

Ocean State Traveler

“PROMOTING ODD FELLOWSHIP THROUGH POSITIVE COMMUNICATION”

Grand Master's Message

Hello, again, I bring the greetings of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island, my elected and appointed officers for the year along with my own personal greetings to all members of the Grand Lodge as well as all lodge members and family.

As everyone was aware the Grand Session of Rhode Island was held in Warwick, R.I. on the 11th of April and the banquet on the 10th of April. We had a good turn out of R.I. members as well as out of state visitors. We were honored to have in our presence the Immediate Past Sovereign Grand Master Brother Gerry Workman and his wife, Sister Cheryl, IARA Warden from West Virginia.

The Grand Lodge was pleased to present four \$ 2,000 scholarships during the banquet. I would like to thank Brother George Glover, Sister Barbara McLaren and Brother John Beebe for all of their help in setting up the Hotel and establishing a menu for Friday night, as well as breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

By the time you receive the Traveler, Debbie and I will have attended to the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire for their session. Two years ago we also traveled to New Hampshire and had a very good time.

We are looking at July 11th for the Grand Masters picnic. We have also looked at September 13th for the Grand Masters steak fry. We hope many members and guests can attend these events. Money made from the picnic and steak fry will go to my project – Insight for people living with vision loss.

I would also like to thank Debbie for her ongoing support during the year.

Sincerely,

Friendship, Love and Truth

Michael J. Seger, PGM, Grand Master of the State of Rhode Island

May—June 2026



Grand Patriarch's Message

Hi Everyone, Spring has finally arrived!!

At this time of year we should be coming out with fresh ideas and thinking of new thoughts not only for the present but for the future.

Members who have received the Third Degree are now eligible to become members in the Encampment Branch of Odd Fellowship. The Three Degrees of Encampment Odd Fellowship are Patriarchal, Golden Rule and Royal Purple. All business is conducted in the Royal Purple Degree. These degrees are an extension of the Odd Fellow Degrees. They give us a further education of Odd Fellowship.

By joining an Encampment, you are gaining new incites and awareness of Odd Fellowship.

Ask your Brothers and Sisters who are Third Degree Odd Fellows to join this next step in our Fraternal Order. You might be surprised at what you did not know.

Please stay well and safe till we meet again.

I remain, In F H & C

Donald E. McLaren

Grand Patriarch

2026–2027 Grand Encampment Officers

Grand Patriarch	Donald E. McLaren, PGP, PGM , GCR,
Grand High Priest	Disa K. Johnson, PPRA, PGP
Grand Senior Warden	John A. Lawson, III, PGM
Grand Scribe	Barbara A. McLaren, PGP, PGM, PPIALAPM
Grand Treasurer	George L. Glover III, PSGM
Grand Junior Warden	Michael J. Seger, PGM
Grand Representative	Barbara A. McLaren, PGP, PGM, PPIALAPM
Alt Grand Representative	George L. Glover III, PSGM
Grand Marshal	Eric D. Johnson
Grand Inside Sentinel	Vincent Braucci, PGM
Grand Outside Sentinel	Frank X Moitozo, PGM, PGP

2026—2027 GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

Grand Master	Michael J. Seger, PGM	Grand Representative	John C Beebe, III, PGM
Deputy Grand Master	Jennifer M. Lawson	Alt Representative	Michael J. Seger, PGM
Grand Warden	Thomas A. Gotauco, PGM	Grand Marshal	Jason Greene
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	Thomas A. Gotauco, PGM	Grand Guardian	Mark Howard
		Grand Herald	Donald E. McLaren, PGM

THE DO YOU KNOW CORNER

From The Grand Secretary

A reminder to all lodges — Dispensations are only for good one year or until the next Grand Lodge Session. To request a dispensation, please send information to the Grand Lodge Office (GLRI-2@hotmail.com) as early as possible but at least **3 weeks** prior to the date in questions. Any changes to Meeting Time / Date / Place requires a dispensation. Permanent changes require Lodge By-Law Changes.



John and Ada Beebe celebrating a milestone birthday on May 4th and June 8th.. Congratulations to you both!!

GRAND MASTER’S PICNIC —

SATURDAY, JULY 11

STEAK FRY,

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

MORE DETAILS NEXT ISSUE



GRAND ENCAMPMENT SESSION

The Grand Encampment of Rhode Island and Connecticut held their annual meeting on Friday, April 10th at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, Warwick. Patriarch Donald E. McLaren, PGP, Grand Patriarch presided over the session. We were privileged to have the Immediate Past Sovereign Grand Master, Brother Gerald Workman of West Virginia in attendance. The Grand Patriarch of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts were able to be with us and brought their greetings. Brother Workman installed Patriarch Donald E. McLaren, PGP as Grand Patriarch for the ensuing term.



Scholarships



The Grand Lodge sponsored three scholarships and the Youth Committee sponsored one scholarship this year to deserving families of our members.

This year's essay topic was "[Campaign Finance and its Impact](#)"

- Samantha Whittaker, granddaughter of Sister Shirley Lawson and niece to Brother John Lawson of Mizpah Rebekah Lodge No. 22 is attending University of New Hampshire for mechanical engineering.
- Noah Worth, grandson of Steven Glover of Canonicus Lodge No. 9 is attending St Anslem's College, Manchester, NH for finance.
- Avery Warren, granddaughter of Deare and the late Maurice Warren of United Brothers Lodge No. 12 is attending University of Rhode Island for pharmacy.
- Page Beckert, daughter of Grand Master Thomas Gotauco of Harmony Lodge No. 5 is attending University of Rhode Island for Animal Science.

We congratulate these recipients and wish them well in all their future endeavors.



Joint Session Banquet

Over 50 Brothers, Sisters, Family and Friends enjoyed fellowship and a wonderful buffet banquet. Brother George Glover once again acted as Toastmaster (he does such a wonderful job). Grand Chaplain, Brother John Lawson presented a moving memorial services. Sister Shirley Lawson favored us with a song and was joined by her two children - Brother John Lawson and Cindy Whittaker. The necrology was read as flowers were placed in their memory.

Thank you to all lodges who brought
a basket / item for the raffle



GRAND LODGE

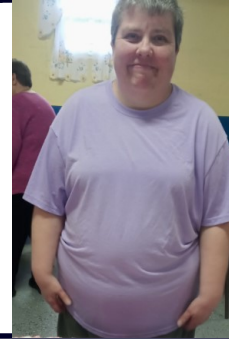
The 181st Grand Lodge Session was held Saturday, April 11th at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, Warwick, RI. Brother Thomas Gotauco, Grand Master conducted a harmonious session as the Immediate Past Sovereign Grand Master, Brother Gerald Workman and his wife Sister Cheryl, IARA Warden of West Virginia looked on. We were pleased to have visitors from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine and Quebec who brought their greetings. The reins were passed to Brother Michael Seger who was elected and installed as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island for the term 2026—2027.

Tom Gotauco and Michael Seger received the Medallion Award and Liz Aleszczyk received a Special Recognition Award. Congratulations everyone — well deserved!!

If you would like an Advance Journal for 2026 and a Final Journal for 2025 please let me know.

Happenings.....

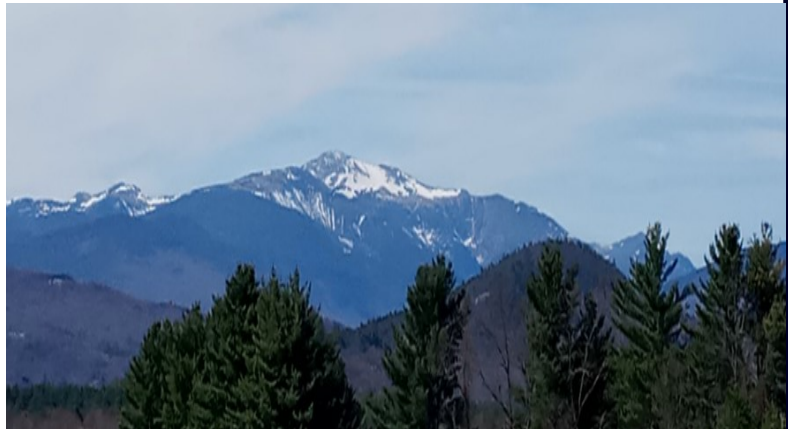
A 50th Birthday celebration was held for Sister Jennifer Lawson, Deputy Grand Master — over 50 family and friends were in attendance wishing Jennifer well.



Manufactures Lodge No. 15 exemplified the Initiatory Degree on three new members on Saturday, April 18th at 11 AM. Welcome Brothers



Grand Master Mike and Grand Warden Tom visited New Hampshire Grand Lodge Session. Sister Barbara and Brother Don McLaren also attended. The session was held in Gorham NH and there was still snow on Mt Washington.



Reba Rebekah Lodge No. 12

Reba was awarded a certificate from Crossroads Rhode Island for 5 years continuous donations. Congratulations!



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Well we are now in a new year with Grand Lodge and with its new beginnings and returning to our foundation.

I give you some verses that speak directly to new beginnings and starting over.

Isaiah 43:18-19: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!"

Lamentations 3:22-23: God's mercies "are new every morning."

2 Corinthians 5:17: "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

Philippians 3:13-14: "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead."

Ezekiel 36:26: God promises a "new heart" and a "new spirit."

Revelation 21:5: "I am making everything new!"

A particularly encouraging one is *Isaiah 43:18-19*, because it clearly talks about leaving the past behind and God making a way forward.

Dear God, thank You for being with us in every season. Help us let go of the past failures and trust You for a new beginning. Give us a fresh heart, renewed hope, and strength for today. Remind us that Your mercies are new every morning and that You are always making a way forward. Lead us into the good things You have prepared for us. Amen.

John A. Lawson, III, PGM

Grand Chaplain





IN OUR PRAYERS / THINKING OF YOU

Gordon Taylor
Bob Howard
Walter Elwell
Eric Olsen
George Glover
Donald McLaren

Ada Beebe
John Beebe
Jane Jerauld
Karen Hawkins
Fran M. Kane
Military Serving world wide

Frank Moitozo
Stella Moitozo
Charles Igo
Joanne Mower
Deare Warren
Military Families



MAY BIRTHDAY'S

John Beebe	4
Rachel Pierce	8
Shirley Lawson	8
Bryan King	8
Dave Hennessey	13
Peter Fusco	15
Gordon Taylor	19
Louis Kruger	22
Betty Sadaniantz	22
John Horodysky	28
Jean Heinemann	29

May 2026 features major US observances like Memorial Day (May 25), Mother's Day (May 10), and Cinco de Mayo (May 5), alongside national awareness months for mental health, military appreciation, and Asian American/Pacific Islander heritage. Weekly events include National Small Business Week (May 3-9) and Teacher Appreciation Week (May 4-8))



The primary birth flowers for May are **lily of the valley** and **hawthorn**, symbolizing sweetness, humility, and hope. Lily of the valley features fragrant, white, bell-shaped flowers, while hawthorn is a shrub with clusters of white or pink blossoms. These flowers represent the renewal of spring and the transition into summer.

MEMORIAL DAY...

...IS THE DAY THAT'S SET ASIDE TO REMEMBER WITH GRATITUDE AND PRIDE ALL THOSE WHO SERVED AND DIED FOR OUR COUNTRY AND OUR FREEDOM.

MAY YOUR DAY BE FILLED WITH MEMORIES AND PEACE.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

GodVine.com

- **Lily of the Valley (*Convallaria majalis*):** Symbolizes sweetness, purity, and the return of happiness.
- **Hawthorn (*Crataegus*):** Symbolizes hope, fertility, and joy.



JUNE BIRTHDAY'S

Ada Beebe	9
Disa Johnson	13
Mikel Folcarelli	13
Cloe Koehne	15
Celia Kettle	23
Robert Gagnon	23
Ed Wiacek	29
Eric Olsen	30

The primary federal holiday in June is Juneteenth National Independence Day on June 19, commemorating the end of slavery in the US. Other significant June observances include Flag Day (June 14), Father's Day (third Sunday), and the Summer Solstice. June is also recognized as Pride Month and Great Outdoors Month.



The **F**lag of the United States

is a symbol of our country. It stands for the people, the land, and the freedom of the U.S.. The flag has changed many times over the years.



The colors of the flag are red, white, and blue. It has 7 red stripes, 6 white stripes, and 50 stars.

- ~ The flag's 13 stripes stand for the original 13 colonies.
- ~ The 50 stars stand for the 50 states of the U.S.A.
- ~ The color red stands for courage, white for liberty, and blue for justice.
- ~ In 1892, President Harrison started the tradition of school children reciting the Pledge to the Flag.
- ~ The flag has its own song, called The Star Spangled Banner.
- ~ The flag is also sometimes called "Old Glory".

June's birth flowers are the **rose** and **honeysuckle**, symbolizing love, passion, and happiness as they peak in early summer. Other prominent June blooms include lush peonies, aromatic lavender, tall delphiniums, and vibrant daylilies. These flowers thrive in the increasing warmth and sunshine of early summer, adding brilliant color and fragrance to gardens.





HARMONY LODGE # 5
 96 Slocum Road
 N. Kingstown, RI 02852
 Thomas Gotauco, PGM, 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, DGM, 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

LODGE DIRECTORY

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 Monday 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**
 125 N. Broadway
 East Providence, RI 02916
 John Lawson, Clerk
 120 Wilson Street
 Rumford, RI 02916
 401 434-1491
 Meets: 4th Tuesday, 7:00 PM



CANTON PROVIDENCE #1
 125 N. Broadway
 East Providence, RI 02916
 John Lawson, Clerk
 120 Wilson Street
 Rumford, RI 02916
 401 434-1491
 Meets: 4th Tuesday, 7:30 PM

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

May 2026	
	Visual Research Foundation Month, Certificates available to Lodges
3	Pilgrimage to Tomb of Unknowns, Arlington, VA
10	Mothers Day
22 - 23	Grand Lodge of Quebec, Victoriaville, QB
25	Memorial Day
June 2026	
5 - 6	Grand Lodge / Rebekah Assembly of Massachusetts, Milford, MA
6 - 7	Wreath Laying Ceremony, Canadian War Memorial, Ottawa, ON
9	I.O.O.F. Memorial Day
14	Flag Day
15	Department Council Atlantic NorthEast, Concord, NH
21	Fathers Day
Other Events	
11-Jul	Grand Master's Picnic, Tom Gotauco's House, North Kingstown, RI
August 16 - 20	Sovereign Grand Lodge Session, Frisco, Texas
2-Sep	Grand Officers Visitation - Manufacturers Lodge No. 15
13-Sep	Annual Steak Fry Tom Gotauco's House, North Kingstown, RI



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).