

Ocean State Traveler

“PROMOTING ODD FELLOWSHIP THROUGH POSITIVE COMMUNICATION”

Grand Master's Message

I bring you the greetings of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island, My elected and appointed officers along with my own personal greetings to you and your family.

We hope all members and families have had a Great summer! These last few weeks of August have been perfect! Back to school is just around the corner at our house. This school year the Gotaucos are present at all levels, Page in College, Tristan in High school, Scarlet in Middle school and Kendall in 1st Grade! The time sure flies when you are not looking.

The Grand Masters Picnic was held at the Gotauco house/farm this year and was enjoyed by all who came. Thank you to all who participated!

The Grand Masters Steak fry will be Sunday September 7 @ 1pm, again at the Gotauco house/farm. We are excited to see you all there. Reservations can be made with the Grand Treasurer, George Glover.

Unfortunately I was not able to attend The Sovereign Grand Lodge session in Charlestown, West Virginia Aug 17-22. Thank you to Brother George Glover, P.S.G.M; Brother John Beebe Grand Representative; Sister Barbara McLaren, Grand Secretary and Brother Donald McLaren, Grand Patriarch for representing Rhode Island.

Please don't forget to contact the Grand Secretary for your lodges Installation and Visitation. We would like to get a schedule set as soon as possible. Thank you in advance to all Lodge Secretaries for their assistance in the matter.

Always in Friendship, Love and Truth

Thomas A Gotauco Jr, Grand Master of Rhode Island



Grand Patriarch's Message

To the Officers and Members of the Grand Encampment of Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Now that summer is slipping by swiftly it is time to once again think about membership. New members bring fresh ideas. Remember change is not always a bad thing. The idea is to grow our Order, move forward, the past needs to stay in the past. The future is NOW. Come up to the future!

Nomination and election of officers are taking place this month. Please think who will make a great leader and support your officers.

If you would like to have a School of Instruction for your Encampment, please contact the Grand Scribe. These are not only for new members but for everyone. We are never too old to learn something!

Until next time, stay healthy and have safe travels.

In F H & C

Donald E. McLaren

2025–2026 Grand Encampment Officers

Grand Patriarch	Donald E. McLaren, PGP, PGM, GCR,
Grand High Priest	Disa K. Johnson, PPRA, PGP
Grand Senior Warden	Vincent Braucci, PGM
Grand Scribe	Barbara A. McLaren, PGP, PGM, PPIALAPM
Grand Treasurer	George L. Glover III, PSGM
Grand Junior Warden	John A. Lawson, III, PGM
Grand Representative	Barbara A. McLaren, PGP, PGM, PPIALAPM
Alt Grand Representative	George L. Glover III, PSGM
Grand Marshal	John C. Beebe III, PGP, PGM, GCR
Grand Inside Sentinel	Bryan King, PGP, PGM

2025—2026 GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

Grand Master	Thomas A. Gotauco	Grand Representative	John C Beebe, III, PGM
Deputy Grand Master	Michael J. Seger	Alt Representative	Michael J. Seger, PGM
Grand Warden	Jennifer M. Lawson	Grand Marshal	Eric D. Johnson
Grand Secretary	Barbara A. McLaren, PGM	Grand Conductor	Elizabeth Aleszczyk
Grand Treasurer	George L Glover, III, PSGM	Grand Chaplain	John A. Lawson, III., PGM
Immediate PGM	Michael J. Seger, PGM	Grand Guardian	Jason Greene
		Grand Herald	Donald E. McLaren, PGM

REMINDER TO ALL LODGES

Term Reports have been sent out — NO lodge / encampment may be installed unless the term report is completed **PRIOR TO INSTALLATION**. Deputies please make sure this is complied with — it is a requirement of our Order.

THE DO YOU KNOW CORNER

From The Grand Secretary

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows has three levels of “Lodge”: the Lodge, the Encampment, and the Patriarchs Militant.

The Lodge is assigned to new initiates. The initials of the Odd Fellows lodge are “FLT” which stands for Friendship, Love and Truth as the basic guides to live by as an Odd Fellow. Once a member has made their way through all the degrees and has had the 3rd degree (truth) bestowed upon them, they are entitled to hold an office or position in their lodge, and are also eligible to go on further in Odd Fellowship through the higher degree branches such as the Encampment and the Patriarchs Militant (aka the Canton).

Subordinate Lodge Degrees

- 0 Initiatory
- 1 Friendship
- 2 Brotherly/Sisterly Love
- 3 Truth

Encampment Degrees

- 1 Patriarchal
- 2 Golden Rule
- 3 Royal Purple

Patriarchs Militant

Mustering Ceremony

MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT REPRESENTATIVE
SOVEREIGN GRAND LODGE SESSION
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA.

It was a pleasure to represent Rhode Island at the recent Sovereign Grand Lodge Sessions in August 2025. Brother Donald and I drove and Brothers Beebe and Glover flew.

Saturday as a day of organization and finding out where the meeting rooms are located. This was also a day to pick up our registration packets for the week and check out the surrounding area by the hotel.

Sunday was a busy day with Orientation of Representatives in the morning, Flag Raising at noon and a Divine and Memorial Service in the afternoon.

Sunday night was the Official Opening of the Sovereign Grand Lodge Session. Sister Barbara McLaren and Brother John Beebe represented Rhode Island in the Flag Presentation. What an honor.

Monday was the official kick off of the Sovereign Grand Lodge Session. Each daily session finished at noon and different committees met at that time to report back the following day. At that time a bill might be introduced for passage or would go back to the committee for further review. It is always very interesting to see how the Sovereign Grand Lodge operates, a big difference from the Grand Lodge Session in Rhode Island.



The Officers Banquet, was held on Monday, and the Installation Diner, was held on Wednesday. Both diners were attended by many brothers and sisters.

The new Officers for 2025—2026 are:

Sovereign Grand Lodge

Sovereign Grand Master	Brother Tom Calabrese, New Jersey
Deputy Sovereign Grand Master	Brother Ronald Hanson, Washington
Sovereign Grand Warden	Brother Kelly Hughes, Florida

International Association of Rebekah Assemblies

President IARA	Sister Pamela Isenhower, Texas
Vice President IARA	Sister Sandra Nickerson, New Hampshire
Warden IARA	Sister Cheryl Workman, West Virginia

The 2025 Sovereign Grand Lodge Session adjourned on Thursday around noon, with an impressive change of jewel ceremony

Thursday evening Kanawhe Lodge in Charleston, WV took many of us out to their pavilion for a wonderful Bar-B-Que. It was a wonderful ending to a hectic week.

Sister Barbara and Brother Donald McLaren were driving home on Friday. Brother George, Brother John attempted to depart West Virginia to Atlanta at 6:30 PM Friday but due to mechanical issues did not leave West Virginia till 1 AM, changing in Atlanta and finally arriving home to Providence on Saturday at 6PM.

Yours in F.L.T.

Barbara McLaren, Grand Encampment Representative



On Friday, August 29,th Past Grand Patriarch Disa Johnson, Past Grand Master John Lawson III, along with Grand Warden Jen Lawson, dropped off some school supplies to Meeting Street School in Providence.

The school supplies were collected by Past Patriarch Disa last year as a part of her donations to her charity. The school was very happy to receive them for the students. Accepting for Meeting Street was Daniel Friel, Director of Develop-

ment.

Past Patriarch Disa would like to thank the members of the Grand Encampment who collected the items that were donated.

After the supplies were presented by the Past Patriarch, Past Grand Master, and Grand Warden were given a tour by Daniel of the new building on the campus.



Calling all lodges

The Initiatory Degree

Will be exemplified

On Sunday, September 28, 2025

178 High Street

Bristol, RI

Degree commences at 1:00

Candidates to arrive by 12 Noon

Light refreshments following degree

Please let the Grand Secretary know if your lodge has
any candidates.

(401-253-9540) or email (glri-2@hotmail.com)



The Town of Little Compton celebrated its 350th anniversary Saturday, August 16th with a parade and day-long festivities that organizers say are “worth the 50 year wait.”

With the help of several members, Seaconnet Lodge No. 39 built and sponsored a float with many of their members in attendance.



Seaconnet Lodge celebrated 150 Years in June 2025





You are cordially invited to attend
a RECEPTION & BUFFET for



THOMAS A. GOTAUCO, JR

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge
of Rhode Island

Independent Order of Odd Fellows

and

DONALD E. McLAREN

Grand Patriarch of the Grand Encampment
of Rhode Island & Connecticut

Independent Order of Odd Fellows

SUNDAY, October 12, 2025 1:00 p.m.

Richards Pub

3347 South County Trail

East Greenwich

Sponsored by Harmony Lodge No. 5

And Canonicus Lodge No. 9, I.O.O.F.

R.S.V.P. by October 2nd to: George Glover

georgeglover@verizon.net

401-499-8216



Thoughts from the Grand Lodge Chaplain

So far in my articles we have talked about Friendship, and we have talked about Love. Now we complete the three links of Odd Fellowship and bring up the subject of Truth.

Are talking about someone's feelings about what is real? Maybe, the popular opinion of the day of the latest polling about something. No, we are not. The Truth doesn't care about your feelings, or opinions.

As often heard where I worship on Sundays, "The Truth is still the truth even if no one believes it, and a Lie is still a lie even if everyone believes it."

What does scripture say on this matter?

King David in Psalms wrote: "Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long." (Psalms 25:5) and "The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever." (Psalms 119:160)

Solomon gave us a clear warning in Proverbs 12:22, "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight."

Paul writes to us in his epistles, "Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness," (Ephesians 6:14). Even the famous "Love" chapter, I Corinthians 13 heard at weddings states that "Love ...does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth."

Then we come to Christ himself who states, "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32). When He was asked what Truth was replied "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6). He also in his own prayers for those he was with prayed "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." (John 17:17)

So as an Odd Fellow are you here to spread lies, and gossip or opinion, or do you stand for the Truth?."

John A. Lawson III, Grand Chaplain

IN OUR PRAYERS / THINKING OF YOU

Eric Olsen
Ada Beebe
John Beebe
Tom Gotauco

Karen Hawkins
Fran M. Kane
Frank Moitozo

Stella Moitozo
Elliott Greene
George Glover
Joanne Mower

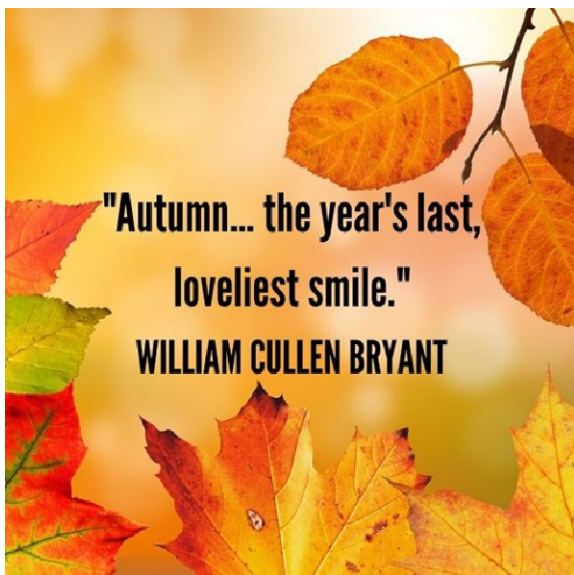


SEPTEMBER

Marcel Bavoux	5
Ara Sadaniantz	5
Eric Johnson	9
Lindsay Pineo	11
John Lawson, III	15
Leon Volpini	15
Michael Rocha	15
Carl Adler	19
Robert Howard	23
Thomas Warren	23



Maize /meɪz/ (**Zea mays**), also known as **corn** in North American English, is a tall stout **grass** that produces **cereal grain**. It was domesticated by **indigenous peoples in southern Mexico** about 9,000 years ago from wild **teosinte**. Native Americans planted it alongside **beans** and **squashes** in the **Three Sisters polyculture**. The leafy stalk of the plant gives rise to male **inflorescences** or tassels which produce **pollen**, and female inflorescences called **ears**. The ears yield grain, known as **kernels** or seeds. In modern commercial varieties, these are usually yellow or white; other varieties can be of many colors.



Nicolas Dalicanrao	1
Scott Jamieson	5
Jane Jerauld	10
Cole Gomes	14
Lorraine Cormier	15
Denise Bodreau	17
Brandon Pineo	20
Kevin Foley	26





HARMONY LODGE # 5
 96 Slocum Road
 N. Kingstown, RI 02852
 Thomas Gotaucio, DGM, Sec.
 772 Fletcher Road
 No. Kingstown, RI 02852
 401-884-4623
 Meets: 2nd and 4th Thursday
 7:00 PM

CANONICUS LODGE # 9
 125 N. Broadway
 Rumford, RI 02916
 Jennifer Lawson, Sec.
 125 N. Broadway
 Rumford, RI 02916
 401 489-8132
 Meets: 2nd and 4th Friday
 8:00 PM

**UNITED BROTHERS
 LODGE #13**
 178 High Street
 Bristol, RI 02809
 Frank Moitozo, PGM, Sec.
 64 Salisbury Street
 Rehoboth, MA 02769
 508 336-6912
 Meets: 1st. Thursday 4:00 PM

**MANUFACTURERS
 LODGE # 15**
Scottish Rite Building
2115 Broad St, Cranston
 Harold Nonnenmacher, Sec.
 115 Holiday Court
 Wakefield, RI 02879
 401 782-6004
 Meets: 1st Wed and 3rd
 Thurs 7:00 PM

GRANITE LODGE # 33
 178 High Street
 Bristol, RI 02809
 John A. Lawson, PGM, Sec.
 120 Wilson Street
 Rumford, RI 02916
 401 434-1491
 Meets: 3rd Wednesday
 11:00 AM

LODGE DIRECTORY

SEACONNET LODGE # 39
 88 John Dyer Road
 Little Compton, RI 02837
 John A Lawson, PGM, Sec.
 120 Wilson Street
 Rumford, RI 02916
 401 434-1491
 Meets: **4th Thursday 7 PM**

EXCELSIOR LODGE # 49
 178 High Street
 Bristol, RI 02809
 Deare Warren, PGM, Sec.
 120 Water Street
 Portsmouth, RI 02871
 401 683-3056
 Meets: 2nd and 4th
Tuesday 7:00 PM



REBA REBEKAH LODGE # 12
 178 High Street
 Bristol, RI 02809
 Nancy Edler, PPRA, Sec.
 55 Sea Breeze Lane
 Bristol, RI 02809
 401 253-9917
 Meets: 1st Thursday 7:00 PM

**MIZPAH REBEKAH
 LODGE # 22**
 125 Broadway
 East Providence, RI 02916
 Shirley Lawson, Sec.
 120 Wilson Street
 Rumford, RI 02916
 401 434-1491
 Meets: 3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM

**NOTE CHANGES IN
 LODGE DIRECTORY**

Ioof News: ioof.org



**WAMPANOAG
 ENCAMPMENT No. 23**
 125 N. Broadway
 East Providence, RI 02916
 Michael Seger, GM, Scribe
 46 Hope Street
 Rumford, RI 02916
 401 434-7401
 Meets: 4th Friday 7:00 PM

**MASSASOIT
 ENCAMPMENT # 8**
 178 High Street
 Bristol, RI 02809
 George Glover, PSGM
 Financial Scribe



15 Jaclyn Drive
 Coventry, RI 02816
 401-499-8216
 Meets: 3rd Thursday 7:00 PM
CANTON PROVIDENCE #1
 125 N. Broadway
 East Providence, RI 02916
 John Lawson, Clerk

Grand Secretary Office
 Days vary due to appoint-
 ments
 Please call for if you would
 like to come by
10:30AM—4:00 PM
 178 High Street
 Bristol, RI 02809
 401-253-9540
 Glri-2@hotmail.com



DATES TO REMEMBER

Sep-25



Sept 1	Happy Labor Day
Sept 3	Grand Officers Night - Manufacturers Lodge No. 15, 7 PM. Scottish Rite Building, 2115 Broad St. Cranston, 02905.
Sept 4	Grand Officers Night - Reba Rebekah Lodge No. 12, Din- ner 6 PM. 178 High Street, Bristol, RI
Sept 7	Annual Steak Fry -- Grand Master's House, 772 Fletcher Road, North Kingstown, RI
Sept 19 - 20	Grand Lodge of Connecticut, Cromwell
Sept 28	Initiatory Degree, 178 High Street, Bristol

October 2025

12-Oct	Grand Master - Grand Patriarch Reception -- Richards Pub, East Greenwich
October 17 - 18	Grand Lodge of Maine, Waterville
October 18	Degree Rally Day, Belmont, MA
October 23	Instillation - Seaconnet Lodge No 39 - 7 PM

Other Events

Nov 2nd	Daylight Savings Time Ends -- Turn Clocks Back
Nov 5th	Instillation - Manufacturers Lodge No 15 - 7 PM
Nov 6th	Instillation - United Brother Lodge No. 13 - 4:30 PM
Nov 6th	Instillation - Reba Rebekah Lodge No. 12 - 7 PM

