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, All of our officers, elected and appointed along with my own personal greetings to you and your family.

What winter it has turned out to be. Colder than average to start and then more snow that we haven't seen in a long time. I hope you have all recovered from the Blizzard of 2026!

The Grand Lodge Officers conferred the Initiatory degree on Saturday, January 17th at United Brothers Lodge in Bristol. We welcomed two new members to our family.

I attended the regular meeting of Canonicus Lodge on Friday, January 23 at Roger Williams Rumford Grange hall. Minnesota Grand Master Amanda Robinson and her Partner PGM John Sonnek were in Rhode Island visiting Amanda's daughter who lives in Providence. We enjoyed a great dinner, visiting with our Minnesota friends, and Canonicus Lodge meeting.

Spring is almost upon us, with Grand Lodge Session to follow. Session will be held April 10-11, 2026, at the same place it was last year in Warwick at the Double Tree on Post Rd across from TF Green Airport. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Hard to believe how fast the year has gone by. It seems like yesterday I was installed as Grand Master. It has been my Honor to serve as Grand Master. Thank you to all Grand Officers, Members, and My Family for a wonderful year!

Always in Friendship, Love and Truth Thomas A Gotauco Jr,

Grand Master of Rhode Island

Grand Patriarch's Message

Greetings,

The time has come to say good by as this is my last opportunity to thank those who have supported my these past three years. How time flies when you are having fun.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve this Grand Encampment. I have tried to bring dignity to this exalted office. We have had a great time in advancing Patriarchal Odd Fellowship in Rhode Island and Connecticut. Odd Fellowship will continue to grow if we all work together.

I especially wan to thank Barbara McLaren, Grand Scribe, for her continued support.

I wish all the best for the new officers. I will continue to help in any way possible. All you need to do is ask.

Lets move Patriarchal Odd Fellowship in Rhode Island and Connecticut toward the future.

I remain, In F H & C

Donald E. McLaren

Grand Patriarch

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
Grand Outside Sentinel	Michael J. Seger, 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

THE DO YOU KNOW CORNER

From The Grand Secretary

Please be vigilant on any emails, texts or phone calls that you may receive. NEVER< EVER give out passwords, personal or insurance information. DO NOT EVER purchase gift cards for anyone!!

Recently the Grand Lodge email was hacked and emails were sent out asking for gift cards for fraudulent reasons. If you are unsure about what you receive, contact the sender directly — NOT by hitting reply.

SCAMS, PSHING and FRAUDS are everywhere — please be vigilant, extra cautious and smart

If you want to be happy, do not dwell in the past, do not worry about the future, focus on living fully in the present. Success is not how high you have climbed, but how you make a positive difference to the world. Pursue what catches your heart, not what catches your eyes.

Roy T. Bennett

Grand Lodge of the State of

OFFICE OF THE GRAND SECRETARY
Barbara A. McLaren, PGM
PO Box 296 Bristol, R.I. 02809-0296
Telephone (401) 253-9540
Email glri-2@hotmail.com

January 3, 2026

To all Lodges, Members, Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters

Greetings:

This is to inform you that the 181st Annual Session of the Grand Lodge of the State of Rhode Island will be held on Saturday April 11, 2026 at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel (formerly Radisson Hotel Providence Airport), 2081 Post Road, Warwick RI 02886. The session will be opened by our Grand Master, Thomas Gotauco at 9:00 AM. Registration will start at 8:00 AM. **A valid dues card is required for registration**.

The Session will be opened in the Grand Lodge Degree. Following the exemplification of the Grand Lodge Degree to any Qualified Past Grand, we will then drop down to the Third Degree to conduct our business. Any Odd Fellow who has received the Third Degree and has a valid dues card will be admitted to the session. You will have a voice but no vote.

We request that each of you plan to attend and take an active part in the deliberations in advancing the Order. Your input may be just what is needed.

The Joint Session Banquet will be Friday, April 10, 2026 with a Buffet dinner at 6:30 PM, following a No Host Social Hour at 6:00 PM. Cost of dinner is $55 per person. Grand Lodge will host a complimentary breakfast and luncheon on Saturday April 11th.for those who attend the Grand Lodge Session on Saturday, April 11, 2026. **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL MEALS, NO LATER THAN MARCH 20, 2026.** No Reservations/Tickets at the door. (See attached meal reservation sheet). A Memorial Service and program will follow the dinner.

Come spend an enjoyable and informative time with us. If you wish to stay at the Hotel, make your reservations directly with the hotel (401-739-3000) no later than **March *10, 2026*** the rate is $145 for Thursday 4/9 - Saturday 4/11/2026 all rates are plus tax. Mention Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows to get preferred rates.

Yours in Friendship, Love and Truth

Barbara A. McLaren, PGM

Grand Secretary

GRAND LODGE OF RHODE ISLAND
MEAL RESERVATIONS
APRIL 10-11, 2026

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Title /Jurisdiction /Lodge _____

Joint Session Banquet Friday April 10, 2026
Buffet Banquet _____
$55

Please make checks payable to Grand Lodge IOOF of Rhode Island

Breakfast, Saturday April 11, 2026

_____

No Charge

Lunch, Saturday April 11, 2026

_____

No Charge

Please advise of any food allergies

ONE SHEET PER PERSON PLEASE

NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE SESSION

ALL RESERVATIONS TO GRAND LODGE OFFICE NO LATER THAN MARCH 20, 2026

GLRI-2@hotmail.com
PO Box 296, Bristol, RI 02809

Grand Encampment

OFFICE OF THE GRAND SCRIBE

Barbara A. McLaren, PGM

PO Box 296 Bristol, R.I. 02809-0296

Telephone (401) 253-9540

Email glri-2@hotmail.com

January 3, 2026

To all Encampments, Grand Encampment Officers, Past Grand Patriarchs,

Greetings:

This is to inform you that the Annual Session of the Grand Encampment of Rhode Island and Connecticut will be held on Friday April 10, 2026. The session will be opened by our Grand Patriarch, Donald E. McLaren promptly at 1:00 PM, at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel (formerly Radisson Hotel Providence Airport), 2081 Post Road, Warwick RI 02886. Registration will start at 12:15 PM. **A valid dues card is required for registration**.

The Session will be opened in the Grand Encampment Degree. Following the exemplification of the Grand Encampment Degree to all Qualified Past Chief Patriarchs', we will open in the Royal Purple Degree to conduct our business. Any Patriarch who has received the Royal Purple Degree and has a valid dues card will be admitted to the session. You will have a voice but no vote.

We request that each of you plan to attend and take an active part in the deliberations in advancing the Order. Your input may be just what is needed.

The Joint Session Banquet will be Friday, April 10, 2026 with a Buffet dinner at 6:30 PM, following a No Host Social Hour at 6:00 PM. Cost of dinner is $55 per person. Grand Lodge will host a complimentary breakfast and luncheon on Saturday April 11th.for those who attend the Grand Lodge Session on Saturday, April 11, 2026. **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL MEALS, NO LATER THAN MARCH 20, 2026.** No Reservations/Tickets at the door. (See attached meal reservation sheet). A Memorial Service and program will follow the dinner.

Come spend an enjoyable and informative time with us. If you wish to stay at the Hotel, make your reservations directly with the hotel (401-739-3000) no later than **March *10, 2026*** the rate is $145 for Thursday 4/9 - Saturday 4/11/26 all rates are plus tax. Mention Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows to get preferred rates

Yours in Faith, Hope and Charity

Barbara A. McLaren, PGP

Grand Scribe

Happenings…….

Visitors at Canonicus Lodge No. 9.

On Friday, January 23, Canonicus Lodge No. 9 entertained the Grand Master of Minnesota, Amanda Robinson and her partner PGM John Sonnek. They were in town to visit Amanda's daughter. A wonderful night of fellowship, fun and laughter. We hope they come back soon.

Thomas Gotauco, GM of RI

Mark Howard, NG of Canonicus

Amanda Robinson, GM of MN

Manufactures Lodge No. 15

Manufactures Lodge No. 15 will be exemplifying the Initiatory Degree on Saturday, April 18th at 11 AM. Scottish Rite Building, 2115 Broad Street, Cranston.
Please let the Grand Secretary know if your lodge has any candidates.

Degree

On Saturday, January 17th the Initiatory Degree was conferred on Maria Cerra of Canonicus Lodge No. 9 and Joe Maddalena of Manufactures Lodge No. 15.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Well, we are coming to the end of the year for Grand Lodge. With the next article we will have had our annual session and a new set of Grand Lodge officers will be installed.

As we gather in celebration, Let us reflect on the accomplishments, disappointments, new friendships and lost friends we had during the year, More especially that we would not have been able to get through any of it without our God and Lord.

Psalms 18:1-3 "

I will love You, O Lord, my strength.
The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;

My God, my strength, in whom I will trust;
My shield and the]*horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*
I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised;

So shall I be saved from my enemies.

Now is also a time of personal inner reflection. One of the lessons learned in our degrees is that of the Good Samaritan. "To Love our Neighbor as Yourself" but are we. Are we being the Good Samaritan, or are we being like the Priest and Levite who walk on the other side of the road?

Showing love is more than just a friendly smile, If we see a need that we have the means to fulfill and do nothing it is the same as "just walking by". But if we do what is needed, even for an enemy, we are examples of Christ.

I end this year with Numbers 6:24-26:

"*The LORD bless you and keep you;*
The LORD make His face shine upon you,

And be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you,

And give you peace." '

John A. Lawson III

Grand Chaplain

I Thought Of You Today

I thought of you with love today but that is nothing new

I thought about you yesterday and days before that too,

I think of you in silence I often speak your name all I have are memories and your picture in a frame

Your memory is my keepsake with which I 'll never part

God has you in his keeping I have you in my heart.

-Author unknown

IN OUR PRAYERS / THINKING OF YOU

Eric Johnson	Ada Beebe	Frank Moitozo
Bob Howard	John Beebe	Stella Moitozo
Walter Elwell	Jane Jerauld	Charles Igo
Eric Olsen	Karen Hawkins	Joanne Mower
George Glover	Fran M. Kane	Deare Warren

March Birthday's

Marion Leland	1
George Glover III	3
Charles Fiske	3
Bruce Boulester	6
Alan Sidok	8
Susan Charpentier	8
Karen Hawkins	10
Jason Greene	13
Robert Koehne	26
Elijah Alston	28
Joseph Maddalena	29
Richard Park	30

The shamrock, a symbol of Ireland, has a rich hi story to St. Patrick and Irish identity, representi ng faith, heritage, and national pride.

The term "shamrock" comes from the Irish word seamróg, meaning "young clover." While there i s no definitive botanical classification for the sh amrock, it is commonly associated with two spe cies of clover:

Trioium dubium (lesser clover) and Trifolium rep ens (white clover). The shamrock's identity has been a topic of debate among botanists, with va rious plants sometimes referred to as shamrock s, including wood sorrel (Oxalis acetosella)

April Birthday's

Walter Elwell	8
Nancy Munroe	11
Paul Golembeske	14
Mark Howard	18
Jennifer Lawson	18

April is a month celebrated for its blooming spring and vibrant energy, but what truly sets it apart is the bril- liance of its gemstones.

Known primarily for the **diamond birthstone**, April holds a place of prestige in the world of crystal and gemstone lore. However, there is more to **April gemstones** than just their sparkle. From historical value and spiritual meaning to trendy fash- ion accessories like **April birthstone pendants**, this guide takes you deep into the realm of April's symbolic stones. Whether you're shopping for a birthday, seeking spiritual guidance, or simply exploring the world of gems, **April gemstones** offer time- less beauty with powerful symbolism.

LODGE DIRECTORY

HARMONY LODGE # 5
96 Slocum Road
N. Kingstown, RI 02852
Thomas Gotauco, GM, 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
7:30 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 4:30 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

SEACONNET LODGE # 39
32 Commons
Little Compton, RI 02837
John A Lawson, PGM, Sec.
120 Wilson Street
Rumford, RI 02916
401 434-1491
Meets: 2nd Tuesday 7 PM

EXCELSIOR LODGE # 49
Consolidated with United Brothers Lodge No. 13 on Thursday, November 6, 2025

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
Meets: 4th Tuesday, 7:30 PM
120 Wilson Street
Rumford, RI 02916
401 434-1491

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

The Grand Lodge of the State of Rhode Island
Independent Order of Odd Fellows
PO Box 296
Bristol, RI 02809-0296 www.ioofri.org

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mar-26

March Arthritis Month Plan a fund raiser and receive a certificate

13-Mar-26	Grand Officers - Canonicus Lodge No. 9, Rumford
17-Mar-26	Grand Officers - Mizpah Rebekah Lodge No. 22, Rumford
17-Mar-26	*Birthday of Schulyer Colfax, Author of Degree of Rebekah*

Apr-26

Living Legacy Month	
2-Apr-26	Passover Begins
5-Apr-26	Easter
10-Apr-26	Grand Encampment Session, Warwick
11-Apr-26	Grand Lodge Session, Warwick
18-Apr-26	Initiatory Degree -- Manufacturers Lodge, Cranston, 11 AM
April 24-25	Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, Shelburne, NH
26-Apr-26	*207 Anniversary of our Order, Founded in 1819 in Baltimore Md*

Other Events

May 22 - 23	Grand Lodge of Quebec
June 5 - 6	Grand Lodge of Massachusetts
August 16 - 20	The Sovereign Grand Lodge Sessions, Frisco TX

FROM THE EDITOR

The Ocean State Traveler is published bi-monthly by the Grand Lodge of The State of Rhode Island. Want to see news from your lodge? E-mail me with any information and photos and I will try to get the articles in the next edition. Deadline for submission is the 15th of each even numbered month (February, April, June, August, October and December).