



Ocean State Traveler

GRAND MASTERS' ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

Fraternal Greetings:

First of all, I want to thank the members of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island for electing me to serve you as your Grand Master for the 2023-2024 Odd Fellows year. Thank you to John S. Cupp, Jr., Deputy Sovereign Grand Master for an excellent installation, and to all those who assisted him today. Also, thank you to all family and friends who were able to attend today.

Congratulations to Donald E. McLaren, on your two years as our Grand Master. You did a stupendous job in some difficult situations. Thanks for your example of leadership.

Congratulations to my wife Jennifer Lawson, our Grand Chaplain, on a wonderful Memorial Service last night. You always do an excellent job and look forward to great things from you and another good year this year. Thank you to my Mom, Shirley Lawson, for singing the duet with me last night.

Congratulations to the rest of my board of officers for accepting your offices. I know we will have a good year.

Congratulations to Bryan King on completing your year as Grand Patriarch. I hope that you enjoyed your term of office.

Congratulations to Frank X. Moitozo as you start your year as Grand Patriarch. We have known each other for a very long time. I want to personally thank you for all the rides you have given me to many events and meetings both inside and outside of Odd Fellowship. I know that we will work well together to get Odd Fellowship to grow in this area.

That is one of my big things that I will be focusing on this year, working together, not only among the Grand Bodies, and the Grand Lodge and the Odd Fellow and Rebekah Lodges, but also between different fraternal organizations like the Grange, Knights of Columbus, those of the Masonic family, etc. We may all have different titles for our offices, different opening and closing ceremonies, and different ritualistic initiation ceremonies but we all have the common bond of improving ourselves and making this a better world for our community.

In the Grange there is a line in the closing section of the installation of officers. "And now, Patrons, cherishing in our hearts every kind feeling toward all other orders and associations which seek to promote human welfare, let us strive with them, working hand in hand, for the good of our fellow beings. Let us remember that amid all that is bright and beautiful in Nature there is nothing that blooms with such unfading colors, there is no perfume on earth fraught with such fragrance, as the flowers of good works, and the sweet-smelling savor of that pity which feels for the wants and relieves the distresses of our Sisters and our Brothers".

Continued on Page 4

GRAND PATRIARCH MESSAGE

Hi Patriarchs,

Thanks for electing me as your Grand Patriarch for the Grand Encampment of Rhode Island & Connecticut and thanks to Past Grand Patriarch Bryan King for the great year he had.

Now that the weather is getting warmer and the days are getting longer, the trees and grass are all turning green. Everyone will need to start shedding their winter clothes. Well, that's life.

I want to thank John S. Cupp, Jr., Deputy Sovereign Grand Master for the excellent installation he did for the Grand Encampment and wish him well in his endeavors.

Thank you Barbara McLaren, PGM, PGP for all the help for the past year as Donald McLaren, PGM, PGP, GCR for stepping up as Grand Junior Warden of this Grand Encampment.

To my wife, who was shotgun with me everywhere we go and to Grand Master John Lawson III and his wife Jen for all the assistance to me. Good luck, John in all your endeavors.

With all this said, see you all at the meeting.

Fraternally yours,

Frank X. Moitozo

Grand Patriarch



2023–2024 Grand Encampment Officers	
Grand Patriarch	Frank X. Moitozo, PGM
Grand High Priest	Bryan F. King , PGP, GM
Grand Senior Warden	Disa K. Johnson, PPRA
Grand Scribe	Barbara A. McLaren, PGP, PGM
Grand Treasurer	George L. Glover III, PSGM
Grand Junior Warden	Donald E. McLaren, PGP, PGM , GCR
Grand Representative	Barbara A. McLaren, PGP, PGM
Alternate Grand Representative	Bryan F. King , PGP, GM
Grand Marshal	John C. Beebe III, PGP, PGM, GCR
Grand Inside Sentinel	Charles Rouleau, Sr., PGP
Grand Outside Sentinel	David B. Springer , PGP, PGM

Swan Point Cemetery

There will be NO Memorial Service at Swan Point Cemetery this year due to low attendance for many years.

Thank you to all who have attended in the past.

I have included a map of the cemetery for those who wish to visit the Grand Lodge Burial Plot at Swan Point Cemetery in Providence. It is a beautiful spot, and several Rhode Island Odd Fellows are buried there .



IN OUR PRAYERS / THINKING OF YOU

Gordon Taylor
Ada Beebe
Peter Sousa
Al Edler

Nancy Edler
Charles Rouleau, Sr.
Nancy Gombeyski
Karen Hawkins

Charles Igo
Family of John Enander
Those battling COVID



IN MEMORIAM

John W. Enander, PGM

Born May 27, 1931 — Died April 30, 2023 —91 Years

Member Canonicus Lodge No., 9 (72 years)

Mizpah Rebekah Lodge No. 22



GRAND MASTERS' ACCEPTANCE SPEECH, CONTINUED

In the Grange there is a line in the closing section of the installation of officers. "And now, Patrons, cherishing in our hearts every kind feeling toward all other orders and associations which seek to promote human welfare, let us strive with them, working hand in hand, for the good of our fellow beings. Let us remember that amid all that is bright and beautiful in Nature there is nothing that blooms with such un fading colors, there is no perfume on earth fraught with such fragrance, as the flowers of good works, and the sweet-smelling savor of that pity which feels for the wants and relieves the distresses of our Sisters and our Brothers".

What a great saying huh? In fact, one of the 7 founders of the Grange Aaron B. Grosh wrote a book "The Improved Manual of Odd Fellowship" which goes over some of the symbolism of Odd Fellowship. I have a copy at home and will let everyone know more as I go through it. I know not only do many of our members belong to those organizations but many of our lodges meet in their buildings or they meet in ours. We must continue to be cordial with one another and to attend and assist when feasible when working on projects that benefit society as a whole.

My project for this year will be for the *Meeting Street School*. We hope to have some fund raising going on this year for that project.

I know we had some difficult situations in the past, but I know we can do better in the future. I will not tolerate bad behavior and will not hesitate to bang the gavel and make other rulings when necessary. No matter how much good you do, or how many people you bring into Odd Fellowship, such behaviors cannot be allowed.

With that I know many think organizations like Odd Fellowship may be doomed and that our best days are in the past, but I have great hope for our coming days. I know our best days for Rhode Island are not in our past but in our future. I see lodges, not only in Rhode Island but also in the area bringing in new members and conferring degrees. Let us continue My theme of working together, on keeping a positive attitude among ourselves and the outside world to grow Odd Fellowship in Rhode Island. According to our Sovereign Grand Master Michelle Heckart, today is "Make a Difference Day". Let us hope in today's session we can start to make a difference.

Your Grand Master

JOHN A. LAWSON III



2023–2024 GRAND LODGE OFFICERS		2023–2024 GRAND LODGE OFFICERS	
Grand Master	John A. Lawson, III	Grand Representative	John C Beebe, III, PGM
Deputy Grand Master	Michael J. Seger	Alt Grand Representative	John A. Lawson, III
Grand Warden	Thomas A. Gotauco	Grand Marshal	Eric D. Johnson
Grand Secretary	Barbara A. McLaren, PGM	Grand Conductor	Claire A. Bergus
Grand Treasurer	George L Glover, III, PSGM	Grand Chaplain	Jennifer M. Lawson
Immediate PGM	Donald E. McLaren, PGM	Grand Guardian	Disa K. Johnson, PPR
		Grand Herald	David Springer, PGM

GRAND MASTER'S FUND RAISER

Please help the Grand Master raise funds for his project
Meeting House School

Papa Gino's
PIZZERIA



Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows Rhode Island

will earn **20%** of all qualifying sales
from orders placed on **May 18.**

Thursday, May 18, 2023

4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

East Providence • 80 Highland Avenue • 401-434-1880

- **Walk-in or phone orders:** Mention this fundraiser when you place your order for the organization to get credit for your order.
- **Online orders:** Enter code **19** at the payment screen and then click redeem.
- **Fundraiser orders** are only valid with regular priced menu items and cannot be paired with coupons or deals. Fundraisers are not valid on third party orders.



**Valid for all Dine-In, Carry Out,
Online & Delivery orders!**

View menu & place online orders @ papaginos.com



Joint Session Banquet

70 Brothers, Sisters, Family and Friends enjoyed fellowship and a wonderful meal of either baked scrod or grilled sirloin steak with all the fixings. Brother George Glover once again acted as Toastmaster (he does such a wonderful job). Sister Jennifer Lawson presented an outstanding memorial services. Sister Shirley Lawson and Brother John Lawson favored us with a duet. The necrology was read as flowers were placed by the heads of the Order in RI.

GRAND LODGE SESSION

The 178th Grand Lodge Session was held Saturday, April 15th at the Wyndham Newport Hotel, Middletown RI. Brother Donald McLaren , PGM conducted a harmonious session as our Deputy Sovereign Grand Master, Brother John S. Cupp, Jr., of PA looked on. We were favored with visitors from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine and Quebec who brought their greetings. The reins were passed to Brother John A. Lawson, III who was elected and installed as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island for the term 2023—2024. Next year's session will again be on the 2nd Saturday in April (April 13, 2024) so save the date! A full list of officers can be found on page 4.



If you would like an Advance Journal for 2023 and a Final Journal for 2022 please let me know.

MAY BIRTHDAY'S

John Beebe	4
Rachel Pierce	8
Shirley Lawson	8
Peter Fusco	15
David Ballah	18
Gordon Taylor	19
Louis Kruger	22
John Horodysky	28
Bryon King	28
Jean Heinemann	29

JUNE BIRTHDAY'S

Ada Beebe	9
Disa Johnson	13
Cloe Koehne	15
Thomas Pierce	17
Celia Kettle	23
Robert Gagnon	23
Eric Olsen	30



GRAND ENCAMPMENT SESSION

The Grand Encampment of Rhode Island and Connecticut held their annual meeting on Friday, April 14th at the Wyndham Newport Hotel, Middletown RI. Patriarch Bryan King, Grand Patriarch conducted a fine session. We were privileged to have our Deputy Sovereign Grand Master, Brother John S. Cupp, Jr., of PA in attendance. The Grand Patriarch of Maine (Fred Stuart) and Massachusetts (Doreen Slaney) were able to be with us and brought their greetings. Brother Frank Moitozo was installed as Grand Patriarch for the ensuing term. Next year's session will be on Friday, April 12, 2024 so save the date! A full list of officers is on page 2.

A Family Affair... On Wednesday, March 22 Excelsior Lodge No. 49 exemplified the Initiatory Degree on John Beebe's wife and niece. Congratulations to Sister Ada Beebe and Sister Susan Charpentti and welcome to the family of Odd Fellowship. That same evening Brother Donald McLaren, Grand Master presented Brother Beebe with his Past Grand Representative jewel for his many years of service. The jewel is so richly deserved.



Sometimes we have a friend and we sense that our souls are very closely connected. We know that the connection is above time and space. We know that wherever we are in our lives we will always remain friends. Even if we do not see each other for years we are able to pick up right where we left off. This is what people mean when they say friends forever.



Awards Awards – Awards

What an honor to have two wonderful members receive the Medallion Award at our Grand Lodge Session. The Deputy Sovereign Grand Master, Brother John Cupp presented the medallion awards to Sister Jennifer Lawson, Grand Chaplain and Brother Michael Seger, Grand Warden who are both most deserving. They both work hard for our Order.

Continuing good works for our Order garnered the Special Recognition Award for Sister Barbara McLaren and Brother Donald McLaren. They do not know the meaning of the word NO. – guess it has too many letters!!



Scholarships

The Grand Lodge sponsored two scholarships this year to deserving families of our members. This year's topic was "Should America be the gatekeeper of the world?"

- Ellis Devesin, grandson of Sister Patricia Koehne, PPRA, is attending State University of New York at Oneonta, for business.
- Braeden Carcieri, grandson of Brother Walter Kelley, PG, is attending University of New Hampshire for nursing.

We congratulate these recipients.



LODGE DIRECTORY



HARMONY LODGE # 5
 96 Slocum Rd.
 N. Kingstown, RI 02852
Thomas Gotauco, Sec
772 Fletcher Road
No. Kingstown, RI 02852
 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. Tuesday 7:00 PM

**MANUFACTURERS
 LODGE # 15**
1515 Ten Rod Road.
N. Kingstown, RI 02852
 Harold Nonnenmacher, Sec.
 115 Holiday Ct.
 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, GM, Sec.
 120 Wilson Street
 Rumford, RI 02916
 401 434-1491
 Meets: 3rd Wednesday
 11:00 AM

SEACONNET LODGE # 39
 8 Commons
 Little Compton, RI 02837
 John A Lawson, GM, Sec.
 120 Wilson Street
 Rumford, RI 02916
 401 434-1491
 Meets: 3rd Wednesday
 1:00 PM

EXCELSIOR LODGE # 49
 81 Sprague Street
 Portsmouth, RI 02871
 Deare Warren, PGM Sec
 120 Water Street
 Portsmouth, RI 02871
 401 683-3056
 Meets: 2nd and 4th
 Wednesday 7:00 PM



REBA REBEKAH LODGE # 12
 178 High St.
 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
 Claudia Horton, PNG, Sec.
 16 Smith St.
 Bristol, RI 02809
 401 253-6524
 Meets: 3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM

**NOTE CHANGES IN
 LODGE DIRECTORY**

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

**MASSASOIT
 ENCAMPMENT # 8**
 178 High St.
 Bristol, RI 02809
 George Glover, PSGM
 Financial Scribe
 15 Jaclyn Drive.
 Coventry, RI 02816
 401-828-8216



Meets: 3rd Thursday 7:00 PM
CANTON PROVIDENCE #1
 125 Broadway
 East Providence, RI 02916
 George Glover, PSGM, Clerk
 15 Jaclyn Drive
 Coventry, RI 02816
 401 828-8216
 Meets: 4th Tuesday, 7:30 PM

**Grand Secretary
 Office Hours
 Wednesday
 10 AM—4 PM
 178 High Street
 Bristol, RI 02809
 401-253-9540
 Gfri-2@hotmail.com**



DATES TO REMEMBER

May 2023

Visual Research Foundation Month, Certificates available to Lodges making \$1.00 per member donations.

7	Pilgrimage to Tomb of Unknowns, Arlington, VA
18	Grand Master's Papa Gino's Fund Raiser
26 - 27	Grand Lodge of Quebec, Granby, QB

June 2023

2 - 4	Wreath Laying Ceremony, Canadian War Memorial, Ottawa, ON
2 - 3	Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Milford, MA
NO SERVICE AT SWAN POINT CEMETERY	
13	I.O.O.F. Memorial Day
17	Department Council Atlantic NorthEast, Derry, New Hampshire
22	Past Grand Officers' Association, Davenport's Bar and Grille, East Providence

Other Events

Jul-23	Grand Master's Picnic, Masonic Youth Center, Warwick
August 21 - 24	Sovereign Grand Lodge Session, Des Moines, Iowa

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).