

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.

I hope everyone was able to cope with the crazy hot weather. It looks like the weather is going to settle for a time. The ground is very dry at this time. I planted some grass in my backyard a couple of weeks ago but due to the heat and lack of water it looks a little rough.

Debbie and I went to the Grand Lodge Session in Massachusetts. The meal was great and the session went well. I wished the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and their members well and thanked everyone for the invitation. I was able to visit with other members in different jurisdictions and to meet new members as well.

The Grand Lodge of Rhode Island is still working with and assisting Seaconnet Lodge # 39 in Little Compton with their building issues with the Town. Sister Barbara was able to get Odd Fellows flags so members could place them on graves of members who have passed.

The Grand Master's picnic will be held this year at the Grand Warden's house on July 11th. Tom's address is 772 Fletcher Road in North Kingstown, R.I. All are welcome to attend, there is no charge. The menu will consist of hamburgers, hot-dogs and all the fixen's. There will also be drinks and dessert. Tom just requests that everyone bring lawn chairs and be comfortable. Please make your reservations with George Glover either by phone 401 499-8216 or email George-glover@verivon.net no later than July 6th. We hope to see as many members and guests as possible.

I want to make a special thanks to Tom and his family for opening their home for this event.

Sincerely,

Friendship, Love and Truth

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



Grand Patriarch's Message

Fraternal Greetings,

As I am writing this the day is overcast, cold and rainy, a far cry from last week's heat wave. As we progress into summer there is a lull in our Fraternal year. Think Ahead — What do you want your next fraternal year to look like. Does your Encampment have goals or are you just sitting back and resting?

Encampments need to be spruced up, members ready to assist in planning exciting activities to keep everyone interested.

We will be having an Encampment Degree Rally Day on Saturday, September 19th in Bristol. I hope all current and future Encampment members are able to attend. The 3 Degrees are beautiful and meaningful. Please contact the Grand Scribe of your attendance.

Thank you to everyone for cards, calls and prayers during my recent illness. I am feeling much better and looking forward to great things in Encampment Odd Fellowship.

Please stay well and safe till we meet again.

Yours In Faith, Hope & Charity

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 question. Any changes to Meeting Time / Date / Place requires a dispensation. Permanent changes require Lodge By-Law Changes.





Calling all Patriarchs and Matriarchs

The 3 Encampment Degrees

Will be exemplified

On Saturday, September 19, 2026

178 High Street

Bristol, RI

Degree commences at 10:00 AM

Candidates to arrive by 9:30AM

Light refreshments following degrees

Please let the Grand Scribe know if you will

be attending

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



First In America A Rhode Island Celebration

As we celebrate our nation's 250th Anniversary, let us pause and reflect on what 'Little Rhodie' has contributed to our country. It is packed with history, culture and unique quirks that make it fascinating.

From religious freedom to public roller rinks, the Ocean State has cause for celebration.

Rhode Island was founded by Roger Williams in 1636 after he was expelled from Massachusetts for advocating religious freedom. He purchased land from the Narragansett Indians and established a colony that became a haven for religious tolerance.

Rhode Island is about to celebrate the 250th anniversary of a very important event. No, not the signing of the Declaration of Independence – that comes later, on July 4. Rhode Island's own Independence Day came two months earlier, as it was the first of the 13 Colonies to declare independence from England, when it renounced the authority of King George III. Rhode Island was the last of the original colonies to become a state, joining the Union on May 29, 1790.

The name Rhode Island may have come from Dutch explorer Adrian Block who called it "*Roodt Ey-land*": for its red clay or from Giovanni de Verrazzano who compared it to the Greek Island of Rhodes

Rhode Island is the smallest state (48 miles long x 37 miles wide or 1214 square miles) with the longest name: *State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*. Rhode Island is larger than 29 of the smallest countries of the world! Central Falls RI is the smallest city by area, just over one square mile, yet it is extremely densely populated.

Although "island" is in its name, Rhode Island is a land-bound state with deep ties to the water. Every Rhode Islander lives within 30 minutes of the Atlantic Ocean or Narragansett Bay. And the Narragansett Bay stretches into the eastern half of the state, adding to the small state's expansive 400-mile coastline – having the most coastline per capita in the US. It's no wonder that Rhode Island is most known for beaches, sailing, seafood, and cute coastal towns.

But as one of the thirteen original colonies, R.I. also has a deep colonial history and is home to several colleges and universities, including one Ivy League school (Brown University). It is the first state to abolish slavery and establishment of the First Baptist Church in the US.

Rhode Island is notable for pioneering cultural, culinary, and sporting firsts, including the invention of coffee milk, the first national lawn tennis championship, and the popularization of sideburns.

Religious Freedom and Settlement: In 1636, Roger Williams founded Providence on land granted by the Narragansett tribe, establishing a haven for religious freedom after being banished from Massachusetts Bay Colony. This made Rhode Island one of the first places in America to promote separation of church and state and tolerance for diverse religious beliefs.

First Baptist Church in America: Roger Williams also founded the first Baptist church in America in Providence, emphasizing individual liberty in worship.

First Woman Town Founder: Ann Hutchinson, expelled from Massachusetts for her religious views, became the first woman to participate in founding a town (Portsmouth) in Rhode Island.



Cultural and Culinary Firsts

Sideburns: Former Governor Ambrose Burnside popularized the sideburn hairstyle during his tenure from 1866 to 1869, giving the state a lasting cultural contribution .

Coffee Milk: Rhode Island invented and first served coffee milk, a blend of coffee syrup and milk, now the official state drink.

Clam Cakes: The state is credited with creating clam cakes, a popular regional dish

Sporting Firsts

National Lawn Tennis Championship: In 1881, Rhode Island hosted the first-ever national lawn tennis championship, now commemorated at the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport .

Early Golf and Polo Events: Rhode Island also hosted some of the earliest organized golf and polo events in the United States.

Sailing Capital of the World hosting America's Cup

Industrial and Revolutionary Firsts

First Successful Cotton Mill: In 1790, Samuel Slater built the first successful U.S. cotton mill in Pawtucket, based on Richard Arkwright's design, marking the beginning of the American Industrial Revolution.

Last Colony to Ratify the U.S. Constitution: Rhode Island was the final original colony to ratify the Constitution on May 29, 1790, highlighting its independent and cautious political stance.

Other Notable Firsts

Newport Common Burying Ground: Newport established one of the first public cemeteries open to all residents regardless of religion, race, or social status

Newport Jazz Festival: Opened in 1954, it became one of the first major jazz festivals in the U.S., attracting thousands of attendees and world-renowned performers.

Gilded Age Mansions of Newport

Oldest carousel opened in 1876

Newport boasts the oldest Synagogue (Touro) and the oldest operating restaurant in the country (White Horse Tavern)

Bristol is home to the Oldest 4th of July Parade (241 years young)

Rhode Island's history is rich with pioneering achievements that span governance, religion, culture, cuisine, sports, and industry, reflecting its unique role in shaping early American society.



Happenings.....

185+ years of Odd Fellowship — What a milestone!

Seaconnet Lodge No. 39 recently presented 3 Brothers with veterans jewels — Walter Elwell—70 years; Russell Wordell 60 years and Robert Booth 55 years. WOW What history and knowledge!!



Manufactures Lodge No. 15 exemplified the First, Second and Third Degree on three members on Wednesday, June 24th. Congratulations to all.



IN OUR PRAYERS / THINKING OF YOU



Liz Aleszczyk
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





We have reached the point in the year where many lodges have cook outs and rest from their labors.

I give you some verses that speak on finding rest in God.

1. "I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure . . ." Psalm 16:8-9 (NIV).

2. "Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken" Psalm 62:5-6 (NIV).

3. "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty" Psalm 91:1 (NIV).

4. "Return to your rest, my soul, for the LORD has been good to you" Psalm 116:7 (NIV).

5. "This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: 'In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it'" Isaiah 30:15 (NIV).

6. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV).

7. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" John 14:27 (NIV).

8. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV).

Dear God,

You are our eternal and perfect refuge and rest. May we find our peace in you so that we may be able to go through any trial and tribulation and struggle we may experience during the year. Bring us through it all with your mighty and gentle hand.

Amen.

John A. Lawson, III, PGM

Grand Chaplain

JULY

Emery Pineo	1
Joanne Mower	2
United States of America	4
Barbara Rocha	11
Patrick Warren	17
Steven Groves	21
Paul Grenier	26
Peg Bugara	27
Allysa Beebe	28

August was originally called **Sextilis** in the Roman calendar, meaning the sixth month, before January and February were added, making it the eighth month

It was renamed **Augustus** in 8 BCE to honor Emperor Augustus Caesar, who added two days to make it equal in length to July . The month has **31 days** and has been associated with the “dog days of summer,” a period of hot, sultry weather named after the star Sirius.

The **sandwich** was invented in August 1762 by the Earl of Sandwich, who requested meat between two slices of bread while gambling.

August is a **harvest month** in the northern hemisphere, with summer vegetables ready to be picked.

The **Perseid meteor shower** peaks in mid-August, offering spectacular night sky views .

August is also associated with **summer vacations**, making it a popular month for travel and outdoor activities

.August is a month rich in history, culture, and natural wonders, making it a fascinating time to celebrate, learn, and enjoy the last weeks of summer..

Named After Julius Caesar: Originally called Quintilis, July was renamed in honor of Julius Caesar, who reformed the Roman calendar and was born in this month

Independence Day: The United States celebrates its independence on **July 4, 1776**, marking the adoption of the Declaration of Independence

Bastille Day: France observes its national holiday on **July 14**, commemorating the storming of the Bastille in 1789

Moon Landing: Neil Armstrong became the first person to walk on the moon on **July 20, 1969** .

First Bikini: The world’s first modern bikini was unveiled on **July 5, 1946**, in Paris .

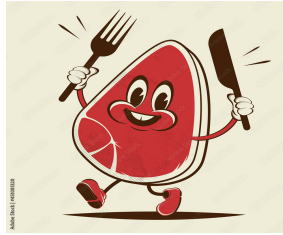
Rabies Vaccine: Louis Pasteur administered the first successful rabies vaccine on **July 6, 1885**



Donald McLaren	4
Thomas Wright	9
David Springer	10
Nicole Sadaniantz	15
Bob Paquin	22
Roy Pruitt	25
Robert Boss	26
Thomas Chadronet	26
Paul Bamford	28

Grand Lodge of Rhode Island

Independent Order of Odd Fellows



ANNUAL STEAK FRY

Featuring

Boneless Angus Rib Eye

Sunday, September 13, 2026 1:00 PM

**Tom Gotaucó's House
772 Fletcher Road
North Kingstown, RI**

EVERYONE WELCOME

Tickets: \$40.00

Raffle

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE GRAND MASTERS CHARITY – Insight

Reservations no later than September 5, 2026

**ALL RESERVATIONS TO GEORGE GLOVER
401-499-8216 (C) or georgeglover@verizon.net**



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

Jul-26	
4-Jul	Honor United States 250 Anniversary
11-Jul	Grand Master's Picnic, Tom Gotaucos House, North Kingstown, RI
18-Jul	Ice Cream Social, Sponsored by Seaconnet Lodge No. 39, 32 Commons, Little Compton 1 - 6 PM -- Free Will Offering
29-Jul	Rebekah Degree, Mizpah Lodge No. 22, Rumford
August 2026	
August 16 - 20	Sovereign Grand Lodge Session, Frisco, Texas
Other Events	
2-Sep	Grand Officers Visitation - Manufacturers Lodge No. 15, Cranston
13-Sep	Annual Steak Fry 1 PM - Tom Gotaucos House, North Kingstown, RI
19-Sep	Encampment Degree Rally Day -- Degrees Commence at 10 AM; 178 High Street, Bristol -- Light Refreshments Following Degrees
Sept 25 - 26	Grand Lodge / Rebekah Assembly of CT; Groton CT; Fairview Odd Fellows Home



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).