepared to meet the challenges of the post Covid 19 pandemic era with “enthusiasm” and are prepared to support both Masonic youth, Special Olympics and various dental programs for youth. There’s just a ton of opportunities awaiting the Prophets of our Grotto starting off with the Installation of the new officer line, an impressive ceremony everyone would enjoy seeing. The new Monarch will host a dinner, dancing and fellowship with friends and family immediately following the installation ceremony. Be sure to get your reservations in early so that we can prepare accordingly.

Leading up to Easter are the weekly Friday fish fries which we all enjoy so much and provide some income for the Grotto. We will be reaching out to our membership to assist with such things as the set up and the cleanup as many hands make light work and it can be fun to work shoulder to shoulder with brothers. If this is something that you would consider, let us know; there is always a place for those who want to help. We do encourage everyone to partake in the meal that we prepare.

The Allegheny and Beaver County Special Olympics Polar Plunges happen in February. No, we don’t expect you to jump in unless you are up for it, we just need a few Prophets to assist the “plungers”. There are any number of jobs that need to be filled to make this a smooth-running affair for the participants. Come on out, even if all you do is cheer for the hardy souls who do the dunking.

For those who are interested in preserving our rich heritage, boundless opportunities exist to take part in the Grotto Ceremonial which will take place later in the year. Presentation of the story is central to our existence, and we need all hands-on deck to make it successful. Anyone who aspires for time on the stage or behind the lights is welcome to lend their talents. We need the whole gamut; stagehands, actors, makeup artists, you name it, we can find a place for you.

For those of you who haven’t been out to the Grotto since the summer, you need to make the extra effort to at least stop out for a Prophet’s Night to see the improvements in our facility. A new paint job, a new rug, some changes to the wall hangings and updated trophy cases have certainly spruced the place up from a year ago. If you need a ride to come join in the fellowship with us, please call any one of the officers and we will be glad to provide accommodation.

We will be continuing the sale of the four-digit numbered lottery tickets for the coming year. The prize is determined from the PA Lottery on the designated date and remains \$150 worth of the “scratch off” lottery tickets. As an aside, I won a couple of years ago and parlayed \$1300 from a \$5 investment. Not too bad a return, even though I had to declare it on my Income tax return.

Last, but certainly not least, congratulations to all the officers, red and purple tassels and the “Silent Ones” who will be providing the leadership and the help necessary to make Islam Grotto a beacon to all the other Grottoes in the Realm. When we work together, we can accomplish the task at hand with sympathy and good fellowship.

Ed

Living Past Monarchs of Islam Grotto

1977 Richard Hoff	2007 Michael Tomascin
1979 Arthur Smaltz	2009 William Woods
1985 Tommy Lee **	2010 Ron Davidson
1991 Jim Deller	2013/2014 David Rasch
1995 Ray Rietzel	2015 George Gittins
1999 Eugene Martucci	2016 Robert Lorenz III
2001 James Metsger *	2017 Jeramey Wieloch
2003 Edward Foster	2019 Michael Karkalla
2004 Max Pokorski	2020 Scott Allen
2005 Robert Lorenz Jr.	2021 Conrad Wieloch III
2006 Lenny Kolodziek	2022 Thomas Newland

Suspended * Demitted **

Secretary Elect's Message – Michael Tomascin PGM

I want to start off by Thanking everyone that supported me in my travels through the Grand Line of Grottoes International. It was an honor and a privilege to serve as your Grand Monarch.

I want to Thank Islam Grotto for allowing me to serve as secretary again. I am looking forward to working for you.

A Big Congratulations to Robert Lorenz Jr PM on becoming our Grand Chief Justice. I know you will support him like you supported me. He will be Grand Monarch starting in 2025 after the convention when elected.

Grand Chief Justice Message – Robert Lorenz, Jr., PM

Hello Prophets,

Hope all of you and your family had a blessed holiday season and a Happy New Year.

As we start this new year, we as a Grotto must come together as one to bring back our members with events and support those events. It seems that events are being planned and cancelled due to lack of support. If you have ideas on how we as a Grotto can grow and get members more involved, please feel free to let us know.

As you know I am starting to plan the 2026 Supreme Council Session to be held June 21st thru June 28th, 2026, at the Bayfront complex in Erie, PA. The support of the grotto and the Prophets are what will make this convention. So, I am asking for Prophets to please see me to fill committee chairs. These committees are what will make or break this convention.

Lady Theresa and I will be traveling to grotto installations in January. We are also planning on being at the Special Olympics Polar Plunge on February 24th. This event has been part of our Grotto for years, so plan on coming out with your fez so we can get our name out there.

As always home Grotto events come first. Lady Theresa and I thank you for your support as we travel up the Grand Line.

Yours in Grotto Fellowship,
Bob Lorenz, Jr., PM
Grand Chief Justice

Schedule of Events for 2024

January - 2024

18 - Stated Meeting - (Cooking - Officers)
19 - Installation Rehearsal
20 - Installation
26 - Prophets Night - (Cooking - Trustees)

February - 2024

2-4 - OGA Convention
12 - *Fish Fry Prep*
15 - Stated Meeting - (Cooking - Kyle Golik)
16 - Grotto Fish Fry
19 - *Fish Fry Prep*
22 - *Fish Fry Prep*
23 - Grotto Fish Fry - Prophet's Night
24 - Polar Plunge
29 - *Fish Fry Prep*
29 - *Fish Fry Prep*

March - 2024

1- Grotto Fish Fry
4 - *Fish Fry Prep*
5-7 - PGA Convention
7 - *Fish Fry Prep*
8 - Grotto Fish Fry
11 - *Fish Fry Prep*
12 - *Fish Fry Prep*
14 - *Fish Fry Prep*
15 - Grotto Fish Fry
18 - *Fish Fry Prep*
19 - *Fish Fry Prep*
21 - Stated Meeting - (Cooking - Chief Justice)
22 - Grotto Fish Fry
24 - Grotto Easter Children's Party
25 - *Fish Fry Prep*
26 - *Fish Fry Prep*
28 - *Fish Fry Prep*
29 - Grotto Fish Fry - Prophet's Night

April - 2024

18 - Stated Meeting - (cooking - Master of Ceremonies)
26 - Prophets Night - Venerable Prophet cooking

May - 2024

11 - Mother's Day Lunch
16 - Stated Meeting
17 - Grotto Ceremonial Rehearsal
24 - Grotto Ceremonial Rehearsal
25 - Grotto Ceremonial
31 - Prophet's Night

June - 2024

2-9 - 134th Supreme Council (New Orleans)
20 - Stated Meeting
28 - Prophet's Night
30 - July 4th Picnic and Fireworks

July

26 - Prophet's Night

August

30 - Prophet's Night

September

19 - Stated Meeting
27 - Prophet's Night

October

12 - Grotto Ceremonial Rehearsal
17 - Stated Meeting
19 - Grotto Fall Ceremonial
25 - Prophet's Night

November

21 - Stated Meeting
29 - Prophet's Night

December

20 - Grotto Christmas Wrapping
21 - Grotto Christmas Children's party
27 - Stated Meeting