**President**

John Romano

**Vice-President**

Sue Connors

**Past President**

Charles DeStefano

**Orator**

Michele Caira Nortonen

**Recording Secretary**

Lynne Martell

**Financial Secretary**

Walter Palino

**Treasurer**

Cheryl Caira

**Trustees**

Alicia Johnson

Diane Garrity

Lennie Malvone

Julie Sbraccia-Manos

Janet Engrem

**Mistresses of Ceremony**

Laura Caira

Mary Kiesinger

**Sentinel**

Cheryl Licciardi

**Deputy**

Betty Sandquist

 **December 2020 Newsletter**

**Sons of Italy Events**

12/13/20 – Wilmington Sons of Italy **Children’s Drive-By Christmas Party**

12/26/20 – Wilmington Sons of Italy **Blood Drive (flyer attached)**

**06/2021 –** *Grand Lodge* **Calendar Raffle**

**Dues** letters have gone out. If you did not receive one, please contact Lynne Martell. Lynne\_martell@comcast.net 978-729-6044. Our dues remain at $44.00 per year due on January 1, 2021.

**Lodge Officer Elections** for 2021-2022

**Nominations** for our lodge officers for a two-year term, will take place **February 1 – 19th**. If you would like to run for an office or if you would like to nominate someone to run for an office, please contact **Charlie DeStefano** **deltasuv@gmail.com** **or 978-404-6777.**

We will have a **Virtual February Lodge Meeting on February 25, 2021,** where we will also take nominations from the floor**.** Elections will be by mail-in ballot and will take place in March/early April.

The offices to be elected are President, Vice-President, Orator, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, (5)Trustees, (2) Master/Mistresses of Ceremony, Guard/Sentinel, (5) Arbitrators, (5) Alternate Arbitrators, (3) Delegates and (3) Alternate Delegates.
*To run for President and Vice President, you must have held another office. To run for any other office, you must have been a member for six months. To vote you must have been a member for one month and have paid your dues. Social members are eligible to vote but may not hold an office.*

There are also four seats on the Roncalli Board of Directors. Contact Kevin Caira (**978-657-7734)**

A Letter from Our President

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I want to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.  I am also praying that the new year, 2021 brings us much good fortune by way of a vaccine so that we can get to the end of this horrible pandemic!  In the meantime, I hope that you all continue to be vigilant, take the proper precautions and stay safe!

As this year comes to a close, I wanted to reflect back on what we have accomplished and while we were not able to do much as a group, we did do a lot as a lodge to help others in our community.  We were recently praised by the State President for providing food to first responders throughout the Town of Wilmington, something we should all be proud of.  A shout out to Michele Caira Nortonen and her committee for putting that together!  The Outreach Committee lead by Lennie Malvone continues to provide help to those in need at the holidays by reaching out through the churches in town and providing gift certificates to those who need our help.  This year we added the Wilmington Veteran’s during Thanksgiving and Christmas through our own SOI member and Town of Wilmington Veteran’s Agent, Lou Cimaglia.  A successful Diaper Dance was held in March right before the pandemic shut everything down.  Janet Engrem and her committee continues to lend a big hand to Gifts of Love to help mothers in need with diapers, wipeys and more.  A second diaper and wipey drive was held this past fall as well.  Also, let us not forget our scholarship program headed up by Committee Chairwomen Karen Scalzi, we continue to provide educational help to the bright future stars of our lodge.  We provide quarterly donations of $500 to the Wilmington Food bank, we underwrite a pass to the New England Aquarium for the Wilmington Memorial Library, and we made the following donations prior to the pandemic hitting: C.A.T.S., Strings Attached, Boy Scouts Mini Golf, SEEM Collaborative, Special Olympics Unified Field Day, Parish of the Transfiguration Youth Game Day.  We sent members to the Grand Lodge Corn Hole Tourney, held a very successful Comedy Night, and even had a meatball contest!  Not bad for only having 2 meetings this year!!!!

As the new year comes into focus, we have planned a few activities like the car show and the yard sale.  We are also planning a socially distant diaper drive of some sort.  I look forward to working as part of the next president’s council to continue to provide many exciting events and activities as soon as we are able to do so safely.  As always, if you need any help please reach out to me and I will see if my council or I can help you out.

 Wishing you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Healthy New Year,

 John

jromano45@gmail.com

(617) 750-9749

Wilmington Sons of Italy Children’s Christmas Party – was held on Sunday, December 13, 2020 for one hour from 10 – 11 am. It was a DRIVE-BY event. Everyone had to wear a mask and remain in their cars. It was held at the Town Common Parking lot. It was free for children and grandchildren of members, up to and including grade 5. Santa visited and handed out gifts and a goody bag. Thank you, Sue Connors, Alicia Johnson, and Pete Connors AKA Santa, for running this.

**Wilmington Sons of Italy Blood Drive** – will be held on Saturday, **December 26, 2020** in the Parking Lot of the 4th of July Building from 9am – 3pm, by the Children’s Hospital Bloodmobile. A maximum of 26 donors will be allowed. We are still looking for approximately 15 more donors!!!

Contact Julie 978 284-3260 or sbracciamanos@comcast.net

BLOODMOBILE ¬ Histories will be done off of the bus as allowable ¬ Limited number of staff and donors on the Bloodmobile ¬ Reduced donor schedule by appointment only ¬ Disposable, single use reading materials and pens . You may be asked to wait in your car until it is your turn to be taken for donation.

DONOR SCREENING Prior to entering the Donor Center or Bloodmobile, donors will be pre-screened with the following questions and asked to reschedule their appointment either 14 or 28 days after symptoms resolve if they answer ‘yes’ to any of the questions below: ¬ Do you have fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, difficulty breathing, chills, or new onset of loss of taste or smell? (14-day deferral) ¬ Have you been diagnosed with or tested positive for COVID-19? (28-day deferral) ¬ Have you lived with a person who has had COVID-19, or have you had significant exposure to someone who has had COVID-19? (28-day deferral).

To book your appointment, visit: [www.halfpints.childrenshospital.org](http://www.halfpints.childrenshospital.org) or call us at (617)355-6677

**Update on Correspondence:**

We received Thank you notes from:

* The family of Laura Caira for our love and support and condolences during this difficult time and for the flowers and to those who attended the Ritual.
* Christian Bolanos for the Get Well Wishes and Gift Card to Market Basket. He Mentioned that the Sons of Italy is a wonderful organization and wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.
* Jerry and Ginny Pupa for our expression of sympathy for Ginny’s sister and for the Gift Card to Market Basket and Get Well wishes for Jerry. Ginny says he is doing much better!
* Wilmington Community Fund for our 4th quarter $500.00 donation to the Food Pantry.
* Huntington Disease Society for sponsoring three members, Kevin and Cheryl Caira and Michelle Lima.
* Sue thanked us for our donation to the Festival of Trees and said they raised over $55000.00.

Our Outreach committee will be donating Gift Cards to 5 families, one from each of the 5 churches, and to local veterans via Director of Veteran’s Affairs, Lou Cimaglia.

**Donation request should be made using the form on the web site** so that we have all the necessary information. Just click on donation request forms on the first page at [***http://www.wilmingtonsoi.org***](http://www.wilmingtonsoi.org)

**The Grand Lodge monthly meeting minutes are available to view and download from the “News” tab on the Grand Lodge Website (**[**www.osiama.org**](http://www.osiama.org)**)**

The **Grand Lodge** of Massachusetts is pleased to announce our annual **Calendar Raffle**, which will be held during June 2021. This fundraiser helps to support the Grand Lodge and provides your lodge with an excellent incentive to raise funds, as $3.00 of every ticket sold by your lodge will be reimbursed to you via a per capita credit.

Here is how it works:

• A $20.00 ticket purchase gives you 34 chances to win a share of $6,400.00.

• There will be a drawing every day in June 2021 with prizes ranging from $125.00 - $600.00 (see daily prize amounts below).

• Four “early-bird” drawings of $125.00 will take place from all tickets received at the Grand Lodge office on or before May 15, 2021.

• All winning tickets are placed back in the drum for the next drawing.

• A list of daily winners will be posted on the Grand Lodge website ([www.osiama.org](http://www.osiama.org))

Prizes $600 on first and last day. $125 daily. $250 on Saturdays. $300 on Sundays.

**Our lodge will have tickets. Contact John** jromano45@gmail.com (617) 750-9749



**Sunshine** – Report sunshine information to Joan Foresteire (978-658-6284)



**We send our best wishes to our members with December Birthdays and Anniversaries!**



We send our Prayers and Get Well wishes to Clayton Wentzell, Sara-Jean Caira Phillips, Kevin, Cheryl, Amy, and David Caira.

****

***\*\*\*\* Note from the Recording Secretary*** – Please **remember** to send e-mail or address **changes** to Lynne\_martell@comcast.net or call me (978-694-1632) with any address changes if you do not have e-mail.