

Sons and Daughters of Italy

Ocean City Lodge #2474

General Meeting Minutes October 2, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by the President, Sue Ann Baietti, at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL of OFFICERS: Rose Madden called the names of the officers. The officers absent and excused were Donna Potenza and Tom & Rosemarie Pomilla.

PRINCIPLES OF THE ORDER: Read by Barbara Graziosi.

OPENING PRAYER: Read by Lynne Watson.

FLAG SALUTE: Sue Ann asked the assembly to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES of the LAST MEETING: September minutes were distributed by email. Motion to approve minutes was made by Paul Scalice and seconded by Ron Russo. All were in favor.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: The Grand Lodge of Maryland is holding its Columbus Gala on October 25, 2025, at Rosedale Gardens. See Sue Ann, if interested. The Executive Council approved purchasing a full-page ad in the Grand Lodge Gala Program for \$150.

TREASURER REPORT: Mark Silvestri read a list of bills paid in September. To date, all bills have been paid; the checkbook balance is \$35,514.65.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT: No report

TRUSTEES' REPORT: No report

REPORT ATTENDANCE: Joe Tamberino reported 108 members were present.

MISTRESS of CEREMONIES: Lynne Watson asked those who brought refreshments for the meeting to stand-up. Members thanked them with a round of applause.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Janet Ackerson read a thank-you note from Brooke Berquist, one of our scholarship winners.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

SCHOLARSHIP:No report

SOCIAL:Mary Ellen Arena reported the following:

CRAB&SHRIMP FEAST:Great turnout – 141 members and friends. Thanks to all who helped and supported the event. We made over \$600 on the raffles. Save the date for next year’s event, September 12, 2026.

OCTOBER SOCIAL DINNER:Wednesday, October 15, 2025, Touch of Italy, Ocean City, hosted by Vito and Donna Potenza. About 90 people signed up to attend. To ease the rush in the kitchen, Vito asked members to stagger their arrival times between 5 and 6 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DINNER:Wednesday, December10,2025; Cripple Creek Golf and Country Club; 5 p.m. Flyer with all information is on website and included with September newsletter. COST: \$65 pp/member - \$95 pp/non-member.Reservation & payment required by November 7, 2025. Complete and tear off portion of flyer and include check payable to: SONS OF ITALY OCEAN CITY. Can be brought to November meetingor mailed to Mary Ellen Arena.FYI: When requesting group seating, tables are for 8. Two tables are available for 10 guests, but they will be in the rear of the room.Limit group seating to 8.

CHRISTMAS SHOW TRIP: Wednesday, December 17, 2025; American MusicTheatre in Lancaster, PA. Show: DECK THE HALLS; Dinner following show atMiller’s Restaurant. TRIP SOLD OUT.Trip Waiver forms sent out; return completed and signed forms (required by Lodge.)

Mary Ellen would like to thank Neysa Silvestri, who will be social chairin 2026.

CHARITY: Janet Ackerson, who will be helping Judy Zanetti on the Charity Committee, read the list of charities to be supported by our Lodge(Appendix 1). The Charity Committee budget for 2025 was \$10,000. In addition, Sue Ann was given another \$1,000 by an anonymous donor. Charities were chosen from both Sussex County, DE and Ocean City, MD.It was decided to give the extra \$1,000 to the WBOC-TV “Bless Our Children” Campaign, making the total donation to that charity \$2,000. A list of donation amounts will be provided,if requested.

Mike Blair made a motion to approve the list of charities; Pat D'Annunzio seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Charity Committee would like to present the \$2,000 to WBOC-TV "Bless Our Children" Campaign in person using a large image of a check. Ed Pinto would like to send a photo of the presentation to local newspapers.

HELPING HANDS: No report

PUBLICITY AND PROGRAMS: Ed Pinto is looking for someone to take over the Historian duties of his position. Text him if interested. He would work with the new person next year to transition.

When sending photos to Ed, please email (not text) them in actual size or larger.

Ed knows of a group looking to record oral histories of military service members. Text him, if interested. He will try to arrange a video truck to come to Ocean City in January if there is enough interest.

WEBSITE: Tom Pergola reminded everyone to send him updates, as needed, of current information on the website. When sending photos, please send in HD format.

FUNDRAISING: Vito Potenzareported that the first planning meeting for the Festival will be on October 16, 2025, at 1 p.m. in St. Andrews Hall. The Festival date is March 21, 2026.

MEMBERSHIP: No report

OLD BUSINESS: Vinnie Mollicone is taking orders for Lodge shirts, hats, and tote bags. Barbara Graziosi has cookbooks.

NEW BUSINESS: Barbara Graziosi presented the slate of officers for 2026 (Appendix 2) and announced that nominations from the floor are still being accepted. Election will be held at the November meeting.

Judy Zanetti discussed the Christmas gift procedures. We will be coordinating with GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity) again this year, and providing gifts for four families, with four children each, and some older adults. Tags with names and gift requests will be available at the November meeting. Bring gifts to the Christmas dinner. Volunteers are needed to deliver gifts to GOLD the next morning.

Barbara Graziosi reviewed the criteria for the Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award, read the list of those who previously won the award, and asked members to consider making nominations.

Tickets for the Grand Lodge Super Raffle are available for \$25 from Barbara.

Rose Madden announced a Crab Feast to benefit St. Vincent de Paul, St. Ann's Conference, is being held at Higgins Crab House on October 11.

Norma Curreri discussed Pets on Wheels, an organization that brings friendly therapy pets to visit people in hospitals, schools, and other facilities.

Prayers were requested for Mike Corless who is having an ablation.

John Oliverio thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers during his recent illness.

Closing Prayer: Read by Barbara Graziosi.

50/50: \$104 Jim Vigilante

Meeting Adjourned: Motion made by Marc Stirone and seconded by Mike Blair at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Madden for Donna Potenza, Recording Secretary

APPENDIX 1

2025 CHARITIES TO BE SUPPORTED BY THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY, OCEAN CITY LODGE #2474

2025 SPRING DONATIONS:

Alzheimer's Association (*National OSIA*),
Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism (*National OSIA*),
Cooley's Anemia Foundation (*National OSIA*)
Garibaldi-Meucci Museum (*National OSIA*)
Multiple Sclerosis Walk
Relay for Life/American Cancer Society
Service Dogs Saving Lives

2025 FALL DONATIONS:

"Bless Our Children" Campaign (WBOC-TV)
Brandywine Valley SPCA
Clothing Our Kids, Inc.
Coastal Hospice
The CRICKET Center
Delaware Hospice Center
Diakonia, Inc.
Fostering Wishes
Harry K Foundation
Home of the Brave Foundation, Inc.
The Joseph House
The Justin W. Jennings Foundation, Inc.
OC Helping Heroes Foundation
OC Recreation Boosters (for Handicap Beach Chairs/Youth Program)
Operation SEAs the Day
Read Aloud Delaware
Rosaries & Scapulars Initiative, Inc.
South Coastal Village Volunteers
The Way Home
What Is Your Voice, Inc.
Worcester County Humane Society
Wreaths Across America

APPENDIX 2

2026 CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE
SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY, OCEAN CITY LODGE #2474

President	Sue Ann Baietti
Vice President	Barbara Graziosi
Treasurer	Mark Silvestri
Financial Secretary	Paul Scalice
Recording Secretary	Donna Potenza
Corresponding Secretary	Janet Ackerson
Orator	Rose Madden
Trustees	Rich Baietti
	Richard Buccheri
	Al D'Annunzio
	Mo Delcher
	Vito Potenza
Sergeant at Arms	Robert Ackerson
	Joe Tamburino
Mistress of Ceremonies	Jane Bartolomeo
	Lynne Watson