

January 2026 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,

Our January meeting was a wonderful evening for the installation of our officers. I would like to sincerely thank Grand Lodge President Vince Zaccaria for presiding over the installation. Vince did a terrific job, and a special round of applause goes to Suzanne Palamara, who was absolutely wonderful as well. Bravo to you both.

Once again, thank you to our outgoing officers: Ro, Tom, Ed, and Mike. It was truly a pleasure working with you, and you will be missed. To our incoming officers—Bob, Rick, Vito, and Paul—thank you for stepping up. Let's get to work.

As you know, the St. Joseph's Festival is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we need all hands-on deck to make it a success! This event is crucial for supporting our charities and our scholarships that keep our community strong. Whether you're a long-time member or a newcomer, this is the perfect opportunity to get involved, meet fellow members, and make a meaningful impact. New members, this is a great way to connect with others and become more engaged in our vibrant community. There are many ways you can help, whether it's volunteering before, during, or after the festival, contributing items, or simply spreading the word. Every little bit makes a big difference, and your support will ensure the festival is a success.

Let's work together to make this year's festival one to remember. If you're ready to roll up your sleeves and join the effort, please let Mary Ellen Arena know. We're excited to have you as part of the team. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to making a difference!

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

Paul Scalice
302-604-8715

Orator

Rose Madden
(703) 350-7398

Please check the newsletter for the items we need for the festival raffles and silent auction. As always, gift certificates are greatly appreciated. Small golf items such as tees, balls, gloves, and towels are also welcome—we will be grateful for anything you can donate.

Ciao, Sue Ann Baietti, President

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The Distinguished Citizen of the Year was deservedly awarded to our sister, Rose Madden, at our Christmas Dinner in December! Congratulations Rose! (Photo below)

We will be working the beer truck at the October 22-25, 2026 Ocean City Sunfest. Those who received the TIPS certification are eligible to volunteer (Training for Intervention Procedures).

Our \$10 Cookbooks and the 2026 Grand Lodge Super Raffle \$25 tickets will be available at the February meeting.

Barbara Graziosi, Vice President

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

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

SERGEANTS-AT-ARMS

There were 99 members, 2 new members and 5 guests present at our January 8th meeting. 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 Bob Ackerson or Joe Tamberino at our monthly meetings.

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
Rich Buccheri, 410-456-0707
Al D'Annunzio, 302-841-3745
Morrell Delcher, 410-746-1611
Vito Potenza, 301-643-2106

MISTRESSES OF CEREMONY:

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

SERGEANTS-AT-ARMS:

Bob Ackerson, 302-228-2304
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

PUBLICITY

Hi everyone and Happy New Year. Let's start the year right for publicity, which for me means if your committee is working on something, let me know in advance so I can do my planning. Also, publicizing our events helps to make sure we get the credit we should have for our good works. And remember, I'm only one person and can't be everywhere, so think about taking photos of your work or event if I am not there and send them to me from your phone via email, selecting actual size or large when prompted. If you don't know how to do that, see me at a meeting. I'll be away in February so I will miss that meeting.

For our festival program, please be sure to submit your patron or memorial ads on the ad purchase form. If you need one, email Ed Pinto at airpinto293@gmail.com. They are \$20 each line.

Ciao, Ed Pinto, Chairperson

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

All our 2026 scholarship information has been sent to Stephen Decatur, Indian River and Sussex Tech High Schools for their guidance counselors to inform the students who wish to apply.

Donna Potenza, Chairperson

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mark Silvestri, our Treasurer, announced at the January 8th meeting that we now have an operating expense balance of \$21,676.71. He also stated that he opened a CD for \$6,000.

CHARITY COMMITTEE



In December, Judy Zanetti and Janet Ackerson, along with Lisa Bryant and Steve Monz of Delmarva Life,

Membership

Rosemarie Pomilla, Chair
302-519-3641

Public Relations

Ed Pinto
703-901-5544

Scholarship

Donna Potenza, Chair
410-641-8046

Social

Neysa Silvestri, Chair
410-913-3567

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
February 5, 2026**

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

participated in a photo op at the WBOC studio with the presentation of a giant check of our \$2,000 donation to the WBOC Bless Our Children Campaign. They were very appreciative and posted the photo on their Facebook page. In addition, Ed Pinto sent the photo to the media. We wish to thank Bonnie Oliverio for her help in scheduling the photo session.



We wish to thank everyone who participated in providing gifts for the Christmas Families! You all went above and beyond and we collected \$995 in gift cards that were divided among the 5 families! We are sure they were very appreciative and the gifts brightened their holidays. G.O.L.D. now has a new Director and it was easier to work with them this year. We thank our members for their help and generosity!

Judy Zanetti, Charity Chairperson

FUND RAISING

St Joseph's Day Festival, March 21, 2026

The countdown has begun, and we need all brothers and sisters to support our major fundraiser. Anyone willing to help with the many tasks that must be done in advance of the festival can call Vito (301-643-2106) or attend the festival planning meeting at 10:00AM Wednesday, January 21st at St Andrew's Hall. We can also talk before or after the February Lodge meeting.

- We need everyone to consider placing a patron or memorial ad (both \$20) in the program book for the festival. We also need you to ask the businesses you patronize to consider supporting our fund-raising efforts by placing an ad or donating a gift card or merchandise that can be used in the basket raffle. We must have ads of any kind by January 31. One line patron & memorial requests should clearly state the content of the one-line listing.
- Janet Ackerson is looking for volunteers to contact businesses in our membership area and ask them to donate to our basket raffle. She especially needs people for Coastal Highway in Ocean city, Rt. 50/West Ocean City, and Fenwick Island. Contact her for a list of businesses to approach in your area. For the raffles and silent auction, please consider donating wine, liquor, and like-new: glassware, kitchen & ceramic items, women's and men's items, sports and golf items, house décor, jewelry, any like-new item

you wish to re-gift. Also, wired ribbons are needed 1 1/2" or 2" wide and at least 9 ft long (no Christmas needed). Contact Janet at janet.ackerson@gmail.com to arrange pickup or bring your donations to the February and March meetings.

- We also need a few more people to follow-up with last year's advertisers who have been invited to renew but have not yet responded. (Call Vito if you can help).

The letters of introduction, solicitation letters and forms you need to engage in any of the above volunteer activities are posted on the Lodge website. (<http://sonsofitalyoceancity.com>) The 2025 St Joseph's Day Festival Program is also posted on the website. A big thank you to Brother Tom Pergola for keeping the website updated.

Sisters and Brothers who want to volunteer to work a shift (or the whole day) at the festival should make sure Mary Ellen Arena has your name.

Festival supplies (Sysco, Pastore,) will be delivered on festival day and at a time TBD Monday-Wednesday of festival week. If you will be available on short notice to help us store the deliveries, please call Vito.

Mark down Thursday, March 19th at 10:00 AM to come to St Andrew's Hall to help set up workstations, tables, and chairs. On Friday March 20, the Hall will be decorated beginning at 10:00AM.

Please help us make our 14th St Joseph's Day Festival a success.

Moe Delcher & Vito Potenza, Co-chairs

SOCIAL EVENTS

Happy New Year!

I want to thank everyone who attended the Christmas Show trip. We had a wonderful time! Also, the Christmas Dinner held at Cripple Creek Golf and Country Club was fantastic and the band "Double Agent" was wonderful. (See photos below for each.)

Here is the schedule for the 2026 year:

Sunday, January 18, 2026: Dinner at Irish Eyes Restaurant in Milton (across from the Milton Theater) @ 5:00-6:30. Separate checks will be given. Sunday, January 18, 2026: "Parrot Beach"-A Tribute to Jimmy Buffet at Milton Theater @ 7:30-9:30 (Doors open @ 6:30).

Sunday, February 15, 2026: James Bennett High School presents "Rock & Roll Revival: "Dance to the Music" (Music from the 50's-2000's). Cost \$25.00+\$0.63 service charge (\$26.00/pp.). I will pick up the tickets.

Sunday, February 15, 2026: Dinner at Fratelli's Italian Restaurant at 5:00-7:00 (order off the menu).

Thursday, February 19, 2026: Mio Fratello's Valentine Dinner (order off the menu/separate checks) at 5:30. Music by "Now and Then" featuring our very own Armando Graziosi on the drums, a lead guitar/singer, and a bass guitar/singer. Music and dancing will be 7:30-9:30. Cost for the band will be \$10.00/pp. *Must have payment of \$10.00/pp for the band by February 5, 2026.

Saturday, March 21, 2026: St. Joseph's Day Festival, St. Andrew's Hall, 11:00am-6:00pm.

Thursday, April 16: Social Dinner at Sophia's Italian Restaurant (more information to follow).

Wednesday, May 27, 2026: Shore Birds Baseball Game at 6:05-? Buffet dinner at The Hard Ball Cafe. \$40.00/pp.

Thursday, June 18, 2026: Trip by ferry to Cape May, New Jersey (TBD)

Thursday, June 25, 2026: Italian Students' Dinner

July & August: No events planned.

Sunday, September 13, 2026: Crab Feast at Higgins North at 1:00-4:00. (More information about pricing to come around March/April). NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!

****October 2026:*** Possibly at Windmill Winery (TBD)

****November 2026:*** TBD

Sunday, December 6, 2026: Christmas Dinner at Cripple Creek Golf and Country Club with Double Agent band. NOTE CHANGE OF DATE! (More information to come.)

Thursday, December 17, 2026: Christmas Show 2026 "Winter Wonderland" at the American Music Theatre. We will make a stop at Kitchen Kettle Village (lunch and shopping on your own) before the show and have dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord after the show. Cost is \$165.00/pp. A deposit is required of \$65.00/pp. to hold your reservation. Balance of \$100.00/pp due @ June 4th meeting.

* Irish Eyes and Sophia's Restaurants are already scheduled, but the months of October and November are open to schedule our membership monthly dinners to other local restaurants that have donated to our Festivals. If you wish to arrange one of these dinners, please contact me. Usually, the restaurants will need a count of attendees, let us order off their menu, and maybe

honor any nightly specials. They are listed in our festival program and some who have donated for many years and can accommodate a group of 25+ people are:

Delaware: Salted Rim, DiFebo's Restaurant, Hooked Up Ale House, Fins Ale House & Raw Bar, Porto's Pizza & Grill, Dirty Harry's, Mancini's Brick Oven Pizzeria & Restaurant, Crabcake Factory Bayside, The Parkway Restaurant (Salted Vines Winery has also donated).

Maryland: Don's Seafood & Chophouse, Plaza Tapatia, Southgate Grill, Taylor's Neighborhood Restaurant, The Sterling Tavern, Bayside Skillet, Hooked, Spain Wine Bar, Taphouse West Bar & Grill, Waterman's Seafood, Coins Pub & Restaurant, as well as restaurants in the hotels that donate overnight packages for our festival's silent auction.

Some of the ones we already went to in the past are: Mio Fratello's, two times at Fager's Island, Nantucket's, Catch 54, 2 times at Touch of Italy, Cripple Creek, Saltwater 75, dine & donate at Bethany Blues (2 X's), dine & donate at Ropewalk, 2 times at Green Turtle West, Just Hooked, Trattoria Lombardi's, Luna's Cactus Cafe, Sunset Grill.

Neysa Silvestri, Chairperson

MEMBERS CELEBRATING JANUARY BIRTHDAYS: We wish a very Happy

Birthday to: 1/2-Pam D'Orio; 1/3-Guy Akob; 1/7-Robert Kochen; 1/8-Norma Curreri; 1/13-Janet Roca; 1/14-Donna Potenza; 1/15-Steve Masciarelli; 1/16-Margaret Giacomponello, Ron Russo; 1/19-Al Carmenini, Genevieve Semmens; 1/20-Joe Giacomponello, Ronna Reiman; 1/21-Dorothy Tumminello; 1/23-Andy Maggio; 1/25-Robert Ackerson; 1/27-Jim Reda; 1/28-Mike Lato, Diana Turner; 1/20-Nick Bartolomeo, Bob Impallomeni; 1/31-Rosemary Gear.

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, Felina Breeding, Denise Buccheri, Palma Devic, Elaine Ferguson, Maria Fortuna, Tom Pergola, and Dottie Tumminello. May our dear brother, Paul Harman, 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.

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 set aside petty animosities and took a leadership role in the organization of the National Italian American Coordinating Association (NIACA) and with the help of many great Americans of Italian descent such as Joseph Maselli, President of the American Italian Federation of Louisiana; Paul Alongi, Past President of UNICO; James L Coli, Past President of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans in Chicago; E. Howard Molisani, Esquire, President of the Italian American Labor Council; Honorable John LaCorte, President of the Italian American Historical Society; Eugene DeBellis, President, Federation of Italian American Societies of New Jersey; Modesto A. Farina, President of the New Jersey Alliance of Italian Americans; Vincent Iannece, President, Queens Federation of Italian American Organizations; Louis J. Figliozi, President, Amerita; Dr. Eugene Casagrande, President, Federated Italo-Americans of Southern California and Mike Bucca, [p]resident, Floria Federation of Italian Clubs, we hope to bring together under one giant umbrella all national Italian American organizations of NIACA represent between three to five million Americans of Italian descent – that’s power!”

Respectfully submitted by: Janet Ackerson, Corresponding Secretary



American Music Theater/Kitchen Kettle Village Trip – 12/17/2025:



Christmas Dinner at Cripple Creek Golf & Country Club – 12/10/2025

