

September 2025 Newsletter
Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge #2474
P.O. Box 4596, Ocean City, Maryland 21843-4596
www.sonsofitalyoceancity.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome back!

We hope everyone had a wonderful summer. It was a delight to meet the Italian exchange students—such a wonderful group of young adults, as always. We had a delicious dinner celebration and even raffled off a bicycle (a donation from one of our members) for the students to use. The young lady who won kindly said she would share it with her housemates—such a generous gesture! The students also received canvas tote bags with our logo, filled with all kinds of goodies they could use or enjoy. [See photos below].

Seven members, plus myself, attended the Grand Lodge Convention—my very first one! Our lodge has grown so much that we now have eight votes, which is a great milestone.

It was a pleasure meeting the Grand Lodge Executive Council and connecting with members from other Maryland lodges. Since I usually phone into the meetings, it was especially nice to finally meet everyone in person.

We are also very excited to welcome Neysa Silvestri as our new Social Director! Thank you, Neysa, for stepping forward and taking on this role. If you'd like to assist Neysa with planning or events, please see her after the meeting. Be sure to check the Social section for details on all upcoming events!

Please keep our members who are in poor health in your thoughts and prayers. Your support and kindness mean a great deal during difficult times.

Ciao,
Sue Ann Campo-Baietti, President

OFFICERS:

President

Sue Ann Baietti
551-404-5592

Immediate Past President

Vincent Mollicone
443-664-5940

Vice President

Barbara Graziosi
(302) 841-9672

Recording Secretary

Donna Potenza
(301) 785-2419

Corresponding Secretary

Janet Ackerson
302-228-1423

Treasurer

Mark Silvestri
(410) 913-4093

Financial Secretary

Rosemarie Pomilla
302-519-3641

Orator

Rose Madden
(703) 350-7398

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Even though our Lodge has nominees for all of our officers, we would gladly accept nominations for any position. If interested, please call me before our October meeting at 302-841-9672.

Ed Pinto wishes to relinquish managing our historic archives, so we are looking for a new Lodge Historian. If interested, please contact me. He does still plan to continue as our Publicity Chairperson. We thank you, Ed, for your excellent managing of our items of historic importance.

We will have copies of our "Recipes from our Italian Kitchens" cookbooks at each meeting. If you would like to purchase one, they are \$10 each. They make great gifts!

Barbara Graziosi, Vice President

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

If you wish to purchase our logo shirts, hats and tote bags, please contact Vinnie Mollicone.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

This is a reminder that our annual dues will remain \$40 for renewal starting October 15, 2025. The form is on our website.

Rosemarie Pomila, Financial Secretary

NAMETAGS:

We would appreciate it if everyone would please purchase a nametag so members can be easily identified. Lodge nametags are \$14.50. To order, please see Tom Pomilla or Joe Tamberino at the monthly meeting.

HELPING HANDS COMMITTEE:

If you need any help with picking up groceries, a ride to appointments, a meal, or, if you wish to join this committee to help others, please contact Jude DeLucco, Chairperson.

TRUSTEES:

Rich Baietti, (302) 945-4237
Al D'Annunzio, 302-841-3745
Morrell Delcher, 410-746-1611
Mike Quinn, (302) 524-8415
Ed Smith, 703-946-5068

MISTRESSES OF

CEREMONY:

Jane Bartolomeo,
302-436-8208
Lynne Watson, (302) 537-5272

SERGEANTS-AT-ARMS:

Tom Pomilla, 410-322-4990
Joe Tamberino, (443) 641-3395

COMMITTEES:

Charity

Judy Zanetti, Chair
302-988-8012

Fundraising

Vito Potenza, 301-643-2106

Helping Hands

Jude DeLucco, Chair
443-783-3317

Historian

Ed Pinto
703-901-5544

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

The next issue of Il Giornale published by the Grand Lodge should have a story and photos of the welcome dinner for the Italian students who worked in Ocean City this summer. Work has begun on the program for the 2026 St. Joseph's Day Festival. This may seem a little early but there's a lot of prep work needed to get the advertisers to renew and to start planning what the new program will look like. So, I start early. That's it from PR. Be well all. Ed Pinto, Chairperson

SICK AND DISTRESSED:

We are requesting prayers for the deceased members who have gone before us and for the recovery of all those who have been ill, had surgery or were injured, including the following: Ray D'Antuono, Palma Devic, Elaine Ferguson, Lorraine Gualtieri, John Oliverio, Tom Pergola, Anna Rubino, and Dottie Tumminello. If you know of any member who is ill, had surgery, or recently lost a loved one, please call Jane Bartolomeo at 302-436-8208 so she can send a card from our Lodge. Please send your prayer requests, with the consent of the recipient or their family, to Janet.Ackerson@gmail.com.

MEMBERS CELEBRATING SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

BIRTHDAYS: We wish a very Happy Birthday to:

9/1-Elissa Mulligan; 9/7-Mary Louise Embrey, Daniel Pironto; 9/8-Janice Nippes; 9/9-Carol Aiello; 9/11-Nancy Borreggine; 9/14-John Capra, Neysa Silvestri; 9/16-Giovanni DiCarne; 9/22-Charles Poggioli; 9/24-Deborah Craven, Lydia Schwartz; 9/25-Carrie Schwartz; 9/27-Jean Temple; 9/30-Tony Shiflett; 10/4-Bernie Busby; 10/5-Elana Michenzi; 10/12-Rosemary Brookhart; 10/13-Paul Campitelli; 10/15-Joe Tamerino, Sr; 10/16-Sharon DiNoto; 10/17-Lynne Watson; 10/22-Pat D'Annunzio, Cathy Russo; 10/24-Wanda Martinelli; 10/25-Kathy Impalomeni; 10/27-Nancy Errico, Lucille Kurtz.

FUND RAISING

The St. Joseph's Day Festival Fall Planning Session will be held on **Thursday, October 16, at 1:00 in St Andrews Hall.** Captains should let Vito know if they are unable to attend. All members are invited to attend.

Vito Potenza & Moe Delcher, Chairmen

Membership

Joan DeMarco, Chair
410-250-0963

Public Relations

Ed Pinto
703-901-5544

Scholarship

Donna Potenza, Chair
410-641-8046

Social

Mary Ellen Arena, Chair
410-250-0048

Website:

Tom Pergola, 302-541-4737
John Rubino, 302-436-6040

Newsletter Editor:

Janet Ackerson
302-228-1423

Editor's note: please send me changes to your contact information. Thanks!

NEXT MEETING:

**Knights of Columbus Hall
99th St. & Coastal Hwy
Thursday
October 2, 2025**

**5:30 p.m. Executive Council
7:00 p.m. General Meeting**

SOCIAL EVENTS: 2025

August Event - Great time was had by 38 guests who attended Beach Boys Tribute Show at Milton Theatre this month. We enjoyed good food at Irish Eyes Restaurant after the show, making for an enjoyable day of entertainment and socialization.

Saturday, September 6, 2025 – Crab Feast – Higgins Crab House/North from 1:00-4:00 PM. We had about 137 members and friends attend this fun event and all had a wonderful time! [Please see Mary Ellen’s message and photos below].

October Event: Columbus Day Social Dinner – Wednesday, October 15 – Touch of Italy Restaurant, 6600 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD. This event is hosted by Vito & Donna Potenza and will start at **5:30 pm. We will be ordering from the menu, drinks will be Happy Hour prices all night, and the restaurant will provide separate checks.** About 70 people signed up at the September meeting. The original plan was to have the dinner in their Wine Room, where seating would have been limited to 42 people, but the dinner will now be held in the main restaurant so we can accommodate a larger number. A sign-up sheet will be at the October 2nd meeting and you must sign up by then so we can give a count to the restaurant. Please call Vito or Donna Potenza with any questions (phone numbers in the side column).

Christmas Dinner - Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at Cripple Creek Golf & Country Club, 29494 Cripple Creek Dr., Dagsboro, DE. COST: \$65.00 pp/Member - \$95.00 pp/NonMember. Social Hour will start at 5:00 PM with dinner following. Entertainment will be provided by DOUBLE AGENT. Reservations are required with payment due no later than **November 7, 2025**. The Dinner flyer is on our website and attached to this newsletter. Please fill out the bottom of the flyer with your entrée choice(s) selected and cut it off to include with your payment. Please make checks payable to: SONS OF ITALY OCEAN CITY.

Christmas Show Trip - Wednesday, December 17, 2025 to the American Music Theatre in Lancaster, PA.; 3:00 PM show “DECK THE HALLS” – Dinner will follow the show at Miller’s Restaurant. TRIP IS SOLD OUT. Trip Waiver Forms sent out to the guests in an email. Please return at the October Meeting or mail it to me.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEYSA SILVESTRI who will be your new Social Chairman in January. Thank you for taking over this awesome position and wishing you great success. If you wish to assist Neysa with Social Events, please see her after our meetings.

THAT’S ALL FOLKS! – Mary Ellen Arena, Chairperson

EXCERPTS FROM OUR BY-LAWS – DUTIES OF OUR OFFICERS: Each month a description of one of our Executive Council officers will be included in the newsletter.

“Section 9: Trustees

1. They supervise the affairs of the Local Lodge and members of the Executive Council.
2. They examine and audit the books kept by the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer quarterly.
3. At least three (3) Trustees must sign the quarterly audit report.

OUR SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY HISTORICAL HERITAGE:

The following is an excerpt from *The Order Sons of Italy in America 100th Anniversary Centennial Journal: The Century of Progress 1905-2005* that states one of the many accomplishments of the Order Sons & Daughters of Italy throughout our organization’s existence:

“It was our members who heeded the call of their national and state officers, who went to the polls on Election Day to elect Italians to the judiciary, the Congress, the State Assemblies, the Municipal offices and other elected positions. It was our state Presidents who met with Governors and Mayors and demanded greater recognition in executive appointments.”

Janet Ackerson, Corresponding Secretary



Our Lodge hosted a dinner on June 26, 2025, for the incoming J1 Italian students who came to work at the businesses and restaurants in Ocean City. In addition, we provided them with our logo canvas tote bags, filled with many items and snacks for them to enjoy!



CRAB FEAST – MARY ELLEN’S THANK YOU MESSAGE:

Hi All,

“My deepest appreciation to a ALL of you for supporting the Sons & Daughters of Italy Annual Crab & Shrimp Feast. It was a FUN day with fantastic crabs & shrimp and other delicious food. The kitchen staff did a phenomenal job preparing food, along with our amazing servers who worked tirelessly to keep food coming to our guests.

Want to do a shout out to some awesome members who have helped me with many crab feasts, especially, this event, since it's my last for the Lodge. Tom Pergola, who has created and designed our Crab Feast Flyers year after year, as well as all signage. Pat D'Annunzio who has put together the Cheer Baskets for all our years along with her husband, Al D'Annunzio, who has ran the 50/50 raffles throughout the years. I cannot thank them enough for all their help and support and raising "quite a few dollars" for the Lodge, along the way. Also, Denise Buccheri, Kathy Russo who have supported me with selling chances over the years. Mark Silvestri, who joined Al in selling 50/50 Raffle tickets this year.

My thanks and appreciation to Higgin's Crab House/North for their generosity over the years with their pricing of event and superior service. Ray Gwael, their manager, over the years has been fantastic to work with along with their competent staff.

Last but not least, my thanks to Neysa Silvestri, who worked with me this year checking in guests. Neysa will be the new Social Chair of SDOI Lodge and will chair Crab & Shrimp Feast next year.

Most of all, A BIG THANK YOU TO THE MANY MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND GUESTS WHO I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO MEET, FOR YOUR SUPPORT YEAR AFTER YEAR. Also, if you brought guests, please send them my thanks. Your loyalty to our events has made each one a success.

It's time to pass on the torch, to someone younger and I wish Neysa the best, and hope you will continue to support her next year. **SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 - 1:00-400 PM AT HIGGIN'S CRAB HOUSE/NORTH.**

I have enjoyed my time putting together this event and seeing you "year after year" and wish all of you well, and hope that you will continue to support this Sons and Daughters of Italy's event .

Love to all - Ciao, but not goodbye.”

Mary Ellen

**LODGE #2474 CRAB FEAST AT HIGGINS CRAB HOUSE NORTH
OCEAN CITY, MD
Saturday, September 6, 2025**

