

**BY-LAWS OF O-TON-TA GROTTTO  
OF THE MYSTIC ORDER OF VEILED  
PROPHETS OF THE ENCHANTED REALM**

**Approved: May 15, 2024**

**I  
PREAMBLE**

That the best interest of the Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm may be Secured, only Master Masons are eligible for its mysteries. One of the objects of the Order is to Benefit the Symbolic Lodge, and in many cases the government is guided by Masonic usages As the most perfect system extant; but is to be explicitly understood that in itself it is not a Masonic Order, and that it is in no sense a Masonic Degree.

**II  
NAME AND LOCATION**

The Grotto shall be located in the city of Maumee, State of Ohio and known as O-Ton-Ta-La Grotto, M.O.V.P.E.R., and acknowledges obedience to and the sovereignty of the Supreme Council of the Mystic of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm, organized in Hamilton N.Y., June 13, 1890.

**III  
MEMBERSHIP**

Sec. 1 No one but a regular Master Mason in good standing and affiliated with a regularly and duly constituted Masonic Lodge is eligible to membership in this Grotto.

Sec. 2 Membership shall be divided into three classes: active and honorary and life. Active membership may be obtained either by petition, followed by election and initiation or by affiliation.

Sec.3 A petition for initiation or affiliation can be received by the Grotto at any session, and when received, shall be referred to an investigating committee of not less than three members. A petition having been referred to an investigating committee cannot be withdrawn. The petitioner must have been a resident of the place from which he petitions for at least three months preceding the presentation of the petition. He must present his current membership card to the Prophet sponsoring his membership application showing that he is in good standing in his Masonic Lodge. A petition for affiliation must be supported by a demit or a certificate from the Executive Secretary.

Sec.4 Immediately after receiving the report of the investigating committee, the applicant, whether for membership by initiation or by affiliation, shall be balloted upon. It shall take three or more black balls to reject a candidate. If but three black balls appear, a second ballot shall be taken immediately and if three black balls appear on the second ballot, the candidate shall be declared rejected.

Sec.5 A petition having been rejected cannot again be received until three months have elapsed. A petition for affiliation may again be received at any time by the rejecting Grotto or any other Grotto, that may have acquired jurisdiction.

Sec.6 Any Prophet who at the time, is a member in good standing of some other chartered Grotto may without fee, and by unanimous vote of the members present at any session, be elected an honorary member of this Grotto. An honorary member is not entitled to vote, nor can he hold office or committee membership in this Grotto.

Sec.7 Any Member of this Grotto who is in good standing on the books may commute all future annual dues and become a Life Member upon payment of TWENTY times the current annual dues of O-Ton-Ta-La Grotto M.O.V.P.E.R. in cash.

#### **IV OFFICERS**

Sec.1 The elective officers of this Grotto shall consist of, Monarch, Chief Justice, Master of Ceremonies, Treasurer, Secretary, (or Treasurer/Secretary), and Venerable Prophet. The Marshall, Captain of the Guard, Sentinel and Chaplain of this Grotto (Elected or Appointed).

Sec.2 As soon as is practicable after the election of officers, the Monarch may appoint such other officers as may be desirable or necessary for the proper exemplification of the Order to serve his term of office.

Sec.3 Any officer may resign at his pleasure. The vacancy in an elective office may on three days notice to members, be filled by election at any stated session. A vacancy in an appointive office may be filled at any time.

Sec.4 The duties of the officers shall be such as are prescribed by the Supreme Council Code, together with such other duties as are usual to such office or officers.

Sec.5 The elective officers shall be nominated at the November stated session and elected by ballot at the December session of the Grotto of each year, except that the dates may be changed by dispensation of the Grand Monarch. No candidate shall be received or initiated or obligated at the meeting set aside and designated for an election of officers, until after the election of officers shall have been held. for such office as required by the Supreme Council Code.

Sec.6 The Treasurer or (Treasurer/Secretary) shall give a corporate surety bond in such amount, and subject to terms, as shall be acceptable to and approved by the Executive Board and as required by the Supreme Council Code.

Sec.7 The officers shall be installed during the session at which they are elected or appointed or within 45 days thereafter as approved by the Grotto, and their terms shall continue until their successors are elected and installed.

Sec.8 There shall be an Executive Board which shall consist of the elected officers of the Grotto and the Junior Past Monarch. The Monarch shall be the presiding officer, and the secretary shall be the secretary of the executive board. The executive board shall be responsible for the enforcement of the by-laws of the

GROTTO and shall meet at least once each month. Five (5) members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum. A maximum amount of Two Hundred Fifty (\$250.00) Dollars may be expended by the Executive Board without approval of the membership.

## **V SESSIONS**

Sec.1 O-Ton-Ta-La Grotto stated sessions will be held on the third Wednesday each month. Except for the months of July and August which shall have no stated sessions.

Sec.2 Special sessions shall be held at the call of the Monarch or when requested in writing by not less than seven members. Only the business designated in the call shall be acted upon at special sessions. Each member shall be notified of the time and place of holding special sessions by mail, e-mail and/or social media at least five days prior thereto. At least 2 ceremonial sessions shall be held each year.

## **VI FISCAL YEAR**

Sec.1 The fiscal year of the Grotto shall end December 31.

## **VII QUORUM**

Sec.1 Seven (7) members including an officer qualified to open the Grotto, shall constitute a quorum.

## **VIII FEES AND DUES**

Sec.1 The fee for conferring the Order shall be One Hundred Fifty (\$150.00) Dollars. One Hundred Fifty (\$150.00) Dollars shall accompany the petition, to be returned if the petition is rejected. The balance of which shall be paid before initiation.

Sec.2 The fee for affiliation shall be equal to the current annual dues of O-Ton-Ta-Grotto M.O.V.P.E.R. which must accompany the petition, to be returned if the petition is rejected.

Sec.3 The annual dues of each member shall be Twenty-Five (\$25.00) Dollars plus Supreme Council Assessments Payable in advance on or before the Annual Meeting in December of each year. Honorary and Life members shall not be required to pay dues. Upon payment of annual dues a member shall be issued an annual membership card which shall be good until Annual Meeting of the succeeding year.

Sec.4 Each member of the Grotto, including Life members, shall at the time of paying his annual dues, pay to the Secretary the sum of \$1.00 for the benefit of the Supreme Council Humanitarian Foundation to be used exclusively for charitable purposes. A failure to pay said dollar shall have the same force and effect as a failure to pay dues.

Sec.5 A member delinquent in dues after ten days written notice and an opportunity to show cause, why he should not be suspended, may be suspended by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any session.

Sec. 6 Any monies received from the life memberships shall be set aside in a special fund, the income of which shall be used to pay the Supreme Council per capita dues, except, however that if the balance in said life membership fund shall at any time, in the judgment of the Grand Monarch, Deputy Grand Monarch, and Grand Chief Justice, or any two of them, provide sufficient income computed at the then going rate of interest to pay Supreme Council per capita dues for all life members of the Grotto, then living, any excess over and above the necessary principal balance required for such payment may be withdrawn there from by a vote of the Grotto membership.

### **IX Dimits**

Sec.1 A demit may be issued to a member upon his written request at any time, if he is free from all indebtedness, and no charges are pending against him, no action by the Grotto being necessary.

### **X PENALTIES**

Sec.1 When a Prophet is no longer a Master Mason in good standing, his standing in the Grotto shall be similarly affected and membership ceases or lies in abeyance until he has been restored to a Master Mason in good standing.

### **XI AMENDMENTS**

These by-laws may be altered, amended or repealed by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular session. The proposed change shall have been submitted in writing at the previous regular session. The proposed change shall be entered into the minutes. The membership shall be given not less than five days written notice of the proposed change and the designated session at which the vote shall be taken. When the Constitution and Code of the Supreme Council are amended or changed and the by-laws of this Grotto are thereby affected. The by-laws of this Grotto shall be changed to conform to the action of the Supreme Council.

Matthew Gloor  
Monarch

May 15, 2024  
Date

Craig Szczublewski  
Secretary

May 15, 2024  
Date