**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

 **January 2021 Newsletter**

**Sons of Italy Events**

02/13/21 – Wilmington Sons of Italy **Virtual Valentine Bingo**

03/2021 – Wilmington Sons of Italy **Diaper Drive**

03/31/21 – *Grand Lodge C&E Trust* **100 Hungry Lions Raffle**

04/2021 **–** Wilmington Sons of Italy **Blood Drive**

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

**DUES ARE OVERDUE** - 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 and were due on January 1, 2021.

**Lodge Officer Elections** for 2021-2022

**Nominations** for our lodge officers for a two-year term are taking place now. 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)**

**Scholarships**

**Wilmington Sons of Italy Scholarships –** Our lodge scholarships are available to children entering college in the fall of 2021. **Parents** of these children must have been members of our lodge for 4 years. Our Graduate scholarships are available to any member who has been a member for 5 years and entering Graduate school in the fall of 2021. **Please note that the lodge Scholarships will be given out this year, however things are a little behind and applications are not yet ready but will be soon.** For more information please contact Karen Scalzi (978-423-0960) or e-mail kcscalzi@gmail.com.

**Grand Lodge** – The Scholarship Commission of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts through the Charitable and Educational Trust will award a minimum of twenty (20) scholarships, at a maximum of $1,000.00 each to properly qualified students who anticipate entering college in the fall of 2021. **Please note that the Grand Lodge Scholarships will be given out this year, however things are a little behind and applications are not yet ready but will be soon.**

**2021 National Leadership Grant Competition -** The Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF) is now accepting applications for the 2021 National Leadership Grant Competition. Each year, the SIF offers 10 to 12 merit-based scholarships (National Leadership Grants), ranging from $4,000 to $25,000, in a nationwide competition. The competition is open to U.S. citizens of Italian descent (at least one Italian or Italian-American grandparent) enrolled in a four-year undergraduate or graduate program at an accredited academic institution for the Fall 2021 term. Previous SIF scholarship winners are not eligible. (Please note: Additional eligibility requirements may apply to specific **scholarships.)**

**The National Leadership Grant scholarship information and application are posted on the National website at: https://osia.org/programs/scholarships/**

It is important to note that the submission requirements vary for each scholarship and applicants should pay close attention to these details. All scholarship materials and completed applications must be submitted online by **February 28, 2021**.

**Virtual Valentine Bingo** – On Saturday, **February 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm** we will be having a **Virtual Bingo Game**. All you need is a computer, tablet, or cell phone. To participate you must **send you name and e-mail address** to John Romano. jromano45@gmail.com It is free, and it is for **members only**. There will be ten games and prizes. You will receive a link to participate. For more info contact Sue smc19thhole@comcast.net 508-527-0785. **Deadline is February 5, 2021**.

**Diaper Drive –** Janet and her committee are planning a diaper drive during the month of **March**. More information will be forthcoming.

**Blood Drive –** The Blood Drive schedule for December 26th had to be cancelled due to a generator problem with the Bloodmobile. They are hoping for a new Bloodmobile in March and we will then have another **Blood Drive in April**. Info will be forthcoming**.**

**Update on Correspondence:**

We received Thank you notes from:

* the Family of Bob Oliviera. They thanked us for the flower arrangement, the ceremony, and the speech at the wake.
* Joe and Kaylee Caira for the Children’s Christmas Party gift bag for Lucy. Very much appreciated during these difficult times.
* Father Early of the Parish of the Transfiguration for our donation.
* Lou Cimaglia of the Veterans Services for the Gift Cards for Veterans.
* Cindy Rankin for the Gift Card.
* Sara Jean Phillips for the Gift Card for her hospital stay and the Gift Card for the birth of her son.

We received a Christmas Card from Sally and Stan.

**Donation Requests**

* We received a donation request from Charlie and Barbara DeStefano for their participation in a Polar Plunge for Special Olympics. They will each receive $100.00 for this cause.
* The council voted to donate $200.00 to WHS Students who are doing a HER fundraiser to supply female products to two shelters.

The Wakefield Lodge is hosting a lecture by **zoom** on **Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 7:00 PM**. Joseph Sciame, President of the National Foundation will be the guest speaker. Joe is also a National Past President. He will talk on the Sons of Italy Foundation and the Garibaldi Meucci Museum.

You can learn about the museum at <https://www.garibaldimeuccimuseum.com/>.

The Wakefield is inviting the Wilmington Lodge to the Lecture Program.

 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85944859732?pwd=bjBtZXdhZGxoc3ZXSTYwZTI4UGN0UT09>

Meeting ID: 859 4485 9732
Passcode: 014401

**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)**)**

**100 Hungry Lions Raffle** - The Grand Lodge C&E Trust of which Kevin is the Chairman and John is a Trustee, is holding a 100 Hungry Lions Raffle to raise money for Scholarships. ONLY 100 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD!  A sample  ticket is attached.   The prize structure is as follows: First prize $2000, Second prize $1000, Third prize $500, Fourth prize $250 and Fifth - Tenth is $200 each. The total prize money is $4,950 and if all tickets are sold, we will raise $5000.00 for the Trust. The drawing will be held on **March 31st, 2021**. Please let John know if you are interested in purchasing a ticket or if a group of you want to pitch in together to get one like we have done previously with the Pot of Gold drawing. **Contact John** jromano45@gmail.com (617) 750-9749.

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

A Letter from Our President

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

 As this crazy pandemic rages on, we just lost one of our members to this horrendous virus.  I implore you to be safe, stay home when you can, wear a mask and do not attend any gatherings outside of your own immediate family.  I am not trying to be the virus police or a preacher, I just want you all to be safe.  I cannot bear to hear about the loss of another member or their family to this hideous virus.  One is already too many.  Vinny T  “SANTA” will be dearly missed.

I hope that you all are doing well, if there is anything me or my council can do to help you out, let me know and we will do our best, as I have stated many times, to help where we can.  My cell number is below, so if you just need to chat to alleviate some boredom, just give me a call.

As you can see in the rest of the newsletter, we have several things going on or just completed to help out others in our community and beyond.  This is something I continue to be proud of and you all should be as well.

Also, we are proceeding with our Annual Elections and I encourage you to run for one of the officer positions.  If you do not want to hold one of the regular officer positions, put your name in to be an Arbitrator – we need 5, plus 5 alternates.  These are virtually never needed – none since I have been a member for the last 9 years or so – however they are required.  Nominations are due – see the election details in the newsletter!

Lastly, I want to thank my council for their continued good work during the 10 months and counting of the pandemic, it is greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you all in person sometime soon.

 Sincerely,

 John

(617) 750-9749

Jromano45@gmail.com



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



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



We send our Prayers and Get Well wishes to Cindy Rankin and Diane Garrity.



We send our Prayers and deepest condolences to the family of our brother and longtime member, Robert Oliviera.

We send our condolences to Joe and Lynne Martell on the death of Joe’s aunt, Theresa Fitzgerald.



We send our Prayers and deepest condolences to the family of our brother, our Santa, Vincent Tortorici.

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***\*\*\*\* 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.