

November 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,

The election of officers went smoothly, and I would like to thank Rosemarie Pomilla for doing a fantastic job. I also want to welcome our newest members to the Executive Council: Bob Ackerson, Rick Buccheri, Vito Potenza, and Paul Scalice.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to our outgoing council members — Mike Quinn, Rosemarie Pomilla, Tom Pomilla, and Ed Smith — for their service and outstanding dedication to our lodge.
THANK YOU!

The holiday season is approaching quickly, and I would like to wish each and every one of you a joyous and peaceful holiday. May you find time to celebrate with the people you love and cherish most.

Please remember to sign up to work at our festival — it is our biggest fundraiser, and we truly need everyone's help to make it a success.

Finally, thank you for allowing me the honor of serving as your President for the next two years. It has been both a learning experience and a rewarding journey. Over these past two years, I've met many wonderful people, and I look forward to working with you all again — especially as we prepare for our upcoming festival.

Warm regards,
Sue Ann 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:

Thanks to all the members who submitted nominations for the Distinguished Citizen of the year. It was a tough decision.

I will have \$10 Cookbooks and the 2026 Grand Lodge Super Raffle \$25 tickets at the January meeting.

Congratulations to our remaining and new Officers who were elected by the membership at our November 6th meeting for 2026-2027:

President: Sue Ann Baietti

Vice President: Barbara Graziosi

Recording Secretary: Donna Potenza

Treasurer: Mark Silvestri

Corresponding Secretary: Janet Ackerson

Financial Secretary: Paul Scalice

Orator: Rose Madden

Trustees: Al D'Annunzio, Rich Baietti, Vito Potenza,
Mo Delcher, Rich Buccheri

Mistresses of Ceremony: Jane Bartolomeo, Lynne Watson

Sergeants at Arms: Joe Tamburino, Bob Ackerson

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 for 2026 will remain \$40 for renewal starting October 15, 2025, and the deadline is December 15, 2025. The form is on our website and attached to this newsletter. Please make your check out to Sons of Italy Ocean City, and mail it, along with the bottom of the membership form, to Rosemarie Pomilla, 36704 Lighthouse RD, Selbyville, DE, 19975. Please remember to update any changes in address, email, or phone.

Rosemarie Pomilla, Financial Secretary

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

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 DeLuco, Chairperson.

CHARITY COMMITTEE

A photo session has been scheduled for Judy Zanetti and Janet Ackerson of our Charity Committee to present a giant check of our \$2,000 donation to the WBOC Bless Our Children Campaign to their representative. The check is a whiteboard and can be reused for other photo opportunities to promote our Lodge and our St. Joseph's Day Festival.

At our November 6th meeting, members chose gifts from our Christmas Family Children's wish lists that were put on construction paper Christmas balls, which were color-coded for us to identify each of the 6 families. Here are some guidelines for your gifts or gift cards:

- Please try to put all the gift items you donate in one wrapped box as you will be using the Christmas ball as the tag. Place the tag with the child's name and family number face up and tape it securely to your gift.
- If you are not donating a child's gift, please consider providing small-denomination gift cards (\$10-\$25) from Amazon, Walmart, or Food Lion. They are always welcome by the families. Please do not put them into individual envelopes.
- Please bring your gift to our December 10th Christmas Dinner. If you will not be attending the dinner, but have a gift donation, please either give your gift to someone who is attending or contact Judy Zanetti or Janet Ackerson (phone #'s are in the side bar) to get your gift to them before the dinner.

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
January 8, 2025**

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

- At the dinner, please place your gift on the table corresponding to your tag color. A box will be there for the gift cards. At the end of the night, the 5 driver volunteers will load their cars with their designated color-coded gifts and take them the next day to G.O.L.D. in Snow Hill, MD.
- If you have any questions on your gift item or find that you are no longer able to purchase the gift you chose, please contact Judy or Janet. We appreciate your generosity, which will brighten the children's and their families' Holidays!

Judy Zanetti, Charity Chairperson

FUND RAISING

Ed Pinto, the Lodge (and festival) public relations and advertising chair created the 2026 St Joseph's Day Festival poster that was distributed at the November meeting. He also created the 2026 advertising request form. Both the poster and the form are available on the Lodge website. We will have copies of both at the January meeting. Copies of the 2025 festival program were also made available for Lodge members to use in soliciting new advertisers. A letter to support these efforts also is available on the website and we will have copies at the Lodge meetings. Moe has copies of the 2025 program and will have them available at the January meeting if anyone would like a copy.

We are planning to change the layout of the dining area to increase seating capacity by using six-foot rectangular tables instead of the round tables. Our floor captains, Jim Reda and Mike Roca have a floor plan that is expected to allow seating for 216 people plus room to better accommodate wheelchairs.

All Lodge members are encouraged to participate in supporting the festival however you can by soliciting local businesses that you frequent, placing a memorial or patron AD in the program or helping with the festival planning, preparation or working on the day of the festival. The Mary Castorina Charity Fund and the Lodge Memorial Scholarship Fund depend on the proceeds of the festival to support the Lodge's robust charitable giving and scholarship programs. The St. Joseph's Day Festival Fall Planning Session was held on Thursday, October 16. The next festival captain's meeting will be held in January.

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. God's blessings on all,
Vito Potenza & Moe Delcher, Chairmen

SOCIAL EVENTS: 2025 – Mary Ellen Arena, Chairperson

October Event: Columbus Day Social Dinner – Wednesday, October 15 – Touch of Italy Restaurant, 6600 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD; hosted by Vito & Donna Potenza;

It was a great evening. Seventy plus Lodge members joined together for good food, drink and camaraderie. The service was outstanding, and the Touch of Italy staff greatly appreciated that we staggered our arrival times to help them deliver prompt food service.

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/Non-Member. Social Hour will start at 5:00 PM with dinner following. The deadline for reservations was November 10th. Reservations are required, along with your check and entrée selection form, which is on our website. Please make checks payable to Sons of Italy Ocean City. For your information: The tables hold 8 guests, so please check with the person you have requested to sit with first for the number of guests that may be already at their table. I have received table requests for group seating exceeding 8 guests.

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. Again, if you wish to be seated with friends, you need to group together before you are seated at the restaurant. TRIP IS SOLD OUT. An email will be sent in December with the departure time and location of the bus, etc. We will be leaving from the St. Andrew’s Parish Center, 144th St. & Sinepuxent Avenue, Ocean City, MD.

Welcome to our new Social Chairperson, Neysa Silvestri. She has information on the events planned for 2026. I know she will do a great job as your social director and I ask that you continue to support her and the Lodge’s events.

This is my last Social Report. I want to thank all of the members, past and present, who have supported the Lodge’s events over the years. All of you have made it a fun time on our trips and events. It’s been my pleasure to serve in this position and forging friendships with so many members. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

THAT’S ALL FOLKS! May Ellen Arena

SOCIAL EVENTS: 2026 – Neysa Silvestri, 2026 Chairperson

I’m looking forward to 2026! The following events are already scheduled:

January Event: Sunday, January 18, 2026 at 7:30 pm, Parrot Beach-Jimmy Buffet Tribute Show; Milton Theatre, 110 Union Street, Milton, DE; It is \$30.00 per ticket and please make checks payable to Sons of Italy Ocean City, with “Jimmy Buffett” on the memo line. They can be mailed to me **at the latest by December 31, 2025**. Here is my address: Sons of Italy Ocean City, C/O Neysa Silvestri, 28630 Coastal Cove Way, Selbyville, DE 19975.

We have reservations at Irish Eyes Pub & Restaurant, 105 Union St., Milton, DE, for an early dinner at 5:00 pm before the show. For those interested, please join the group. Separate checks will be given.

February Event: Are you feeling lucky? Join us for a luncheon and gambling at **Ocean Downs Casino, 10218 Racetrack Road, on Wednesday, February 11, 2026:**

- A buffet luncheon will be provided at 12:00 pm., which includes Caesar salad, rolls and butter, chicken pot pie, sliced beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, and assorted desserts.
- Ocean Downs is giving a \$10.00 free play card to those attending the luncheon.
- The cost is \$35.00 per person: This includes the buffet lunch, dessert, non-alcoholic beverages, taxes and tip.
- Please make checks payable to Sons of Italy Ocean City. Payment can be given to me at **the latest at our January 8th, 2026, meeting** or mailed to me before then at Sons of Italy Ocean City, C/O Neysa Silvestri, 28630 Coastal Cove Way, Selbyville, DE, 19975.

Neysa Silvestri, Chairperson

MEMBERS CELEBRATING NOVEMBER/DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS: We wish a very **Happy Birthday to:** Lucille Kurtz; 11/2-Drew Johnson, Nancy Schriver; 11/4-Felina Breeding; 11/5-Vinnie Mollecone; 11/8-Anita Akob; 11/9-JoAnn Ward; 11/10-Mark Silvestri; 11/11-Tom Pomilla; 11/12-JoAnn Kochen; 11/13-Tom Pergola, Rita Rinaldi; 11/14-Moe Delcher, Rosemary Profili; 11/16-Frank Tribuno; 11/18-Jude DeLucco; 11/19-Karen DiMartino, Phyllis Donahue; 11/20-Bruce D'Alonsio, Deva Tucker; 11/21-Dan Cowell, Barbara Loffler; 11/22-Ed Motsco; 11/27-Nancy Capra; 11/29-Charles Laudicina; 12/3-Sue Ann Baietti; 12/4-Angela Amodeo; 12/6-Lilene Parisi, Joe Zanetti; 12/10-Ann Poggioli/Joe Tedesco; 12/11-Ed Pinto; 12/12-Moe Grimes, Susan Palamara; 12/13-Louis DeCarlo, Donald Bonafede; 12/14-MaryEllen Arena; 12/16-Teri Antonini; 12/18-Frank DeLucco, Louis Guido; 12/20-Michael Roca; 12/22-Michael Luciani; 12/23-Robert Turner; 12/29-John Oliverio; 12/30-Richard Baietti. **(Please note that there are 11 members who do not have a birthday listed, so, if you wish to be added to the monthly lists, please send your birth month and day only to Janet.Ackerson@gmail.com.)**

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, Nancy Borregine, Denise Buccheri, Palma Devic, Elaine Ferguson, Maria Fortuna, Lorraine Gualtieri, Paul Harmon, Tom Pergola, and Dottie Tumminello. May our dear member, Anna Rubino, rest in peace with the Lord. 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.

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

Section 11: Masters/Mistresses of Ceremony

1. They are Officers of the Local Lodge.
2. The participate in ceremonial activities prescribed by the By-Laws of the Local Lodge during the course of the General Assembly Meetings of the Local Lodge.

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 the Order that has kept alive the tradition of the “Columbus Day Celebrations” and it was the Order together with others that had Columbus Day declared a national holiday.”

Respectfully submitted by: Janet Ackerson, Corresponding Secretary



*Wishing everyone a very safe and Happy Thanksgiving Day
and a
Very Blessed and Merry Christmas!*

