

NEXT MEETING WILL BE OCTOBER 5, 2017

**SONS OF ITALY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
September 7, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Present: Vincent Mollicone, Jane Bartolomeo, Sue Ann Baietti, Tony Parisi, JoAnn Ward, Dottie Tumminello, Al DiOrio, Ilene Parisi, Tom Pergola, John Rubino, Mike Corless, and Sal Castorina.
Excused: Vito Potenza, Rosemarie and Tom Pomilla.

PRINCIPLES OF THE ORDER: Vice President Vincent Mollicone

FLAG SALUTE: Led by Vincent Mollicone

PRAYER INTENTIONS: For the repose of soul of Sabastian Arena as well as for Mary Ellen & Family, For the repose of the soul of Linda DeMaio, her husband Rob & Family, For the repose of the soul of Robert Jon Frost as well as for Michelina Caputo and their families, For the repose of the soul of the father of Boomer Maiorano as well as for Lisa and their Family.

Full recoveries for Carol Vales, Josephine & Anthony DeCesaris, Mike Jacobs, Rosemary Corless, Sharon Lato, Mary Castorina, Irene Ruscigno, Lorraine Gualtieri, Sharon DiMatteo, Bernie Busby, and for Sue Ann Baietti's brother who is in need of a double kidney transplant. Vito Potenza is scheduled for surgery this month.

OPERING PRAYER: JoAnn Ward

MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING: Approved as distributed

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tony Parisi

Our income to date is \$18,556, Expenses \$17,136, resulting in Net Operating Income for the year is \$1,420.

Our bank and investment account balances as of 8/31/17 are as follows: Balance in Checking Account is \$4,774, Merchant Account is \$7,430, Money Market Account is \$7,703, and the Investment Account Balance is \$27,874.

REPORT OF ATTENDANCE: Mike Corless reported 103 in attendance with 2 guests, & 6 new members.

MISTRESS OF CEREMONY: JoAnn Ward thanked the Executive Board for tonight's desserts. Sympathy and Get Well Cards were sent to all those listed above.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Sue Ann Baietti read thank you notes for our donations, from St. Luke's Church; Operation Seas the Day for all those who participated in the fourth annual beach week and our farewell send off on 9-11 for our veterans and their families; Nick Bartolomeo for the Relay for Life American Cancer Society; Justin Foundation Donation of \$200; and a very touching note from Bridget Barrett, one of our scholarship winners, and finally thank you notes from Mike Jacobs and Lorraine Gualtieri.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: No Report**

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Mary Ellen Arena

1. Crab Feast: September 9, 2017 at Higgins Crab House, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.
2. Hyde Park/Finger Lakes Trip: October 7-13th. Bus will depart from St. Andrew's Parish Center at 7:00 AM. Luggage tags will be given out tonight. Itinerary will be mailed out when it arrives.
3. October Social Dinner: Wednesday October 18th at 5:30 PM. Cost \$30 each at Nantucket's Restaurant in Fenwick Island, DE. Lorraine Gualtiere will be your Host and after reading the menu, encouraged those interested to verify your name on the list.
4. Ovation Dinner Theatre: Saturday, November 11, 2017 at Columbus Hall. Cost \$50 each including Show, Dinner with appetizer, entrée, dessert, with taxes & gratuity included. Evening entertainment begins at 5:30 PM. Hosted by Mary & Sal Castorina as a Lodge Fund Raiser. Reservations required...Contact Mary Ellen Arena. Reservation deadline and payment due by October 31, 2017.
5. Longwood Gardens Christmas Trip – Cancelled
6. New Orleans Trip: April 15-22, 2018...8 days/7 nights....cost \$1,500 each (Double Occupancy) See flyer for trip information or check out website for details. Deposit of \$500 required with reservation. 2nd installment payment due October 15, 2017 with Final Payment due February 15, 2018. Insurance is available. We need to sign up 40 guests minimum by December 31, 2017. If not enough guests sign up, the trip will be cancelled and monies will be returned.
7. Christmas Dinner: Sunday, December 10th, 2017 at the Clarion Hotel. Event will begin at 6:00 PM. We will have a flyer available at the October Meeting. Reservations and payment due by November 15th

CHARITY COMMITTEE: Mary Castorina

Mary and her committee met to discuss the groups who would receive our annual donations. She has a \$3,500 budget, which was approved by the Executive Council. Two new names have been added this year: Riccio Charity Foundation, a golf Tournament, which would receive their donation in 2018 and Joseph House in Salisbury. Many received their donations in April, May and June, 2017, several will receive their donations in November and GOLD of Worcester County and Wreaths Across America will receive theirs in December 2017. The members requested that a contribution jar be made available tonight for the victims of Hurricane Harvey.

PUBLICITY: Anna Fultz

1. Thank you for the Certificate of Appreciation.
2. Pictures of the Italian Students and the Scholarship Winners are available.
3. There will be a Birthday Party for Star Charities on September 15th at the Community Center. A fee of \$10 will help pay for the band, and other expenses.

HELPING HANDS COMMITTEE: Anna Rubino asked members to check with those attending our meetings if they need a ride since many don't want to drive after dark.

FUNDRAISING: Sal Casterina and Tom Pergola

1. Taking orders for the sausages tonight and up to September 22, 2017. There are 5 lb boxes at \$28.00 or \$30.00 each. The orders will be distributed at the October 5th Meeting.

2. On November 11, 2017, the Ovation Theatre & Dinner will take place, beginning at 6:00 PM. Reservations through Mary Ellen must be arranged by November 2nd. There will be seating for 125 people. Flyers are available. The dinner will be catered by Mio Fratello, and the menu will be available at the October meeting.
3. Festival: The kick-off meeting will be on October 20th at St. Andrews Center, at 10:00 AM. The Festival will be March 24, 2018 at St. Andrews Center. Sal explained why it was not feasible to change the venue to the Convention Center. Since many businesses close in the winter here, members are being asked to arrange for ads and prizes to be collected starting in October instead of January and February.

MEMBERSHIP: Rita Tindell

There were 6 new members who joined tonight: Frank & Mary Jean Biancanello, Mae Mazzotta, John & Janet Shellenberger and Mary Lou Ray. Our guests were Eleanor Cotsoradis and Dottie Pinto.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The Grand Lodge Memorial Mass for deceased members will take place on September 10th at St. Leo's Church in Baltimore followed by a luncheon at Chiapparelli's Restaurant (\$23).

NEW BUSINESS:

1. We have 25 Raffle Tickets for the Grand Lodge 2018 Super Raffle which are \$25 each and they draw 365 winners (1 per day).
2. The Annual Grand Lodge Gala will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2017 at Martin's East Catering, 9000 Pulaski Highway, Baltimore. Please see Vinnie for further information.
3. Vinnie will be chairing the committee to accept nominees for the Citizen of the Year Award. Please check our website for further information.
4. The Garibaldi-Meucci Museum in Staten Island, NY will be having a Flag Display from October 1st through November 30, 2017 to honor veterans. The Council approved a motion to order a flag in honor of Sebastian Arena who was an Army medic.
5. Election Year: Sal Castorina will chair the Nominations Committee which will present a slate of officers at the October Meeting with open nominations and the election will take place at the November meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER: Introduced by Anna Fultz: Mr. Dave "Bulldog" Rathner who is a local DJ for Radio Station 98.1. Mr. Rathner, a hilarious speaker, spoke of his upbringing in Chicago, was a commodities broker on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange for 18 years and how he chose to be in radio and become a part of the Ocean City scene for the past 12 years, at Secrets from 6:00 AM to 10:00 AM, daily, along with the palm trees.

CLOSING PRAYER: Dottie Tumminello

50/50: \$73.00 won by Rich Baietti

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Jane Bartolomeo, Recording Secretary

