

May 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,

Thank you Barbara! I want to thank my Vice President, Barbara, for doing an exceptional job at the meeting. Rich and I had an amazing time traveling through Europe. Since I was unable to attend the meeting, Barbara can fill you in on the meeting information. See you in June!

Ciao! Sue Ann Baietti, President

VICE PRESIDENT

We are looking forward to having our 3 scholarship recipients from Stephen Decatur come to our June meeting with their parents. Refreshments will be served. Also, on June 25 at 5 pm at the Knights' hall, we will be hosting the Italian J-1 students for dinner and gifts. Thanks to Janet Ackerson and her committee and Neysa Silvestri for putting that together.

We are happy to report that due to the success of our St Joseph's festival, we were able to replenish the scholarships and charity funds back to last year's totals.

I presented Dan Milhousan with a gift of \$200 voted on by the Executive Council for his faithful bartending at our meetings for 12 years. He was very pleased and thanked everyone. He and his wife are moving to Parkville at the end of May.

Mary Lou Embrey spoke at our general meeting about upcoming Hearts to Heroes benefit dance for Service Dogs Saving Lives, which trains dogs for teens and others who show signs of suicide. It will be at the VFW in Ocean View on 5/29 from 6 to 10. Cost is \$75 pp with music, food, etc. Mary Louise also informed us of the positive results from the dog heroes of this organization.

Ciao! 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:

Please be sure to contact Jude if you are in the hospital, home bound & need a meal at E-mail: jdelucco@gmail.com, Phone number: 443-783-3317. 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 her.

Thanks, Jude DeLucco, Chairperson

PUBLICITY & HISTORIAN

PR will soon announce our three scholarship winners in the local media. Another opportunity to showcase our Lodge will be the welcome dinner for the Italian students working in Ocean City this year.

Also, the annual Ocean City Greek Festival will be held again in July and we will be renewing our full-page ad in its program. Sophia Christian of Sophia's Restaurant, who is one of the principal organizers of the Greek Festival, is also a big supporter of our Festival with a full-page ad in the program and gift cards for baskets and silent auction.

Finally, you can see some more successful PR on page 35 of the Spring 2026 Italian American magazine that is circulated nationally by the Order of the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. That's All Folks. Have a fantastic summer!

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

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Executive Council approved three \$3,000 Scholarships for the 2026 Sons and Daughters of Italy Memorial Scholarship. The students were awarded our scholarships on May 13, 2026, and were invited to attend our June 4th meeting for refreshments.

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 successful 2026 St Joseph's Day Festival enabled the Lodge to fully fund three Memorial Scholarships at \$3,000 each. The proceeds also allowed the Lodge to increase the funding of the Mary Castorina Charitable Giving Program to \$10,000. A huge thank you to all who volunteered and/or supported the festival with donations.

Next up - Sunfest Beer truck in October – Thursday 10/22 to Sunday 10/25. Armando and Babara Graziosi are managing this fund-raising event. More details to follow.

Vito Potenza, Fund Raising Chairman

SOCIAL EVENTS

Thursday, April 16: Thank you to everyone who attended the social dinner on April 16th at Sophia's Italian Restaurant. It was a great success with almost 80 members in attendance.

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://sonsofitalyocancity.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
June 4, 2026**

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

Sophia greeted us with her sons serving and bartending, and her husband cooking in the kitchen. Thank you for supporting our Social Dinner! (Please see the photos below.)

Wednesday, May 27, 2026: Shore Birds Baseball Game vs Fredericksburg Nationals. Time: Doors open at 5:00 and the Buffet runs from 5:00-7:00 (The Shorebirds person changed the times on me!) Time of game: 6:05-?. Buffet dinner will be at The Hard Ball Cafe. \$40.00/pp. Address: 6400 Hobbs Rd. Salisbury, MD 21804. **Neysa will be meeting everyone outside of the main entrance (across from parking lot B) to give out their tickets...not the fun zone as originally stated. This event is sold out.**

Thursday, June 18, 2026: Trip by ferry to Cape May, NJ: Cost for school bus, ferry, and parking permit: \$30/pp. *PAYMENT DUE: THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026 AT THE LATEST. Agenda: Meet at St. Matthews By the Sea United Methodist Church at 8:15 a.m. Address: 1000 Coastal Hwy, Fenwick, DE 19944. Park in the church's parking lot behind the church. School bus will leave promptly at 8:30 a.m. Arrival at the Lewes Ferry port for the 10:15 ferry crossing. School bus will go on the ferry. Arrival at Cape May, NJ-Congress Hall around 12:00 p.m. Lunch will be on your own – No reservations are being made. Meet the school bus at Congress Hall at 3:15 p.m. for a 3:30 departure to the Cape May ferry port. Cape May ferry departs at 4:30. Upon arriving at the Lewes ferry port, school bus will return the group to St. Matthews By The Sea United Methodist Church's parking lot.

Thursday, June 25, 2026: Italian Students' Dinner. Thursday, at 5:30 pm on June 25, 2026, in Columbus Hall. All members welcome! No charge for the meal! Please sign-up at the June 4th meeting if you are interested in meeting the students and having a summer meal.

July 2026: No activities planned.

August 18, 2026: Sons of Italy Heritage Night at Camden Yards, Baltimore. Baltimore Orioles vs New York Yankees. More information forthcoming. Tour Bus has been secured. Waiting to hear more detailed information. Please sign up at the June 4th meeting.

Sunday, September 13, 2026: Crab Feast at Higgins North. Time: 1:00-4:00, doors open at 12:00. Address: 12801 Hwy. Ocean City, MD 21842. **NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!** Crab feast cost: \$55 per member, \$60 for guests, including tax and gratuities. If bringing guests, please let me know your seating requests. Menu: All you can eat: hot steamed crabs, steamed shrimp, French fries, coleslaw, fried chicken, corn on the cob, hush puppies, domestic draft beer, house wine, soda, tea, coffee, and a dessert. Payment for the crab feast must be given to me at the June 4th meeting or mailed to Neysa Silvestri at 28630 Coastal Cove Way, Selbyville, DE, 19975 by June 4, 2026.

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, The 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, Hooked/Tailchasers, 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.

***Please make sure all payments are in an envelope marked with the amount, the event name, and your name. I will no longer accept cash in my hands. There are so many events for which I am collecting, and I am still trying to put names and faces together. I thank you in advance for your cooperation.**

Thank you, Neysa Silvestri, Chairperson

MEMBERS CELEBRATING MAY BIRTHDAYS: We wish a very Happy Birthday to: 5/8-Richard Nippes; 5/10-Donna Woodfield; 5/15-Jean Delcher; 5/17-Patricia Burello; 5/19-Rosemarie Pomilla; 5/21-Diane Liberto.

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:

“At Our convention we reminded President Carter of the paucity of appointment to the Federal Judiciary. Following that discussion, three Italian Americans were appointed to the Federal Judiciary, namely, Honorable Henry A Politz (Puglisi) to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, Honorable William Castagna to the Federal Court of Florida and the Honorable Yvonne DeCarlo Wicher, Federal District court of Louisiana. The Order directed a massive letter writing campaign to President Carter on behalf of Benjamin A Civiletti, who was appointed Attorney General of the United States.”

Respectfully submitted by: Janet Ackerson, Corresponding Secretary



April 16, 2026, Sophia's Restaurant Group Dinner

