Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America®

OSIA vs OSDIA

- August 2017 – Supreme Council voted at the National Convention to allow an acceptable alternative name for OSIA. Officially, we are the Order Sons of Italy in America, dba the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America

- Both names are acceptable

OSIA / OSDIA

Order Sons of Italy in America

- Established in 1905
- Approximately 34,000 members
- 350 lodges nationally
- Grand Lodges in 17 states

OSIA / OSDIA Mission

- Encourage the Study of Italian Language and Culture in Schools
- Preserve Italian Culture, Traditions, Heritage and History
- Promote Closer Relations with Italy

Promote our National Presence

- OSIA is a National Organization
  - Supreme Lodge
  - Grand/Subordinate Lodge
  - Local Lodge

All members are also members of:

- Sons of Italy Foundation
- Commission for Social Justice

OSIA / OSDIA Organization

- **Supreme Lodge and Main Membership**
- **Commission for Social Justice** – The anti-defamation branch of OSIA/OSDIA- fights negative advertising and all activities that stereotype Italian Americans
- **Sons of Italy Foundation** – The Foundation is a charitable organization, 501 (c) (3), and funds scholarships, disaster relief, and national charities

OSIA / OSDIA National Framework

- **National**
- Governed by a nationally-elected Supreme Council (Board of Directors)
- Two subsidiary 501(c)(3) organizations support OSDIA's philanthropic and anti-defamation goals:
  - - The Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF)
  - - The Commission for Social Justice (CSJ)
  - - The SIF and the CSJ each have their own nationally-elected officers.
- The National Headquarters and its staff operate on behalf of OSDIA, SIF and CSJ governing bodies.
- OSDIA works in partnership with the Order Sons of Italy in Canada (OSIC).
- **State**
- 17 Grand Lodges (state/regional chapters)
- Governed by Grand Council (officers) elected by state/regional membership
- Some Grand Lodges have offices to handle administrative and operational functions
- **Local**
- More than 350 filial lodges (local chapters) and 21 subordinate lodges
- Filial lodges are organized in states/regions with a Grand Lodge.
- Subordinate lodges are organized in states/regions without a Grand Lodge

Support for National Charities

SIF's Major Charities include (donation amounts are for 2016-2017):

- Cooley's Anemia Foundation (nearly $160,000)
- Alzheimer's Research (over $110,000)
- Autism (over $70,000)
- Disaster Relief (nearly $200,000)

Scholarships

- Students are given scholarships at the local, state, and national levels

For example, in Colorado, Southern Colorado Lodge alone has given over $240 K in Scholarships since becoming a lodge in 1999

Bylaws

Bylaws exist for each level of our organization – National, State, and Local (optional)

National Bylaws contain our Constitution, General Laws, Judicial Code, Foundation Trust Agreement, and CSJ Bylaws

Bylaws

Bylaws address conduct, meeting process, membership categories, responsibilities for local, state and national officers, arbitration procedures, etc.

The Lodge Orator is the officer responsible for interpreting and enforcing the bylaws. Current bylaws can be found on our website at osia.org.

OSIA / OSDIA Websites

- National Website

  http://www.osia.org Includes links to all lodges with websites in all states

  In Colorado:

  Royal Gorge Lodge: osiaroyalgorge2866.com

  Southern Colorado Lodge: osia2738.com

  Pikes Peak Lodge : sonsofitalypp.com

  Denver Lodge: osiadenver2075.com

Programs
(from OSDIA website)

- **Book Club**
- **Garibaldi-Meucci Museum**
- **Genealogy**
- **Italian Festivals**
- **Scholarships**
- **Speakers Bureau**
- **Travel**

Italian America Magazine

(also available on the osia.org website)

- Learn about the most widely read quarterly magazine for people of Italian heritage in the United States
- Read past issues on the website
- Learn more on how you can contribute!

The website also has upcoming events and photos from lodges across the country!

MEMBERS ONLY SECTION

(available on osia.org website)

- **Update your profile**
- **Member Benefits**
- ***Italian America* magazine online**
- **Discussion Board**
- **National Bylaws and Lodge Operating Manual**
- **…and much more!**

OSIA / OSDIA Colorado Grand Lodge

- Grand Lodge of Colorado made up of 16 members from the six Filial Lodges
- Meetings are rotated around the state to accommodate and involve Filial Lodges
- Colorado also has its own Non-Profit Foundation

OSIA / OSDIA Colorado

- Six Filial Lodges
  - Royal Gorge Lodge
  - Denver Lodge
  - Pikes Peak Lodge
  - Southern Colorado Lodge (men's lodge)
  - Cabrini Lodge (women's lodge)
  - Cristoforo Colombo Lodge

How Do I Start a Lodge

Contact Mark DeNunzio (denunziodds@yahoo.com) from Florida or John Carochi from Colorado (cograndlodge@bresnan.net) for information and assistance in starting a new lodge

Contact state or local lodge members to meet with you and potential members to discuss and preview the OSIA / OSDIA mission, its benefits, goals, etc.

How Do I Start a Lodge

- ✓ Gather at least 25 members to sign the “Application for Charter” document (available from National Office at nationaloffice@osia.org, by calling 202-547-2900 or from your state president)
- ✓ Pick a name for your lodge and the names of up to three founding members for the Charter
- ✓ Submit the “Application for Charter” to the National Office or to your Grand Lodge President, if you are in a state with a GL
- ✓ National will assign a lodge number to you

How Do I Start a Lodge (2)

- ✓ Contact the State President or State designated member (cograndlodge@bresnan.net in Colorado) for assistance with startup
- ✓ Elect officers
- ✓ Register your lodge with the Secretary of State for non-profit status
- ✓ Apply to the IRS for an EIN
- ✓ Open a checking account
- ✓ Set meeting locations, date, times, etc.

Each local lodge has up to 17 officers:

- President
- Vice President (at least one)
- Orator
- Recording Secretary
- Financial Secretary
- Treasurer
- Immediate Past President
- Five or Seven Trustees
- Two Masters or Mistresses of Ceremony
- One Guard

Suggested Events for OSIA

- Cooking contests
- Wine tasting
- Movie nights
- Game nights
- Cooking demonstrations
- Parties based on time of year (Valentine's Day, Christmas, etc.)
- Make pizza or gelato

Suggested Events for OSIA

- Trips to vineyards
- Go to local shows
- Go out to dinner at local restaurants
- Bus to or hold an Italian Festival
- Participate in a local community event
- Columbus Day Dinner and/or Dance
- Carnevale

Suggested Events for OSDIA

- Make birthday calls.
- Give free meal on birthday.
- Call members who don't have email.
- Have special children's events.
- Have weekend meetings, so children can come on non-school nights. Take friends to meetings; provide incentives to do so, if needed.
- Hold flea markets.

Contact Information for Colorado

OSIA/OSDIA National Office – 202-547-2900
osia.org

Colorado State President – John Carochi – 719-429-6667

OSIA
Grand Lodge of Colorado
5925 West 32nd Av
Wheat Ridge, Co 80212