

March 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,

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! Our April meeting was to be on Holy Thursday, so the meeting has been changed to Tuesday, March 31, same place—same time.

I hope everyone is getting excited for our St. Joseph's Day Festival! 🎉 If you're new and haven't signed up for a job yet, please come out and join us so you can experience all the fun festivities and see what this wonderful celebration is all about.

I'm reaching out to as many organizations as possible because this is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we would love to make it a huge success! Your support, participation, and enthusiasm truly make a difference. Save the Date!

On August 18th, the Baltimore Orioles vs. New York Yankees game will also be Italian Heritage Night, and we're hoping to have strong participation from all the Maryland Lodges for an evening of fun, fellowship, and celebration of Italian heritage. Details are still being finalized, and we are also hopeful that the Grand Lodge may be able to assist with covering some of the costs.

Please mark your calendars now, and more information will be shared as plans are confirmed. We look forward to seeing everyone come out to support this great event!

Please be sure to read the newsletter for important information and updates.

Thank you all, and I look forward to celebrating together! 🙌🎉

Ciao! 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

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 & HISTORIAN

Festival PR was a success again with our press releases used in our local newspapers and with appearances on local TV and radio shows. We also placed advertising in local newspapers. Attached is what is called a "tear sheet" in the business [showing where ad is placed on a page] from the Bayside Gazette. Ads were also placed in the Coastal Point, The Courier and OCToday/Dispatch. Area Catholic Churches also ran Festival notices.

As we move past the Festival and focus on the rest of the year please keep in mind it will be a tremendous help to me as your PR person, and to the Lodge in general, if you will advise me INADVANCE of your plans for events you are planning before the event actually happens. I'm just an email away at airpinto203@gmail.com.

Ed Pinto, Chairman

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, Nancy Borregine, Felina Breeding, Ray D'Antuono, 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, 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. Please send your prayer requests, with the consent of the recipient or their family, to Janet.Ackerson@gmail.com.

FUND RAISING

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

Programs are printed and food, pastries, supplies and merchandise are ordered or have been received. Tables and chairs will be delivered Wednesday morning! On Thursday, the Kitchen Crew starts preparing the sauce and meatballs and volunteers set up stations and the hall at 10:00AM. (All are welcome!) Hall decorating is Friday at 10:00AM.

Pray for good weather and a good turnout on Festival Day. Hope to see you there.

[Be sure not to miss Sue Ann Baietti and Ed Pinto on the Bulldog Radio show (WOCM 98.1 FM) at 8:00AM on Wednesday, March 18. Also on Wednesday, Barbara Graziosi will be on Delmarva Life, WBOC-TV. They will be promoting our Festival!]

Vito Potenza & Moe Delcher, Co-chairmen

SOCIAL EVENTS

On Sunday, February 15, several members attended the James Bennett High School "Rock and Roll Revival." Once again, the students put on a wonderful show of singing and dancing!

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
99th St. & Coastal Hwy
Tuesday,
****March 31, 2026******

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

We concluded our outing at Fratelli's Italian Restaurant. Everyone seemed to enjoy his/her meal and the conversation.

On Thursday, February 19, over 50 members met at Mio Fratello Italian Restaurant to enjoy our social gathering celebrating Valentine's Day. Although, the food came out from the kitchen slowly, everyone seemed to enjoy his/her meal. The band, Now and Then, played for us and several members danced to the oldies. [See photos at the end of the newsletter.]

Upcoming events:

Saturday, March 21, 2026: St. Joseph's Italian Festival

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. *Must have full payment by March 31, 2026.

Thursday, June 18, 2026: Trip by ferry to Cape May, New Jersey (More information will be forthcoming.)

Thursday, June 25, 2026: Italian Students' Dinner

July 2026: No activities planned.

Tuesday, August 18, 2026: SDOI's trip: Baltimore Orioles vs New York Yankees (TBD).

Sunday, September 13, 2026: Crab Feast at Higgins North. Time: 1:00-4:00, doors open at 12:00. (More information about pricing to come around March/April). Address: 12801 Hwy. Ocean City, MD 21842. **NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!**

Sunday, October 4, 2026: Social Dinner at The Pines Coastal Tavern. Address: 56 Baltimore Ave. Rehoboth, DE 19971. Mary Louise Embrey will be the member organizing this social dinner. (More information will be forthcoming.)

November 2026: Social Dinner (TBD).

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, Fins Ale House & Raw Bar, Porto's Pizza & Grill, Dirty Harry's, Mancini's Brick Oven Pizzeria & Restaurant, Summer

Salts Café, 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: 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 in April.]

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 is required of \$65.00/pp. to hold your reservation by March 31, 2026. We have a few more seats available. Balance of \$100.00/pp is due at June 4th meeting.

Thank you,

Neysa Silvestri, Chairperson

MEMBERS CELEBRATING MARCH BIRTHDAYS: We wish a very Happy

Birthday to: 3/6-Vito Potenza; 3/7-Rick Buccheri; 3/8-Ken Hildenfiler; 3/11-John Aiello, John Curreri, Ronald Mescola, Ellen Vigilante; 3/12-Bonnie Oliverio, Mike Quinn; 3/13-John Pinnero; 3/16-Michael Summers; 3/17-Palma Devic; 3/18-Paul Scalice, Judy Zanetti; 3/21-Rosemary Rogers; 3/23-Janet Ackerson, Maria Fortuna; 3/24-Alex Picarelli; 3/25-Cynthia DiFerdinando; 3/27-Lori DiGiammo, Anne Shiflett; 3/29-Daniel Nardone; 3/31-Dee Mathews, Gerry Truman.

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 raised over 3,000,000 dollars for the victims of the worse earthquake to strike our ancestral home: more particularly, the regions of Campania and Basilicata.”

Respectfully submitted by:

Janet Ackerson, Corresponding Secretary



VALENTINE DINNER DANCE

February 19, 2026

