

Sons and Daughters of Italy

Ocean City Lodge #2474

General Meeting Minutes May 7, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by the Vice-President, Barbara Graziosi, at 7:01 PM.

ROLL CALL of OFFICERS: Donna Potenza called the names of the officers. Absent and excused: Sue Ann and Rich Baietti, Janet Ackerson, Al D'Annunzio and Moe Delcher.

PRINCIPLES OF THE ORDER: Rose Madden read the Principles of the Order.

PRAYER INTENTIONS: Barbara Graziosi asked to remember our members for whom we have been praying.

OPENING PRAYER: Read by Lynne Watson.

FLAG SALUTE: Barbara asked the Assembly present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES of the LAST MEETING: March 31, 2026 minutes were distributed by email. Motion to approve minutes was made by Mike Blair and a second by Andy Maggio. All were in favor.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None

TREASURER REPORT: Mark Silvestri. The Lodge is in good financial shape. A successful festival allows us to grant \$10,000 for charities and \$9,000 for scholarships.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT: 210 members

TRUSTEES' REPORT: Audit needs to be scheduled.

REPORT ATTENDANCE: Joe Tamberino reported 88 members and 3 new members were in attendance.

MISTRESS of CEREMONIES: Thank you to all who provided refreshments this evening. No calls next month. There will be refreshments provided by the Lodge for the scholarship recognition night.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Janet Ackerson. A sign-up sheet is provided if you can help assemble bags for the J-1 Italian students.

STANDING COMMITTEES REPORT

SCHOLARSHIP: No report

SOCIAL: Neysa Silvestri reported on the following:

MAY 27, 2026: Shorebirds Baseball and Buffet in the Hard Ball Café.

JUNE 18, 2026, Ferry to Cape May \$30pp. Payment due 5/7. Lunch on your own.

JUNE 25, 2026, Italian Students' Dinner

AUGUST 18, 2026: Italian Heritage Night at Camden Yards. Sign up 6/4.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026: Crab Feast NOTE DATE CHANGE Doors open at 12:00 1-4 PM

October 4, 2026, Social Dinner arranged by Mary Louise Embrey at The Pines in Rehoboth Beach. 5:30 PM Dining is upstairs (no elevator) in the Treehouse Lounge. Separate checks.

November Social Dinner TBD

DECEMBER 13, 2026: Christmas Dinner at Cripple Creek

DECEMBER 17, 2026: Christmas Show in Lancaster American Music Theatre. Stop at Kitchen Kettle Village and dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord. \$165 pp Deposit \$65pp due 2/28/26. Balance: June 4, 2026.

CHARITY: Judy Zanetti announced the Spring round of charity checks are going out. She reminded all that if you have a charity that needs our support, submit the information in writing to the committee.

HELPING HANDS: On a personal note, Jude thanked everyone for the prayers for her brother. He is in remission and awaiting a bone marrow transplant.

PUBLICITY AND PROGRAMS: Ed Pinto No report

WEBSITE: Tom Pergola. No report.

FUNDRAISING: Vito Potenza. Vito again thanked everyone for the time given the day of the Festival as well as the days preceding and following the event. There will be a wrap up meeting on May 14, 2026, at 10 AM. at St. Andrew's for all captains and anyone who would like to attend. He once again called for new chair/chairmen to step forward. The festival organizational materials started by Sal, and updated by Vito, will be available to guide the next leadership team.

MEMBERSHIP: Ro Pomilla announced to date, we have 24 new members. She introduced Francesco and Diane Cottone and Pam Cocozello. Guiseppe Biancaniello is being reinstated as a member since he has moved back to the area.

OLD BUSINESS: Beer truck is assigned to us for Sunfest October 23-26, 2027. You must be certified to serve the beer. Next fundraising event led by Armando and Barbara Graziosi.

Vinnie has Lodge shirts.

Barbara has cookbooks.

Endowment is postponed until a committee is formed to investigate the options.

NEW BUSINESS: Presentation to Dan Milhalisan for his service to the Lodge as the bartender. A \$200 check was given as a thank you as he and Kathy make a move out of the area.

THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Mary Louise Embrey presented information on Service Dogs Saving Lives. This year the fundraiser will be held on May 29, 2026, from 6-10 PM at the VFW Post 7234, Ocean View. It will feature a dance band, buffet dinner, SDSL Founder's message, 50/50, basket raffles and Cash bar. The theme is Hearts and Heroes , Uniting Hearts, Healing Lives-One Paw at a Time. \$75 pp.

Dr. Dan Cowell will be laying out a giant map of Italy for members to peruse to see where their ancestors came from.

Closing Prayer: Read by Rose Madden.

50/50: \$100 won by Paul Scalise.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:43

Respectfully submitted, Donna Potenza-Recording Secretary