THE LION'S ROAR



AMERICA LODGE #2245

WAMERIC



VFW Hall 68 Lincoln Road Franklin Square, NY 11010

LIBERTY EQUALITY FRATERNITY

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WE WISH YOU A

HAPPY NEW YEAR

AMERICA LODGE #2245

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Jo Ann Maggio	516-850-5288
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EVENT CHAIRPERSONS

Opera	Jo Falabella	516-354-2989
Bowling Tournament	Angela & Luigi Pinto	516-775-1713
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Book Club/Movie Night	Mary Sperrazza	516-993-8453
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Bocce Club	Cindy Lampasi	516-690-1085
Annual Picnic	Maria Passalacqua	516-456-3078
Annual Christmas Party	Maria Passalacqua	516-456-3078
Grand Lodge Plenary	Andrew Monteleone	516-784-9142

THE LION'S ROAR NEWSLETTER

Editor - Donna Johnson mdjohnson1020@gmail.com Content and Proofreaders - Donna and Mark Johnson Printer - Richard Farruggia Mailing - Ellen Andrasick

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America® America Lodge #2245 PO Box 337, Franklin Square, New York 11010

President: Joseph Armocida 646-879-2842 joearmocida@aol.com

Vice President: Karen Mollish 516-437-3278 ckcmm7091@aol.com

Facebook: America Lodge #2245

America Lodge's mission is to celebrate our Italian culture and heritage by honoring our ancestors' visions of promoting, educating, supporting our members, and giving back to our communities. Joining together we create excitement, strengthen our bonds and advance the image of Italians everywhere.



est Newsletter in NY

2024 Most Informative Newsletter in N



New Year, New Look!

I have been working on our newsletter, trying to freshen things up. Sometimes to see how far you've come; you must look back, and I went all the way back to the first newsletter I wrote in March 2022. Wow, have we changed. I want to say improved but that is for you to judge. As with many things in life, change is a process, a series of steps which helps bring about the desired outcome.

Since I started as your editor, I wanted to create an electronic newsletter to email our members. It's less expensive for the lodge, allows for more content and photos and is mandatory to enter the Grand Lodge's newsletter competition. America Lodge entered the Grand Lodge's newsletter competition and won Best Newsletter in 2023 and Most Informative in 2024. I was so humbled and honored to stand there with our Lodge President to accept those awards.

However, once the e-newsletter was established, my next project was to improve the graphics. I wanted to improve the overall appearance of the newsletter and experimented with different applications. You may have noticed the cover pages as well as borders have been upgraded over the years. All of these steps, this process, has brought us to where we can announce America Lodge has approved creation of our very own website! This again is a natural extension of our lodge, our activities and our newsletter. It is my goal to have our website ready for you in April. So, stay tuned for another great step and giant leap, to borrow from Neil Armstrong.

ew year

Since every New Year is about resolutions, we thought it would be fun to look back at our stories in 2024 and see what we've been up to. Many enjoy ringing in a new year with a little bubbly. We have a thirsty article on Champagne vs. Prosecco. And we all love to celebrate the arrival of this kind witch, la Befana, who arrives on January 6th. Read all about this tradition from Italy which is now celebrated in countless homes across America. There is also a story on which traditional foods to eat or avoid on New Year's Eve. Here's a hint, go for the lentils and skip the lobster.

Finally, we have some lodge business. We need you! America Lodge needs you to step up and volunteer for one of the three Trustee positions. And because our lodge is so successful and growing, we have five wonderful opportunities for our officers/members to attend the Grand Lodge's State Convention in Albany in June 2025. I can tell you from firsthand experience, this is an incredible opportunity to learn more about the OSDIA and what we're all about. For the last two years I can only say attending the State Convention has been such a rewarding and valuable experience. I love learning more about our organization, meeting members from all over New York and sharing new experiences with them. Why not start the new year off right and become a Trustee, Delegate or Alternate Delegate. You'll be glad you did!

Sending you warm wishes from Florida, for a Happy New Year filled with love and joy...

Buon Anno!

Donna

NEWSLETTER REMINDER~ Deadline for the February Newsletter is January 17th, 2025. For blancing purposes, all articles for publication should be received by the Friday after the General Meeting. We welcome photos with your article Please email <u>Donna Johnson</u> or text (518) 681-7915. The Newsletter team reserves the right to edit articles, letters, advertisements, and other material submitted for publication, for its length, clarity, accuracy, grammar, spelling and for conformity to the ideals of the Order.

Membership Corner

by Membership Chairperson, Jo Ann Maggio



2024 has seen a membership increase to America Lodge and we thank all our members who have introduced new members this year! At our December 18th General Meeting we reinstated Marina Senatore as a member and we welcome her back to America Lodge! Now that we are starting a new year, we'd like to post this reminder on new member sponsorship protocols:

- Bring your potential member to attend a meeting and fill out an application.
- The Membership application will be read and voted on for approval at a following meeting.
- Applicant will be installed at a General Membership meeting.

Please continue to talk to your family members, neighbors, friends, and coworkers about joining America Lodge #2245. If you have prospective new members, please reach out to Jo Ann Maggio at (516) 850-5288 or <u>madsav1128@yahoo.com</u> for an application. And consider bringing a friend to our January meeting! Remember, new members are the only way to ensure that we continue to grow so that we can remain a vibrant Lodge!



America Lodge #2245

Check out our FACEBOOK page! We post photos of our meetings and events, provide informative posts on our Italian Culture and Heritage and keep our members informed about Lodge and local events! Come log on and see what we're up to!

2025 EVENTS

- January 7th, America Lodge #2245 Council Meeting. 7:00 pm Franklin Sq. Library.
- January 15, 2025, Nominations for Delegate, Alternate Delegate and Trustee.
- January 15, 2025, deadline for Carnevale payments! See flyer in this Newsletter!
- January 15, 2025 General Membership meeting, 7:30 pm Franklin Sq VFW.
- February 2, 2025, America Lodge first annual Carnevale.
- March 19, 2025, Installation of Officers for Delegate, Alternate Delegate and Trustee.
- April 26, 2025, America Lodge #2245 hosts the New York Grand Lodge Plenary.
- June 2025, OSDIA NYS Grand Lodge Annual Convention, Albany New York.
- October 5th, 2025 America Lodge #2245 54th Anniversary Dinner Dance at Leonards.



BUON COMPLEANNO to our

January ~Gennaío~ bírthday celebrants!



Ellen Andrasick, Nancie Caracciolo, Vito Cortesiano, Josephine Falabella, Anthony Fezza, Marie Geneva Frank, Robert Goldmann, Amelia Intagliata, Bianca LaVeglia, Dennis Lyons, Mariana Marando, Mary Rose O'Hara, Angela Pinto, Paul Salerno, Marina Senatore, Lisa Spano, Maria Viti.

Augurí!

GRAZIE !!!

Praise for your Newsletter:

"Donna, of all the articles you've written about all year in all the Lion's Roar Newsletters, this one this month tickled me the most. The story of Santa Lucia! I love that Santa Lucia is known as the protector of eyesight and people who are blind. So often we just take out eyesight for granted.

What an adorable story about when she comes wearing a crown of candles to illuminate her journey! I can understand how all the children felt like it was the longest night of the year waiting for her to come! What a beautiful story and it was well told! (I used to play that song on my accordion all the time for my grandmother, "Santa Lucia") Thank you to you and Mark for some fantastic reading all through the year! I for one enjoyed it immensely! Love you guys and "Buon Natale" !! Enjoy!"

~Anthony Spano

GRAZIE !!!



We are fortunate to have a group of forwardthinking officers who have identified an opportunity, and most importantly, had the courage to make it happen! America Lodge 2245 is getting a website!

Creation of a website will allow America Lodge to operate, interact, and grow in the digital landscape. It will allow America Lodge to have a visible presence to celebrate our activities and events. A website will showcase our service to the community as well as our professionalism and it will increase our own unique brand. A website will provide 24/7 accessibility and convenience for you, for our advertisers, and for any potential new members.

We are not the first to host a website. In fact, the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America have websites at the National, State (Grand Lodge) as well as local levels. We know social media is an important method of communication, and a website will allow our Lodge to quickly post information. For instance, if we had to cancel a meeting, or bocce event, due to inclement weather. Everyone can easily check our website for more information or updates.

As you know America Lodge has a Facebook account, so we are already used to managing a digital presence. Unfortunately to view our Facebook site you need to have a personal Facebook account and prior approval from one of our custodians. Conversely, a website will allow everyone to access it and can even provide us with analytics so we can see how many people are viewing it. Moreover, a website will allow us to explore the use of QR codes, those two-dimensional matrix barcodes you see all over, to pay membership dues, or events like our Annual Dinner Dance, Fishing Trip, or Summer Picnic.

This website has been in development for over six months and thoroughly investigated. We met with web designers, spoke with other lodges who have websites and created a prototype for exploration. We are so excited to finally make this announcement. We anticipate an April roll-out and hope to host informal training sessions for anyone who needs assistance with how to use or navigate our new website.

Lastly, we want to thank Donna Johnson for not only coming up with this idea but researching and developing it so that America Lodge can boldly go into a new digital future. Creating a website will secure our position while we continue our mission:

To celebrate our Italian culture and heritage by honoring our ancestors' visions of promoting, educating, supporting our members, and giving back to our communities. Joining together we create excitement, strengthen our bonds and advance the image of Italians everywhere.

AMERICA LODGE #2245

JANUARY 2025

2024 A YEAR IN REVIEW

S ometimes you have to look back to see how far you've come...and the same is true for America Lodge. Reflecting on our past achievements can help us all appreciate our progress and even motivate us as we continue moving forward.

In January 2024 we said good-bye to 2023. Our then President Andrew Monteleone said, "Our work isn't over, it's just beginning. 2024 will bring us a new slate of officers who will build on our 52-year history, guide us into the future while creating new opportunities, new activities, and bring forth exciting new ideas." Our Lion's Roar editor said, "Looking back I can't help but be grateful for everything we have done together." Our 2024-2026 slate of officers was announced and were eagerly waiting for our upcoming installation. The baton was passed as America Lodge was 210 members strong, and in a great financial position. Our new President Joe Armocida and his slate of officers hit the ground running. Our newsletter editor said, "Spring is a reminder of how beautiful change can truly be."

On March 8th Italians everywhere waited the highly anticipated opening of the movie, CABRINI, a rich, inspiring true story of Francesca Xavier Cabrini, the first American saint. Our March issue asked, as we prepare for Easter, why not spend time learning more about Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini and support this stunning biopic and truly inspiring story about the first American Saint.

Those April showers came, and we learned why Rome is called the Eternal City. Our May issue was extra beautiful as we celebrated *buona festa della mamma*. In May, we explored the history of Mother's Day, and a delicious byproduct of the elderberry bush called Sambuca. We discussed how our fallen soldiers from WW II are honored in Italy and wrote about the history of "Gold Star" families.



In June, our President talked about Fathers, Founders and Fishing. America Lodge was everywhere with a tremendous turnout at the Walk for a Cure event, our second-place finish in the bocce competition and our marching in the Memorial Day Parade. We featured a story, "In the Beginning" where those first three words from the bible helped us understand the 119th birthday of the OSDIA.

July's newsletter was bursting with stories! President Joe Armocida announced the OSDIA lodges in New York donated \$86,158.55 to charities! He also had some other great news as our incredible Lion's Roar newsletter was once again recognized, this time as the Most Informative newsletter in New York State!

continued on next page

Luigi Pinto won second place at the Wine event, and IPP Andrew Monteleone was elected as District II Trustee. Did you enjoy the story "We hold these truths to be self-evident"? Or how Alfred Nobel and the Nobel Peace Prize would have never been established without an Italian chemist named Ascanio Sobrero.

August was our second annual fishing trip. What an event! It sold out so quickly and it turned out to be a beautiful day on the water. Our newsletter featured a story on how the months got their names. And you shared lots of photos of your gardens.

As tradition, September's cover was a photo of the biggest catch landed by Ricky Tinelli. We had our Summer Picnic and we wrote about "Ribbons in the Sky." We saw the Italian Air Force, Frecce Tricolori, who were visiting North America for the first time in 30 years! We were fortunate to meet the pilots and Public Relations team. Just in time for school, we also learned about the world's oldest university which also has roots in NYC. And Charter Member Cathy Palmeri hit it out of the park again with a bit of America Lodge history!

October is always special as it is Italian American Heritage and Culture Month. We featured a story, which we started in June, about one of our member's roots. It was a special afternoon that we got to spend with America Lodge member Carol Sorace Whalen, Ed.D. We also recommended the HBO original movie Vendetta. This is the true story of what Columbus Day means to Italian Americans. America Lodge also celebrated her 53rd anniversary on October 20th. What a great event!

Our November issue is always packed with photos and stories from Columbus Day, our celebration of Italian Heritage and Culture Night, our dinner dance, and stories of thanks. As our worthy president said, "November begins the season of family, food and faith. It's where we spend time with family and friends and, as Italians, we do one of the things we do best; eat!!"

For December our president said, "I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to our council and all our members for everything that you have done to make America Lodge an amazing place to be a part of. This was another fantastic year for us and our membership. In 2024, we welcomed 37 new members!" Our newsletter editor said, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year." "It's a time when traditions ring out as we gather to celebrate Christmas." Our members were active with attendance at the showing of "My Italian Secret." America Lodge supported the Garibaldi Meucci Museum at the 2024 Annual Luncheon in November. Our book club members watched the movie "Brooklyn", followed by a book discussion and trivia questions.

As we look back, we have so much to celebrate, and to be proud of. Together we created America Lodge's mission statement: to celebrate our Italian culture and heritage by honoring our ancestors' visions of promoting, educating, supporting our members, and giving back to our communities. Joining together we create excitement, strengthen our bonds and advance the image of Italians everywhere.

Our lodge and our newsletter promotes and celebrates education. Those scholarship winners and graduates were featured in multiple editions. We give back to our communities by our food and clothing drives, marching in parades and flag raising ceremonies. Our many photos from events, meetings, and gatherings show our excitement for being together. And the more we are together the more we strengthen our bonds to advance the image of Italians everywhere.

We are America Lodge! We are proud of our heritage as together we ring in 2025 a new year of hope and dreams.

Champagne vs Prosecco

This time of year, we like to celebrate and toast with some sparkling wine. Whether it's the holidays, weddings, engagements, anniversaries or birthdays, a sparkling wine can be the perfect way to acknowledge that special occasion.

So, what's the difference between champagne or prosecco?

For a sparkling wine to be called champagne, it must come from the Champagne region of France, which is about 80 miles Northeast of Paris. Whereas



Prosecco comes from Italy, primarily in Veneto, which is about 15 miles North of Venice.

Champagne making is also older than Prosecco with the first bottle of Champagne being produced by Dom Perignon in 1693. It wasn't until 1868 that Carpene Malvolti produced his first version of Prosecco. So, France had a 175-year head start!

All sparkling wines begin as "still" wine. It's not until a secondary fermentation of sugar and yeast which is added and then quickly sealed with a crown cap that "bubbly" is born. This secondary fermentation produces some additional alcohol, but it mostly produces carbon dioxide. Since the bottle is already sealed the carbon dioxide has nowhere to go and is dissolved into the wine.

Champagne has that iconic brand status and is now symbolic of all sparkling wine. You only need to ask for a bottle of Champagne, and see those prices, to quickly learn sparkling wines come in many price points. Because French wine law regulates what can be called Champagne, strict rules must be adhered to so that the bottle can earn the right to be called Champagne.

Meanwhile, back in Northeastern Italy the harvest of the Glera grapes begins the process of making Prosecco. The secondary fermentation process, however, occurs in large stainless-steel tanks allowing the fruit's character to shine through. Champagne is built on a base of richness and depth, but Prosecco is fruitier. The bubbles in Prosecco have a lighter, frothy appearance which don't last long. But the fabulous aromas do. Prosecco has a sweeter taste thus it is great paired with cured meats, fruits or both; i.e. prosciutto wrapped melon. Champagne, with its fine persistent bubbles, is often paired with shellfish, pickled vegetables or a crispy fried appetizer.

So, the next time you want to celebrate with a sparkling wine, you don't have to ask for Champagne, unless you want to spend twice as much per bottle. A good entry level bottle of Prosecco is about \$20. You should expect to pay at least \$40 for the same entry level bottle of Champagne. Wishing you good health, good fortune and happiness.

Buon Anno Nuovo...Cin cin, Salute

Popular Ways to Say "Cheers" in Italian

In English, we "toast" or "raise our glasses" (and gently clink them together). This tradition might have its roots in ancient Rome and Greece, where people would drink to the gods and the deceased during feasts.

Toasting rituals date back many years, continuing through the medieval era when people would energetically clink glasses with one another to toast.

In Italian, "to toast" means "brindare" or "fare un brindisi." The verb has journeyed from German to Spanish before settling into the Italian language.

"Salute" is the most common expression to say cheers in Italian and is a widely used Italian toasting expression. The word "salute" means "health" in Italian. It's suitable for any occasion that doesn't call for a more specific toasting phrase.

"Cin Cin" (pronounced "chin chin") The oldfashioned toasting all-Italian expression. Various stories surround this toasting cheer, most tracing back to Chinese sayings. According to one version, ancient traders introduced this expression to Italy, where it eventually gained traction.

"Alla nostra" translates "to our (health)" and is a prevalent, versatile, and practical expression for toasting that you can use in most scenarios. You can use it to toast to the group gathered around the table, similar to "Cheers" in English.

"Facciamo un brindisi" This phrase is the most popular way to say "Let's make a toast" in Italian and is used when you want to propose a toast to the group.

"Alla faccia di chi ci vuole male" Though not the most polite, this phrase is still amusing. The literal translation is "In the face of those who wish us ill." It is often used informally among friends.

"Viva (+ person, people, or things being cheered)" is another widespread expression for toasts. In most cases, "Viva" means "hurray." (For example: "Viva gli sposi" – Hurray for the bride and groom). Still, in the context of a toast, it is also used independently as an equivalent to "salute" ("cheers").

"Cento di questi giorni" This expression is used to wish someone "A hundred days like this one," signifying that you're toasting to the person living a hundred years more, filled with happy moments.

Learn more and listen to pronunications HERE www.learnitalianpod.com

New Year's Eve Traditions

Do you have a ritual on New Year's Eve? In Italy, the New Year, or "Capodanno," is a celebration steeped in rich customs and a touch of superstition.

Tossing old pots, pans, clothes, appliances, even furniture out the window is meant to symbolize "letting go" of past unhappiness. Although most Italians have abandoned the tradition, do watch your head on the streets of Naples on New Year's Eve!

To ensure a sweet new year, ancient Romans gave each other jars of dates and figs in honey, along with a bay branch for good fortune. Guess what? This hasn't changed much, at least in Naples, where people exchange figs wrapped in laurel leaves.

Fireworks and lots of noise also "scare" the bad spirits away. So, of course, expect lots of fireworks on New Year's Eve. Practically every city and town puts on a dazzling display.

In Italy, there's a belief that donning red underwear brings luck, applicable to both men and women. It's common to spot an abundance of red undergarments displayed in shop windows during this season. If you're one to embrace superstitions, consider getting yourself a pair.

In our family we ring in the New Year in a slightly different way. We have a tradition of leaving a dollar bill outside under the front door mat on New Year's Eve. Then on New Year's Day we bring that dollar into our home. That is said to bring good fortune and prosperity in the year ahead.

Capodanno Countdown: Top 7 Italian New Year Traditions

Buona Fortuna!

 $\square \square$

Snowflake funnies by Jo "You are never fully dressed without a smile"

What does Frosty's mom put on her face at night? Cold cream! What kind of Mexican food do snowmen like? Burr-itol Where does a snowman get the weather report? The winternet! What do you call a ghost in winter? Casp-brrr! Who were the snowman's parents? Mom and Popsicle! Why was the snowman sad? He had a melt-down! How does a North Pole carpenter fix something broken? Igloos it together! What gift should you never give a snowman? Flectric blanket! Where did the snowmen go dancing? The snowball! What do you call a Starbucks employee in the winter? A brrrr-istal What are little snowmen called? Chill-dren!

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy, Happy New Year 2025!

Jo

On Christmas Eve, children in Italy lie in their beds waiting for the arrival of *Babbo Natale* (Father Christmas) and in January, on the eve of Epiphany, they wait for another gift-bearing visitor.

On the 6th of January, to commemorate the arrival of *I Magi* (the three kings) bearing gifts for the twelve-dayold bambino Gesú (Jesus), children also celebrate the arrival of **Ia Befana**, the kind but very ugly witch.

Legend tells of an old woman who is invited by the kings to accompany them on their trip to Bethlehem. She refuses to join them because she is too busy with housework. Later she regrets her decision and goes out in search of them. Sadly, they have long since left the area, so she fills her arms with gifts and, after climbing aboard her broomstick, she takes to the skies.

Traditionally, families would burn a Christmas log in a specially built hearth called *focolare*; the log would burn for twelve days and it would light the way for la Befana.



On her journey to find the Christ child, she stops off at the homes of children to deliver presents. Good children receive nice gifts and the naughty ones wake to find *cenere e carbone* (ashes and coal) at the foot of the bed inside stockings; although nowadays the coal is often replaced with black pieces of confectionery.

In anticipation of her visit, children often recite verses dedicated to the visiting witch, one of the most popular being:

La Befana vien di notte con le scarpe tutte rotte con le toppe alla sottana Viva, viva la Befana!

(La Befana comes in the night With shoes completely broken With her skirt all in tatters Hurray, Hurray, La Befana!)

La Befana

The name of the old lady called la Befana is unknown and, outside of Epiphany, this Italian term refers to an ugly woman; however, it is thought to be a corruption of the Ancient Greek word *befania* meaning manifestation, and a blend of the actual word, epiphany.

L'Epifania marks the end of the Italian holiday season, and today people still quote the old proverb, *'L'Epifania tutte le feste si porta via*' (Epiphany carries away the holidays).

Despite the increasing popularity of Father Christmas, la Befana is still an important figure in the lives of children growing up all over Italy and long may she continue to be celebrated.



As Chair of the Nominating Committee I wanted to introduce myself.

At our 53rd Annual Dinner Dance Testimonial, I joked that most of you know me as Donna's husband. And that's a role which I proudly accept. But as Chair of this important committee, you might be more interested in my professional qualifications.

My father is a retired Air Force Colonel and pilot. Although I was born in Riverhead, we lived all over the east coast. We returned to Long Island for my last two years of high school, so you may have noticed I really don't talk like I grew up around here.

I am a graduate of Stony Brook University where I served on the student Judiciary Board and was elected President of the University Wind Ensemble. I was employed by a Fortune 500 company for 34 years with 28 of those years serving in a leadership capacity. It was a wonderfully rewarding career which afforded me the opportunity for early retirement. So, I retired three years ago at the age of 57 and never looked back!

Outside of work, I was a third-grade catechist at our local parish for five years. It was something Donna volunteered me for, and I absolutely loved teaching Sunday school. Currently, I Chair the church's Finance Committee and served as Chair of their Re-Igniting Our Faith Program.

I want to encourage all of our members to consider becoming a Trustee or Delegate. These are very important roles within America Lodge and the Order.

When I was working, we always used to say, "so goes New York, so goes the Enterprise." New York is so large and strong. The same is true for OSDIA. New York is the largest contributor to the Order and to serve and help shape our future is both an honor and distinct privilege.

Mark Johnson Nominating Committee Chairperson



America Lodge needs you!

We are currently preparing to elect officers and delegates, and we really need you. There are two unique opportunities to give back to the lodge. These are two very different yet exciting ways to get involved and have more fun with your lodge brothers and sisters.

Do you enjoy being part of a team?

No one likes to be alone and the positions available are well supported by fellow lodge members. I know it's easy to think that you have nothing to offer but that's not true. Let's use a football team as an example. While a quarterback is a very important position, a team can't win if all you have on the field are quarterbacks.

For instance, we must fill the roles of three trustee positions. The responsibilities include examining and auditing our financial books. But you are not an attorney, CPA, CFP or even work in a bank, how can you help? Not a problem! Great teams are made up of great people with different backgrounds and experiences. We need you to ask questions and be you. As a Trustee, you must attend Council meetings on the first Tuesday of every month and just be ready to be you.

The next positions are for delegates and alternate delegates, who should be selected from current or past officers. A delegate is a formal representative of America Lodge who will be sent to the Grand Lodge's Convention in June. This is both a time and monetary commitment, as the Convention begins on Thursday and ends Sunday. Therefore, if you are employed you will need to arrange for time off. You will also be required to secure a hotel room for your stay. America Lodge will help to defer some of the expenses but there will be an out-of-pocket expense for the delegate. With all of that said, our delegates have always found the Convention to be an incredibly worthwhile experience. It's a chance to learn more about our organization while meeting members from across the state.

We have many new members who have joined America Lodge over the past few years, and we sincerely hope that you will consider one of these very important roles. The more members who put in for these positions the stronger and more vibrant our lodge will become.

What's most important, however, is that when you step up, you become part of a dedicated team who wants to help and grow our Lodge and the Order.

For more information, please contact Nominating Chair Mark Johnson at 518-681-7914 or by e-mail at <u>MDJohnson@roadrunner.com</u>, or any members of the committee; Immediate Past President Andrew Monteleone, Mary Sperrazza, Marie Geneva Frank and Cindy Lampasi.

NOMINATIONS FOR AMERICA LODGE #2245 OFFICERS

Dear America Lodge #2245 Brothers and Sisters,

I have been asked by our president, Joe Armocida, to chair the nominating committee for the upcoming elections and I thank him for his confidence in assigning me to this position. The committee members, Immediate Past President Andrew Monteleone, Mary Sperrazza, Marie Geneva Frank and Cindy Lampasi, were appointed by the president and we will work together to be fair and objective in presenting our slate of officers for the available positions.

The available positions are: (3) Trustees, (5) Delegates to the State Convention and (4) Alternate Delegates.

If you are interested in running for any of the available positions, please notify Chairperson Mark Johnson at <u>mdjohnson@roadrunner.com</u> or call/text (518) 681-7914, as to which position you are applying for. If you are applying for **Delegate to the State Convention**, please indicate if you would also consider being an Alternate Delegate as there may be multiple candidates applying for both positions. Interested candidates must be a *member in good standing* and have paid their Membership Dues in full by December 31, 2024.

Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, NYS Supplemental Bylaws state, in part: Article 5- Limitations on Rights

B.L.4: To be elected as a State Delegate from a Local Lodge, the member must have been elected to and have served at least one full term as a member of the council of a Local Lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. In the event a Local Lodge requires a greater number of State Delegates than its full complement of past and eligible present council members who are able to attend the State Convention, it shall elect the remainder of its allotted number of State Delegates from its general membership.

Article 109- Elections

The Nominating Committee will present its report of candidates for office at the January 15th General Membership meeting. After the report of candidates from the nominating committee is accepted, the Nominating Committee shall entertain nominations from the floor.

B.L.1: (E) Elections shall be held in February.

B.L.1: (F)Trustees, State Delegates with Alternates shall be elected by a plurality vote.

B.L.1: (H) In the event of a tie vote, the candidate having seniority based on continuous membership shall be declared the winner. There shall be no cumulative voting.

B.L.1: (I) The installation of officers shall take place during the month of March next succeeding the election unless the State President authorizes a different date.

B.L.1: (J) State Delegates shall be elected for a term of one year, their election shall be held in every year.

B.L.2: A person nominated from the floor must be present to accept the nomination; except that a person who, after interview, has not been nominated by the Nominating Committee, need not be present to accept a nomination from the floor for the position declared to the Nominating Committee.

B.L.3: No member shall be permitted to accept a nomination for more than one Local Lodge Council office. Any member who has accepted the nomination for one office is precluded from changing his mind and accepting nomination to or for another office. The withdrawal of one's name from nomination after having accepted same in order to accept a different nomination is impermissible and such person is precluded from accepting further nomination for the current election. This section shall be applicable to all nominations and elections for the Grand Lodge, and the Local Lodge.

The nominating committee will meet in private to discuss all candidates and may request an in person interview.

We look forward to you taking an active role in our lodge and hope you will consider applying for a position on our Council of Officers.

Fraternally,

Mark Johnson Nominating Committee Chairperson



ORDER SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA Constitution, General Laws as of August 2023

TRUSTEES

ART. 29. The Trustees supervise the affairs of the Local Lodge and are members of the Council. Their duties are:

- (a) To examine and audit the books kept by the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer of the Local Lodge;
- (b) To examine and audit the quarterly report of the Financial Secretary, certifying as to its correctness by affixing their signatures thereon; provided, however, that such report shall not be valid unless it bears the signature of no less than three (3) Trustees in addition to that of the Financial Secretary;
- (c) To perform such additional duties, in matters pertaining to their office, imposed upon them by the laws of the Order or by the deliberations of the assembly of the Local Lodge.

GRAND LODGE DELEGATES

ART. 34. The Grand Lodge Delegates are the representatives of the Local Lodge who represent it at the Grand Convention of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge Delegates and their alternates are to be elected by the assembly of the Local Lodge once every two years (or, in the case of a Grand Lodge which has a Convention each year, annually if the laws of the Grand Lodge so provide) and their number shall be that which is fixed by the laws of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge may permit the President of the Local Lodge to be an ex-officio member of its Grand Lodge Delegation.

GRAND LODGE OF NEW YORK SUPPLEMENTAL BYLAWS

Article 5- Limitations on Rights

B.L.4: To be elected as a State Delegate from a Local Lodge, the member must have been elected to and have served at least one full term as a member of the council of a Local Lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. In the event a Local Lodge requires a greater number of State Delegates than its full complement of past and eligible present council members who are able to attend the State Convention, it shall elect the remainder of its allotted number of State Delegates from its general membership.

ARTICLE 34-STATE DELEGATES

B.L.1: The State Delegation of a Local Lodge shall consist of its President, Immediate Past President, those members who are National Officers, or members BENE EMERITUS, and those members in good standing, who are elected as State Delegates.

B.L.2: The President and Immediate Past President shall be members of their Local Lodge's State Delegation, with the same rights, powers, and privileges as elected State Delegates, and are required to attend the State Convention. However, in the case of the President, said person may be excused on the same basis that an elected State Delegate is excused and should such event occur, the President shall be replaced by the person set forth in the, and pursuant to the, provisions of Articles 23 and 24 of the General Laws of the Supreme, and such person shall be vested with the same rights and privileges as an elected State Delegate.

B.L.3: A member who is an elected National Officer, and a member BENE EMERITUS shall be permitted to attend the State Convention as a State Delegate with all of the rights, powers, and privileges enjoyed by an elected State Delegate, paid for by the member BENE EMERITUS, except as such member's Local Lodge may underwrite such cost, in whole or in part.

B.L.4: Grand Lodge officers, including all Past State Presidents, shall be State Delegates to the State Convention by virtue of their office, with all of the rights, powers, and privileges as enjoyed by State Delegates, the cost of which shall be paid by the Grand Lodge.

B.L.5: In addition to those designated in B.L.2 of Article 34 hereof, State Delegates shall be elected by the Local Lodges on the basis of one State Delegate for every forty-five Local Lodge members (Rev.2022)

B.L.6: Where a Local Lodge has less than twenty-five members it shall not be entitled to seat a State Delegation at the State Convention (cross reference: Article 44, B.L.1).

B.L.7: Local Lodges with a membership above forty-five and which are entitled to elect State Delegates shall elect one additional State Delegate on the basis of an additional twenty-three members or a greater number thereof less than forty-five members. (Rev. 2022))

B.L.8: The election of State Delegates shall be by plurality vote; those candidates who are not elected as State Delegates shall serve as Alternate State Delegates, with the order of their standing determined by the number of votes received.

B.L.9: The number of State Delegates to which a Local Lodge shall be entitled shall be determined by the number of members in good standing as of December 31 of the year immediately preceding their election as State Delegates. Any Local Lodge which willfully submits a false or misleading certification of the numerical amount of members in good standing shall be treated in accordance with B.L.5 and B.L.6 of Article 22 hereof.

B.L.10: State Delegates from the Local Lodges and all Bene Emeritus State Delegates in attendance at the State Convention shall pay a State Convention registration fee. No registration fee shall be charged to any guest at the State Convention.

B.L.11: Each Local Lodge must be represented by its State Delegation at the State Convention. The attendance of the entire State Delegation of each Local Lodge is required. The failure of a Local Lodge to be represented at the State Convention, or the failure of any State Delegate of a Local Lodge to be present at the State Convention shall result in the Grand lodge forwarding a bill for the total amount of registration fees due for the Local Lodge's State Delegation, less a credit for any registration fees previously paid. The failure of the Local Lodge to remit the amount invoiced to it, in the discretion of the Grand Council, may be declared in default and in violation of the laws of the Order in accordance with Article 41 (b) of the General Laws.

Lenticchie a Capodanno!



For most Italians, the New Year's Eve celebration kicks off with a hearty meal of lentils and pork. So, why do lentils deserve a spot on the holiday table?

Lentils are a symbol of prosperity and are the star of the show. According to tradition, if you start the New Year with lentils, you'll be blessed with wealth and good fortune **"buona fortuna"** all year round. This custom has roots in ancient Roman times when people would give a small leather bag called a *scarsella*, filled with lentils, at the end

of the year. They hoped that each lentil would turn into a coin, making the recipient one lucky and prosperous person.

Lentils are typically paired with pork, a symbol of abundance due to its rich flavor and high fat content. The most famous dish is "Cotechino e lenticchie," pork sausage called *cotechino* and lentils, and it's one of the most cherished specialties made during the holiday season. Cotechino is a big, fatty sausage made from pork rinds, nerves, and fresh meat.

Lentils are an annual plant that flowers between mid-May and mid-July. They're part of the legume family. The most famous Italian lentils come from Castelluccio di Norcia in Umbria. These lentils are grown in the Monti Sibillini National Park, a beautiful place. Since 1998, the lentils grown in the village have been awarded the I.G.T., which means they're protected by their origin. These lentils are tiny and come in shades of green and chestnut. The people of Castelluccio call them "Lénta," and they think of them as the town's best product. They're organic and don't need to be stored because they're so resistant to pests.

La Fioritura, or the "flowering" of lentils, is a stunning sight. It creates a huge carpet of red, blue, yellow, and purple flowers.

There are some foods that Italians <u>avoid</u> on New Year's Eve, especially lobster and chicken. Lobsters move backwards on the sea floor, and Italian superstition holds that eating them can lead to setbacks in the coming year. Chicken is also avoided because they scratch backwards, which could cause regrets or dwelling on the past. To be safe, Italians tend to steer clear of

any winged fowl on December 31st, as they don't want their good luck to fly away!

So, go ahead and indulge in lentils, and who knows, you might just attract some good fortune in the New Year!





America Lodge #2245Celebrates Carnevale!

February 2nd, 2025 from 1-5:00 pm Ascension Lutheran f_{all} , 145 Franklin Ave, Franklin Square. (Entrance on Plane Ave) \$25.00 Adult, \$15.00 under 12. Included is a delicious pasta dinner, soft drinks, coffee and dessert. <u>BUOB!</u> Ghere will be a variety of fun entertainment for all ages!

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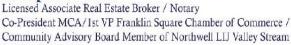
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