

SONS OF ITALY, GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, NOVEMBER 2, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Vito Potenza at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

Present: Vito Potenza, Vinnie Mollicone, Jane Bartolomeo, Sue Ann Baietti, Tony Parisi, JoAnn Ward, Dottie Tumminello, Al DiOrio, Ilene Parisi, Mike Corless and Sal Castorina.

Excused: Tom Pergola, Rosemarie Pomilla, Tom Pomilla and John Rubino

PRINCIPLES OF THE ORDER: Vinnie Mollicone

PRAYER INTENTIONS: Sharon Lato, passed away this week. Viewing and Memorial Service will be in Glen Burnie, Md. Mary Louise Embrey's father Edward Johnson also passed away. Please remember those who have passed on to Eternal Life.

Sick & Recovering List: Nancy Borroggine, Bernie Busby, Mary Castorina, Michelina Caputo, Frank Celeste, Rosemarie Corless, Anthony & Josephine DeCesaris, Sharon DeMatteo, Lorraine Gualtieri, Paul Harman, Karolyn Pergola, Irene Ruscigno and Carol Vales.

OPENING PRAYER: JoAnn Ward

FLAG SALUTE: Vito Potenza

MINUTES OF OCTOBER MEETING: Approved as distributed

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Vito Potenza

1. Ovation Dinner Theatre: Additional sign-ups are encouraged by the end of this week.
2. At the Council Meeting tonight, it was decided to begin using "OSDIA – Order of Sons & Daughters of Italy in America" in our advertising and recruiting documents. As it is done at the National level, we will continue to maintain our banking accounts, file taxes, etc., in our chartered name – Order Sons of Italy in America Ocean City Lodge.
3. Grand Lodge Raffle Tickets are available for \$25.00 each and can be obtained from Vinnie Mollicone. Daily drawings will begin in the Spring.
4. The St. Patrick's Day Parade will take place on March 17, 2018 and our Lodge will sponsor a float in the Parade. Please see Armando Graziosi for any ideas or suggestions you may have.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tony Parisi reported that for the month of October, income was \$1,838, expenses \$1,310 and net income of \$538. For the YTD, we are running in the red, and members are encouraged to support our final fundraiser for the year. YTD income was \$20,353, expenses \$21,195, resulting in a net loss of \$842. Our bank and investment account balances as of 10/31/2017 are as follows: Operating Account net of funds held in trust for members \$2,575; Merchant Account \$7,309; Money Market Account \$7,705; and Investment Account is \$27,970.

REPORT OF ATTENDANCE: Mike Corless

There are 107 people in attendance including 1 guest.

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD: Vinnie Mollicone and the selection committee have submitted a recommendation to the Council tonight and it was approved. The Award will be presented at the Christmas Dinner in December.

MISTRESS OF CEREMONY REPORT: JoAnn Ward thanked the following members for supplying the desserts for tonight: Carol Coyle, Mae Mazzota, Joe & Kathy Aquila, Terry Antonini, Jo Alexander, Carol Aikman, Donna & Vito Potenza, Sal & Mary Castorina, Janet Roca and Sharon DeMaio.

The following cards were sent to: Sharon Lato (Thinking of You), Nancy Borreggine (Get Well), Rosemarie Corless (Thinking of You), Mary Louise Embry (Sympathy), Paul Harman (Get Well), Bob & Janet Ackerson (Sympathy) and Mike Lato (Sympathy).

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: SueAnn Baietti read a Thank You Note from Paul Harman who is recovering from his hospitalization.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Memorial Scholarships:** Donna Potenza reported that beginning next year, the scholarships will be named for a member of the Lodge who passed away during the preceding year.
2. **Social:** Mary Ellen Arena
 - a. **HydePark/Finger Lakes Trip:** Many thanks to all who supported our trip. Thirty-seven travelers enjoyed the accommodations, our excursions, and of course, the meals.
 - b. **October Social Dinner:** Sharon & Guy DiMatteo hosted the dinner at Nantucket Restaurant and all had a very nice time.
 - c. **Ovation Dinner Theatre:** November 11, 2017 at 5:30 pm. Cost \$50.00. Mary Ellen accepted reservations for the evening.
 - d. **Harrington Casino Trip:** Wednesday, November 15th – Trip is sold out.
 - e. **Christmas Dinner:** Sunday, December 10, 2017 at the Clarion Hotel – Crystal Ballroom. Members \$25.00 each and Guests \$50.00. See Flyer for Event Information on Website for details. Check in at 5:30.
 - f. **New Orleans Trip:** April 15-22, 2018..... 8 days/7 nights....cost \$1,500. Per person
 - g. **January Social Dinner:** Your hosts for the evening will be Jane Bartolomeo and Sue Ann Baietti who are planning a dinner at Mio Fratello's Restaurant. You will be notified of the details hopefully by the Christmas Dinner or by e-mail so you can make plans to join us. There will be entertainment.
3. **Charity:** Mary Castorina thanked everyone who brought the canned goods, non-perishable items, etc. for the food pantries of Delaware and Maryland. She reminded us to pick up a Christmas Ball or two to purchase Christmas items for our 2Gold families, 4 children and Ms. Pearl who requested bird food). Be sure to bring your wrapped gifts with tags attached to the Christmas Dinner. Thank you notes were received from Worcester Gold, Joseph House, and the Kennedy Krieger Institute. Every December Christmas Wreaths are placed on graves at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Please join us on December 16th at 9:30 am. Our Lodge will place 10 of these wreaths.
4. **Publicity & Program:** Anna Foulz has written a book and shared her experience of travelling to Kentucky sponsored by the Women in America. She will be signing books for her fans after the meeting.

She reported that the Annual Beef & Beer Event will be held in Ocean Pines to support the veterans on January 12th. Cost is \$30 and a band will provide music along with a live auction.

5. Historian: Armando Graziosi spoke of the early days when he and Barbara joined the Sons Of Italy and only a handful of people were members. He worked with the President at the time and then became President himself. Eventually the membership grew and the Lodge was able to move to its present location. We have had 2 more administrations since and today, there are more than 215 members.

6. Fund Raising: Sal Castorina asked those who traveled to Rubino's Deli in October to sign the SOI Cookbook to be sent to Rubino's in Victor, New York. Along with the cookbook, a picture of the entire group of travelers will be sent as well.

.....Sal also has extra copies of the 2nd edition of the cookbook available for those who wish to purchase any.

.....There are many seats available for the Ovation Dinner and Sal encouraged all to purchase tickets for a delicious dinner and fun evening.

.....Italian Festival Meeting will be January 10, 2018 at 10:00 am. at St. Andrew's Hall. Copies of the minutes of the last Festival Meeting are available. If you would like a copy, please let Sal know and he will e-mail them to you.

.....Everyone is asked to consider selling ads to the Festival Program. The sooner the better before the winter months set in. Be sure to take along a Program from last year so they can see how great the program looks.

.....Janet Ackerson encouraged everyone to visit their list of contributors early to meet the February 15th deadline. Janet also supplied the Solicitation Letters and the Thank You letters to give to the merchants. Wine, new gifts and Gift baskets are needed, and should be brought to the January Meeting.

..... A Chairman is needed for the Children's Games Event at the Festival. Please see Sal if you are interested.

5. Membership: Rita Tindall

During this year we welcomed 22 new members. Bills for the 2018 dues will be mailed out in November.

OLD BUSINESS: Election of Officers – Sal Castorina read the nominations for the semi-annual elections. Since there were no further nominations the candidates were accepted by acclamation. The Installation of Officers for 2018-2019 will take place at the January 2018 Meeting.

- 1. Golf Outing took place on Halloween with 12 people enjoying themselves. Vito suggested having another outing in the Spring.**

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- 1. Rob DeMaio spoke of his grandfather from Abalino, Italy and showed his military metals from WW 1.**
- 2. Gina Busby stated that St. Ann's Catholic Church is having a Christmas Open-House on November 18th and 19th. Cookies will be served.**
- 3. St. Luke's is having a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 11th.**

CLOSING PRAYER: Dottie Tumminello

50/50 Winner: Jo Fortney won \$84.00

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Bartolomeo, Recording Secretary