

Volume 5
Issue 2
June 2022

Il Giornale

Newsletter for: Grand Lodge of Virginia
Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America

*A note from the
Editor:*

*Benvenuta
estate!*

*I am so pleased
to prepare and
email my first
newsletter to our
Grand Lodge
and local lodge
members. I am
always available
to discuss your
articles or your
lodge events and
look forward to
hearing from
our brothers and
sisters who wish
to keep everyone
informed of
current news.*

*Please submit
articles and
pictures to:
[colette.sciscilo@
gmail.com](mailto:colette.sciscilo@gmail.com)*

A note from the Grand Lodge President

Cari amici,

I hope this edition of *Il Giornale* finds everyone in good health and enjoying the warmer weather. It is hard to believe how quickly this year is passing us by.

It has been an extremely challenging time for everyone during the past two years, and I can say how pleased I am to see the adaptability and flexibility of all the members of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. We have had to adapt to going from in-person meetings to meetings via Zoom. Zoom provided us with an alternative to being unable to meet in person and helped us stay in touch with our members.

It is nice to see that all the lodges are now meeting in person and continue to expand their social events. I would like to ask the presidents of the various lodges to consider using Zoom as an alternative (when it makes sense for those unable to attend a meeting in person) as we have found that the use of Zoom in addition to in-person meetings has increased attendance.

Our new National President, Bob Bianchi, has been hard at work trying to modernize the organization. The national website www.osia.org has been updated along with the creation of a **Facebook** page (Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America); there is a **YouTube** page as well. And for those on **Instagram** you can follow with these hashtags: #OSDIA, #ItalianAmerican

There is a weekly TV show called *The Italian America Show* every Sunday at 8:00 PM ET. You can join by typing www.http:news12.plus/nyc/

Also, soon to be posted on **YouTube** are videos of grand lodges (including GLVA), called “this is us.” It is a collage of lodge events put to music and promoting OSDIA.

We hope that all our members and family members take advantage of these new social media platforms promoting OSDIA.

If all the items I have listed above sound confusing to you, just reach out to your children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews to help you get connected to any or all the above items.

If you can find someone that can actually show you what all those different programs are and can explain to you how to get to them and what they all mean, **PLEASE LET ME**

KNOW who they are. We are looking for each grand lodge to have a social media contact to help us promote OSDIA. This person does not need to be a member. **This person will help us with ensuring we are providing all the numerous social media events to lodge members. They will become a part of the Grand Lodge council heading up the social media committee.**

Have a safe and enjoyable summer. I hope you enjoy some of the lost time from the past few years with family and friends and I hope to see you at the next Grand Lodge Quarterly Meeting.

Ciao,
Larry Brennan
Grand Lodge President

Grand Lodge of Virginia
38th Biennial Convention
And
100th Anniversary Celebration

The Grand Lodge of Virginia Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America will hold their 38th Biennial Convention on the weekend of April 28-29, 2023. The convention and all related celebrations will be held at the Roma Lodge #254 in Virginia Beach, VA.

Marie Siebeking (Roma Lodge), Amanda Hertzog (Italo American Citizens Lodge) and Beverly Amante (Peninsula Italian American Lodge) are coordinating the convention. Jim DeLucia (Peninsula Italian American Lodge) is working on gathering information for the 100th Anniversary celebration.

In conjunction with the convention, we will be celebration the 100th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. At present, 100th Anniversary festivities will be held at both evening dinners with the majority of the celebration being held on Saturday evening.

All current and former members of lodges in Virginia are encouraged to join us if they can.

Since we are still in the planning stages, more information will be coming out at a later date. This information will include: hotel information, meal costs, plans for the convention and plan for the 100th Anniversary celebration.

If you have any questions about the convention, please contact Marie Siebeking at kp59pe@cox.net, Amanda Hertzog at Amanda.pelt@hotmail.com, or Beverly Amante at beverlyamante@gmail.com

If you have something you think might be of interest for the 100th anniversary please contact Jim DeLucia at JimDeLucia@aol.com

Local Lodges

Since 2020, when the pandemic began, local lodges suspended monthly meetings and events. The Grand Lodge assisted us through Zoom to meet virtually for council meetings but we all missed the personal interactions with family and friends, the missed opportunities (or those put on hold) to do community outreach, and all of the fun events we were used to in celebrating our Italian heritage.

Despite the difficult times and the new lifestyle we were all unused to, we have thankfully recovered to the point where we are getting back together, slowly and with caution. Here is a look at a few recent occasions where and when our local lodges came together once again.

Giuseppe Verdi Lodge

The Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #315 members decided it was time to start enjoying some fun events after being curtailed for the last couple of years.

A Paint on Canvas event was selected and took place at the lodge on March 12th. Members and friends all seemed to enjoy expressing their own personality for their patriotism, for the USA and their Italian heritage. Good times were enjoyed by all who attended.

(Submitted by Mary Louise Smith)



COMMUNITY DONATIONS

(Contributed by Arthur Smith)

The Giuseppe Verdi Lodge elected to donate to the “First Responders” serving locally where our Lodge is located. Three service organizations were selected, each receiving \$750. These were:

Hanover Emergency Communications, located at the Hanover Courthouse Complex.
Representing the 9-1-1 staff was Charlie Udriet who stated:

“We are honored that you wish to recognize our organization and our team with a special donation.

Annually each year we celebrate National Telecommunicator Week the 2nd week of April...your gift will be used to help recognize our 9-1-1 team members for their dedication and service to the community.”



Arthur and Charlie Udriet

Hanover Fire and Emergency Services, both stationed at Company 6 (Henry Volunteer Fire Dept.) located on Chamberlayne Avenue.

Contact for the Fire/EMS services was DeWitt C. "Weet" Baldwin III, Deputy Chief.

Our donation will be used for an annual awards banquet held to recognize the emergency medical services responders based at station six. Awards are generally based on merit, time of service and performance for previous years. Weet responded to our donation stating:



“Let me begin by saying how nice it was to meet you yesterday and "Thank You". I can't begin to explain the shock when I opened the envelope to find such a gracious donation. On behalf of our entire station, I want to again Thank You and the entire lodge for thinking of us. Your kindness will provide a great deal of support for our members.”

Fire Fighter Matt Engiles, Arthur, Lt. Jason Scott, Fire Fighter Ryan Hoy and Fire Fighter Ha Starzer

Thanks to ALL in the Lodge for supporting this community service through donations, purchasing tickets for the Christmas baskets, and making/buying/selling our Brunswick Stew.

Italian Heritage Lodge

Bocce at the Lillo's – IHL Bocce and Picnic 2022

Through the graciousness and kindness of Dennis and Eleanor Lillo, IHL was able to restore our “Bocce at the Lillo’s” picnic event. The Lillo’s opened their home and their professional bocce court for our annual picnic and games to our members, their families and friends. This has been a long standing and anticipated gathering that we have had to forego since the beginning of the pandemic in March of 2020. It was a beautiful June day, lots of laughter and conversation, grilling and picnic food on the menu, and rousing and competitive games of bocce. IHL Financial Secretary, Ellie Lillo, spent many hours digging and replanting the different varieties of plants in her garden to repot and sell to members as an IHL fundraiser. We also celebrated “Buona Festa del Papà” with the many grandfathers, fathers, and sons in attendance.



IHL 2022
“Bocce at the Lillo’s”
And Summer Picnic
**Molto
divertente!**



Peninsula Italian American Lodge

Peninsula Italian American Lodge #2145 Picnic

On Sunday, May 15th, members of the Peninsula Italian American Lodge #2145 met for their annual spring picnic. As many other lodges can attest to, the pandemic changed many things that we could or could not do. We were able to meet on a limited basis during 2021 with such events as our picnic. We have started to meet on a more regular schedule in 2022 with a highlight so far being our 2022 picnic! We usually have our picnic at the Bethel Fam Camp picnic area which we did again this year. Once again, the weather was wonderful! At this picnic, we had a surprise celebration for member Robbin Circulo's son Samuel, who made his First Communion that day. Member Stasi Wipperman, her husband Scott and her children decorated the pavilion for the occasion. Member Bob Mason did most of the grilling while members Bob Amante, Bev Amante and Terry DeLucia did most of the set up and some of the cooking. Members were presented with a buffet that included sausage, peppers and onions, hot dogs, hamburgers and all the fixings. Members were asked to bring a dessert to share. We played Corn Hole, took walks and just relaxed on a beautiful day.

What was wonderful about the picnic was that we got to see some members who we have not seen in quite some time! A good time was had by all.



One of our oldest and longest active members, Remo D'Antonio, made it to the picnic.

He is sitting with Mary Ann Amato and Rosemarie Tinari.



Our First Communion boy, Samuel, with his mother (right) and a family friend.



Our grill master, Bob Mason.



Someone we haven't seen since the picnic before the pandemic shut things down, is one of our former Presidents Mindy Sherback with her son Tre! We were all glad to finally meet him.

2022 Lodge Installations

Roma Lodge #254

Members of Roma Lodge #254 gathered on Sunday March 6th for the installation of new officers followed by dinner. Marie Siebeking was installed as the new President.

Roma Lodge is one of only two lodges in Virginia who have their own lodge building. It is located at 3097 Magic Hollow Blvd in Virginia Beach. Roma Lodge is very active in the Virginia Beach community. They are involved in giving to Mission United of United Way, Veterans House, programs for the underprivileged as well as participating in the VB Neptune Festival Parade.



President Siebeking presents outgoing President Tony Alfano with a gift of thanks from the lodge.



President Marie Siebeking presenting Flo Alfano with a bouquet of flowers.



Members of the outgoing board are given applause from members of the lodge and guests.



The new Roma Lodge board: newly installed President, Marie Siebeking, outgoing President, Tony Alfano, Roma's State Deputy, Amanda Herzog who acted as Herald, and State Financial Secretary & Roma Lodge member, John Gossner, who acted as assistant Herald.



Newly installed President, Marie Siebeking, receives a bouquet of roses from the lodge.

Italian Heritage Lodge #2517

On Sunday, March 13, 2022, IHL Officers, Trustees, families and friends, gathered after a two-year absence to show our appreciation for the outgoing officers and to congratulate the incoming officers taking the oath of office for the new term. Presiding over our ceremony was incoming IHL Orator, Joseph Scafetta, Jr., who was installed by Larry Brennan, State President, virtually the previous day. A delicious homemade Italian dinner followed the ceremony. Our traditional “White Elephant” event followed dinner to support our lodge.

Below, left: President-elect Dawn Falsinotti looks on as past State President and current IHL Orator, Joseph Scafetta, Jr., presides over the IHL installation of officers; IHL Past President Joe La Marca acted as Herald and assisted Roy Schender, Master of Ceremonies, and Sandy Schender, Mistress of Ceremonies, with their regalia.

Below, right: IHL 2022-2023 Officers and Trustees.



Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #315



Italo-American Citizens Lodge, #1077

Members of the Italo-American Citizens Lodge #1077 held their installation meeting on Sunday, March 13, 2022 at Dennis Spaghetti & Steak House in Chesapeake, Virginia. Members of the lodge usually meet on the second Sunday of the month at Dennis'.

On hand for the installation of new officers were State President Larry Brennan who is also a member of this lodge, as well as their State Deputy Ellie Bove, who acted as Herald for the ceremony. Paul Siebeking (current State Orator and past State President) and Marie Siebeking (current State 1st Vice President and past State President) acted as assistant Heralds for the installation ceremony. Amanda Hertzog was elected President for a second term.



Herald Ellie Bove calls up the outgoing officers.



Outgoing officers remove their regalia, aided by assistant Heralds Paul & Marie Siebeking.



Incoming officers take the oath of office.



State President Larry Brennan hands the gavel over to newly-elected President Amanda Hertzog.

Peninsula Italian American Lodge #2145

On Sunday, March 20th members of the Peninsula Italian American Lodge #2145 came together at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Nettles Drive in Newport News, Virginia to install a new board and to have a meal together. We had several new board members installed. Beverly Amante took over as President from her husband Bob. Attending the meeting, besides lodge members, were State President Larry Brennan who presided over the installation, State Financial Secretary John Gossner who acted as Herald, State 1st Vice President and past State President Marie Siebeking and State Orator and past State President Paul Siebeking who both acted as assistant Heralds. Also joining us was Italo-American Citizens Lodge President Amanda Hertzog and her husband Dan, who is also an officer in their lodge.

Member Michelle Romanello and her husband Ed prepared our meal and Michelle and Terry DeLucia coordinated a St. Joseph's Table. Members brought in baked goods for the table. The goods were sold and the money raised was used for our lodge and to support our many charities.

During the 2021 lodge year, the board voted to suspend dues for lodge members. The lodge paid all per capita for that year. We were also able to give three scholarships to local graduating seniors as well as sending contributions to Habitat for Humanity, Transitions Family Violence, Newport News Child Advocacy and of course, our national charities!



Outgoing officers with President Bob



Incoming PIAL officers take the oath of office.



The Saint Joseph Table.
Mary Dolores Circulo (right)
and Terry DeLucia (left)
mark items for sale.



State President Larry Brennan
hands the gavel to incoming
President Beverly Amante.



Those helping with the installation:
Marie Siebeking, Larry Brennan,
Beverly Amante, John Gossner and
Paul Siebeking

Italian Culture and Heritage

In 1922, the Supreme Lodge of OSIA established the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Since this is the centennial celebration year, we will cover events leading to its establishment. Prior to the establishment of the Grand Lodge, the representatives from the local lodges would meet. *The Times Dispatch* of Newport News, reported on July 2, 1921 that members of local lodges from Norfolk, Portsmouth, Newport News were to meet with local Richmond lodges at Columbo Hall the following day. The purpose was to elect officers for the Grand Lodge. The article noted that it was estimated there were 1,200 Italo-Americans in the State.

Three days later, the newspaper reported that Grand Lodge of Virginia of the Sons of Italy was organized. It noted that one of the delegates at the meeting, Mr. Peter Bonini of Newport News remained over and was a visitor at the races at the Fair Grounds. The group passed a resolution recommending that all Italians living in Virginia become American citizens.

Festivals Celebrated In Italy During July

Madonna del Carmine (Feast Day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel) on July 16. It is celebrated throughout Italy with processions, most involving statues of the Madonna and floats.

Sagra del Pane (Tuscany) is a bread festival that features music and dance.

Festa di San Giacomo in Caltagirone, Sicily celebrated with a procession of St. James' relics.

Festa di pan ner in Perloz in the Aosta Valley region of northwestern Italy. This Black Bread Festival uses a 600-year-old oven to bake bread.

Contributed by Jim DeLucia

Grand Lodge of Virginia Quarterly Meeting

The Grand Lodge of Virginia will meet for its quarterly meeting on *Sunday, September 18, 2022.*

The meeting will be held at the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #315 in Mechanicsville, VA.

Council members and lodge presidents are asked to arrive no later than 10:30 am.

It will be determined at a later day if there will be a foundation meeting.

Lodge presidents will meet at 10:30.

Parliamo Italiano!

Meeting and Greeting

Words and phrases:

Good morning.
 Good evening.
 Good night.
 Hello. (formal)
 Hello. (informal)
 Pleasure (to meet you)!
 Goodbye. (all)
 How are you?
 I'm fine, thanks!
 Thank you.
 Thanks a million.
 You're welcome.

Parole e frase:

Buongiorno.
Buonasera.
Buonanotte.
Salve.
Ciao.
Piacere.
Arrivederci.
Come stai?
Sto bene, grazie!
Grazie.
Grazie mille.
Prego.



Family Members

Words and phrases:

Mother
 Father
 Brother
 Sister
 Grandmother
 Grandfather
 Aunt
 Uncle
 Cousin
 My family

Parole e frase:

la madre; la mamma
il padre; il papa
il fratello
la sorella
la Nonna
il Nonno
la zia
lo zio
la cugina/il cugino
la mia famiglia



Conversazione

Buongiorno, Nonna.
Buongiorno, Lucia.
Ciao, Mamma.
Ciao, Lucia. Come stai?
Sto bene, grazie.

Can you translate this Italian conversation?

“Lettura Estiva”
(Summer Reading)

Living La Dolce Vita
Bring the Passion, Laughter and Serenity of Italy into Your Daily Life
by Raeleen D’Agostino Mautner

Do you want to know the Italian secrets to living a happy, passionate, and well-balanced life? Are you searching for a guide to bring “The Sweet Life” into your own life?

In her book, *Living La Dolce Vita*, author Raeleen D’Agostino Mautner shows you how to follow the example of the Italians for an increased zest for life, Italians who “view each moment as a gift,” while filling their days with passion, peace and joy.

Ms. Mautner has several suggestions of what the Italian culture emphasizes as the pathway to contentment. Here are a few:

- ❖ Attend to important relationships with immediate and distant family members
 - ❖ Nurture a network of great friends and eliminate false friends from your life
- ❖ Bring romance back into view on all levels of your life, whether you have a partner or not
- ❖ Make each meal a tribute to your body and soul. Focus on small portions of quality food
 - ❖ Consider where your true wealth lies, beyond your worth in monetary currency
- ❖ Live the “bella figura” philosophy in what you say, do and the way you present yourself
- ❖ Communicate in a positive, uplifting way that inspires, not diminishes, the people you love
 - ❖ Reconnect with your spiritual side
 - ❖ Change your attitude if you want to change your mood

She says, “I like to review each of these dimensions of a “dolce vita” when I open my eyes in the morning. If I adhere to these guidelines, I go to sleep at night with the feeling that it has been a day well-lived.”

I would like to acknowledge those who assisted and advised me, and contributed articles, pictures and ideas for this quarterly *Il Giornale*:

Beverly Amante, Bob Amante, Larry Brennan, Jim DeLucia, Eleanor Lillo, Nancy Perrelli, Joseph Scaffeta, Jr., Mary Louise Smith and Arthur Smith.

Mostly, I am grateful for the support of *i miei amici italiani!*

To all, please have a safe, happy, relaxing, enjoyable and fun summer, whether traveling, at home with family, or reuniting with family or friends. I will be looking for your pictures and stories to share with everyone in the next Il Giornale!

~ C.S.