



The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé, editor
January 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Hope you had a wonderful Christmas and new year. I want to wish all our members a prosperous and healthy new year.

Our lodge has had a very successful year and our membership has grown. We have been successful in all that we have done this past year, including our charity fundraisers - whether for the lodge or private.

As I look back on my presidency this past year, I have seen an organization of people from various backgrounds come together not only as associates, but as a close knit group of friends that have become like family. It seems that as a group, there is nothing we can't accomplish and for that I am very proud.



Speaking of events I want to remind you of our winter picnic/clambake in February. It will once again be held at Gates memorial park, Sunday, February 12, at 1 PM. It will be catered by the Wilshire Restaurant. Hope to see you all there.

Our dues are presently being collected for 2017. All dues must be paid by Friday, January 13. The Grand Lodge needs our membership information by the end of January, so we must have a complete list by that time. Please send your dues as soon as possible, including any changes in contact information. Thank you for helping keep our lodge in good standing with the Grand Lodge.

A reminder - our lodge elections for officers, Council members and arbitration committee will be held Thursday, February 9 at our membership meeting. Anyone interested in a position please contact our nominating committee - Brother Ross Cotton, Sister Bonnie Cottone, Brother Bill Agnello, or Sister Linda Agnello. All council positions are up for election, and we have several vacant seats to fill, including Sentinel, Orator, and Mistress of Ceremony. We will also be electing our State Delegates to the Grand Lodge Annual Convention held in June. Anyone interested in attending the convention as a delegate for our lodge, please submit your name to me in writing. Please respond by February 3.

As you know, January is the start of a new year. We will have committee sign-up sheets available at our January meeting. Please sign up to participate in our future lodge events.

I want to thank all the members that helped make 2016 such a successful year for our lodge.

I am looking forward to another year of working with my brothers and sisters for the success of our lodge.

Felice Anno Nuovo!
Fraternally,
President Vince

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Rochester Italian American Community Events

January 4, 2017 10:00 am Italian Children's Class,
Italian American Community Center (IACC)

January 4, 2017 6:00 pm Karaoke, Italian
American Community Center (IACC)

January 6, 2017 6:30 pm General Meeting with
guests Italian American Sport Club

January 7, 2017 10:00 am Casa Italiana Book
Club, Casa Italiana Of Nazareth College

January 11, 2017 12:00 pm Wednesday Luncheon,
Italian American Community Center (IACC)

January 12, 2017 12:00 pm Thursday Luncheon,
Italian American Sport Club

January 14, 2017 5:00 pm Elvis Birthday
Celebration, Italian American Community Center
(IACC)

January 14, 2017 6:30 pm St Padre Pio Dinner,
Italian American Sport Club, St. Padre Pio
Institute

January 18, 2017 6:00 pm Karaoke, Italian
American Community Center (IACC)

January 25, 2017 12:00 pm Wednesday Luncheon,
Italian American Community Center (IACC)

January 26, 2017 12:00 pm Thursday Luncheon,
Italian American Sport Club

State and National Events

**January 27th, 2017 @ 7:30pm: NYSOSIA
24th Anniversary Winter Charity Ball**
honoring State President Carolyn Reres, Victoria
Schneps, Frank Primeggia, and Carol & Rocco Berardi
to be held at the Chateau Briand, Carle Place, 7:30pm.
Contact: Annette Lankewish @ 516-933-7393 or
Joanne Spera @ 631-669-7295.

**January 28th, 2017 @ 9am: NYSOSIA
Plenary Session**

Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 Calendar - 2017

January 5th, 2017 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

January 12th, 2017 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

February 2nd, 2017 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

February 9th, 2017 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

**February 12th, 2017 @ 1pm: Winter Picnic & Clambake
Gates Memorial Park - RSVP by February 5th**

March 2nd, 2017 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

March 9th, 2017 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

**March 19th, 2017 @ 11:30am: Officer Installation Brunch
Burgundy Basin Inn - RSVP by March 10th**

April 6th, 2017 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

April 13th, 2017 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

May 4th 2017 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

May 11th, 2017 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

June 1st-4th, 2017: Annual NYS OSIA Convention

June 8th, 2017 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

July 6th, 2017 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

July 13th, 2017 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

August 3rd, 2017 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

August 10th, 2017 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

September 7th, 2017 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

September 14th, 2017 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

October 5th, 2017 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

October 12th, 2017 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

**October 2017 Date & Time TBD: Christopher Columbus
Italian American Heritage Dinner**

November 2nd, 2017 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

November 9th, 2017 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

**November 2017 Date & Time TBD: 18th Annual Papa
Antolini's Turkey Raffle**

December 7th, 2017 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

December 14th, 2017 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

****Please note, all Council and General Assembly
meetings are held at the Eyer Building—317 Main
Street, East Rochester**



01/01: Mary Kosinsky
01/02: Sam Mammano
01/04: Anthony Cataldi
01/06: Paul DeCarolis

01/11: Ron Santoli
01/16: Pat Bartholomew
01/20: Marianne Ayer
01/24: Frank Romeo



Our thoughts and prayers go out to...

...the Meleca and Cataldi families for the loss of their brother/father/uncle, Frank Meleca.

....And to Brother Jim Vacanti and his wife, at the loss of Jim's brother in law.

....And to the family and friends of our beloved member, Sarah Carbone, who passed away this week.



Best wishes to Brother Ross Battaglia and all of our other members who have been ill during this holiday season.



A warm welcome goes out to our three newest lodge members, initiated at our December general assembly meeting. Pictured from left to right: Brother Frank Gallelli, Br. Tom Folino, and Sister Jo Namaste. Welcome to our lodge and we look forward to getting to know you!



On December 8th, 2016, several of our members gathered at the Wilmot Cancer Institute of The University of Rochester Medical Center to present a check for \$5000 towards bone marrow research on behalf of the NYS Grand Lodge Foundation in loving memory of our lodge sister and past president, Jennifer Rubé. Pictured from left to right are lodge members Thomas Meleca, Carol DiNicola, Catherine DiNicola, Sandra Meleca, Vincent Giannantonio, Luigi DiFilippo (kneeling), Antonio Palucci, Joseph Rubé, Nancy Rubé, Marisa Rubé; Gates Town Councilman Steve Tucciarello; and Dr. Michael Becker of the Institute.



2017 LODGE NOTES

PAID
DUES

2017 Dues are Due: You should have received a notice in late November for your 2017 OSIA membership renewal. Your dues payment is needed by January 13th at the absolute latest if you plan to renew for 2017, and we hope you will! Please note, we are required to send our complete membership list in to the NYS Grand Lodge by the end of January, and the Grand Lodge uses that list to determine the dues that we are to pay to them. Even if you have not paid your dues and do not plan to renew, we are required to keep your name on that list and pay the fee for your membership to the Grand Lodge, unless we hear otherwise from you that you are not planning to renew this year. If you have not paid your dues to date, please send an email to communications@sonsofitalyrochester.com stating whether it is your intention to renew and when we can expect your dues, or letting us know that you do not intend to renew this year, so that we can remove your name from the list to the Grand Lodge.



Contact Information Changes: Many of our members have moved or made other changes to their contact information. We are in the process of putting together our 2017 member contact list and we need your updated info! If there are any changes to your contact info from 2016, please contact President Vince with these changes, or send an email to communications@sonsofitalyrochester.com with these changes.

Event Attendance: Over the past few years we have consistently struggled with getting members to RSVP to our events in a timely manner. Our RSVP due dates are approximately two weeks before each event. We have been seeing a trend in members waiting until after the RSVP date to respond for events, and then wishing to pay at the door. This causes several issues. First, we aren't able to give caterers accurate counts. All catered events require final counts to caterers the week prior to the event, to ensure that there is enough food for everyone. Second, folks are calling at the last minute to say they will attend and pay at the door, and then not actually attending the event. Once we have given our caterers a final count, we are required to pay for that number of people. If folks who said they would pay at the door don't attend, we don't take in the money to cover those meals, but we still have to pay that money out. This causes our lodge to lose money. Finally, payment at the door becomes chaotic and confusing, as folks are trying to arrive and check in, and our welcoming committees have to determine who folks are and if payment has been made. Because of this we are going to try to implement some changes in 2017. A discussion at our General Assembly meeting in December yielded several thoughts and ideas on how to remedy this issue. Going forward, we will not be able to allow late registration for events. The RSVP date for each event will be clearly marked on the event flyer, noted on the annual calendar in the newsletter each month, and reminders will be sent leading up to the RSVP date. This should give folks enough time to get their reservation in. As an additional incentive to get your RSVP in early, we will be offering a discounted early bird rate for those who RSVP by the early bird date. Please note, we are doing our best to accommodate all members and make sure that our lodge events continue. Planned 2017 events include our February Winter Picnic and Clambake, March Officer Installation Brunch, Summer Member Appreciation Picnic, October Heritage Awards Dinner, November Turkey Raffle, and our Holiday Party next January. We hope to see you there!



Donations: This year we added a spot on our dues invoice for folks to include an optional donation to our lodge, our scholarship fund, or the charities we support. This addition has been very positive, with many donations coming in from our members for all three of those. A huge THANK YOU goes out to all of our members who made a donation for 2017. Your donation will help us our lodge operate and support our scholarships and charities!

**Thank
you!**

2017 LODGE NOTES (Continued)

2017 Scholarship Info

National: (DEADLINE February 28th, 2017) Through the Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF) with hundreds of thousands of family members located in all fifty states and the District of Columbia, the Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA) has awarded nearly \$59 million in scholarships to date.

In past years, the SIF has offered 10 to 12 merit-based scholarships (National Leadership Grants), ranging from \$4,000 to \$25,000, in a nationwide competition. These figures and the number of scholarships may vary according to funding each year.

General Eligibility: U.S. citizens of Italian descent (at least one Italian or Italian-American grandparent) enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program at a four-year, accredited academic institution for the 2016/7Fall term. Previous SIF scholarship winners are not eligible. (Please note: Additional eligibility requirements may apply to specific scholarships.)

More information can be found at: <https://www.osia.org/students/scholarships.php>

State: (DEADLINE March 31st, 2017) Always aware of the need for personal scholarship and the support of scholarship study, the NYSOSIA Grand Lodge has maintained a consistent financial support system for many decades. In any given year, the NYSOSIA, through the New York Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc. and the local lodges, expends some \$250,000 in such support. While many local lodges sponsor their own programs, the New York Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc. has an overall state competitive scholarship process in place since 1982. The funds for the Foundation scholarship endowment, which now hovers near \$1 million, has grown substantially due to the generosity of individual lodges, members of OSIA, as well as benefactors and friends. Promoting, encouraging and supporting scholarship and grant assistance has been the core piece of OSIA's efforts to honor young collegians in their academic pursuits.

The statewide and district scholarships, and grants, established by lodges, districts or individuals are distributed on a yearly basis by the NYSOSIA Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc. at the State Convention.

More information can be found at: <http://www.nysosia.org/scholarships>

Lodge: (DEADLINE March 31st, 2017) At the Vincent Lombardi Lodge, we take pride in our ability to give scholarships to local students. Our only requirements are that the student must be of Italian descent (at least one grandparent must be of Italian heritage), must live in and attend school in Monroe County as a high school senior, and must commence study at an accredited academic institution of high learning in the fall of 2017. Preference is given to students associated with members of the lodge, but anyone that meets the above requirements are eligible and encouraged to apply.

More information and updated application will be available soon at www.sonsofitalyrochester.com/scholarships/htm

Lodge Elections: 2017 is an election year for our lodge and all council positions are up for election. All members are encouraged to consider joining our council. The only requirements for council positions is that all nominees must be members in good standing for at least one year. Our council meets on the first Thursday of each month to conduct lodge business, and then again with the general assembly meeting on the second Thursday of each month. We have several vacant positions that need to be filled, including Mistress/Master of Ceremonies, Sentinel, and Orator. If you are interested in seeking a position on our council, or would like more information about any of the positions and their accompanying responsibilities, please contact one of our nominations committee members as soon as possible. Nominations committee members are: Sister Linda Agnello, Brother Bill Agnello, Sister Bonnie Cottone, and Brother Ross Cottone. Elections will be held at our general assembly meeting on February 9th.



CSJ Report: Sister Marjorie Focarazzo

Our Lady of Loreto Church in Brooklyn, NY was built by immigrants who were often discriminated against by those in German-speaking and Irish parishes. Mass was offered in Italian and a parish school was built adjacent to the church in 1925. Miriam Robertson, director of Brownsville Heritage House and a member of Save Our Lady of Loreto says “it is one of the original Italian footprints in the area; it has a very rich history throughout the changing nationalities. Why would anyone, especially the Catholic Church want to destroy that?” The architecture shows how Italians are artistic, can be cohesive, and create something beautiful. The church is an example of Roman-Renaissance-style architecture, designed by Adriano Armezzani and built by Antonio and Gaetano Federici. It is the only original national church on its original parcel, which was inhabited by Pietro Cesare Alberti, the first Italian in the New Netherlands colony. It is the last remaining national church on geographic Long Island.

The demographics of the neighborhood have changed over the decades. Mass was said in Spanish. The congregation’s numbers dwindled, the school was demolished, and the church was shuttered. The diocese planned to demolish the church to build an 88 unit low-income housing, but supporters of the church decided to fight and in 2010 a compromise was reached. The church would be saved, a 64 housing unit would be built, and Catholic Charities would reopen the church as a community center or for residential use. One option considered was a performing arts center because of its size and location.

In 2013, Catholic Charities did not receive any proposals for redesigning the church. With the church in disrepair, abandoned, everything removed from the inside (although the fresco ceilings remain), and no possible means to preserve the property, the diocese decided to move forward with demolishing the site.

The Save Our Lady of Loreto organization said that repeated attempts to negotiate with the diocese went unanswered. Flavia Alaya, who was part of the initial push to save the church says, “It wasn’t that momentum was stilled by lack of motivation, but lack of response.” The diocese is in full support to use the site for affordable housing and the aim is to keep the spirit of the church alive, as it did in the past, to provide housing for those in need. But there is already consternation since the rectory was torn down to make room for housing built on that site.

The demolition threat goes back and forth. Brownsville community leaders, art groups, and Italian-Americans want to honor their immigrant heritage by campaigning to get the building designated as a city landmark and to be reused as a community cultural center. Buildings designated as city landmarks cannot be torn down without the commissioner’s permission. It is considered an excellent candidate for landmark status. Brownsville has a great history that is often not recognized, and the sacred site had been deemed eligible for inclusion on the State and National Registers of historic places. “Without a sense of the past, how can you have a future?”

Although, the current status of the demolish permit is not known, there have been workers on site preparing estimates. Here is a list of people to contact with support for designating Our Lady of Loreto as a historical site and reusing it as a community cultural center:

1. Rafael Espinal, Jr. (Brooklyn) REspinal@council.nyc.gov District Office: 718/642-8664 Leg. Office: 212/788-7284
2. Peter Koo (Flushing) PKoo@council.nyc.gov DO: 718/888-8747 LO: 212/788-7022
3. Rose Harvey, Commissioner of SHPO rose.harvey@parks.ny.gov
4. James Vacca (Bronx) jvacca@council.nyc.gov DO: 718/931-1721 LO: 212/788-7375
5. Vincent Gentile (Brooklyn) vgentile@council.nyc.gov DO: 718/748-5200 LO: 212/788-7363
6. Paul Vallone (Bayside) district19@council.nyc.gov DO: 718/619-8611 LO: 212/788-7250
7. Joseph Borelli (Staten Island) JBorelli@council.nyc.gov DO: 718/984-5151 LO: 212/482-5951
8. Steven Matteo (Staten Island) SMatteo@council.nyc.gov DO: 718/980-1017 LO: 212/788-7159

Dedicated to the Our Lady of Loreto Community

Our Lady of Loreto is the foundation of our lives.

It is the place where we were Baptized, Married or had funeral mass for our loved ones.

It is in every beat of our hearts.

It is where the souls of our deceased love ones live.

It is the magical place that we tell our grandchildren about.

It is the place where we made our First Holy Communion.

It is the place where we were blessed with Godparents.

It is the place where we opened our first book to prepare us for the journey of life.

It is the place where we confessed our sins.

It is the place where we prayed with our parents.

Bust most of all, it is the place we call Home.



**2016 Lodge Christmas Party
Lodge on the Green
December 3rd, 2016**



VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE OFFICERS

President
Vincent Giannantonio

First Vice-President
Sandra Meleca

Second Vice-President
Thomas Meleca

Recording Secretary
Marisa Rubé

Financial Secretary
Louis DeCarolis

Treasurer
Catherine DiNicola

Orator
Bonnie Cottone

Mistress of Ceremony
Nancy Rubé

Sentinel
Ross Cottone

Trustees
Edward Groszewski
Luigi DiFilippo
Antonio Palucci
Marjorie Focarazzo
Lillian Bonanni

Immediate Past President
Joseph Rubé, MD

Chaplain
Patricia Galante

**District VIII State
Trustee**
Joseph Rubé

Chaplain Emeritus
Sister Carole Proia

Lodge Deputy
Anthony Idoni

District VIII State Deputy
Thomas Meleca

Past Presidents
Joseph Lusardi*
Thomas Laverne*
Louis Giambra*
Joseph Vazzana
John March*
Victor Bell*
Peter Cimino*
Sam Parese*
Cosmo Caceci*
Michael La Comba*
Shirley Sculli
Phillip Dattilo
Joseph Berta
Joseph Rubé
Jennifer Rubé*



LODGE COMMUNICATIONS

All Vincent Lombardi Lodge communications should be sent to:

President Vince Giannantonio
61 Sunset Street, Rochester, NY 14606
(585) 208-1578
vinnyg1951@gmail.com