



# IL GIORNALE



AN OFFICIAL ONLINE PUBLICATION OF THE  
GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA  
ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA

VOLUME XVI No. 2

SPRING 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Welcome to spring, the birds are singing and the flowers are blooming but, Mother Nature's Weather is not mindful of the time of the year and should be cooperating. By the time we get to the Convention in the middle of June we will be wishing for some cooler weather.

Congratulations to all of our newly elected and re-elected local lodge presidents this year. I was pleased to attend several of the installation ceremonies at our local lodges and apologize for those I just could not schedule. I want to thank you and your councils for their hospitality and wish you all the very best for a successful year.

I attended the Winter National Plenary Session in Bonita Springs, Florida on February 24-27, 2011. A few highlights are:

**MEMBERSHIP** - As of December 31, 2010 we have 52,019 National OSIA members.

**COLLEY'S ANEMIA & ALZHEIMER** - Colley's Anemia is making great progress with their research. They came out with an oral medication which cleanses the blood that patients do not have use the pumps. Alzheimer's number of patients is on the rise. They are also making great progress with some experimental medications.

**FUNDRAISING** - The National Cookbooks are in publication now, and will be ready at the end of May. The price will be \$24.95 and don't know how many each Grand Lodge will receive to sell. There will be another raffle with the ticket being \$50.00 each. I received the tickets this week and sent all Lodges Presidents their tickets to sell.

**COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (CSJ)**. At the present time CSJ has a shortfall of \$50,000. They are asking for a one time donation of \$1.00 for every member of our Grand Lodge to help with the shortfall. At our March 2011 Grand Lodge meeting it was voted on that the Grand Lodge would donate \$750.00 to National CSJ.

**NATIONAL PRESIDENTS CABINET** - The By-laws committee asked all National Officers and State Presidents that they want to rescind the By-law

that the National President can only run for one term. If passed, this will allow the National President serve two - two year terms if reelected. All other Vice President can serve two terms. All five (5) Vice Presidents and Trustees and State Presidents voted to rescind this By-Law. There will be a secret ballot sent to all delegates of the National Convention of 2009 asking for their vote and at the National Convention in August 2011 we will get the results. The second By-law change that is being rewritten is concerning At Large National Members and membership.

Frances Cabrini Lodge # 2723 is organizing and running our 32<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention in Winchester at the Millwood Station Banquet Hall. The dates for the convention are June 17 - 18, 2011. Everything is coming together. The agenda for the convention is just about ready. We have most of the delegates identified. Delegate certification letters will be going out to our local lodge Presidents by May 15<sup>th</sup> and must be returned before June 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be a dinner buffet on Friday night with a Sera del Divertimento, or Fun Night. I'm sure it will be spectacular. Those attending need to make their own reservations with the Holiday Inn Hotel and send your delegate registration fee to Josepha Ressa. All the required forms are available on the Grand Lodge Website ([www.osiava.org](http://www.osiava.org)). We need all your support to make our 32<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention a great success. This is your Grand Lodge, please support it and voice your opinion, we need your help.

The State Scholarship Committee will be awarding three Scholarships this year at the State Convention if we have sufficient applications. The Nunnenkamp-Vidiri Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000.00, Catherine Kastenbaum for \$1000.00 and one additional State Scholarship for \$1,000.00 will be announced at the awards dinner Saturday night. Please have your children and grand children apply if they qualify.

The next meeting of the Grand Lodge of Virginia Council will be held on Friday, 2.00 pm,

June 17, 2011 at the Millwood Station Banquet Hall in Winchester. There will be the President's Cabinet meeting at 1:00 pm and OSIA Foundation meeting at 1:30 pm. After the Grand Lodge meeting our Breakout State Committee meetings will follow. On Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup> we will be opening of the Biennial Convention beginning at 9:30 am.

God Bless all of you, all our deceased members and God Bless all our service men and women of our armed forces, especially those who are in harms way, who are protecting our freedom and God Bless America

Thanks again for your support.

Fraternally Yours,  
Marie Mascaro Siebeking

Marie Mascaro Siebeking  
State President



## 2011 NELA GALA

Each year since 1989, the Sons of Italy Foundation® has honored outstanding Italian American scholars, business leaders and humanitarians at a gala event in Washington, D.C. The National Education & Leadership Awards (NELA) Gala is the SIF's most important fund-raising and public affairs event and also highlights the foundation's commitment to educational excellence, leadership and the betterment of society.

At the NELA Gala each year, 10 to 12 of the brightest and most talented scholars of Italian descent, chosen from a highly selective national competition, receive substantial awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 to accredited colleges and universities. The SIF also recognizes its annual award recipients, who are well-known Italian Americans with outstanding records in their professions and communities.

The hallmark of the SIF's public affairs program, the NELA Gala has traditionally been attended by the U.S president and other leaders in government, business, sports, labor, entertainment, the arts and the media. Tickets are available for \$500 per person with \$300 tax deductible. Please go to [www.osia.org](http://www.osia.org) for more details and to purchase tickets.



## 32<sup>ND</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION

The convention will be held at Millwood Station Banquet Hall in Winchester, Virginia. The dates of the convention are June 17-19, 2011. The rooms are at the Holiday Inn, which is only ½ mile from the Banquet Hall. It is a very short, easy drive between the two. The Holiday Inn room rates are very good at \$85.60 per night (this is including tax). The location is conveniently located very closely to the I-81 interchange.

The convention registration fee will again be \$130 per person. This includes the Friday night buffet dinner on June 17<sup>th</sup>, breakfast & lunch on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, the Banquet on Saturday evening plus all documents, credentials, and convention materials.

The Friday evening event will also include a Gift Auction. Saturday evening's entertainment will be Sam Vitale, Tenor, and a DJ for dancing.

There will be a special breakfast at Castiglia's Italian Eatery on Sunday morning. This is an optional event with an additional cost of \$10/person.

Please contact your local lodge president for information on attending this wonderful event. Anyone can attend as an observer.

## GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA

*Grand Council 2009-2011*

**State President**

***Marie Siebeking***

757-481-4030

**State First Vice President**

***Pauline Moroni***

804-658-3475

**State Second Vice President**

***Carmen DeFranks***

703-368-2035

**State Immediate Past President**

***Paul Siebeking***

757-481-4030

**State Orator**

***Lou Moschetto***

540-868-0195

**State Recording Secretary**

***Mary Louise Smith***

804-781-0517

**State Financial Secretary**

***Bob Mason***

757-484-8003

**State Treasurer**

***Bob Amante***

757-851-9453

**State Trustees**

***Susan Agosta***

703-491-4796

***Mary Ann Canale***

757-877-2082

***John Gossner***

757-464-6042

***Virginia Hudert***

804-273-9640

***Mary Ann Moschetto***

540-868-0195

***Mario Minervini***

757-426-2964

***Susan Yungbluth***

757-872-8849

**Grand Lodge Web Site:**

**<http://www.osiava.org>**



## LOCAL LODGE PRESIDENTS

**Roma Lodge No. 254**

***Virginia Beach***

John William Del Russo, Sr. (757-497-0240)

homerunsigs@cox.net

**Giuseppe Verdi Lodge No. 315**

***Richmond***

Aldo Funai (804-744-1945)

afunai@verizon.net

**Italo-American Citizens Lodge No. 1077**

***Portsmouth***

Lawrence Brennan (757-645-4208)

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**George Washington Lodge No. 2038**

***Alexandria/Annandale/Arlington***

Audreenia DeFranks (703-368-2035)

Fxcobadge334@aol.com

**Peninsula Italian American Lodge No. 2145**

***Newport News/Hampton***

Beverly Amante (757-851-9453)

Pial2145@hotmail.com

**Italian Heritage Lodge No. 2517**

***Fairfax***

Frank Marcinkowski (703-323-8447)

fmarcinkow@verizon.net

**Bell'America Lodge No. 2656**

***Fredericksburg***

Christine Stadter (540-665-3034)

StadterCM.CTR@EFV.USMC.MIL

**Frances Cabrini Lodge No. 2723**

***Winchester***

Tony Rulli (540-869-0813)

a.rulli@comcast.net

**Italia Mia Lodge No. 2796**

***South Riding/Chantilly***

Jay DeCianno

jdecianno@goombawine.com

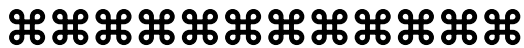
## NEWS FROM THE LODGES

**Roma Lodge No. 254:** Recent events include our second 'Centennial Meeting' held on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>; the Festa di San Giuseppe Dinner Dance held on April 2<sup>nd</sup>; music by Mando Duo held on Friday April 8<sup>th</sup>; (that's lodge members John & Sonja Konlande playing great Italian tunes on their mandolin and guitar). Coming attractions include a Seafood Night scheduled for Good Friday April 22<sup>nd</sup>; an Italian Attic Flea Market for Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> (our return into the "flea market" business); and finally our annual Memorial Day Wreath Laying and Picnic on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.

The most significant development this past quarter is Roma Lodge's entry into the world of 'facebook' accessible by searching the words "Sons of Italy VaBeach". This is courtesy of brother John Diamante and his wizardry with the computer.

Please remember Roma Lodge members Wilma Regan who passed away in January and Vicent Anthony Filpi III AO1(AW) USN who passed away aboard the USS Enterprise (CV 65) in March.

John William DelRusso, President



### **Giuseppe Verdi Lodge No. 315:**

In February the lodge held its annual election of officers. It's probably evident by now that I was again elected President. Lord, what were they thinking. All kidding aside, I take my selection as a great honor and hope that I can live up to the expectations of each of our members. They certainly deserve the best that I can give

As noted in my last report, Brother Joe Devincents has become the lead for our Cooley's Anemia fund drive. Joe expressed his desire for the lodge to get more involved in fund raising for Cooley's and without hesitation I took advantage of his passion and appointed him head of the committee. He has developed his Cooley's Angels and together with Debbie Corritone have done an outstanding job of mobilizing the lodge in support of this cause. Last month they sponsored a bake sale / silent auction and raised a sizeable sum for the cause. Currently they are in the process of becoming a part of

Cooley's first Care Walk to take place on May 1<sup>st</sup>. So grab a pair of comfortable shoes and plan to come walk with us. The walk will start at 3:30 p.m., right after our monthly meeting, at Byrd Park near the Columbus statue. If you have questions, contact me (afunai@verizon.net) and I will forward them to Joe or Debbie.

After a small decline at the end of last year, membership is back on the rise. We are currently preparing to vote on 5-6 new members and have applications still coming in. I congratulate our Vice President, Paul DaVia, for his efforts in this regard and look forward to 2011 being a banner year for new members.

Aldo Funai, President



**George Washington Lodge No. 2038:** Discussion will be held on future activities at this Months Council meeting (1) National Gallery of ART East Building Washington D.C " Venice: Canaletto and his rivals now through May 30 A Display and his paintings capturing Venice. The venues, by artist such as Canaletto, Francesco Guardi, Bernado Bellotto and Michele Marieschi Time open 10:00 To 5:00 Monday-Saturday 11:00 to 6:00 on Sunday Location Fourth Street and Constitution Ave N.W. (2) The Cooleys Anemia Foundation Care Walk Sponsored by the George Washington Lodge. What we are asking is each member will take a Donation form.and ask any friends Barbers, beauticians,doctors Etc. Donations can be of any amount . it would be nice if This support from our members could raise any where from \$50:00 to \$100.00 per card for a few steps can mean a new future for children born with Thalassemia . Our walk will be limited to the Mason Substation property Checks to be made out to the George Washington Lodge COOLEYS ANEMIA Fund Raiser. Joe will then Cut One Check to VA. Order Sons Of Italy. Grand Lodge Foundation. Lets make this a successful fund raiser (3) Lodge Picnic We have Been invited to have a lodge Picnic picnic Quantro Goomba's Winery located in Aldie Va. This winery. is owned by 4 members of the Italia Mia Lodge in south riding. and possible have this outing with The Italia Mia Lodge they have a patio or picnic area. bring the grill and food and party

and play Bocce what a way to spend a Sunday afternoon (4) Sunday concerts provided by the United States Marine Band these concerts are held on Sundays at the Northern VA Community College in Alexandria this is free except paying to park

Audreenia M. De Franks, President



**Peninsula Italian American Lodge 2145:** The Peninsula Italian American Lodge is very pleased to report that it has gained 3 new members. What is particularly of merit, is that all three are Christopher Newport University students and the youngest members ever for the Lodge. We now have members born in every decade from 1910 to 1990. Our two 19 year olds may be the youngest in the State!

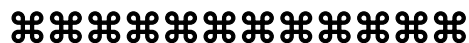
In February we held elections. Many board members returned, some in the same position others in new positions. Beverly Amante was elected the new President. An installation ceremony took place on Sunday, March 13, 2011.

We are also pleased to announce that we approved a donation of \$1000 to CNU for students studying in Italy. We hope to do a formal ceremony to make the donation in April. In support of another University, we had a booth at Old Dominion University's annual International Festival which was held on March 27th.

In April, we will participate in the 11th Annual Hampton International Children's Festival. This will be our 11th year participating in this festival. We will have a tent where the children can visit and learn about the Italian culture.

Upcoming events include our general meeting on 4/17/11, a pizza and movie night along with our annual picnic in June.

Beverley Amante, President



**Italian Heritage Lodge No. 2517:** On April 15, representatives of the Italian Heritage Lodge met with the principal of Mantua School in Fairfax to

present a \$500.00 check for continued support of Italian classes at the Elementary School. Participants included Frank Marcinkowski, President of the Lodge, Lucio D'Andrea, VP of the Lodge, Tony Finocchiaro, Lodge Trustee, Jan-Marie Fernandez, Principal, Mantua Elementary School and Marina Afentakis, Italian teacher. Tony Finocchiaro presented the check, which he donated to the Lodge for Italian in Schools in memory of his wife, Marge who succumbed to cancer last year. The Principal took the Lodge members to a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Italian class. Ms Afentakis came in, greeted the children in Italian and proceeded to conduct the class in Italian. The students, including Asians and other minorities responded to Ms. Afentakis in Italian! Work included math and grammar where the children expressed themselves in Italian. The Lodge members were most impressed with the student's command of Italian. which is taught to all students in all grades at Mantua. This is the only school in Northern Virginia doing this. The strongest Lodge advocate for the program over the past 5 years who has been a major factor in its success, Art Moscatello, could not be at this meeting. Art has been the driving force behind the Lodge's support to Mantua. The donated money will be used for Italian text books and teaching aids. The Lodge President ended the meeting by pledging continued support for Mantua's continuation of Italian classes.

Frank Marcinkowski, President



**Frances Cabrini Lodge No. 2723:** Frances Cabrini Lodge held the January Lodge meeting at Castiglia's Italian Restaurant. After the business meeting, Past President and restaurant owner Victor Castiglia demonstrated making pasta puttanesca. Also in January we hosted coffee and donuts after all masses at Sacred Heart Church. The profits from this will go to the Alzheimer's Foundation.

Our February meeting was also held at Castiglia's where we had a pizza buffet. After a brief meeting, Lodge members conducted our election of officers for the 2011 - 2012 Fraternal Year.

The Lodge hosted our 4th annual Carnevale Dinner Dance on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at Sacred Heart Church, Muldowney Banquet Hall. Our decorating committee did a great job transforming

the hall in traditional Carnevale colors and posters of actual Venetian costumes and masks. Although our attendance was not what we would have liked it to be, everyone had a great time and we consider the evening a success. We were honored to have Marie and Paul Siebeking join us at this event.

On Sunday, March 9 the Lodge hosted a pancake breakfast at Sacred Heart Church, Muldowney Hall after all morning masses. Though the turnout was less than expected we were able to turn a profit that will go towards our charity commitments.

Frances Cabrini Lodge conducted its Installation of Officers ceremony for the 2011-2012 Fraternal Year on Monday March 27 at Castiglia's Restaurant. State Deputy Dot Saia presided over the ceremony with the assistance of State Orator and Lodge member Lou Moschetto acting as Herald. Newly elected President Tony Rulli presented Immediate Past President Al Frappollo with an embroidered OSIA Lodge jacket as a gift of appreciation for his two years serving as Lodge President. As always, Victor Castiglia and his staff provided a great meal that was enjoyed by all.

On Monday April 4, Lodge officers met at the home of one of our Lodge officers. Council meetings are traditionally held at the home of one of the Lodge officers on the first Monday of each month and is preceded by a pot luck dinner. President Tony Rulli outlined his agenda for the upcoming fraternal year. President Rulli reviewed with the officers a 12 month calendar depicting planned Lodge activities, American and Italian holidays and Lodge member's birth and anniversary dates. President Rulli also emphasized the importance of membership recruitment and outlined his plan to increase membership.

Lodge members met at Castiglia's Restaurant for the April Lodge meeting on Wednesday, April 13. The meeting was preceded with dinner purchased off the menu. During the meeting President Rulli outlined his agenda to the Lodge members and discussed the monthly calendar and his membership vision, noting that the calendar was emailed to members with an email address on record. In addition to the monthly calendar, also new this year is a Frances Cabrini Lodge Facebook page and a Frances Cabrini email address, francescabrinilodge@hotmail.com. Following the meeting, several members told stories of their

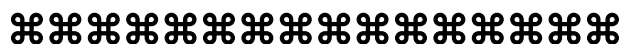
childhood, their grandparents while others told Italian jokes in good taste.

The Lodge will host a first ever Past President Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday, May 18 where all Past Presidents will be honored. A special program is planned that should make this a fun event for all, especially for our Immediate Past President, Al Frappollo.

Also in the May/June timeframe the Lodge plans to award three area graduating seniors a \$500 scholarship in the name of our departed member Joseph McCarthy.

In anticipation of a busy June preparing for hosting the Virginia Grand Lodge Convention, the Frances Cabrini Lodge will not have June Lodge meeting and will use this time to finalize convention plans.

Tony Rulli, President



## A CIRELLI FAMILY TRADITION



This branch of the Cirelli family emigrated from a small hill town called Marsico Nuovo located in the Basilicata region of Italy. John Cirelli married Vita Fortunato in 1896. He came to the United States around 1903 in search of a better life for his family. Once he was settled with a job with the New York Central Railroad he sent for his wife and their three children, Julia, Antoinette and Margaret. Vita and the children arrived in 1906 at Ellis Island on a ship named the Antonio Lopez out of Naples. They settled in the town of West New York, New Jersey, and raised nine children to adulthood. Their names were John, Philip, Joe, Henry, Julia, Antoinette, Margaret, Mary and Irene. As immigrants, they all worked hard to create a better life for themselves and their families. All



married and, except for Antoinette, produced several children who in turn married and created quite a number of grandchildren for John and Vita. Like most families of that era they would get together nearly every Sunday for family gatherings eating the traditional Italian foods and sharing one another's company. They were a very close knit family with not a lot of money but certainly enough love to share. So far this story is very typical of many Italian families who came to this country in search of the American dream.

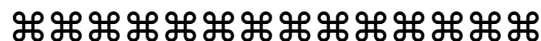
As time passed, however, the children and grandchildren married and sometimes moved to other parts of New Jersey and to other states such as New York. Of course, that made it more difficult for them to keep in close touch with one another as they became more involved in their individual family situations. In the mid-fifties the original nine Cirelli children got together and decided that one way to keep the family closer was to have a family reunion. They came up with the idea of a family bowling tournament followed by what else some food and drink to share among all of the family members who attended. The first tournament was held at Bluestone Lanes in West New York, New Jersey, in 1955. John Cirelli, the eldest son of John and Vita, came out on top that first year. After that, the tournament and family reunion became a tradition that has endured to this day. On March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the Cirelli family held its fifty-seventh consecutive family bowling tournament and reunion. The tournament was conducted at Wallington Lanes in Wallington, New Jersey, and the reunion was at the Knights of Columbus hall in Lodi, New Jersey. Fifty-six bowlers competed in seven divisions and a total of 104 family members attended the dinner following the tournament. Trophies were presented to each of the division winners with special prizes for most improved, high game and of course a booby prize for the bowler who lost the most pins from the previous year. There is also a family plaque that is presented to the overall winner each year. It is engraved with the names of the family members with the highest total series going back to 1955. The plaque remains in the custody of that year's winner until the next year's tournament when it is once again presented to the overall winner.



John and Vita Cirelli with Great-grandson Dennis Lillo

While John, Vita and the original nine Cirelli children have all passed on, this great family tradition remains as a tribute to them and as a permanent reminder of our Italian heritage.

Dennis Lillo  
Italian Heritage Lodge



## GREENBRIER GETAWAY

On April 4, 2011 Bea Sykes made arrangements for a group of the Giuseppe Lodge members and friends to take an overnight trip with Sunshine Tours to the Greenbrier Resort located in White Sulphur Springs, West Va.

Once we arrived at Greenbrier some of us enjoyed having tea in one of the parlors when we arrived while others took a tour of the Project Greek Island aka "The Bunker". The Bunker was a top secret U.S. Government Relocation facility that would house the U.S. Senate and House of Representative in the event of a national emergency until May 31, 1992 when the Washington Post published a story effectively exposing it. Today the facility stores electronic media for major companies.

Due to the fact that this was a short get away and with rainy weather we didn't get a chance to go outside and tour the resort but we remained quite busy with all it had to offer inside. Shops (clothing, memorabilia, sweet treats), a Spa, Bowling alley, Swimming Pool, Movie Theatre and of course a Casino that had game tables and slots from 1 cent machines to 5 dollar machines. To say the least, most of us spent a lot of time here, if not

playing just walking around in awe of the beauty of it all.

While we were at Greenbrier, it was hosting the “Mrs. America” pageant. Although the contestants were constantly rehearsing, we were able to see many of them while having meals at the Drapers Restaurant on premises or passing through the lobbies. All contestants were beautiful but we are all in hopes that Mrs. Virginia will win the title of Mrs. Virginia during the final contest on April 14.

On Tuesday morning complimentary coffee was served in the Upper Lobby where we could sit and chat, watch the news on a big screen TV or even play a game of Chess, Backgammon or cards. Of course Room Service was available for those wishing to enjoy their beautiful accommodations or the late risers due to staying up all night spending their “pennies”.

I would recommend that if your lodge is looking for a little R&R to check out the Greenbrier Resort and plan a getaway. Hopefully Giuseppe Verdi will be making a return trip.

**Mary Louise Smith**

Giuseppe Verdi Lodge No 315