

SONS OF ITALY OF OCEAN CITY
Lodge #2474
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
JANUARY 5, 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, Tony Parisi, Dottie Tumminello, Bob Arena, Ilene Parisi, Tom Pergola, John Rubino, Mike Corless, Rosemarie Pomilla, JoAnn Ward, Tom Pomilla and Sal Castorina. Excused: Jane Bartolomeo, SueAnn Baietti and Al DiOrio.

PRINCIPLES OF THE ORDER: Read by Vice President Vincent Mollicone

PRAYER INTENTIONS: Sharon Lato, Felina Breeding, Irene Ruscigno, Pat Burello & Mary Castorina

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Vito Potenza

MINUTES: The Minutes of the November 4, 2016, Meeting were approved as distributed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

1. Vito reminded members to pay their dues for 2017. We are required to pay a per capita charge to the Grand Lodge by the end of February 2017.
2. He mentioned the trip to D.C. and the medical incidents that occurred. A \$100 donation was sent to the Mormon Temple Visitor's Center in Kensington, Maryland, thanking them for their kindness during our visit as we waited for our new driver.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tony Parisi

Tony reported briefly on the Lodge's financial results for 2016. Our income came in a little higher than budgeted largely due to better than expected results from both fund raising and social events. Our expenses were slightly under budget due primarily to good expense control for subsidized events. Our bank and investment account balances as of 12/31/2016 were reported as follows: Operating Account \$7,165 (net of funds held in trust for members)

Merchant Account	\$ 6,643
Money Market Account	\$ 6,457
Investment Account	\$27,420

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Rosemarie Pomilla

Income for 2016	25,765.81
Expenses for 2016	24,960.44
Net Income for 2016	305.37

REPORT OF ATTENDANCE: Mike Corless: There were 94 people in attendance including 6 guests and four new members.

MISTRESS OF CEREMONY: JoAnn Ward

1. Get Well cards were sent to Filina Breeding, Chris Francone, Terry Twardesky, Pat Burello and Sharon Lato.
2. We thank the following members for desserts: Sal and Mary Castorina, Janet and Mike Roca, Edward and Lucretia Motsco, Ronald and Catherine Russo, Boomer Maiorano and Lisa Ferro.
3. Please pick up your plates after the meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Scholarship: Donna Potenza
 - a. The High Schools will receive the scholarship applications in the next few days both by e-mail and copies by mail.
2. Social: **Check the Lodge Website or Call Mary Ellen for more details of upcoming events.**
 - a. **NOVEMBER SOCIAL DINNER:** We had a great time at Fager's Island with around 65 guests. It was a beautiful night with a beautiful Super Moon over the Bay as another highlight of the evening. Our thanks to Janet Ackerson for chairing this event – she did a fantastic job with the arrangements.
 - b. **CHRISTMAS DINNER:** It was well attended with 103 people. Thank you for your comments and suggestions regarding the dinner. Thanks to all of you for your generosity in donating to the families and Ms. Pearl whom we sponsored through Worcester Gold. Thanks to all who helped make the evening such a success.
 - c. **WASHINGTON TRIP TO D.C.:** We had a great trip. Accommodations at the Gaylord were fabulous, dinners, especially at Filomena's Restaurant in Georgetown, were Fantastic. We visited many sights and enjoyed them even though the weather was numbing cold and windy. A few mishaps where medical incidences were involved, but everyone is doing well. It will be a trip to remember.
 - d. **JANUARY SOCIAL DINNER:** Our "Thank You Dinner" will be held on Thursday, January 12, 2017, at Mancini's Restaurant from 5:30 p.m. Jo Alexander is Chairing this event.
 - e. **CHARLESTON/SAVANNAH TRIP:** April 23-29, 2017. Last call for taking out Insurance. Cost is \$59 pp and payable to Senior Excursions. First payment of \$800 pp is due on February 15, 2017, and can be brought to the February Meeting. If you are unable to attend, mail the payment to Mary Ellen. Itineraries and luggage tags will be given out at the April Meeting. There are 3 seats available if you wish to join us. Contact Mary Ellen.
 - f. **MARDI GRAS DINNER:** Being held at the Clarion Hotel on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the Horizon's Bar with Happy Hour drink prices until 7:00 p.m. We will be ordering "Off the 50% Menu" for Entrees only. This event replaces our Annual Valentine Dinner for this year.
 - g. **ITALIAN FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH'S DINNER:** With entertainment available at Doolan's Shore Club in Spring Lakes, New Jersey, on Wednesday, March 29, 2017. Menu: Sirloin of Beef, Chicken Parmesan, Tilapia Francaise along with much more.
 - h. **HYDEPARK/FINGER LAKES TRIP:** October 7-13 (7 days, 6 nights) Cost \$1,200 pp Double Occupancy or \$425 Single Cost supplement. Accommodations 3 nights in Hyde Park and 3 nights in Finger Lakes Area. Reservations and Deposit of \$500 pp required by April 15, 2017, with Balance due by August 15, 2017. After April 15, the trip will be open to non-members.
 - i. **HARRINGTON CASINO TRIP:** Wednesday January 25. We will be leaving St. Andrews at 10:00 a.m. and returning to Ocean City at 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$20. Per person.

CHARITY COMMITTEE REPORT: Mary Castorina

1. The Charities we have supported this year have all sent notes of heartfelt thanks for all the good things the Sons of Italy have done in their behalf. They are: The Shirley Grace Pregnancy Center; the Veterans whom we have given gifts to; the Children who suffer from Cancer who were able to come to the beach and enjoy themselves; The Humane Society appreciates all our help; St. Joseph's House in Salisbury and the Kennedy-Krieger Institute.
2. Christmas Dinner: The packages for the families and Ms. Pearl were unbelievable. We filled 3 cars with the presents and delivered them to Snow Hill. Each family received \$225 in gift cards. Ms. Pearl received all that she asked for.

PUBLICITY & PROGRAMS: Anna Fultz

Anna shared a funny story about New Year's Eve at the American Legion which everyone enjoyed. She shared some recent newspaper articles about the Sons of Italy Activities. There will be a Beef & Beer Event for our wounded soldiers in Maryland on January 27, 2017, held at the Community Center in Ocean Pines, catered by Em-ings. There will be a live auction and a Basket of Cheer. Tickets \$25. All are welcome!

WEBSITE: Tom Pergola

Please check the Website for the coming events.

HELPING HANDS: Anna Rubino

Shared her experience with her friend Helen, through the Helping Hands Program. Anna encouraged everyone to let the Committee know if you are aware of someone who would benefit by the help from our group.

FUNDRAISING: Sal Castorina and Tom Pergola

1. There will be a Festival Meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2017, at St. Andrews Hall at 10:00 a.m.
2. Sal is planning to sell Fried Dough and Gelato, along with other foods.
3. Mary Ellen is in charge of working and scheduling. Those interested in helping out should contact Mary Ellen.
4. Tom Pergola encouraged everyone to help promote the Program with ads, patrons, etc. in order to cover the cost of the Program. Last year's Program is available to use, to show potential businesses how nice their ads would be.
5. Janet Ackerson spoke about different areas and business where we can go for gift certificates, gifts, etc. She handed out solicitation letters to be given to the businesses. She also offered sign-up sheets for helping build the baskets. Ticket sellers are also needed on the day of the Festival.

MEMBERSHIP: Rita Tindall

We now have 216 members in our Lodge. We welcomed 23 new members in 2016 and 31 new members in 2015. Rita suggested that those who haven't paid their dues for this year, are welcome to do so tonight.

Our Guests tonight are:

Mike Roca, Rita Deuguillo, Liz Bolton, Sophia Graziosi, Belle Graziosi and Anna Graziosi. We welcome new members George and Terry Wright, and Ed and Sharon Smith.

HISTORIANS: Armando and Barbara Grazioso

We will march in the St. Patrick's Parade. Members are encouraged to join the walk in the parade, giving out flyers, carry flags, ride on the Float, etc.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The Petition Drive to save Columbus Day are on the table for all to sign.
2. The Third Quarter Financial Review was completed and our books are in good order.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Grand Lodge is planning the State Convention to be here at Columbus Hall on June 3, 2017. Once the contract is signed with our Hall Manager and the details worked out, there are some things that we will be expected to do in support of the Convention by our Lodge.

SPEAKER:

Barbara Grazioso introduced Ray D'Antuono, our club member, who spoke about how his 3 cousins, who were involved in different branches of the military, fought in World War 2, survived and came home and raised families. Sad to say, their mother passed away at the age of 49, after they had returned.

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD:

This prestigious Award was presented to Armando and Barbara Graziosi for their many years of dedication to our Lodge.

Vito encouraged all in attendance to contribute to the tip jar to help defray expenses for providing food for tonight.

CLOSING PRAYER: Dottie Tumminello

50/50 was won by Max Coschignano

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Bartolomeo
Recording Secretary

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

