

## *Armando and Barbara Graziosi— 2016 Distinguished Citizens of the Year*

This year's 'Distinguished Citizen of the Year' was given to two individuals, Armando and Barbara Graziosi, at the January General Assembly Lodge Meeting on Thursday, January 5. Like so many of us who join the Lodge and participate in Lodge events with our spouse or significant other, the Lodge many times recognizes our contributions as coming from one couple or another. With this concept in mind, the Nominating Committee, with the Executive Committee's approval, decided to consider this year's Distinguished Citizen Award as a co-recipient award.

Armando and Barbara have been members of the Ocean City Lodge for close to 20 years, and before that, they were active in the Lodge in New Freedom, Pennsylvania, until they moved to the Ocean City area. They both held offices in that New Freedom Lodge. When they joined the Ocean City Lodge in 2004, the Lodge consisted of only 38 members who met in the small church hall of the First Presbyterian Church on 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

Armando and Barbara's contributions are many and varied:

- Armando has served as Sergeant-at-Arms and President.
- He was the catalyst that started the growth of our organization in 2008 that has brought us to our current membership of over 200.
- During his Presidency, the Lodge set up booths to sell Italian food and merchandise specialties at both SpringFest and SunFest in 2008 and 2009.
- He was instrumental in starting our annual St. Joseph's Day Festivals.
- He has chaired the last two beer truck events.
- He has chaired our involvement in the St. Patrick's Day Parade for the last three (3) years.
- Barbara has served as Corresponding Secretary and Financial Secretary.
- She published the first Directory of Lodge Members shortly after joining in 2004.
- She has been the Food Team leader for our St. Joseph's Day Festival since the beginning six (6) years ago.
- Both Armando and Barbara have led the team in the 3-day task of cooking sauce and meatballs (Barbara's family's recipes), as well as, running the kitchen on the festival days.
- They have been a force behind the growth of this Lodge for the last 12 years.
- They continue to be involved in their current roles as Co-Historians.



**Left to Right: Vito Potenza (SOI of OC President), Barbara Graziosi  
Armando Graziosi, Vincent 'Vinnie' Mollicone (SOI of OC Vice President)**

*Congratulations to Armando and Barbara Graziosi.*

*The Lodge is proud of your accomplishments.*

# *Mary Ellen Arena – 2015 Distinguished Citizen of the Year*

This year's "Distinguished Citizen of the Year", Mary Ellen Arena, was announced at the annual Lodge Christmas Party at the Dunes Manor Hotel on Sunday December 6. Mary Ellen's contributions are many and varied:

- She serves on the board of the Atlantic General Hospital Auxiliary and has volunteered at the hospital weekly for the past ten years.
- She is a volunteer at St. Luke's Catholic Parish in Ocean City, Maryland, for the past nine (9) years in a number of different roles.
- She also is a member of the Delmarva Polish-American Club and has served on its board of directors.
- She is a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus and currently serves on its board of directors.
- Within the Ocean City Lodge of the Sons of Italy, she serves in a number of ways:



**Left to Right : Sal Castorina (SOI of OCPresident), Mary Ellen Sebastian Arena, Vito Potenza (SOI of OC Vice President)**

- She serves as a team captain for the St. Joseph Day Festival Committee
- She is a member of the Lodge's Helping Hands Committee. She is one of the first to reach out to help members in need.
- As the Social Committee Chair, she has encouraged fellowship through the many social activities and trips she arranges.
- Her hard work on behalf of the lodge has cemented friendships within the lodge and promoted our club to the Ocean City community. Her efforts are a major factor contributing to the growth of our Lodge.

*Congratulations to Mary Ellen Arena. The Lodge is proud of her accomplishments.*

## *Anna Foultx – 2014 Distinguished Citizen of the Year*

This year's "Distinguished Citizen of the Year", Anna L. Foultx, was announced at the annual Lodge Christmas Party at the Dunes Manor Hotel on Sunday December 14. Anna's contributions are many and varied:

Before moving to the area, Anna started the first community service program in Northern Virginia called "Youth in Action" to volunteer high school students with non-profit organizations which kept them off the streets.

- Anna and her husband, Carl Foultx, established Star Charities in 2007, and Anna has continued with the group since his passing a few years back. This organization has benefited Wounded Soldiers, has gathered holiday gifts yearly for the troops overseas, runs Beef and Beer benefits to provide phone calling cards for our troops overseas, runs benefits for the Women Supporting Women, American Cancer Society, Home of the Brave, Worcester County Development Center and Interfaith Caregivers to name just a few.



**Left to Right: Sal Castorina (SOI of OC President), Anna Foultx, Vito Potenza (SOI of OC Vice-President)**

- Anna has been given the Keys to the City of Ocean City three times.
- Anna has held many offices in the Ocean City Lodge of the Sons of Italy, including President, and established the first yearly scholarship to a deserving high school senior. This has continued to the present day and grown to include three area high schools.
- She is still an active Girl Scout and was honored with a plaque in their museum in Houston, Texas, as the oldest living active girls scout.

*The Lodge of the Sons of Italy of Ocean City congratulates Anna for being the first recipient of this award, and we thank her for all she does for our community.*