

**SONS OF ITALY OF OCEAN CITY  
LODGE #2474  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
FEBRUARY 2, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Vito Potenza called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:** Present were: Vito Potenza, Vincent Mollicone, Jane Bartolomeo, Sue Ann Baietti, Tony Parisi, JoAnn Ward, Dottie Tumminello, Bob Arena, Irene Parisi, Tom Pergola, John Rubino, Sal Castorina. Excused were: Tom Pomilla, Rosemarie Pomilla, Al Diorio and Mike Corless.

**PRINCIPLES OF THE ORDER:** Read by Vice President Vincent Mollicone

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by President Vito Potenza

**PRAYER INTENTIONS:** Please remember all those on our prayer list especially Mike Jacobs and Sharon Lato. Mike Lato attended the meeting and gave us an update on Sharon citing proof that all of our prayers are working.

**MINUTES:** The Minutes of the January Meeting were approved as distributed.

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:** Sue Ann Baietti read thank you notes from Sharon Lato and the Mormon Visitor's Center who acknowledge the \$125 sent to them. , and who forwarded the money to Catholic Charities in our name.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Tony Parisi reported that our bank and investment account balances as of January 31, 2017, were follows:

Operating Account	\$ 6,718 (net of funds held in trust for members)
Merchant Account	\$ 7,366
Money Market Account	\$ 6,457
Investment Account	\$27,561

For the month of January, income was \$1,253; expense was \$970. This resulted in a net surplus of \$283.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

1. The Fourth Quarter Review was submitted by the Trustees. Everything was in order and approved by the Executive Council.
2. The Grand Lodge has notified us that the June 3<sup>rd</sup> State Convention will be in Ocean City at the Columbus Hall. Our Exec Council is beginning to work with the Grand Lodge to determine what we need to do to support the Grand Lodge. Volunteers will needed to work the day of the State Convention. Our President plus 7 delegates (from the Executive Council Members), will attend the convention.
3. Please note that in the next Newsletter, there will be a copy of a Trip Liability Waiver and Emergency Contact Form. Travelers can also download a copy of this form from the Event Page on our website. As a protective measure for future trips, each person traveling with our group will need to submit to Mary Ellen Arena a completed copy of this form before each trip. The copy in the newsletter is for your information.
4. A donation was sent to St. Luke's for their up-coming Bingo. Traditionally, we donate \$60 to sponsor a game.
5. This is the last night for the Grand Lodge Super Raffle Tickets. The drawing will begin next month at their meeting. There are two left for those interested.

**REPORT OF ATTENDANCE:** There are 84 members including 2 guests.

**MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES REPORT:** JoAnn Ward

1. Get Well Cards were sent to: Terry Twardesky, Irene Ruscigno, Brenda Ferrante, Felina Breeding, Al DiOrio, Michael Jacobs and Sharon Lato.
2. February desserts were provided by: Janet Ackerson, Bob Arena, Rose Madden, Paul and Barbara Mazzei, Sandra McGrath, Joe Mulholland, Mary Ann Loveless, Janet Roca, Judy Zanetti and George Ward.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

1. Scholarship: Nothing to Report (NTR)
2. Social: Mary Ellen Arena **(PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION)**
  - a. January Social Dinner at Mancini's Restaurant. Thanks to Jo Alexander for chairing this event. Forty-five guests attended.
  - b. Harrington Casino Trip: Great time was had by all, even though we had a delayed start. Next Harrington Trip will be Wednesday, March 29, 2017, leaving from St. Andrew's Parish Center, leaving at 10:00 AM. COST: \$20.
  - c. Charleston/Savannah Trip (April 23-29). Final payment of \$800 due February 15, 2017. Tour company payment due by February 28, 2017. Itineraries and luggage tags given out at April Meeting.
  - d. Mardi Gras Dinner: Clarion Hotel on February 22, 2017, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Social Hour in Horizons Bar with Happy Hour Prices. Reservations required. Only 20 guest slots available.
  - e. Hyde Park/Finger Lakes Trip (October 7 – 13): Cost \$1,200 pp double occupancy. Deadline for member sign-up is April 15, 2017. Trip will open to non-members May, 2017.
  - f. April Social Dinner: Our 'Thank You Dinner' is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, 2017, at the Touch of Italy Restaurant in Ocean City beginning at 5:30 p.m. Vito and Donna Potenza will chair this event, and Mary Ellen will be handling the reservations. Sign-up sheet available with 65 guest slots
3. Charity: NTR
4. Publicity and Program: Anna Fultz
  - a. Anna thanked everyone who attended her Beef and Beer Event at the Ocean Pines Community Hall. \$4,200 was raised for the Veterans. Anna received a model airplane worth \$150 from a gentleman who makes them. It was suggested that she place it on the Silent Auction at the Festival.
  - b. She is having a Girl Scout Fundraiser on Monday, March 13, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. at DeNovo's Restaurant, in Ocean Pines. The cost is \$12.00. This will provide funds for girls who can't afford the price of scouting.
5. Historian and St. Patrick's Day: Armando and Barbara Graziosi
  - a. We will have a float in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.
    - i. A 12-foot flat-bed trailer has been donated for the occasion.
    - ii. Decorating the float is scheduled for about 10:00 a.m.
    - iii. Armando suggested using music, an Italian banner, wine stomping, and other activities planned.
    - iv. Walkers are needed to accompany to float down to 45<sup>th</sup> street.
    - v. If you have any questions, please call Armando or Barbara.

- vi. Barbara suggested wearing red shirts and black slacks. A lady wearing a peasant dress is needed on the float.

6. Fundraising Report: Sal Castorina and Tom Pergola

- a. Those of you who have questions about the team you are working on please call on Sal, Tom or Mary Ellen. You are asked to wear our red shirts with the Logo or your own red shirts with black slacks and your name tag. There will be a picture taken of everyone involved in the Festival at 10:00 a.m. on the morning of the Festival. **Don't be late!**
- b. The basket assembly will take place on March 10, 2017, and Janet Ackerson encouraged everyone to come sign up to help out. Rosemary Gear, who is in charge of Nonna's Bakery for the festival, is requesting donations of baked goods. Cookies need to be individually wrapped.
- c. Mary Ellen Arena is coordinating the relief workers. Please sign up if you wish to help out. She will be assigning volunteers to relieve others in areas where ever there is a need.

7. Membership Report: Rita Tyndall

- a. To date, 23 members have not renewed their membership.
- b. We welcome tonight, two guests Carol Sellers and Penny Paparello.

**SPEAKER FOR THE EVENING:** Mayor Rick Meehan of Ocean City, Maryland, was introduced by Anna Foulz. Mayor Meehan thanked Anna for her delightful introduction. He was born in New York City and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, and completed his College there. He moved to Ocean City and was elected to the City Council in 1985 serving for 23 years. He is involved in many activities, one of which is the Co-chair of the St. Patrick's Day Parade. As Mayor of Ocean City, he is proud to represent the many residents who, like himself, came from other areas. According to the census, there are about 7,500 residents here as property owners and 26,000 non-residents property owners, who enjoy the many activities Ocean City has to offer. Times have changed -- we were reminded of the days when we were growing up where everyone respected each other and kindness toward our fellowman prevailed. The job of Mayor has many challenges, but he is proud of the fact that the Resort has been maintained as a safe, clean and comfortable place where people live, work and play.

As a Mayor, unlike a Councilman, he does not have voting power, but he has veto power. He travels to Annapolis, where he meets with the Governor or other governmental bodies to represent Ocean City. His upcoming meeting is to speak about the third expansion of the Convention Center and the addition of the 30,000 square foot Exhibit Hall, which will be the final phase. The State of Maryland will pay 60% of the cost, and the Town of Ocean City will pay the balance. The tax we pay on food actually pays the city's share of that cost.

Mayor Meehan encouraged us to attend the shows at the Ocean City Performing Art Center. He is also very proud of his Police Department in their efforts to uphold the image he wants of Ocean City. It has become more difficult in that effort --hiring policy officers because of the challenges they face here as well as in other areas.

Ocean City has become more of a year-round destination with more people than ever coming before Memorial Day, as well as, after Labor Day. About 8 million visit our City every year. During the summer, we become the second largest city in Maryland. Our visitors and residents especially enjoy the activities at Northside Park, as well as, other places to visit. The Ocean City University program is a popular and informative genre many residents and visitors alike have enjoyed.

The Mayor was asked about the "National Plan Your Vacation Day" and explained their campaign for the coming summer, which will include taking trips to Washington, D.C., Baltimore and other areas where our visitors come from, to promote Ocean City.

The free events will continue to be offered this year. The Sundays at the Park, where another Sunday will be added in 2017 and again another added in 2018. The Fireworks program has been a tremendous hit with our visitors. There were also Fireworks on New Year's Eve to wrap up the Winterfest of Lights Program.

To prevent people from getting hurt or killed crossing the highway, there is a proposal to build a fence down coastal highway from Convention Center Drive to 62<sup>nd</sup> Street. They hope to have this project funded and designed this year to be built in 2018.

The Mayor received a resounding thank you from all who attended tonight's meeting.

CLOSING PRAYER: Dottie Tumminello

50/50: The 50/50 was won by Penny Paparello who received \$71.00

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 P.M. by Vito Potenza.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Bartolomeo, Recording Secretary

**OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017, AT 7:00 p.m.**

