

Membership

Currently, the membership of the Italian Center is between 650 and 700 male members. This includes approximately 250 Senior members who have achieved this special status by maintaining 20 years of consecutive Membership and reaching age 65.

Presently there are two classes of Italian Center membership. A Regular Member and a Non-Italian Member. A Regular Member is a male of Italian birth or descent who is a citizen of the U.S. or who aspires to become a citizen of the U.S. A Non-Italian Member is the spouse of a woman of Italian birth or descent and who is a U.S. citizen.

Volunteer Program

As in any organization, volunteering provides the member the opportunity to work with other members in the organization to reach common goals. It builds a spirit of camaraderie and fellowship. It is wonderful to see members working together at various functions and events. Volunteers are needed to staff Provincial Nights, Golf Tournaments, and various club functions such as the annual 5-day Festa Italiana. There are also more labor driven activities that depend on volunteers such as outside landscaping, working in the kitchen, as well as electrical, plumbing, tiling, masonry and carpentry projects. Volunteers provide these and other skills that are needed to keep our facility and grounds in "tip-top" shape. It is most important, but not mandatory that all members be involved in our Volunteer Program. This is a great way for members to gain insight into the workings of the Italian Center and at the same time develop lasting relationships with brother members.

Dr. Victor A. Bacile Scholarship Program

This Scholarship Program is available to children and dependents of members of the Italian Center. Each year 4 academic scholarships totaling \$8,000 are awarded to college students who are pursuing their studies at a college or university.

Italian Center History Casa Italiana

To understand the history of the Italian Center one must be aware of the Italian people and their immigration to America. Between 1880 and 1920, approximately four million Italian immigrants traversed the Atlantic to the United States. These Italians came in search of the "American Dream". They were seeking a life that they could never have within the borders of poverty stricken Italy.

Originally, almost all of the Italian emigrants were men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five. These Birds of Passage planned to remain in the U.S. for a year or two, and then return to Italy with money. By 1900, more and more of the immigrants were women and children. Families came with the hope of settling down in the United States and creating a new life that would be continued for generations to come. The new immigrants usually settled into cities such as New York City. Italians developed completely Italian neighborhoods, which slowly grew as more Italian immigrants arrived. These "little Italy's" blossomed in most of America's cities and Poughkeepsie was no exception.

For the most part, these immigrants were poor and semi-literate. Because of their traditions of hard work and frugality, pride forbade them from accepting public assistance. These Italians quickly formed into clubs and fraternal organizations that provided financial and job assistance to their members. These organizations also provided a social gathering place in which the culture, language and food of the mother country could be shared. Our Italian Center was such an organization and it continues to serve as one to this day.



**Celebrate
Your
Heritage...**

**Join the
Italian
Center**

St. Joseph Day Celebration Thursday and Friday
Night Buffets Member of the Year's Scholarship
Annual Outdoor Clam Bake Annual Golf
Tournament Provincial
Dinners Children's Golf League
Members' Christmas Party Ladies Auxiliary Bocci
Leagues St. Valentine's Dinner Dance Wine and Food
Paring Events Monthly Meeting Night Dinners Children
Christmas Party Annual Clam Bake Member of the Year
Awards New Year's Eve Celebration
Day Celebration Members' Children's Christmas
Festa Italiana Dr. Bacile Annual Golf Tournament
Columbus Day Dinner Dance Provincial Dinner
Children's Halloween Party Golf League Member
Christmas Party Ladies Auxiliary Bocci Leagues St.
Valentine's Dinner Dance Wine and Food Paring Events
Monthly Meeting Night Dinners Children's Christmas
Party Annual Clam Bake Member of the Year Awards
New Year's Eve Celebration St. Joseph Day
Buffets Member of the Year's Scholarship
Children's Scholarship Program Festa Italiana
Dr. Bacile Annual Golf Tournament
Dinner Dance Provincial Dinner
Party Golf League
Auxiliary Bocci
Wine and Food
Dinners Children's
Member of the
Victory Lodge
Friday Night Buffets
Annual Outdoor
Tournament Clam
Dinners Children's
Members' Christmas
Leagues St. Valentine's Dinner Dance Wine and Food
Paring Events Monthly Meeting Night Dinners Children
Christmas Party Annual Clam Bake Member of the Year

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Italian Center | 227 Mill Street | Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 | (845) 454-1492 | www.theitaliancenter.com

Applicant:

Name:

Address:

Town/City:

State:

Zip:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

E-Mail:

Date of Birth:

Spouse's Name:

Employer:

Employer's Address:

Employer's Phone:

Interests and Trades:

(please list your trades, interests and skills)

Occupation/Profession:

Applicant's Trades:

Skills:

Interests:

Are you willing to periodically volunteer your services at the Center?

Yes

No

If yes, in what area/capacity?

Personal Information:

Have you ever been a member of the Italian Center? Yes No

When:

Did you serve in the military? (US or another country) Yes No

Dates Served:

Type of Discharge:

Are you a U.S. Citizen? Yes No

If not, do you intend to pursue citizenship?

Yes

No

Italian Heritage:

Father's Full Name:

Mother's Maiden Name:

Wife's Maiden Name:

Signatures:

Sponsor:

Print Name:

Applicant:

Print Name:

For use by the review committee:

Date Received

Date Interviewed

Date Read

Date Balloted

Date Initiated

Date Rejected

Comments

Completed Application must be accompanied by Application Fee of \$200. The First Year's Dues are Waived.