



The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé Przepiora, editor
June 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our Memorial Day parade was a challenge to say the least. Our banner holders and marchers were extremely soaked after their march. I want to thank them all for their great spirits as they marched down the street and threw candy to the young children. Thank you to all the members that braved the day.



On to the convention. The convention this year was extremely exciting despite some of the hardships a few of our delegates were faced with, like no hot water for two days. I can't imagine what it is like to take a cold shower. Ugh, ugh.

The excitement of the convention was due to the fact that a new state president was chosen and installed - Brother Anthony Naccarato. The formal event was something to see. Most impressive was the lead couple of the procession, our very own Dr. and Mrs. Rubé. They looked great as they marched into the dining room, they did our lodge proud! Speaking of proud, your chosen delegates showed a great deal of support for the Grand Lodge. They all attended every session and meeting and took man, many notes to share with all of you. Thank you to all of the delegates that made the journey to (as my brother would say, another galaxy) - Calihoun New York.

Your delegates did the lodge proud as they were united at meetings and of course, dinner. If you haven't been to a convention, you really should try to go next year. You meet many other lodge members from across the state and really get to know your own brothers and sisters a lot better. At this time I thank all of you for allowing us to represent you at this yearly function.

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Going into August, we will be planning our Scholarship Award Night to be held at our regular meeting on Thursday evening, August 8, at the Eyer Building. This is a very memorable evening when we get to meet and greet the young and talented students in the area. Plan on attending to show support for the young people. Also, we will need refreshments donated for the evening. Please email Marisa or myself or any other member of the scholarship committee to let us know if you're willing to do a refreshment donation for us.

August 25 will also be our Presidents Picnic being held at Eyer Park. The lodge will provide hots, sausage and beverages (water and soda). If you wish a stronger beverage, that will be up to you to bring. We are allowed to have alcohol in the building. We are asking members to provide a dish to pass as usual. You may bring whatever you wish but please let us know ahead of time for planning purposes. More information will follow about these summer events soon, watch your emails.

In September we will have a Regional dinner prepared by Sister Rosita and her helpers. If you feel you would like to help with the dinner, just let us know. We will need a couple of servers and folks to help clean up the dishes and kitchen.

I just want to say, we never seem to run out of help at our events. I'm just giving a heads up to those of you that wish to lend a hand and are early planners.

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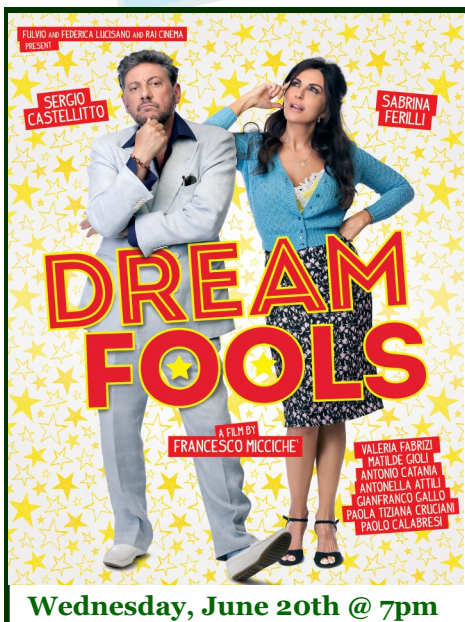
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October 18th is our Columbus Day dinner, so put the date on your calendars. Our annual fall pie sale will start late in August I believe. More information on these events as it becomes available.

One last bit of news I'd like to share with all of you. Tom and I were finally able to make it to the Little Theater to see one of the Italian movies shown by Brother Tony Mangione. It was a wonderful evening because the group that attends makes plans to go eat before hand. After they eat they go see the movie. I so enjoyed everyone's company and the movie was very thought-provoking. I highly encourage all of you to make it a point to attend one of these movies. Tony has also decided that he will start showing a Sunday afternoon movie at the cinema theater for folks that cannot make an evening showing. Sunday afternoon would be ideal for all of us that don't like night driving (like myself). I thank Tony for bringing good entertainment to our community as he tries to help keep our Italian ideals and heritage alive. Let's all get out and show support for his venture.

Thank you all for supporting me as your lodge president, but remember it is not just my lodge but all of you are the lodge. Working together we can make a difference in the community while sharing our Italian culture and heritage.

Many blessings,
Your President
Sandy



Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 2019 Calendar

- June 13th, 2019 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting
- July 4th, 2019: COUNCIL MEETING CANCELLED
- July 11th, 2019 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting
- August 1st, 2019 @ 7pm: Council Meeting
- August 8th, 2019 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting
- August 25th, 2019: Annual Summer Picnic (Eyer Park, East Rochester)**
- September 5th, 2019 @ 7pm: Council Meeting
- September 8th, 2019 Time TBD: Italian Regional Dinner (Eyer Building, East Rochester)**
- September 12th, 2019 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting
- October 3rd, 2019 @ 7pm: Council Meeting
- October 10th, 2019 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting
- October 18th, 2019 @ 6pm: Christopher Columbus Italian American Heritage Dinner (Burgundy Basin Inn)**
- November 7th, 2019 @ 7pm: Council Meeting
- November 14th, 2019 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting
- December 5th, 2019 @ 7pm: Council Meeting
- December 12th, 2019 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

2019 Monthly Card Games at The Grapevine

A group of our lodge members meets monthly at the Grapevine Restaurant to have dinner and play cards. All are welcome and you can plan to come for just dinner, just cards, or both! Cards night is the second Wednesday of each month. Dinner at 4pm, cards after. Remaining dates for this year: July 10th, August 14th, September 11th, October 9th, November 13th, December 11th. Cards night is occasionally cancelled due to holidays or other circumstances, so please watch your email for notices of cancellation.



6/6: Mary Ricci
 6/7: Frank DiBisceglie
 6/11: Joe Quatela
 6/16: Quintino DiCesare
 6/17: Hugh Warner
 6/18: Giacomo DiPisa

6/22: Carol DiNicola
 6/25: Ed Groszewski
 6/27: Louis DeCarolis
 6/30: Dominic Calisto
 6/30: Ed Maruggi

This weekend our member, Brother Paul DeCarolis, was honored by the Italian Heritage Foundation at their Annual Scholarship Awards Gala. Several of our members were in attendance at the event. Congratulations Brother Paul!



Members in the Community: Sister Jen Gugino and The Angels of Mercy

The Angels of Mercy was founded 12 years ago by Sister Jen's daughter, Mary Jo Colligan, offering clothing, food and support for anyone and everyone that she saw needed help with recovery from alcohol, sexual and domestic abuse. The organization has expanded over the past 12 years to meet the rising needs in the community. Some of the current programs include making dresses for children and mothers all over the world in order to assist in the Stop the Trafficking movement, and their Butterfly Boutique, which helps help women coming out of recovery with three full outfits in order to dress appropriately as they enter the workplace, school or for other needs. Due to the ever growing needs related to the opiod crisis, they have started a Beauty from Ashes program where those willing gather to share their life changing experience, and Bible study classes are new to the program. Sister Jen is an active volunteer for the organization. Sister Jen, thank you for donating your time to this important cause!



Sister Jen Gugino and her daughter Mary Jo Colligan, President and Founder of Angels of Mercy, at their annual Pasta Dinner to raise funds to support Angels of Mercy. For more information and opportunities to volunteer with this wonderful organization or to make a donation to support their incredible work, please visit their website at www.angelsofmercyny.org.

Our members marching in the East Rochester Memorial Day Parade. These folks are committed, marching in the pouring rain!



Rochester Chamber member The Little Italy Association of Rochester installed its giant "Big Red Chair" in the Little Italy Historic District, at the corner of Lyell, State and Smith Street, attracting dozens of people and visitors to the area. The chair was built by members of the Hispanic and Italian communities, in a joint effort to help beautify and revitalize the Lyell and Jay Street corridor.

The giant "Big Red Chair" features the Little Italy Historic District logo on it, and special social media tags painted on the front, (#TheBigRedChairROC and #LittleItalyROC), so that both local and visiting families and their children may sit on the chair, and take photos of themselves, and then tag their photos to social media, to share their experience with their friends.

Little Italy's Big Red Chair is part of the association's efforts to improve economic development and tourism in the area. Obstacles will be placed in key parts of the historic district and Lyell corridor, to create greater social interaction, make the area more family-oriented, attract visitors and tourism, and help slow down walking traffic, to create greater interest in the area's shops and businesses.



**Grand Lodge State of New York, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America
113th Annual State Convention, May 30th thru June 2nd
Villa Roma, Callicoon, NY**

The 113th Annual New York State Convention Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America was convened on May 30th by President Robert Ferrito. A quorum was established with 168 attendees. By the Fourth General Session the credentials were 55 of the 60 lodges in attendance with 354 delegates. The Standing Rules were approved, as was the 2018 Grand Convention minutes, as corrected. The reports were accepted as presented. The evening culminated with the traditional OSDIA member wine tasting contest. We were greeted for dinner with Villa Roma's famous Caesar's Night, with the wait staff and servers dressed in costume.

The second general session meeting on Friday morning provided the financial statements for the fiscal year April 1, 2018 thru March 31, 2019 as well as the State Filial Lodge Membership Per Capita Report. As of 1/1/2019 the total number of regular members were 6441 and total at-large members were 315 for a total membership of 6756. This includes 578 new members initiated in 2018. During the first quarter of 2019, as of April 30, 2019, almost 200 new applications were received. A new lodge, the Correction Officer's Lodge, had their inaugural installation of officers on February 1, 2019, bringing the number of active lodges in NYS to 61. Geneva Lodge #2397 received a plaque and \$250 award for having the greatest increase in the number of members. Congratulations!!!!

Commission for Social Justice experienced both rewards and challenges throughout 2018. The change of Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day onslaught continues, with Vermont and Maine the most recent states making the change legislatively. But there have been victories as well, including saving the Columbus Statue in Columbus Circle. Another kudos for the CSJ was the apology from New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell for the 1891 lynching of eleven Italians after being exonerated for a crime they did not commit. People from all over the United States were in attendance to hear the proclamation and to observe the presentation of a plaque on the site. We are now working on placing a monument to the eleven victims. The cost is approximately \$200,000 and the plans are to unveil it next year. However, the front-page article that appeared in the New York Times on the day of lynching has never been retracted. A 75-page document has been presented to the executives at the Times, including letters of support from over 30 Italian organizations from across the country, demanding an apology.

Garibaldi Meucci Museum is a busy place, offering Italian language classes, educational programs, tours, concerts, lectures, and exhibits. The Italian traditional dress display from the regions of Emilia Romagna, Sardinia, Sicily, and Tuscany were exhibited earlier this year. Now on display are traditional dress from Calabria, Lazio, and Piedmont. This year will be the 100th anniversary of OSDIA's ownership of the building. Last July, the museum's board of commissioners approved the Venice Tower Exhibit, which is a replica of the bell tower in the City of Venice. It will become a permanent fixture on the museum's grounds and will stand 40 feet in height and will contain Murano glass. Tentative plans for the ribbon cutting are July 7, 2019.

The first Community Outreach Awards were presented. The Geneva Lodge #2397 received the Lodge Heritage/Cultural Activities award. This includes Bias and Bigotry Programs, Food Culture Programs, Talent Shows, Italy Recognition, Genealogy Programs, Media Projects, Speaker at Lodge Meetings and Events, and other events that would fall under this category. Congratulations!!!! Other awards Presented were Family of the Year to the Mancuso Family; Literary Award to Tiziano Thomas Dossena; Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro Award to Grace Ferrara and Joseph Vallone; Newsletter Competition; Bene Emeritus Award to Nicholas Mauro; and Coronara Award to Kathleen Zamboni McCormick, PhD.

President Robert Ferrito gave his President's Report. His activities over the past year include attending the National OSDIA Summer and Winter Plenary Sessions and the Gift of Sight annual Helen Keller Camp Day Outing; participating in the Long Island Columbus Day Parade and NYC Columbus Day Mass and Parade;
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multiple fundraisers for the Garibaldi Meucci Museum and Cooley's Anemia; visiting a number of lodges during the holiday season and installations; NYS Grand Lodge Plenary Sessions; the special ceremony in New Orleans where the mayor issued a proclamation of apology for the 1891 lynching. Many hours and miles were required to do the work of New York's OSDIA lodges.

The Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers to lead the NYS Grand Lodge for the next two years: State Treasurer Remi Carriero; State Corresponding Secretary Keith Wilson; State Financial Secretary Luigi Squillante; State Recording Secretary Arthur Spera; State Orator John Fratta; 2nd VP Biagio Isgro, Jr; 1st VP Michelle Cangiano Ment; President Anthony Naccarato.

June 1st convened with the Fourth General Session, with the Scholarship Report from Michelle Ment. A total of 138 applications were received and eleven State Scholarships, five Graduate Scholarships, and 125 District Scholarships were awarded. Seventy-two (72) students will be presented with a total of \$83,900 in scholarship money and \$3,600 awarded in grant money for a total of \$87,900. Awards and presentations will take place on June 8, 2019 at Tappan Zee High School in Orangeburg, NY. Each recipient will be a Student-Member-At-Large via on-line throughout their four years in college. The 2019-2020 budget was presented to the assembly and approved unanimously.

Immediate Past President Carolyn Reres gave an update to the Education and Culture Committee. The Lecture in Residence Program gave fifteen seminars over the past year, which provides speakers throughout the state. The 2019 National Student Summit will take place August 1st thru 4th in Washington, DC. Students will tour the Italian Embassy and the Pentagon. Fourteen students will represent New York State OSDIA. The NYS Grand Lodge will host its 3rd Student Summer in April 2020 in Albany which will include a visit to the American Italian Museum, a cooking demonstration, speakers, a Wi-Fi scavenger hunt, a workshop on constructing a Roman Arch puzzle, and Tombula.

Election of National Delegates took place. Representing NYS Grand Lodge and OSDIA are Luigi Squillante, John Fratta, Keith Wilson, Gina Ferrara, Ernest Magliotta; and Arthur Spera; alternates are Nicholas Maura, Mildred Mancuso, and Joseph Fratta.

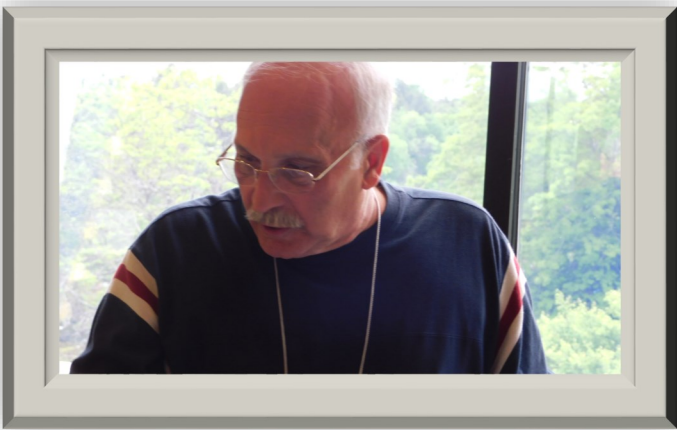
The Fourth General Session ended with the raffle, which had 809 tickets of \$100 each sold, and the presentation of donations. Monies donated totaled \$86,237! Cooley's Anemia \$20,135; Alzheimer's \$13,856; Autism \$10,022; Cancer Research \$6,685; CSJ \$10,725; GMM \$11,625; Gift of Sight \$10,284; and Veteran's Assistance \$2,905.

The Sixth and final General Session assembled on Sunday morning with the new executive board being introduced and committee chairs announced. The newly elected President, Anthony Naccarato, stated his goals: 1) improve membership; 2) increase visibility; 3) expand the Flyer/Poster Program and get students to join a committee which may fulfill their service obligation for graduation; 4) use of social media to improve membership and retain members; 5) create a program to reward "positive image"; 6) improve relations with lodges; 7) improve training the officers, train the trainer; 8) develop seminar program for state trustees and state deputies; 9) appoint some new state committees.

Biagio Isgro reported on investigating other venues: Crown Plaza in Lake Placid, Desmond in Colonie, Ft. William Henry Resort in Lake George, Hilton in Albany, Hilton in Saratoga, and the Sagamore in Bolton Landing. Taken into consideration were the size of the rooms, size of meeting rooms, distance members would have to travel, and what can we do within the venue (bring our own food and beverages [liquor] for hospitality rooms. Discussion took place regarding a different venue but for the 2020 convention it will be at the Villa Roma. The 114th New York State Grand Lodge Convention will be held May 28th thru May 31st at the Villa Roma in Callicoon.

Submitted by Sister Marjorie Focarazzo

2019 NYS OSDIA CONVENTION



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3782 Boynton Rd.
Walworth, NY 14568

President
Sandra Meleca

Vice-President
Marjorie Focarazzo

Recording Secretary
Mary Lou Cadena

Financial Secretary
Louis DeCarolis

Treasurer
Catherine DiNicola

Orator
Thomas Meleca

Mistress of Ceremony
Carol DiNicola

Master of Ceremony
Edward Groszewski

Sentinel
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Antonio Palucci
Luigi DiFilippo
Lillian Bonanni

Immediate Past President
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Chaplain
Patricia Galante

**District VIII State
Trustee**
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Chaplain Emeritus
Sister Carole Proia

**State Deputy to Vincent Lombardi
Lodge**
Tony DiCostanzo

State Deputy to Geneva Lodge
Thomas Meleca

Past Presidents
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Louis Giambra*
Joseph Vazzana *
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Cosmo Caceci*
Michael La Comba*
Shirley Sculli
Phillip Dattilo
Joseph Berta*
Joseph Rubé
Jennifer Rubé*
Vincent Giannantonio

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