

Ocean State Traveler

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

First of all, I wish all of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah or what ever holiday you celebrate and a Happy New Year. May it be a safe, healthy and joyous one for you and your family.

I thank everyone who went on a tour of Meeting Street School. on the morning of Tuesday December 12th 2023. We presented all the items donated and they were much appreciated. We had members of both the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows and the Grand Chapter of Eastern Star in attendance. It is well to work together for the common good of our fellow man.

A reminder of the annual Grand Lodge Christmas/Holiday Party is being held at Canonicus Lodge on January 7, 2024. Don't forget to make your reservations — deadline for reservation is January 1st with Brother George Glover

I wish all of the new officers of our lodges a successful new year. May your terms be a prosperous one.

Don't forget, if you don't have one to consider purchasing one of my Grand Master pins for \$5 to support our charity. And don't worry, if we run out, we will get more.

I look forward to greeting everyone at all of the events coming up in Rhode Island Odd Fellows.

In Friendship, Love and Truth,

John A. Lawson III

Grand Master

From the Grand Secretary: I am starting a new feature in the paper (borrowed the idea from another Jurisdiction, Thank You Idaho)

THE DO YOU KNOW CORNER

From The Grand Secretary

QUESTION: When do you vote by ball ballot?

All applications by Initiation, Reinstatement, Transfer, Unexpired Withdrawal Card, Expired Withdrawal Card or any other evidence of former membership, Associate Membership or Suspensions. Basically anything that deals with Membership shall be by **Ball Ballot**. If there is more than one applicant, they may be balloted upon collectively. If more than fifty percent (50%) black cubes appear in the ballot, then the applicants must be balloted upon separately.

For the purpose of voting, cubes are considered as ball ballot. The Noble Grand is charged with the supervision of the balloting and he/she **MUST** see that its secrecy is maintained inviolate.

Five (5) members voting are required for a legal ballot

Noble Grand: Warden, Prepare the ballot box.

The Conductor places the pedestal in the center of the floor. The Warden examines the ballot box to be sure the balls are in the proper compartment and that there are sufficient numbers of white balls and black cubes in the ballot box. He/She then takes ballot box to the Vice Grand for his/her examination. The Warden shall then turn and face the center of the Lodge room while the Vice Grand examines the ballot box. The Warden then takes the ballot box to the Noble Grand for his/her examination. The Warden again turns and faces the center of the Lodge room while the Noble Grand examines the ballot box. The Warden then places the ballot box on the pedestal in the center of the floor with the compartment containing the spare balls facing the Vice Grand's station and the receiving compartment closed.

The Warden and Conductor will take up positions on either side of the ballot box, facing each other and wait for the balloting to proceed.

Noble Grand calls up the lodge and announces visitors may remain seated.

Noble Grand: Brothers and Sisters, you are about to ballot on _____ REMEMBER, White Balls ELECT and black balls REJECT. Be careful of your ballot. The balloting is now open.

The members line up on each side of the hall, proceeding to the center of the floor in a single line in **FRONT** of the Vice Grand with the Noble Grand casting the first vote. Only one member is allowed to approach the ballot box at a time. All members in good standing **must** vote. The Warden and Conductor will count as each member cast's their vote. After the Inside Guardian has voted, he/she will assume the duties of the Outside Guardian so

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GRAND ENCAMPMENT DEGREES

When: Saturday, February 10, 2024

Where: Odd Fellows Hall, 179 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH

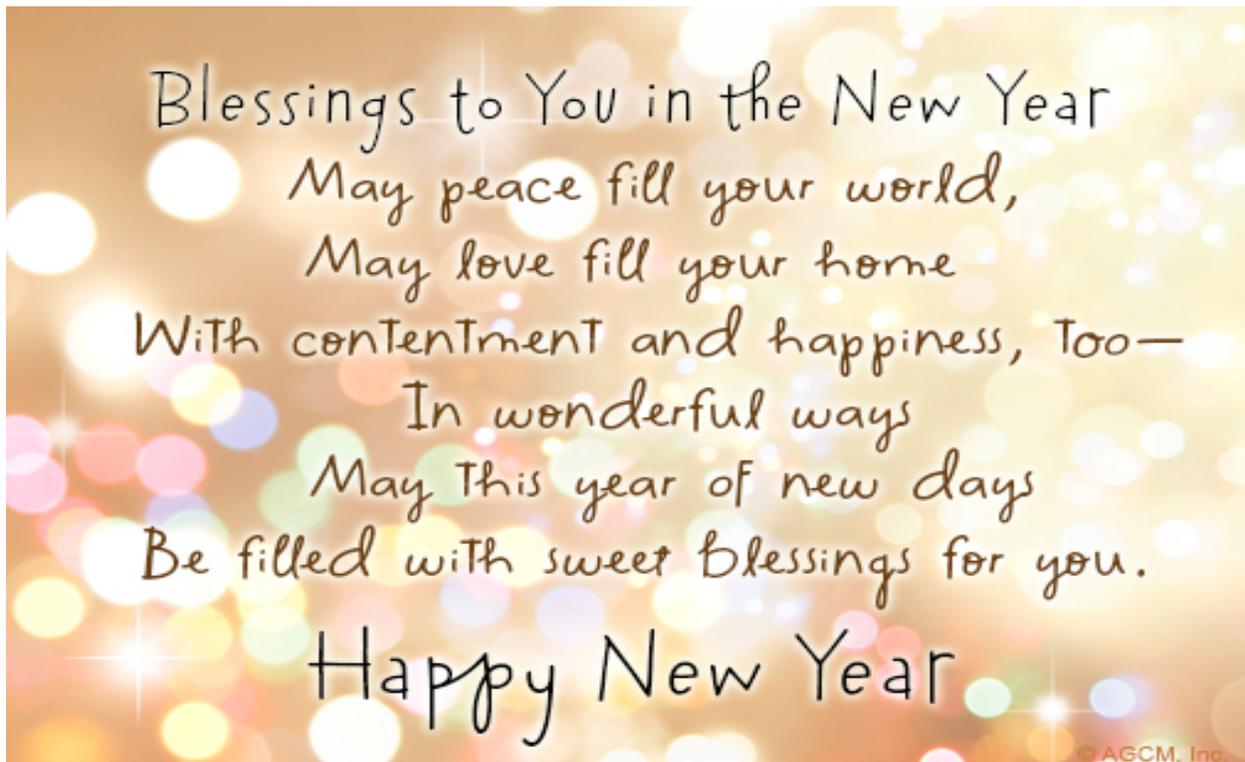
Doors open at 9 AM, Degrees start at 10 AM

Events: Patriarchal Degree 10 AM

Lunch (\$10)

Golden Rule Degree after lunch

Please let Grand Scribe, Barbara McLaren (glri-2@hotmail.com) know if you would like to attend. She will coordinate travel arrangements and make reservations with the Grand Encampment of New Hampshire.



THE DO YOU KNOW CORNER
From The Grand Secretary

Continued from page 2

that office may cast their vote. NO ONE ELSE SHALL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER OR LEAVE THE LODGE ROOM ONCE THE BALLOT BOX IS DECLARED OPEN.

The Conductor and Warden will be the last to vote. After each member votes, they will proceed either right or left and return to their seat.

AT NO TIME SHOULD A MEMBER PASS BETWEEN THE BALLOT BOX AND THE NOBLE GRAND'S STATION OR BETWEEN THE BALLOT BOX AND THE WARDEN OR CONDUCTOR.

After the Warden and Conductor votes, The Noble Grand will announce: "*Have all qualified members balloted? If so, I declare the ballot closed.*" After which he/she gives one rap of the gavel and seats the lodge.

The Warden takes the ballot box to the Vice Grand, gives he/she the count and turns away as before. The Vice Grand makes no announcement at this time.

The Warden then brings the ballot box to the Noble Grand for examination, gives he/she the count and turns away as before.

A majority of white balls or black cubes determines the outcome of the vote.

Noble Grand: Vice Grand, how do you find the ballot?

Vice Grand: I find the ballot favorable (unfavorable).

Noble Grand: I too find the ballot favorable (unfavorable) and by your vote, you have elected _____ to become a member of this lodge by _____.

The Noble Grand then destroys the ballot and returns the ballot box to the Warden to return it to its proper place. The Conductor will return the pedestal to its proper place. The Warden and Conductor will then return to their stations.

.If there is a majority of black cubes, the candidate will be declared rejected.

The Noble Grand may IMMEDIATELY retake the ballot in order to verify that the black cubes were in fact cast correctly. The second ballot shall be the legal vote.

The Noble Grand and the Vice Grand shall NOT be permitted to announce the number of black cubes cast. They shall ONLY announce that the vote is FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE.

Note: An Odd Fellow lodge cannot reject a Rebekah in good standing; A Rebekah Lodge cannot reject an Odd Fellow in good standing without valid cause.

NEXT ISSUE: **Order of Business**

IN MEMORIAM

Brother John A. Miller, Sr.

Age 74

December 19, 2023

Past Sovereign Grand Master

Connecticut



Shirley Nunes

Age 95

December 14, 2023

Reba Rebekah Lodge No. 12

Farewell to thee, but not farewell

To all my fondest thoughts of thee:

Within my heart they still shall dwell:

And they shall cheer and comfort me.

By Anne Bronte



IN OUR PRAYERS / THINKING OF YOU

Eric Olsen

Karen Hawkins

Family of Shirley Nunes

Ada Beebe

Charles Igo

Those battling COVID

John Beebe

Anthony Caprio

Al Edler

Gail Caprio

Nancy Gombeyski

Deere Warren



January Birthday's

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Liz Aleszczyk | 1 |
| Walter Kelly | 5 |
| Tom Gotauco | 11 |
| Mike Seger | 13 |
| David Flaxington | 23 |
| Gail Caprio | 28 |
| Jessica Veneri | 31 |
| CJ Ferry | 31 |



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY'S

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Charles Rouleau, Jr | 5 |
| John Sutterley | 13 |
| Claire Bergus | 17 |
| Christopher Veneri | 24 |
| Frances M. Kane | 26 |

Thomas Wildey Day Proclamation

To all Members of all Degrees of the
Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Fraternal Greetings:

Whereas, pursuant to a dream, Thomas Wildey founded an Order that in time would influence men and women of every walk of life, and

Whereas, it is appropriate to remember the founder of our Order who through his vision, determination, wisdom and talent saw the culmination of his dream, which resulted into the priceless heritage, we enjoy today.

Now therefore, I, John S. Cupp Jr., by virtue of the authority duly vested in me as Sovereign Grand Master of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, do proclaim,

That January 15, 2024, the anniversary date of the birth of our founder be celebrated as **Thomas Wildey Day** throughout the world of Odd Fellowship.

Further, please observe the birthday of Brother Wildey with special ceremony on or as near the 15th of January as is possible, and

Further, all Units of the Order are encouraged to initiate a **Wildey Class** in celebration of the occasion, and

Further, that the month of January be **Thomas Wildey Museum Month** in which members are encouraged to contribute to the museum, either monetarily or with items for display.

Contributions should be sent to The Sovereign Grand Lodge, I.O.O.F., Thomas Wildey Museum, 422 Trade Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101-2830.

Done in the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, this 1st day of November 2023, and in the 205th year of our Order.

Yours in F, L & T,

Attest: /s/ John S. Cupp Jr.
Sovereign Grand Master
/s/ Terry L. Barrett
Sovereign Grand Secretary

Educational Foundation Proclamation

To the Officers and Members of all Degrees
of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Fraternal Greetings:

Whereas, the Educational Foundation, the oldest project of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, established in 1927, has made it possible for thousands of people from all walks of life to further their education with low interest loans amounting to more than 7.4 million dollars, and

Whereas, the Educational Foundation depends upon donations from all Units and members for its continued service in this most important field, and

Whereas, the need for loans is ever increasing to meet the higher cost of helping men and women to find their place in life, working in all types of professional, business and trade fields, and

Whereas, one of our commands is: 'to educate'; what better way to achieve this command than through loans and scholarships of the Educational Foundation.

Now Therefore, I, John S. Cupp Jr., by virtue of the authority duly vested in me as the Sovereign Grand Master of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, do hereby proclaim,

The month of February as **Educational Foundation Month** throughout Odd Fellowship.

Further, request all Units of the Order to support this project by:

Making a special effort to sponsor a money-raising event for the benefit of the Educational Foundation or a treasury donation.

All monies raised and contributions made should be sent to the Jurisdictional Secretary of each Unit of the Order and the Jurisdictional Secretary will, in turn, send the total donations for the Jurisdiction to: R. Kenneth Babb, Ex. Dir., Educational Foundation I.O.O.F., P.O. Box 20455, Winston-Salem, NC 27120. This will enable each Jurisdictional Secretary to give credit for contributions made by Local Units.

When you reach out and touch people through education you provide them with the knowledge.

Done this 1st day of November 2023, in the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and of our Order the 205th year.

Attest: /s/ John S. Cupp Jr.
Sovereign Grand Master
/s/ Terry L. Barrett
Sovereign Grand Secretary

Rhode Island WEB Page

www.ioofri.org

We **FINALLY** have an up to date WEB page thanks to our Grand Master and all his efforts.

**2024 Odd Fellows Rebekahs Rose Float
Celebrating a World of Music**



NEW MEMBERS

The SGL - IARA Membership Program

Sponsor of New Member

(send this form to Grand Lodge Office, PO Box 296, Bristol, RI 02809)

Sponsor Name _____

New Member Name _____

New Member's Lodge _____

Lodge Secretary Name _____

Date Initiated _____

Members Address _____

City _____

State/Province _____

Postal/Zip Code _____

Members Birth date _____

Members Email _____

Members Telephone (Home _____



LODGE DIRECTORY

HARMONY LODGE # 5
 96 Slocum Road
 N. Kingstown, RI 02852
Thomas Gotauco, GW, 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. Tuesday 7:00 PM

**MANUFACTURERS
 LODGE # 15**
1515 Ten Rod Road
N. Kingstown, RI 02852
 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, 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
178 High Street
Bristol, RI 02809
 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 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**



**WAMPANOAG
 ENCAMPMENT No. 23**
 125 N. Broadway
 East Providence, RI 02916
 Michael Seger, DGM, 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
 401-828-8216
 Meets: 3rd Thursday 7:00 PM
CANTON PROVIDENCE #1
 125 N. Broadway
 East Providence, RI 02916
 George Glover, PSGM, Clerk
 15 Jaclyn Drive

**Grand Secretary Office
 Hours**
 10 :30AM—4:30 PM
 178 High Street
 Bristol, RI 02809
 401-253-9540
 Gfri-2@hotmail.com



DATES TO REMEMBER

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|---|--|
| 1/7/2024 | Grand Lodge Christmas Party. Canonicus Lodge Hall, 125 N. Broadway, Rumford, RI |
| 1/11/2024 | Harmony Lodge No. 5 Installation, 7 PM Slocum Grange |
| 1/15/2024 | Thomas Wildey Day, in celebration of the Birthday of Thomas Wildey. Founder of Odd Fellows in North America |
| February 2024 | |
| February Educational Foundation Month Certificates available to Lodges making \$1.00 per member donations. Send donations to Grand Lodge Office | |
| 2/14/2024 | Valentine's Day |
| Other Events | |
| 3/8/2024 | Canonicus Lodge No. 9, Grand Officers Night, 6 PM Supper |
| 3/19/2024 | Mizpah Rebekah Lodge No. 22, Grand Officers Night |
| April 4-5, 2024 | Testimony Ellen Jean Whited, IARA President, Albany, NY |
| 4/12/2024 | Grand Encampment of RI/CT, Wyndham Newport Hotel, Aquidneck Avenue, Middletown, RI |
| 4/12/2024 | Joint Session Banquet, Wyndham Newport Hotel, Aquidneck Avenue, Middletown, RI |
| 4/13/2024 | Grand Lodge of Rhode Island, Wyndham Newport Hotel, Aquidneck Avenue, Middletown, RI |



Grand Secretary Office Hours
Wednesdays. 10:30AM—4:30 PM
Please call before visiting the Grand Lodge Office

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).