

# Mohassan Grotto BOOSTER

December 2023  
Volume 96, Issue 12

511 Veterans Memorial Parkway, Davenport



**Official Publication  
Mohassan Grotto,  
M.O.V.P.E.R.  
Davenport, IA**

**Second Wednesday of each month Social 5:30 pm - Dinner 6 pm - Meeting 7 pm**



**MONARCH**  
Thomas F. Hodges

Greetings to all Prophets within the Mohassan Grotto Realm. Our next Stated Meeting is on December 13th, 2023. Hope you will be able to come and enjoy the fellowship with your brethren. As fall/winter is now upon us, please keep you and your family safe this winter, even if it is traveling to a warmer spot for the winter, be safe in all your travels and activities.

I apologize for not being in attendance at the Mohassan Grotto's last meeting, as some of you know, I was at a Masonic service for a brother. It was for someone both my Lady and I have known for several years. As I grow older and attend more and more services for departed brethren, there seems to be fewer and fewer Masons in attendance. Somewhere down the line of time, I also will be departing this world for a place not made with hands. I would strongly encourage you to attend the Masonic service for any departed brother that you can.

As my time being Monarch is coming to an end, I would like to take this time

to thank everyone who has supported me for the past two years. Sometimes it has been trying to ensure that we have not overspent and drained the resources that were accumulated by the previous membership. I know that a lot of dollars were brought in by bingo and activities from the old building. But with today's activities, we must be cautious about how we spend our funds, because we have NOT done any fund raising for the entire time that I have been on the Mohassan Grotto line. Is this part of my failure to create a viable program to make this happen? YES, it is but, in my defense, it is hard to do things when our card-carrying Prophets do not show up at Stated Meetings and will not provide feedback to any ideas or show interest in Mohassan Grotto activity growth.

I will do my best to support the officers that are elected and appointed for the 2024 year and humbly request that you do the same. Come out, stand up, and be counted among the best of Mohassan Grotto Prophets.

We have several members that have not paid their 2023 dues. All have been contacted by the Secretary and reminded; some have paid, others have not. If you do not have your 2023 dues card in your pocket, check with the Secretary. Please pay your dues so we can try to project a working budget for 2024.

Some dates and locations for 2024: Midwest Grotto Association, Spring meeting, Hosted by El Jaala Grotto

March 8th & 9th. Spring Hill Suites, Marriott Chicago O'Hare  
8101 W Higgins Rd Chicago Il 60631.  
(773) 867-0000 Nightly rate is \$139.00.  
reservations by Feb. 29th 2024

77th Annual Midwest Grotto Association Convention September 25th through 28th 2024. Same location as Spring meeting.

Illinois State Grotto Association is in April 2024. I don't have all the information at this time but the Officer Installation and Banquet is on April 13th and I believe it is in Peoria, Il. More to come as information become available.

Mark your calendars for June 2 to June 9, 2024, to join the Grand Monarch in New Orleans, LA at the Astor Crowne Plaza for the 134th annual Supreme Council Session

#### **HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

Reservations can now be made for the 134th annual Supreme Council Session taking place next year (June 2 – 9) in the great city of New Orleans, LA. The room rate of \$135.00 per night is available 3 days before and after convention dates for those looking to spend more time in the Big Easy.

You may use the link below to make on-line reservations or call the designated reservation line at (877) 408-9661, if you prefer. DO NOT CALL THE HOTEL DIRECTLY. If calling be sure to mention the group booking code "Grotto."

<https://book.passkey.com/event/50643135/owner/10756/home>

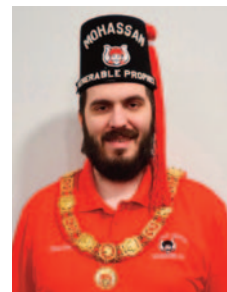
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**CHIEF JUSTICE**  
Sam Burnett



**MASTER OF CEREMONIES**  
Derek Fuller



**VENERABLE PROPHET**  
Chris Soebbing

Welcome Prophets and Ladies,

Hope this issue finds you all in good health and fine spirits.

Since the last publication of Mohassan Grotto Booster and our last meeting on November 8th, the month of November brought us two different holidays: Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. During our meeting all the Veterans who were present at the meeting were recognized for their service in the Armed Forces. For the ones who were not present at the meeting the Officers of Mohassan Grotto would like to thank you for your service and wish that you had a good Veterans Day.

As for Thanksgiving, the Officers would like to wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving. Please remember those who will not be celebrating Thanksgiving with their families either due to serving in the Armed Forces, being a First Responders, having medical issues, or whatever maybe the cause of them from being able to be with family over the holiday.

The receipt of this issue of the Booster will mean the arrival of December and our last meeting of the year. We would like to see everyone turnout for the meeting since we will be conducting the election of

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Greetings Prophets and Ladies,

For the month of December the meal cost will be 10 dollars. Meal will be Salisbury steak mashed potatoes and gravy and green beans, and Rolls . If you haven't already attended the meeting, please RSVP by December 5th. Take home meals will be 5 dollars. If you are unable to make it to the meeting due to being able to drive at night; please let us know and we can see if we can arrange a ride for you.

Please try to attend the Masonic Christmas party, December 9th 5pm to 730pm CST. Even if you don't have little ones, it's fun to watch all the excitement with Santa there, and the Goodfellowship of the season! This event is funded by the Center's Masonic organizations for their memberships, and there is no cost to those attending. Food will be served, vegetable soup, chili, hot dogs with ketchup, mustard, and relish, chips, and cookies.

Thanks,  
Derek Fuller, MC  
309-230-7973  
FullerDerekA@gmail.com

Greetings Prophets and Ladies,

As 2023 draws to a close and we look ahead to 2024, I've found myself thinking more than usual about not just membership, but membership engagement. It's the question many Masons have asked themselves and others over the years - how can we bring more members into our fraternity, but more importantly keep them active and involved? Like many before me, it's a question I often struggle to answer adequately.

I focused one of my articles this year on the importance of healthy and well-attended Blue Lodges, as the Blue Lodge is the essential foundation of Masonry. Unfortunately as we all know, many Blue Lodges have been forced to consolidate or otherwise become extinct in recent decades, with Iowa having lost another 8 lodges in 2023. Fewer Blue Lodges means fewer places to find the next generation of Grotto members who will help carry our torch into the future.

As a past Master of my home Lodge, one of my challenges to myself and to our incoming officers for 2024 is to think of ways to better engage the new Master Mason. What activities will make him not only want to become regularly involved with his Lodge, but spark an interest in joining an appendant body like the Grotto? Perhaps he has one or more non-Masonic

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**PURCHASE AN ENCHANTED LANTERN**

Help support dentistry needs for handicapped children and research to battle cerebral palsy.

## 2023 BOOSTERS

Bob Smith  
Barb Smith

Otto Thiergart  
Lois Thiergart

Roy Porter  
Lady Marcia

Charlie Roenfeldt  
Charlene Roenfeldt

Sherman Rudnick  
Nancy Rudnick

Thomas F. Hodges  
Mary Coffin

Samuel C. Burnett

*"In Memory of Passed Prophets"*

## JOIN THE BOOSTERS IN 2024

Have your name in the 2024 Boosters

### BOOSTER RATES:

One Line - \$10.00 annually  
(Single name or Mr. and Mrs.)

If you want your name and lady's name  
on individual lines, it's \$20.00  
annually for both lines.

YES, I want to be a BOOSTER!  
Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name 2nd line \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form & check to:  
Mohassan Grotto  
P.O. Box 1566  
Davenport, IA 52809-1566



Dear Grotto Ladies,

Hello! The November 8, 2023 Mohassan meeting was held with a meal of chicken, potato dish and green beans by DeBord's Catering.

Tom and I were unable to attend the meeting as we were in Ottumwa, IA for a Masonic Funeral Service that evening. I had known Greg Fleming and his wife, Rosie, for over 13 years. Unfortunately, Rosie passed away this past May. It is a sad time for their family and the Masonic family, as he was involved in his Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite and Kaaba Ottumwa Shrine Club (serving as President and treasurer at different times) and where he ran the bowling and golf fundraising tournaments, also a member of the Kaaba Ottumwa Cycle Patrol, the Clan 103 Hillbillies, and the DJ Music Unit. Thank you for your understanding of our being elsewhere on Mohassan Stated Meeting night.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and want to wish all a Happy Holiday Season whether it is

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa or Bodhi Day (also known as Rohatsu, a Buddhist holiday).

The Masonic Center Family Party is December 9, 2023.

I am hoping to see you at the December 13, 2023 Mohassan Grotto Stated Meeting, please try to join us!

### Upcoming dates:

December 9, 2023: Masonic Center Family Party

December 13, 2023: Mohassan Grotto Stated Meeting

March 8 and 9, 2024: Midwest Grotto Association Spring Meeting in Chicago

Sept. 25 – Sept. 28, 2023: Midwest Grotto Convention in Chicago

June 2 – 9, 2024: Supreme Council Session, Astor Crowne Plaza, New Orleans, LA

As always, contact me with any questions or comments about our Mohassan Grotto, the Midwest Grotto Association and/or the Supreme Council. I will try to find answers to your inquiry.

Please come and enjoy the meal and fellowship on December 13, 2023!

Best regards,  
Mary Coffin Hodges  
641-919-7442  
mkcofhem@yahoo.com

## JOIN US AT PETCO FOR PHOTOS WITH SANTA

December 2nd  
1–3 pm

Celebrate the season  
with a FREE photo  
of you and \*  
your pet.



# MOHASSAN GROTTO

511 Veterans Memorial Pkwy  
Davenport, Iowa 52807

## DECEMBER CALENDAR

13<sup>TH</sup> - Grotto Meeting

18<sup>TH</sup> - Booster Deadline

### *Monarch continued*

Astor Crowne Plaza, New Orleans, LA  
Room rate: \$135.00 per night  
Parking: \$20.00 per day  
Free Wi-Fi / Swimming Pool  
Fitness Center / Business Center  
Fly into New Orleans International  
Airport (MSY) (Taxi, Uber and Shuttle  
service available onsite)

Hope to see everyone at our next  
meeting in December 2024. 5 PM  
social, 6 PM dinner.

Fraternally,  
Thomas F Hodges, Monarch,  
309 373 3784  
tomlin4644@gmail.com

### *CJ continued*

Officers for 2024. The next meeting  
will be on December 13th, the social  
gathering starting at 5:30pm, meal  
being served at 6:00pm (cost is only  
\$10.00 per person), and meeting to fol-  
low at 7:00pm.

I am at your service; anyone can con-  
tact me at any time. My contact infor-  
mation is listed below.

Fraternally,  
Samuel C. Burnett, CJ  
314-614-1057  
burnetts003@gmail.com

### *VP continued*

friends who he thinks would be a  
good fit for Masonry? All too often  
those questions go unanswered - but  
it doesn't need to be this way.

If your Lodge is raising a new Mas-  
ter Mason, attend his degrees if you  
can. Ask him what he's looking for  
in Masonry and how the Lodge can  
help him on that journey. Don't as-  
sume that he'll remain engaged just  
because he paid his dues - that's a  
sure path to a new member becom-  
ing disengaged and another "what  
if?".

If anyone knows of a Prophet cur-  
rently in sickness or distress, please  
reach out to me via call, text, or e-  
mail. Wishing everyone a safe and  
joyous holiday season!

Fraternally,  
Chris Soebbing, VP  
563-639-9825  
chrissoebbing@hotmail.com

11-08-23 Grotto meeting



Healthy,  
Wealthy,  
Wise,  
and more,  
Here's to 2024!

