A Message From The State President

Happy New Year to everyone! I predict that 2018 will be a wonderful year for our Order.

Membership is a key need to work on. Our membership is dwindling. An example of how to get people interested is mentioning an example of how to get people interested in joining the organization with other Italians and was interested in join the Grand Council meeting this March. We have a lot to discuss, such as the queen’s contest and the future of the building committee. I will give a report of facts that they have found so far.

State President
John Costa

Cont. on page 3

News from the Central

by Arlene Nunziati
State 1st Vice President

March Grand Council meeting.

The year did not start well for me. Sid developed a severe back pain and I called 911 to take him to the ER. They took an Xray and gave him medication for pain and were going to transfer him to Scripps Green Hospital for further diagnosis. While waiting for the transport he went into cardiac arrest. They revived him and scheduled surgery to implant a pacemaker and defibrillator. He had two set backs but is now doing well recuperating in a skilled nursing facility.

I have been in touch with State Orator, Mark Vaona, in regard to the closing of the Las Vegas Lodge. This will be discussed further at the March Grand Council meeting.

I am continuing to work on the 2018 Humanitarian, Leadership Gala. It is scheduled for Saturday September 22, 2018. It will be held at the Doubletree Santa Ana. The airport is John Wayne. I ask all lodges to PLEASE do not schedule any events for that Saturday, so as to free up members to be able to attend the Gala.

February is here and I’m hoping that we have all done something about our Membership drives. Remember only one new member per member for the year. That’s all I’m asking. (Of course, if you are a couple, that’s two!) We can do this!

I’ve again been reviewing our Ritual and Protocol Manual. (I heard those moans again!) I was looking at the instructions that we give to new members. You know those little rules of respect most of us haven’t looked at since we were initiated.

We have our own salute…much like the Racoon lodge of the Ralph Kramer era! Fortunately, ours is only our right hand over our heart. I think this small sign of respect is a good thing. As a fraternal organization we should respect each other and our ideas. We don’t have to agree with our sisters and brothers, but we must respect their right to their ideas.

How about the entering the Gala. I have been in touch with State Orator, Mark Vaona, in regard to the closing of the Las Vegas Lodge. This will be discussed further at the March Grand Council meeting.

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Happy New Year to everyone! I predict that 2018 will be a wonderful year for our Order.

Not much to report on lodges as the holidays were spent with family and upon returning to work at the Grand Lodge, we “dug” in to play catch up! I plan on having a conference call with my two other Vice Presidents within the next few weeks. It is very important that we keep the line of communication open. If you should have a concern or issue, please notify your area Vice President and we will be sure to discuss it during the call.

The new membership system at the Grand Lodge is coming along nicely. I met for three days with our system administrator and most reports balanced.

It is imperative that the Financial Secretaries submit address changes in a timely fashion to avoid return mail and additional charges. If a death occurs, make sure a new beneficiary form is filled out. These forms are for beneficiary and contingent beneficiary. Be aware, contingent is used only if the primary is gone. Put two names on line of beneficiary if your wish is to leave to more than one person.

Financial Secretaries, please review the roster enclosed with the per capita. If an error has been made, notify the Grand Lodge office. It is easier to correct an error right away instead of waiting.

At the end of January, I will be traveling to New York with Joy Bruno and the Girolami’s to attend a Winter Ball honoring our National President Vera Girolami. More on this next month.

Columbia Lodge is planning on honoring National President Vera June 16, 2018. Mark your calendars.

Enjoy watching the Super Bowl! Stay warm. Be sure to go out and recruit a new member! Ciao until next month.

News from the North

by Barbara Wisnewski
State 3rd Vice President

News from the South

by Sadie Tamburine
State 2nd Vice President

Attention Everyone

The Hacienda Lodge is establishing a scholarship in the name of Joseph LaBanca. Anyone interested in donating to this cause may do so. Send your checks made out to the Western Foundation and earmark it LaBanca Scholarship. Send your checks to the Grand Lodge office. We thank you all in advance.
Happy Valentines Day!
President’s Message
Cont. from page 1

Trusting, A great meal was prepared prior to their meeting by Mr. Rossi and his crew, outstanding job. Earlier in January I was co-chair for the Vallejo Lodges crab feed, 500 lbs. of crab. Later no one left hungry. I will be attending Cornelia Vita Nuova Lodge’s polenta feed. I also will be attending Joanne Coccia Lodge 34th anniversary the day after helping St Helena Lodge with their Crab Feed. Good thing for a holiday the day after.

Speaking of Holidays, Presidents day is coming, how about showing a little appreciation to all of the local Lodge President. Remember it is a volunteer position so even though we honor our founding fathers in February let’s thank our lodge presidents also.

Valentine’s Day is fast approaching also, how about buying that box of chocolates or those flowers you purchase a “365” raffle ticket from the Grand Lodge, this way your sweetheart could win multiple times. Not a bad idea. Hope to see a lot of you at Grand Council March 17th in Sacramento.

Save the Date
Please do not plan anything for your lodge for September 22, 2018. That is the night of the Humanitarian and Leadership Gala. It will be held at the Double Tree Hotel in Santa Ana. We would appreciate it if all the lodges support this important event. More information will follow.

Sadie Tamburine
State Second Vice President
Chairlady

Scholarship Application Reminder
Rosemarie Biagetti Vanderhaar
Scholarship Committee Chairperson

Just a reminder that the deadline for scholarship applications and Students to Italy grant is (postmarked) March 1, 2018. Students must be part or wholly Italian. Eligible students must be enrolled in a credited trade school, college, university or community college.

Application forms are available online. Go to www.sonsofitalyca.org and click on the link for scholarships.

Any questions or inquiries, please feel free to contact me. Those students wishing to apply to the National scholarship program, deadline for those applications is February 28, 2018. Their website is www.osia.org.

My contact information is: email: rgeorev@aol.com, (h) 626/254-0449, cell or text (626) 222-7768.

The Christmas dinner for Roseville Lodge was held on December 21st. Pork loin & ravioli were served to seventy-eight members & guests. Bagful of gifts for Toys for Tots were donated by our generous attendees. A portion of the profits will be donated to a Children’s Leukemia Foundation. This was suggested by Marcia CeciCiliot, who has a child in her classroom who has this disease. We welcome our newest members, Vicky & Steven Cramlet. Another application is being sent to Renzo’s sister, who will be transferring from the Lake County Lodge when she moves to our area. At our next dinner will be February 18th we are having a Queens Breakfast Fundraiser on Sunday February 18th from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Let us do the cooking for you.

We are having our February Valenines Crab Dinner on Saturday February 24th. You will have your choice of crab or rib eye steak. We will be entertained by “The Sicilian Band”. Hope to see all of you there. Bring your sweethearts!!!

We are having our Memorial Mass on Sunday March 4th at 1:00pm. This is to remember our members that passed away this past year.

By popular demand we are bringing back the production company and they will be performing “Toby and Athena’s Greek Wedding” on Saturday March 17, 2017. “You’ll sing! You’ll dance! You’ll laugh yourself silly!” Tickets are on sale, first come, first serve basis. Tickets are limited. You must pay at the time you make your reservation. Adults $45.00 per ticket for Show and Dinner.

Happy Valentines Day
Phil & Toni-Ann Privitera

Happy Valentine’s Day
Rosemarie Biagetti Vanderhaar

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Phil & Toni-Ann Privitera

Roseville Lodge #1413
Roseville, CA
by Roy Vano

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Centinela Valley Lodge #1991
Torrance, CA
by Annette Porter

Hope you all had a safe and Happy New Year with your family and friends!!!

As this is being written we are preparing for our January Dinner Dance.

On February 18th we are having a Queens Breakfast Fundraiser on Sunday February 18th from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Let us do the cooking for you.

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Camelio - Colombo
Lodge #1294
Klamath Falls, OR

A great Christmas party was held by Camelio - Colombo Lodge. Many members families and friends were in attendance. As usual there was plenty of very good food. A big thank you to the cooks. Everyone was singing Jingle Bells when we had a surprise appearance by none other than Santa Claus. Each child received a stocking full of goodies. On Santa’s knee is President Oliver Spires with wife Diane behind. Santa is letting them know they are on his good list for 2017.

Saddleback Valley
Lodge #2256
Mission Viejo, CA
by Andy Pampuro
Immediate Past President

Last Month: A big welcome to our new member, Tammy Anderson; we hope you will enjoy our company as much as we will enjoy yours.

The Pot Luck, following our regular meeting, went very well: lasagna, noodles, bean salad, green salad and a great pea and beef stew, plus deserts galore.

We bid farewell to Rita Capparelli, who passed away after her short stay in a care facility; she had always been a ray of sunshine, playing Bunko with friends, and when she attended our two pasta fests every year. Charlie, her husband has been a member of our lodge for over 52 years, having joined us so long ago along with his mother, Mary.

Albert Einstein’s theory of happiness is “A calm and modest life brings more happiness than the pursuit of success combined with constant restlessness”; he also said “Where there is a will, there is a way”.

This Month: Our February meeting will be on the 19th, with Pot Luck. The new year is progressing very well, most likely with another drought, and we will perceive, just as we have before. Comedy is our funny way of being serious.

Next Months: March 19 will be our usual meeting, with Pot Luck; bring what you can; no other details yet.

April 16 will be our Spring Fest Pasta Party, so nudge your family and friends now.

And, don’t forget the Clovis Rodeo Parade on the last full weekend of April. Most likely we will be putting out our float again … no word yet on what the parade theme will be. Remember? We took First Prize last year thanks to everyone taking part in the preparation and riding of the float.

Never believe in democracy … the average voter will convince you it is not a good idea; even Benjamin Franklin preached against it. And, Dave Barry wants us to know that it is not a good idea to take a laxative and a sleeping pill on the same night.

Mounts to Come: The next ULCSV meeting will be March 11, 2018, at the Kings County Historical Society in Hanford on 14th Avenue; let Carol Watson know if you will be attending. And, the Grand Lodge 2018 Convention will start June 28th at the Ontario Airport Double Tree Hotel.

Do you have comments for our lodge members? Any historical lodge photos? Let me know at my email address (above) and we can publish it in this column. You will be as happy as Abe Lincoln.

Daniel J. Boorstin almost said: “Education is learning what you didn’t know you didn’t know”. Find out what you don’t know by applying for our Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America scholarship(s). Contact Scholarship Chair, Isabel Ronzano, at (559) 297-0851, for information on this topic. The Scholarship Deadlines are: for Clovis Lodge, March 31, 2018; for California State Grand Lodge: March 01, 2018, and, for National Lodge the date is generally November to February of any year (500 to $5,000 awards). For grants/tours/studies information in Italy, go to https://www.osia.org/students/scholarships.php.

Join Us: If you have friends or family that are looking for good fellowship and a place to hang out on the third Monday of each month, invite them to join us at our meetings, 6:30 PM, at Notre Dame Hall, 333 8th Street, at DeWitt Avenue. We feature short meetings, great companionship, and superb food. Our web site is http://rodolfovalentinolodge.com/.

Rodolfo Valentino
Lodge #1449
Clovis, CA
Carole Watson, President; Lou Catallo, Historian; (559) 299-2205 lcatallo@aol.com

The above logo was redesigned by our First Lady, Michelle Lowinger, for our new lodge shirts which look fantastic. One of these days we will take a picture of all our members wearing the new shirts.
FEBRUARY 2018

Roma Lodge # 1573
Tulare, CA
by Larry Dutto

At the January 8th meeting of Roma Lodge members kicked off the new year by volunteering for new standing committee and special event assignments for the new year. President David DePauli and First Lady Giovanna DePauli took over dinner duties with some great deep-pit sandwiches and homemade beans. Members are gearing up for their 51st appearance at the World Ag Expo food booth where they will be selling Italian sausage sandwiches and pasta.

New Members

Roma Lodge initiated the first members for 2018. Shown in the picture is Frances Della with her two grandnieces on the left is Eva Games and her sister Sophia Games who are now members of the lodge. Eva and Sophia are daughters of Kent and Karitryn Gomes of Tulare.

Celebration

Roma Lodge past president Ken Curti and First Lady Shurene celebrated Shurene’s 50th birthday and their 25th Wedding Anniversary with family and friends at the Visalia Country club. Pictured in front are Shurene and State Deputy Lilia Giaconomazi and (l-r) Ken, Elisabeth Curti, Ben Curti, Karen Pedroncelli and Ron Pedroncelli.

2017-2018 “IL LEONE” Sponsors

“Sponsors” are members, lodges, or friends, who have generously contributed $25.00 (or more) per year to help pay for the cost of producing, printing, and the distribution of our “IL LEONE” Newspaper. For more information about becoming an “IL LEONE” Sponsor, contact Andy Pampuro, Editor, at (949) 855-4279, or our Grand Lodge Office at (415) 586-1316.

C. Colombo Lodge # 1350
Antioch, CA
by Zelda LeFrak

Richard and Mary Lucido, members of C. Colombo Lodge #1315, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a party hosted by their sons Russell and Phillip. Pictured above are the couple surrounded by their children and grandchildren posing on the terrace of the Antioch Golf Club. The afternoon event was held in the ballroom of the Club complete with slide show, speeches and a sumptuous buffet. Highlighting the celebration was the wedding cake displaying original cake topper from Richard and Mary’s wedding day.

Congratulations to Mary and Richard for continued happiness.
Margherita Sarfatti
by Stephen Contrado, B.A., Th.M.
165 Nantasket Ave. # 9
Hull, MA 02045
E-mail: stephencontrado@gmail.com

Margherita Sarfatti was born Margherita Grassini in Venice on April 8, 1880. She was the daughter of Amedeo Grassini and Emma Levi. She grew up in a palazzo by the Canal Grande in Venice and was educated by private tutors. Her family was conservative bourgeois childhood, but she soon took an interest in the political and the artistic controversies of the day. She left home at age 18 to marry Cesare Sarfatti, a Jewish lawyer from Padua, who was 13 years her senior.

Her father, Amedeo, was a wealthy Jewish lawyer and businessman who worked as a fiscal attorney for the Venetian government. He was knighted in the Order of the Crown of Italy. He was also a fiscal attorney for the Venetian government. He was a journalist for the newspaper El Diario of Argentina and Uruguay and worked as a journalist for the newspaper El Diario of Montevideo. After the war, in 1947, she returned to her native land and again became influential in Italian art. She died October 30, 1961, aged 81.


365 Fund Raiser - Winners
December 16-31

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Attention Amazon Shoppers....

If you like to shop on Amazon (and who doesn’t?) there is now a new way for you to shop AND help the Western Foundation at the same time! All you need to do is to sign in to smile.amazon.com using your email address and Amazon password, and you will have the opportunity to designate our Sons of Italy Western Foundation as your preferred charitable organization. From that point on every time you make a purchase, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Western Foundation. Easy! Shop as you regularly would, and earn points for the charitable causes of our Western Foundation at the same time. You can check the progress of your donation whenever you want, and see your donation build up the more you shop. Before you know it the holidays will be upon us, and what better time to put your shopping to good use to raise funds for the great causes the Western Foundation supports. Just imagine if all our members who use Amazon would sign up for this benefit....It only takes a minute, and the funds raised can do so much good for a long time. What a great way to spend and feel good about it. Please pass the word to family and friends and happy shopping!
Hanford Lodge #1543
Hanford, CA
by Jackie Giacomazzi

GREETINGS FROM PETALUMA!

Greetings from Petaluma! I woke up this morning to the pitter patter of rain, so I got up, turned on my heat, got comfy cozy and remembered I had to get this article in for our Lodge by today.

Our first meeting of the year was a good one. Our State Trustee North, Ray Bini and his wife, Pamela visited the Lodge and Deputy Rick Branch was with us as always. We had about 47 members in attendance, had an excellent chicken/risotto dinner prepared by our wonderful cooks, Ed Santero, Giacco Manni and Angelo Leone and dessert prepared by Louise Santero and her family was delicious as always.

Thank you to all of them and all who worked to provide this wonderful meal for all of us.

State Trustee Bini and Deputy Branch initiated three new members into the Lodge. We want to welcome Bruno Fomasi, and Joe and Karen Panfiglio to the Lodge and I hope that they enjoy their membership as much as I have. I encourage our members to welcome them and make them feel comfortable when they attend our meetings.

It is important that our members mingle and talk with other members of the Lodge, so that everyone gets to know each other better, which encourages our members to want to come to the meetings. Our President and the Board of Officers are working hard to make our meetings interesting and also to have some events during this year. Suggestions are always welcome.

Get Ann some of your thoughts.

One of the events being planned is a chicken/barbecue which will be held on August 12th in the Penngrove Park. A cruise to Alaska raffle is also being planned.

It was voted to donate $250 to the Casa Grande Fish Hatchery in the name of Leo Lavio who served as our President and who was a member who donated so much of his time and hard work to the Lodge. Leo has been greatly missed and this is indeed a nice way to remember him.

We will have our Crab Feed by the time you read this. I’m sure it will have been a success and thanks go to all worked so hard to prepare and serve a good meal.

If you haven’t mailed your dues or your ticket for the monthly drawing please do so now so you don’t forget to do it.

Get well wishes to anyone of ill and Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary wishes to all celebrating this month.

Happy Valentine wishes for everyone and don’t forget to give a hug and tell your loved ones you love them and remember the ones who have passed on.

See you at our meeting on March 8th.

If you have any information or news that you would like to include in my articles, please call me at 769-7389.

Remember to be kind to others, you will always get it back in return.

Hanford Sons of Italy enjoyed a wonderful polenta and stea dinner compliments of the Leone and Nardini families at its January meeting.

Cesare Battisti Lodge #1518
Petaluma, CA
by Louise Vicino

COMING IN LIKE A STORM!

Giulio Tempesta was the Chef for our SOI dinner in January... Cooking for a sold out crowd of 150. Giulio comes in like his name.... his culinary skills were delightful.....finishing off the amazing dinner with an on the spot made Tiramisu. Giulio, coming from San Francisco has opened the UMBRIA Restaurant in Glen Ellen so you won’t have to wait till he cooks for us again...Visit him and tell him you saw it in Il Leone. You will be warmly greeted!

BRINGING IN FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Marlilyn and Jack Doss brought 17 guests to our January dinner.

I’m not sure I KNOW 17 people....and even then get them to attend a dinner! Congratualtions!

MARIE DAVIS celebrated 53 years (?) as a SOI member! There is something to be said for persistant loyalty and love of our fraternal Order of the Sons of Italy!

MARCH 3RD...2018 YES, JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Scholarship Dinner Dance with Tommy Thomsen $45. per person...so get in your reservations and shine those dancing shoes!

ONE MORE WORD...

The Valley of the Moon dinners are MORE than just a ‘meal’...it is a soul nurturing event...a time to drink and be merry...enjoy good food and fellowship and visit without a TV...go figure!

Call Karen for reservations: Karen........707-938-1295

US CITIZENSHIP!

Coming from Baden-Baden, the Black Forest Region of Germany in 1991 Hanz Strand became a United States Citizen January 11, 2018 at the Paramount Theater in Oakland CA along with 1130 other eager folks. Hanz joined the SOI in 2011 and is involved in preparing meals for SOI dinners, of which we will enjoy in February. So bring your neighbors and come meet Hanz!

Do take care of yourselves this flu season...

Ciao!

There are not enough words to describe the joy that permeated through out the dining hall for our January SOI dinner with 150 happy folks!

Valley Of The Moon Lodge #1959
Sonoma, CA
by Susan Antonini, member at large susananontiniart@gmail.com

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2017 ended with an enjoyable Christmas dinner, Secret Santa gift exchange, and an Ugly Sweater contest. It was a fun evening and congratulations to our top two Ugly Sweater winners; John Tedesco and Doreen Daneri.

Two lodge members were recognized at our December and January meetings celebration special member anniversaries; John Tedesco - 45 years and Rachel Inderbitzen - 20 years. Congratulations to both of you.

We kicked off our first meeting of 2018 with a Pizza and Bingo night. Such a great time and congratulations again to our lucky winners; Loretta Redman, Deangela Smith, Louie Lodi, John Tedesco, Genny Arietta and Rosemarie Scarrone.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 14th at 6:30 p.m. Our Lodge officers have been busy planning upcoming dinners and events for 2018, come and hear about all the exciting events we have coming up and enjoy a great dinner.

Rachel Inderbitzen receives her 20 year Anniversary Certificate from Lodge President Dan Marinelli.

Lodge members enjoy an evening of bingo after our pizza dinner and meeting.

Sacramento Lodge #1352
Sacramento, CA
by Pam Stewart

Throughout history, Italians have made significant changes affecting culture, style and popular thought around the world.

Jimmy Garappolo is no exception.


Become a Sponsor of Il Leone!
Attention all Filial Lodges

It’s that time again! We are looking for participants for the upcoming Royal Pageant for the 2018 Grand Lodge Convention in Ontario. The contest officially began on October 1, and so far we know there are eight participants. One of these entries may be a young man. We are encouraging not only our young ladies, but also our young men to get involved. Remember this is one of the few opportunities that we have to highlight our youth. So we are hoping that more of our lodges will join in and find someone to represent their lodge. It is important to let the Grand Lodge and myself know if you have a candidate.

Again, the contest has officially started. Tickets can be ordered from the Grand Lodge. The more tickets you sell, the higher percentage your lodge will receive back. All participants must have a minimum of $2,000 to qualify. Any tickets sold beyond that will determine their placement of the top five in the Royal Pageant. All monies must be mailed to the Grand Lodge in the registered mail envelope provided by the Grand Lodge. The envelope must be postmarked by Monday, April 23, 2018. Placement of the Royal Pageant will be announced on Saturday, May 6, 2018 after 2:00 pm. More information will be sent from the Grand Lodge detailing all the rules at a later date.

Please let the Grand Lodge and myself know as soon as possible the name of your queen/king and the lodge they represent. Send a wallet size photo of the contestant to the Grand Lodge as soon as possible to be used in the newspaper and the pageant program.

It is a fun event and we hope that you encourage your youth members to get involved. We can’t wait to see how many participants we have this year. Good luck to each of the lodges. Looking forward to a successful pageant.

Sincerely yours,
Eva Lavezzari
Royal Contest Chairperson

Complete the following letter to your family:

I’m sorry to have left you without making any final arrangements.

The reason I didn’t do this when I had the chance was...

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Hello from Redding,
As always, Shasta Lodge is busy. We had two catered par- 
ties after Christmas, and this weekend is our two night Crab 
Feed. Overall we will serve about 450 dinners. After some spec- 
ulation about the availability of crab, we have great crab and 
excellent clam chowder. Kudos to our chairmen for the Crab 
Feed. Paul Monette and Jim Nobili. We were happy to have 
past State Trustee of the North Rich Murphy, and his lady Judy, in 
teasure from Washington State on Saturday night. 
We will host the Police Cadets next weekend for their annu- 
al dinner. The Chief of Police and several of the officers serve 
spaghetti and meatballs to the Cadets. Chef James and students 
from the Shasta High Culinary Class will be cooking the dinner. 
We are skipping our anniversary party for February, so will 
name our Most Honored Member of 2018 at our General Meet 
ing. We will also have an initiation of new members. We have 
quite a few applications, so hope to pick up some great new 
members. We will be joined by State Trustee of the North Bill 
Murphy and Past State President Lynn Murphy.
Plans are already underway for our St. Patrick’s dinner in 
March, with Enterprise Starship performing for us once again. 
Always a great show and good food.
Wishing you all a Happy Valentine’s Day.
Ciao from your friends at Shasta Lodge.