

**February 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,

First and foremost, a huge thank you to Barbara, our wonderful Vice President, for stepping in for me. I know she did a fantastic job, and I truly appreciate her dedication!

The festival is fast approaching, and we are getting excited! Please be sure to sign up to help on festival day. This event is vital to raising funds for our scholarships and charities, and it truly takes all of us working together to make it a success.

Be sure to check Janet Ackerson's section for items needed for gift baskets and the silent auction. Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference and is greatly appreciated.

Thank you all for your continued support and generosity. Stay warm — spring is just around the corner!  
Ciao, Sue Ann Baietti, President

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Andy Maggio is asking for donations to keep his Rosaries and Scapular Initiative going. Checks should be made to RSI c/o Andy Maggio, 60 Reeping Way, Ocean View, DE 19970.

Through our National Organization's Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF), our Executive Council unanimously voted to donate \$100 for the victims of cyclone Harry that hit Sicily, Southern Italy and Sardinia. There is further information on the national website: [www.osdia.org](http://www.osdia.org).

Barbara Graziosi, Vice 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**

Paul Scalice  
302-604-8715

**Orator**

Rose Madden  
(703) 350-7398

## **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:**

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

## **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**

Ed says hello from Key West, where the final work on the St. Joseph Day's program is underway! The preferred deadline for you to submit businesses to him to be listed in the program is February 26. After that date, any additional businesses that donate a prize will be listed on a sign displayed at the festival. 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, Nancy Borregine, Felina Breeding, Denise Buccheri, Palma Devic, Elaine Ferguson, Maria Fortuna, Ken Hildenfiler, Tom Pergola, Carmine Picarelli, and Dottie Tumminello. In addition, please keep in your prayers: Jude DeLucco's brother Jim Dicianna's, who is ill; Guy DiMatteo for the death of his brother Ercole; Ed and Sharon Smith in the passing of Ed's adopted son Bobby. 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.

## **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

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

All scholarship information has been uploaded to the scholarship portal for the three high schools.

Donna Potenza, Chairperson

## FUND RAISING

*St Joseph's Day Festival, Saturday March 21.* Opening Prayer 10:45, doors open at 11AM. Volunteers should arrive not later than 9:30, Kitchen crew as directed.

Thank you to all the sisters and brothers who supported the festival by placing one line patron listings or memorial tributes, purchasing a program ad or soliciting your local businesses for a program ad. Thank you also to all those who approached businesses for donations of gift cards or merchandise for the basket raffle and silent auction. I'm sure Janet and Sue Ann will welcome any additional donations you can secure before the beginning of March.

Lorraine Gualtieri Pin a Prayer Intention bequest - Lorraine's daughter, Maria Fortuna, who is assuming responsibility for the intentions at the St Joseph statue, shared with us that Lorraine "directed" her to encourage Lodge member festival volunteers to donate at least \$5 to pin a prayer intention on the statue seeking the powerful intercession of St Joseph. Any volunteer who makes such a donation will get a ticket redeemable at the cashier's table for a sub sandwich order ticket. Lorraine will pick up the tab, through Maria, for the cost of the tickets redeemed. May Lorraine look down upon our 14th Festival and be pleased with our response to her challenge.

Volunteers: Thank you to the members who signed up at the February meeting. Many volunteers are needed and the sign-up sheets will be available at the March meeting. You can also contact me or Mary Ellen Arena to volunteer.

We need helpers not only on festival day but on Friday, March 13 and Thursday & Friday before the festival. The general festival week schedule looks like this: (Kitchen crew has a separate Thurs/Fri/Sat schedule)

### 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:

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  
99<sup>th</sup> St. & Coastal Hwy  
Thursday  
March 5, 2026**

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

**Friday, March 13 - 10:00 AM** - gift basket assembly at St Andrews Hall. If you haven't already signed up, please consider doing so at our March meeting or contact Janet Ackerson (janet.ackerson@gmail.com or 302-228-1423). Volunteers are needed – No experience required!

**Wednesday, March 18** - rented tables and chairs delivered to St Andrews Hall, along with other festival supplies (Sysco, Saval Foods)

**Thursday, March 19 - 9:30 AM** - pick up of festival inventory, supplies and borrowed items from the Knights Hall and shed (Lou Guido is leading the pick-up).

- **10:00 AM** - Set up tables and chairs in Hall - dining area and all stations - need several people with "good" backs. (Jim Reda & Mike Roca are in charge)

**Friday, March 20 AM- 9:00** - Pick up warming oven from Knights Hall - Frank Tribuno & his truck - needs two helpers.

- **10:00 AM** - Hall decorating & preparation - cover tables, set up condiment & utensil table, banners, signs, etc.

**Saturday, March 21 - 9:30 AM** - Balloons arrive and are placed on the tables.

**10:45 AM** - Opening prayer

**11:00 AM** - Let the fun begin!

**6:00 PM** - Break down of hall, return borrowed items to Knight's Hall

**Monday, March 23 - 10:00 AM-** Inventory and packing of left over supplies, cleaning the deep fryer, returning both to Knight's shed

See Vito at the March meeting if you are available to help with pre festival set up or post festival clean up and transport. We will be reaching out to those who volunteered last year to help with the "heavy lifting."

Sue Ann, Janet and Mary Ellen wish to thank all of the members who provided wines, liquor, baskets, and countless other items for our raffles and silent auction! The items still needed are golf items, martini and margarita items, wines, liquors, and any new and unused items that would look good as a prize. Either bring your items to the March meeting or contact one of us to arrange to pick up your item(s).

Vito Potenza & Moe Delcher, Co-chairmen

## SOCIAL EVENTS

**(\*\*\*)Please make a note that Neysa Silvestri's correct cell phone number is 410-913-3564(\*\*\*)**

On Sunday, January 18, several members forged through the cold and snow to meet for a lovely dinner at Irish Eyes Restaurant in Milton. After dinner, we walked gingerly across the street to the Milton Theatre to hear The Parrot Beach: A Tribute to Jimmy Buffet. The performers made us feel as if we were in the Caribbean despite the weather!



***Sunday, February 15, 2026:*** James Bennett High School presents "Rock & Roll Revival: "Dance to the Music" (Music from the 50's-2000's). Time: 2:00-4:00. Doors open at 1:00. I will be at the doors with your tickets. If you have not paid, please make sure you bring a check with you made out to The Sons of Italy. Cost \$25.00+\$.63 service charge (\$26.00/pp.). I have paid and picked up the tickets. Address: 280 E. College Ave. Salisbury, MD 21804. Following the show, we will meet at Fratelli's Italian Restaurant (order off the menu/separate checks). Address: 925 Snow Hill Rd. Salisbury, MD 21804.

***Thursday, February 19, 2026:*** Mio Fratello's Valentine Dinner (order off the menu/separate checks) Time: Check-in at 5:00. Dinner from 5:30-7:00. 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 7:00-9:00. Cost for the band will be \$10.00/pp. Address: 38016 Fenwick Shoals Blvd. Selbyville, DE 19975 \*Must have payment of \$10.00/pp for the band by February 5, 2026.

***Saturday, March 21, 2026:*** St. Joseph's Day Festival, 11:00am-6:00pm at St. Andrew's Hall, 144<sup>th</sup> St. & Sinepuxent Avenue, Ocean City, MD.

***Thursday, April 16:*** Time: 6:00-8:00—Social Dinner at Sophia's Italian Restaurant, 11405 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, MD 21842. We will be able to order off the menu and have separate checks. There will be a sign-up sheet at our meetings.

**Wednesday, May 27, 2026:** Shore Birds Baseball Game vs Fredericksburg Nationals. Time: Doors open at 5:00. Time of game: 6:05-? Buffet dinner at The Hard Ball Cafe. \$40.00/pp. Address: 6400 Hobbs Rd. Salisbury, MD 21804. \*Must have full payment by March 31, 2026.  
**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. Time: Doors open at 12:00. Time: 1:00-4:00. (More information about pricing to come around March/April). Address: 12801 Coastal Hwy. Ocean City, MD 21842. **NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!**

**\*October 2026:** Social Dinner (TBD)\*

**\*November 2026:** Social Dinner (TBD)\*

**Sunday, December 6, 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 is required of \$65.00/pp. to hold your reservation by February 28, 2026. Balance of \$100.00/pp due at June 4th meeting.

\* If you are interested in sponsoring a dinner, here are some restaurants who have supported our Lodge:

**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.

**Maryland:** Forgotten 50 Distilling, Plaza Tapatia, Southgate Grill, 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, Irish Eyes Restaurant, and Sophia's Restaurant (in April).

Neysa Silvestri, Chairperson

**MEMBERS CELEBRATING FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS: We wish a very Happy Birthday to:** 2/1-George Wright; 2/3-Joan Morgan; 2/5-Don Rogers; 2/9-Charles Hardy; 2/11-James Vigilante; 2/13-Ed Smith; 2/14-George Madden; 2/15-Giorgio Fronzoli; 2/17-Brenda D’Antuono; 2/18-Janet Bartolomeo, Alfred Michenzi, Vincent cappello; 2/22-Sal Castorina; 2/24-Deb Reda; 2/26-Tom a’Becket, Bonnie Summers; 2/28-Gail Laudicina, Dominic Cappello.

## **OUR SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY HISTORICAL HERITAGE:**

The following is an excerpt from *The Order Sons of Italy in America 100<sup>th</sup> 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 proudly received messages of congratulations from Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard M. Nixon, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, who even attended our National Convention in Baltimore in 1979. Over the years, the leadership of the order has been invited to the White House to meet our Presidents but this was the first time a President participated in our National Convention.”

Respectfully submitted by:  
Janet Ackerson  
Corresponding Secretary

