

April 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 St. Joseph's Day Festival was an incredible success! 🎉

This amazing achievement wouldn't have been possible without the outstanding people in our organization. Your hard work, passion, and dedication shine through year after year, proving that our members truly are the very best. It is with a full and grateful heart that I reflect on the generosity and compassion that continue to define our community.

Time and again, we are reminded that when people come together with a shared purpose, extraordinary things can happen. Our St. Joseph's Day Festival is a beautiful example of that and our spirit in action.

Thank you for making this celebration so special—we couldn't have done it without you! 🙌

One more important point: our lodge proudly reflects its Italian heritage, and our by-laws are written with that in mind. From the beginning, membership has been open to people of Italian descent and the members have made it clear that they wish to preserve this tradition. It is important that we all understand and abide by these by-laws.

Ciao! Sue Ann Baietti, President

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

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

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

SERGEANTS-AT-ARMS

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.

PUBLICITY & HISTORIAN

At the last meeting I was thanked for a job well-done for the Festival Program and PR. But for the record, I could not have done any of this without the effort put in by everyone else. As Rumpelstiltskin found out, you can't spin straw into gold. I could not have any success with the program, the signs, and the PR, if everyone of you did not put in the hours and efforts that you did. So it's my turn to say, Well Done brothers and sisters.

I have one other observation. I was unable to attend the Festivals in 2024 and 2025, and, when I was there this year, what stood out to me is how many new faces there were in our volunteer Navy (as a retired sailor, I'm not saying Army, so get over it). It's been my pleasure to work with you on the Festival.

Ed Pinto, Chairman

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

At the end of this newsletter are a few photos I took before the start of our St. Joseph's Day festival. If you have some photos of the day that you would like to share with us, please Email them to me at janet.ackerson@gmail.com, and I'll try to put them in our next newsletter. Ed Pinto would also like your photos, so please copy him on your Email and be sure to send them as "Actual Size" or "Large" so that we can receive a clear image.

Ciao!

Janet Ackerson, Gift Basket 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

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: Jane Bartolomeo, Felina Breeding, Ray D'Antuono, Palma Devic, Elaine Ferguson, Ken Hildenfiler, Tom Pergola, Carmine Picarelli, Ed & Sharon Smith, 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.

FUND RAISING

The 14th Annual St. Joseph's Day Festival was another successful event. Our Treasurer, Mark Silvestri, is working to "close the books" but reported at the last Lodge meeting that the gross revenue number was very close to the 2025 record revenue. Even as we anticipate higher expenses for the 14th Festival, the net proceeds are very likely to exceed the 2026 Lodge budget festival income projection. A job well done by all. The patrons I encountered all raved about the food, the baskets, the silent auction and the festive atmosphere of St Andrew's Hall.

The publicity and PR work begins with Ed Pinto in November with production of the festival poster and solicitation of program ad renewals. By early in March, we have a high-quality festival program book and festival notices being published in local newspapers and in Catholic church bulletins throughout the area. We also have TV and radio coverage. Thank you Ed for all you do.

Many patrons also commented on the number of Lodge members volunteering at the festival. While this is a very visible sign of Lodge member commitment to the success of the festival, it is not the only indication of your dedication to our major fund-raising event. We had pre-festival volunteers on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (before the doors opened), who received deliveries, set up the tables and chairs, cooked the sauce, made and baked the meatballs, prepped the sausage, washed the pots,

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
410-913-3564

Website:

<http://sonsofitalyoceancity.com>
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
May 7, 2026**

**5:30 p.m. Executive Council
7:00 p.m. General Meeting
(Doors Open at 6:30 p.m.)**

pans and trays, decorated the hall and tended to many other details that yielded to the the success of our event. We also had many post festival volunteers Saturday night and Monday morning, cleaning the kitchen, breaking down the hall, moving the "stuff" we borrowed from the Knights of Columbus back to Columbus Hall, doing an inventory of left over supplies, packing them up and moving it all to the Knight's shed for storage. We would be remiss if we did not mention all the volunteers who helped Janet Ackerson prepare the baskets for the raffle, Mary Ellen Arena assemble the baskets of cheer for that raffle and worked with Sue Ann to set up the silent auction merchandise. We are grateful to all the volunteers for their assistance.

We are thankful for the continuing support of Father Jennings, Pastor of St Luke & St Andrew Parish, and his staff for allowing us use of the facility. It starts on Thursday a week before the festival and ends the Monday after it. The Knights of Columbus generously let us borrow their warming oven, lattice frames and warming lamps. They also allowed us to use their walk-in cooler to store the sauce until we had room in the kitchen refrigerators at St Andrews.

Finally, the festival has been greatly enhanced by the efforts of John Kemp who we hire to provide janitorial services during the festival. He removes the trash from the hall and various stations and keeps the rest rooms tidy and supplied. Pre John, we were always scrambling to get this important job done. Many of you have said he is worth every dollar we pay him. There is no doubt about that!

So, congratulations on a successful 14th St Joseph's Day Festival. Number 15 is scheduled for Saturday, March 20, 2027!

Ciao, Vito Potenza & Moe Delcher, Co-chairmen

SOCIAL EVENTS

Thursday, April 16: Social Dinner at Sophia's Italian Restaurant (order off the menu/separate checks). Time: 6:00-8:00. Address: 11405 Coastal Hwy. Ocean City, MD 21842

Wednesday, May 27, 2026: Shore Birds Baseball Game vs Fredericksburg Nationals. Time: Doors open at 5:00. Time of game: 6:05-?. Buffet dinner will be at The Hard Ball Cafe. \$40.00/pp. Address: 6400 Hobbs Rd. Salisbury, MD 21804. Full payment was due by our March 31st meeting.

Thursday, June 18, 2026: Trip by ferry to Cape May, New Jersey Time: TBD. Cost for school bus, ferry, and parking permit: \$30/pp. *PAYMENT DUE: Thursday, May 7, 2026. More information forthcoming. Lunch will be on your own. No reservations are being made.

Thursday, June 25, 2026: Italian Students' Dinner. Janet Ackerson is requesting volunteers to help purchase items for the students' tote bags and also help to fill them closer to the event.

A list of items will be provided and you will be reimbursed for your purchases. If you wish to help, please contact Janet at janet.ackerson@gmail.com or 302-228-1423.

July and August 2026: No activities planned.

Sunday, September 13, 2026: Crab Feast at Higgins North. Time: 1:00-4:00, doors open at 12:00. (More information about pricing will be announced later). Address: 12801 Hwy. Ocean City, MD 21842. **NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!**

Sunday, October 4, 2026: Social Dinner sponsored by Mary Louise and Steve Embrey at The Pines Restaurant; Time: Arrive between 5:30-5:45. Address: 56 Baltimore Ave. Rehoboth Beach, DE. Details: Off-season parking is available on the street and at the Convention Center. Dining will be upstairs (no elevator) in a private room: "The Treehouse Lounge." Separate checks will be given. ***If you are interested in going, please sign up via email to Mary Louise at mary.louise.embrey@gmail.com ***

November 2026: Social Dinner (TBD). The monthly social dinners are held to thank those businesses that donate gift certificates or ads for our festival. If you are interested in sponsoring a dinner, here are some restaurants who have supported our Lodge: Delaware: DiFebo's, Bethany Diner, Hooked Up Ale House/Off the Hook, Fins Ale House & Raw Bar/JR's Seafood Shack, Porto's Pizza & Grill, Dirty Harry's, Mancini's Brick Oven Pizzeria & Restaurant, Summer Salts Café/Flip Flops Bar & Grill, Yellowfins Bar & Grill, Salted Rim, Millsboro Pizza Palace, Fenwick Pub, Good Earth Restaurant, Big Fish, Crystal Restaurant, and the Parkway Restaurant. Maryland: Forgotten 50 Distilling, Plaza Tapatia, Southgate Grill, Longboard Café, Seacrets, Coins, The Sterling Tavern, Bayside Skillet, Hooked, Spain Wine Bar, and Waterman's Seafood.

[Other restaurants we have already gone to as a group one or more times are: Mio's Italian Steakhouse, Fager's Island, Touch of Italy, Nantucket's, Cripple Creek, Catch 54, Saltwater 75, Green Turtle West, Trattoria Lombardi's, Luna's Cactus Café, Sunset Grill, Irish Eyes, and Sophia's Italian Restaurant. Also Dine & Donate events at Bethany Blues and Ropewalk.]

Sunday, December 13, 2026: Christmas Dinner at Cripple Creek Golf and Country Club with Double Agent band. Time: TBD Address: 29494 Cripple Creek Dr. Dagsboro, DE 19939. **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 Kettle Kitchen 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 was required of \$65.00/pp. to hold your reservation by March 31, 2026.** A balance of \$100.00/pp is due at our June 4th meeting.

Thank you, Neysa Silvestri, Chairperson

MEMBERS CELEBRATING APRIL BIRTHDAYS: We wish a very **Happy Birthday** to: 4/6-Cretia Motsco; 4/7-Deborah Guido; 4/8-Greg Amber; 4/11-Joseph DiMartino; 4/14-Jim Matthews; 4/17-Joan DeMarco; 4/22-Jennifer Cappello; 4/25-Theresa Andreano; 4/29-Victoria Garziona; 4/30-Andrienne Celeste.

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:

“Because of the Order, with special input from the Grand Lodge of New York, the position of Special Assistant to the President for ethnic affairs was re-established – as promised by President Carter at our convention – and Dr. Stephen Aiello of New York was appointed to the position.”

Respectfully submitted by: Janet Ackerson, Corresponding Secretary



***ST. JOSEPH’S DAY FESTIVAL
MARCH 21, 2026***

