

NEXT MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2017, AT 6:00 p.m.

**SONS OF ITALY OF OCEAN CITY
LODGE #2474
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MAY 4, 2017**

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

ROLL CALL:

Present – Vito Potenza, Vinnie Mollicone, Jane Bartolomeo, Tony Parisi, JoAnn Ward, Dottie Tumminello, Sebastian Arena, Al DiOrio, Ilene Parisi, Tom Pergola, John Rubino, Mike Corless, and Sal Castorina.

Absent – SueAnn Baietti, Rosemarie and Tom Pomilla

PRINCIPLES OF THE ORDER:

Vice President Vincent Mollicone read the Principles of the Order

PRAYER INTENTIONS:

Sharon Lato, Mary Castorina, Ethel Jacobs, Frank Celeste, Rosemarie Corless, Jeannette Dawson and Lorraine Gualtieri

OPENING PRAYER:

JoAnn Ward

FLAG SALUTE:

Led by Vito Potenza

MINUTES OF APRIL MEETING:

The Minutes were approved as distributed

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Vito Potenza

1. We received an invitation from Wor-Wic College to attend this year's graduation and reception on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. Vito asked if there was anyone who would be interested in representing the Lodge at this event, please see Vito after the meeting.
2. We all buy the Grand Lodge Raffle tickets and three of our members are \$25 winners: Sal Castorina, Donna Potenza and Vinnie Mollicone.
3. Sal brought in a Bulletin from St. Lukes in which Fr. Jennings congratulated and thanked the SOI Membership for a very successful St. Joseph's Festival.
4. Reminder: The Mass for the deceased SOI members of Maryland, will be held Sunday, September 10, 2017, at an 11:30 Mass at St. Leo's Church, Baltimore, Maryland, with a luncheon to follow.
5. Mary Louise Embrey shared an obituary of Giuseppe Pino Cicala, from the Washington Post. He was one of the founders of the National Italian Foundation and played key roles in founding lodges. He also hosted the Italian Radio Hour in Washington, D.C.
6. Maryland State Convention: Vinnie Mollicone reminded us that we are the hosts of the State Convention being held in Ocean City on June 3, 2017. We are in need of volunteers to help with the breakfast service and clean-up starting at 7:00 a.m. Breakfast will be

served at 8:30 AM. The Knights will be setting up and cooking. Mio Fratello's will serve lunch. Three people are needed for the afternoon shifts beginning at 4:00 p.m. to set up snacks, etc. for the cocktail hour and clean-up. Please see Vinnie if you'd like to help. Members are welcome to attend the cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tony Parisi

Tony reported that we are running in the black for the YTD through April with income at \$14,947, expenses at \$9,007, resulting in a profit of \$5,940. Our bank and investment account balances as of April 30, 2017, are as follows:

Operating Account:	\$11,611	Merchant Account:	\$ 6,836
Money Market Account:	\$ 7,701	Investment Account:	\$27,802

It was noted one of the CD's in our Investment Account was renegotiated at a rate of 1.05% as rates are rising.

REPORT OF ATTENDANCE: Mike Corless

Mike reported we have 100 people present tonight including 3 guests: Jeanne and Robert Ward from Massachusetts, and Giada Limardi.

MISTRESS OF CEREMONY: JoAnn Ward

1. Get Well Cards were sent to Frank Celeste and Jeannette Dawson.
2. Thanks to the following for tonight's desserts: Gina Mollicone, Skip Derick, Janet Roca, Palma Devic, Sharon DiMatteo, Margaret Giacomponello, Joe Gentile, Karen DiMartino, Robert DeMaio, Cathy Russo, Josephine DeCesaris, Mary DeCarlo, Pat D'Annunzio, Giada Limardi and Brenda D'Antuono.
3. Our meeting date for June has been changed to Thursday, June 22, 2017, at 6:00 P p.m. The Scholarship Winners and the Italian Students will be introduced at 6:30 p.m. A Pot Luck Dinner will follow. We invite you to bring dishes that do are table-ready, and we have facilities to keep them warm. Please do not bring crock-pots. It would be helpful to have your food in disposable dishes if possible. The Lodge will provide bread and condiments. Please check the Newsletter for suggestions of foods to bring.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Scholarship: Donna Potenza
 - a. Donna thanked the Executive Council who approved \$1,500 in Scholarships to be awarded to each of the student winners.
 - b. Our Awardees are:
 - i. Lydia Kappelmeier from Stephen Decatur High School,
 - ii. John Keller from Indian River High School and
 - iii. Bridget Barrett from Sussex Technical High School.
 - c. Special thanks to the Scholarship Committee Members, Janet and Bob Ackerson who prepared the Certificates to be given to the students; Mary Louise Embry and Lucille Kurtz who will present at Sussex Technical High School; Margaret and Joe Giacomponello, who will be presenting at Stephen Decatur High School; and Paul and Bernice Harman who will be receiving the RSVP's from the students responding to the invitations to the meeting and Pot Luck Dinner, and Chair, Donna and Vito Potenza, who will present at Indian River High School.

- 2. Social: Mary Ellen Arena**
- a. **April Social Dinner:** Thanks to Vito and Donna Potenza for hosting dinner at the Touch of Italy. Fifty plus guests had a great time.
 - b. **Charleston/Savannah Trip:** Ran into a few problems with the rooms. Ended the trip in Myrtle Beach and had an enjoyable time.
 - c. **St. Michael's Trip:** Reservations and payment due tonight. Trip Waiver forms are due.
 - d. **Crab Feast:** Saturday, September 9, 2017, at Higgins Crab House North. Cost is \$45.00 each for All You Can Eat. Reservations accepted ASAP with payment due by August 1, 2017.
 - e. **Hyde Park/Finger Lakes Trip:** October 7-13, 2017; Cost is \$1,200. Trip is now open to Non-members. See flyer for trip information or check out our website.
 - f. **November Social Dinner:** Nantucket Restaurant in Fenwick Island. Guy and Sharon DiMatteo are your hosts. More information coming soon.
 - g. **Longwood Gardens Christmas Trip (December 5th and 6th, 2017):** Trip includes: DeNemour's Museum, Longwood Gardens, Winterthur Museum and dinner at a restaurant in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Additional information on our website.
 - h. **New Orleans Trip:** April 15-22, 2018—8 days/7 nights. Cost \$1,500 each. See Flyer for trip information or check out our website.
 - i. **Christmas Dinner:** Date and Place to be determined.
- 3. Charity Report: May Castorina**
- a. Mary thanked everyone for their support of our Charities.
 - b. At the State Convention in June, the following checks will be presented to the Grand Lodge:
 - i. Cooley's Anemia (\$250.);
 - ii. Alzheimer's Research (\$250.); and
 - iii. Autism Foundation (\$250.)
 - c. Checks will be sent out as well to the Ocean City Recreation Department for the "Play it Safe Program" (\$100.) coordinated for visiting graduating seniors, and the American Cancer "Relay for Life" (\$200) being held this month.
 - d. We have a new program this year, "Seize the Day", and \$100 will to be presented in September, 2017, to veterans and their families who will be given places to stay, offered restaurant tickets, etc. There will also be coverage in our local newspapers regarding this event.
- 4. Publicity: Anna Fultz**
- a. Anna was instrumental in gaining publicity for the St. Joseph's Festival.
 - b. **Girl Scout Fundraiser:** On Sunday, June 11, 2017. There will be a buffet lunch at the Sunset Grill in West Ocean City, Maryland, scheduled for 2:00 p.m. in their scenic Banquet Room. The charge will be \$15.00, and checks (made payable to Star Charities) should be sent to Mary Ellen Arena who will get tickets so we can be seated as a group.
- 5. Website: Tom Pergola**
- Tom stated that the Lodge's By-Laws have been approved and can be found on our website.

6. Fundraising: Sal Castorina

- a. Last fall we had a sausage sale, and the membership voted to do it again. Sal suggested it be held in October, 2017. He will have the order forms available for the September meeting for sign up and payment at that time.
- b. Due to the success of the dinner theatre presentation last fall, arrangements are being made to offer another production (called "Iceberg Ho!") on November 11, 2017, at Columbus Hall. The cost will be \$50 per person to include a buffet dinner and show. The show will be another comedy of the Ovation Dinner Theatre. Tickets will be on sale at the September Meeting. Mary Ellen will take care of the reservations and checks.

7. Membership Report: Rita Tindall

- a. Rita encouraged members to wear their name badges to the meetings. New badges can be order through Mike Corless.
- a. Tonight we welcomed new member, Debra Haberstroh, and 3 guests: Jeanne and Robert Ward, and Giada Limardi.

NEW BUSINESS: Vito Potenza

1. Election will take place this fall (Nominations in October and Elections in November).
 - a. Sal Castorina, assisted by Mike Corless, has volunteered to Chair the Nominating Committee. To date, three (3) positions are open: Sargent-of-Arms, trustee and recording secretary.
 - b. Interested parties please let Sal know.
2. Giada Limardi reported there would be 43 students coming to Ocean City this year, and they will be employed at several locations throughout town. Many will be attending the Pot Luck Dinner where we will meet them and learn of their homeland and their future plans.

GUEST SPEAKER: Ms. Tammy Patrick

Sebastian Arena introduced Ms. Patrick's, from the Atlantic General Hospital (AGH) Developmental Office, whose goal tonight was to encourage volunteers to support the \$35 million campaign to support the ongoing Master Facility Projects for AGH. The first being the AGH Jack Burbage Regional Cancer Care Center. Construction is scheduled to begin on June 7, 2017, on the Hospital Campus, completion planned for 2018. Another new facility was the Woman's Center on Route 50 in West Ocean City, Maryland, which has just recently opened. The third project will be the modernizing of the second floor of the Hospital, updating it since it was opened 24 years ago. Expansion of the first floor facilities is the next project, including a larger Operating Room area, and finally expanding the Emergency Room Department and Outpatient Services. They are looking for volunteers for the fundraising aspect of the campaign.

Volunteers, who work daily, weekly and monthly in the hospital or the Thrift Shop, are also much needed and a tremendous asset. It is a worthwhile opportunity that is much appreciated and gives you the great feeling of "giving back". Anyone who is interested in helping out should contact Joyce Brittan, at Atlantic General Hospital (410-641-1100 – ask for Volunteer Office).

CLOSING PRAYER:

Led by Dottie Tumminello

50/50:

Won by Lucretia Motsco

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Bartolomeo
Recording Secretary

