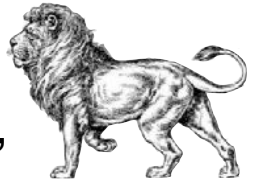
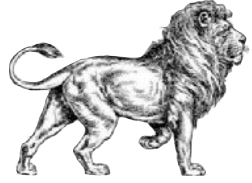


THE LION'S ROAR



ORDER SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA®
AMERICA LODGE #2245

"AMERICA LODGE, WHERE FRIENDS BECOME FAMILY"



VFW Hall
68 Lincoln Road
Franklin Square, NY 11010

LIBERTY EQUALITY **FRATERNITY**

Volume 55
Issue 7
July 2026

**HAPPY
INDEPENDENCE DAY**

4TH OF JULY

250TH

AMERICAN FREEDOM

HONORING NATIONAL PRIDE

A M E R I C A L O D G E # 2 2 4 5

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Doris Collins* '90-'92	Sylvia Giglio '13-'15
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Gloria R. Maffettone '93-'95	Vincent Giordano '18-'20
Christian Seidel* '95-'97	

*deceased



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Annual Christmas Party	Debra Goldmann	516-729-7712
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Annual Picnic	Maria Passalacqua	516-456-3078
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Bocce Club	Cindy Lampasi	516-690-1085
Book Club/Movie Night	Mary Sperrazza	516-993-8453
Budget Chairperson	Maria Passalacqua	516-456-3078
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Lion's Roar Ads	Ellen Andrasick	516-317-0686
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Membership	Jo Ann Maggio	516-850-5288
Memorial Mass	Josephine Carbone	516-483-7320
Opera	Jo Falabella	516-354-2989
Scholarship	Mary Rose O'Hara	516-521-6275

ARBITRATION

Nancie Caracciolo, Mary Versaci, Dennis Lyons, Linda Camolli, Nicole Armocida. Alternates: Cindy Lampasi, Mary Rose O'Hara, Mary Sperrazza.

THE LION'S ROAR NEWSLETTER

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www.AmericaLodge2245.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.

July



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy 250th anniversary America. As we celebrate the 4th of July this year, we should be grateful to live in this amazing country. God Bless America, land that we love...

We are just returning from the Grand Lodge of New York's 118th State Convention. This year's vision was "**A Celebration of America 250, The Promise Lives in Us!**" I can't begin to explain how proud I am of America Lodge and our delegates. The Welcome Reception theme was to wear the colors of the American or the Italian flag. **We did both!!** Our very own Donna Johnson designed special shirts for us to wear, and they were the hit of the reception. We received so many compliments on our specially designed shirts. If you missed them at June's meeting, we will be wearing them again at our BBQ celebration/meeting on July 17th.

I'm just getting started as this year's Convention had much more in store for America Lodge. America Lodge President **Joe Armocida** was presented with a jacket for bringing in 10 new members. Next came the announcement of the Community Outreach Awards and **Mary Sperrazza** won for the category *Lodge Fraternal/Family Activities*. As we know Mary does an outstanding job with her book club and movie nights. She continues to help us celebrate our culture and heritage through interesting books, wonderful movies and most importantly, family time together. Congratulations Mary!

And last but certainly not least, your Lion's Roar Newsletter Editor **Donna Johnson** won Best Editor!! Donna does so much for America Lodge that it's easy to forget all the things she does. The newsletter, website, Facebook page, our event and meeting flyers, Zoom meetings, and probably many other things that I'm forgetting. Our Worthy State President Arthur Spera acknowledged all of the work she has contributed to the Grand Lodge's website. And if that were not enough she was asked to assist with the National website. A huge thank you and a hearty congratulations to Donna for her exceptional and noteworthy efforts.

At our June meeting we had a lot going on. It was our annual scholarship night, which is always a special night seeing the talent that these students have in both academics as well as the other activities they are involved in. This year we had the **Barbara Lupo memorial scholarship** that was awarded to **Isabella Mutt**. The **Luigi Pinto memorial scholarship** was awarded to **Joseph D'Amico**, and an **America Lodge General Excellence scholarship** that was awarded to **Alessandra Pinto**. In addition, America Lodge awards seven scholarships to our local high schools. The recipients are each selected by their respective High School Italian teachers.

It was a busy night as we also initiated seven new members. We welcomed: **Angela Atkinson, Nancy Barbanell, Anthony Buonfiglio, Michele Cinquemani, Denise Creighton, Town of Hempstead Supervisor John Ferretti, and Marianne Lissauer** to our lodge. And to top it off, we enjoyed a delicious pizza dinner from **Olivetto Pizzeria and Ristorante**. Many thanks to them for their great food and service.

And if that were not enough, we selected the winning raffle tickets from our charity raffle. We were able to raise \$720.00 for the **Marty Lyons Foundation Inc** which was presented at this year's Grand Lodge convention. Our prize winners were first place Mary Sperrazza, second place Graziella Montoni, and third place once again Mary Sperrazza. Congratulations to all our winners and to everyone that bought a ticket allowing us to help a worthy cause.

I am really looking forward to our upcoming fishing trip on July 25th. It is a nice break to be on the water in the middle of July fishing, eating and having a great time with everyone. Please see the flyer in this issue of your newsletter if you don't have your tickets. Not far after that is our annual picnic on September 19th. Once again, this year's picnic promises to be an epic event. Food, raffle baskets, fun and prizes. All of it surrounded by your lodge family. Get your tickets now!

Stay safe and cool. I hope to see you at our next event, if not before.

Fraternally,

Joe Armocida
President
America Lodge #2245

Happy 4th of July!

Welcome to your July Newsletter!



As we celebrate the month of July, we are reminded of the two great blessings that unite us as members of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America—our pride in our Italian heritage and our gratitude for the freedoms and opportunities we enjoy as Americans.

This month's newsletter highlights the many ways our lodge continues to fulfill the OSDIA mission of preserving our rich Italian culture while supporting our local community. Inside, you'll find photos from our June Scholarship Awards, celebrating outstanding students whose achievements reflect the bright future of our organization and our community. We also share memories from the Annual New York State Convention, where members from across the state gathered in friendship, service, and a shared commitment to our Italian-American traditions. You'll also enjoy photos from our June General Membership Meeting, where the camaraderie and fellowship that define our lodge were on full display.

As we celebrate Independence Day, we honor the generations of Italian immigrants who came to America seeking opportunity and freedom. Through hard work, perseverance, and dedication to family, faith, and community, they helped build this nation while proudly preserving the traditions that continue to enrich our lives today. Their legacy inspires us to carry forward the values of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America through service, education, and fellowship.

Thank you to everyone who attended our events, volunteered their time, and continues to support our lodge throughout the year. Your dedication keeps our traditions strong and ensures that the spirit of the Order will continue for generations to come.

Wishing you and your families a safe, happy, and memorable Fourth of July.

Buona Estate, Viva l'Italia, and God Bless America!

Donna

The Lion's Roar Newsletter
2023 Best Newsletter Award
2024 Most Informative Newsletter Award
2025 Best Newsletter Award
2026 Best Editor Award



Membership Corner

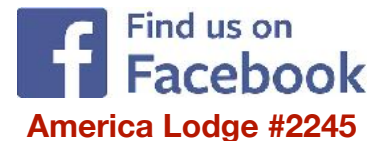


At our June 17th General Meeting, we installed 7 new members! Please welcome: **Denise Creighton, Angela Atkinson, Michele Cinquemani, Marianne Lissauer, Nancy Barbanell, Anthony Buonfiglio and TOH Supervisor John Ferretti** to our America Lodge family!

America Lodge #2245 is celebrating our Country's 250th birthday with a charge to our members...**Let's grow America Lodge #2245 to 250 members!** Honoring 250 years of the United States with Italian heart, rich heritage, and 250 proud members leading the celebration! ❤️🤍❤️ From tradition to togetherness,

we're bringing the spirit of Italy to this historic American milestone—one unforgettable celebration at a time! 🇮🇹🇺🇸🎉 Let's keep the momentum going by spreading the word about America Lodge! Talk to your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers about joining our *famiglia*—new members are the heartbeat of a vibrant and thriving Lodge. If you know someone who may be interested, visit our website www.americallodge2245.com/Membership for a membership application or contact Jo Maggio for membership information.

Check out our [Website](#) and 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!



www.americallodge2245.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 13, Italian Night at Eisenhower Park. Free event. See flyer on pg. 7 or contact Carolyn Reres.
- July 25 America Lodge Annual Fishing Trip. See flyer pg. 6. GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!!!
- August 11, America Lodge's Il Dolce Libro "2-fer" Book Club event. See flyer on pg. 7! **BOOK CLUB MEMBERS**
- September 19 America Lodge Annual Picnic in the Park. See flyer pg. 6.
- October 10, LI OSDIA District I and II LI Columbus Day Parade, Deer Park Lake Ave Firehouse.
- October 18 America Lodge Annual Anniversary Dinner Dance. See flyer pg. 17. SAVE THE DATE!
- November 9th, 7:30 pm, America Lodge hosts "A Night at the Opera: Giacomo Puccini's Tosca!" Flyer pg.8.

visit <https://www.americallodge2245.com/events> for Lodge events and details!

America Lodge Mah Jongg

- July 14, 21, 28
- August 4, 18, 25

America Lodge Bocce

Thursday's at Rath Park
5:00 pm!

www.americallodge2245.com

America Lodge #2245



CELEBRATING AMERICA'S

250th Anniversary

BBQ

Our July General meeting will be a celebration of our country, "Italian style"

And don't forget...

250 members for the 250th Anniversary!

*** America Lodge Members Only ***

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15TH
7:30 PM

Franklin Square VFW
68 Lincoln Road, Franklin Square



America Lodge #2245
presents our annual

2026 FISHING TRIP



7/25/2026 Aboard the Captain Eddie B III

Once again, America Lodge will set sail on the beautiful Captain Eddie B III. We leave the dock at 7:00 AM SHARP for a memorable 5-hour charter. This spectacular and fun filled voyage will return at 12:00 PM and is open to all lodge members, family, and friends.

All fishing gear, tackle and bait are included. No need to bait the hook or touch the fish, as the expert and friendly deck hands will take care of all of that for you!

A delicious bagel breakfast and hero lunch are included. All you need to bring are your drinks and your camera...you know, to photograph the big one that got away.

Contact

Michael Avallone
(917) 299-7251

\$75.00 per person
\$35.00 children 12 and under



www.americ lodge2245.com

America Lodge #2245
Annual

PICNIC
in the Park

INVITE
YOUR
FAMILY,
FRIENDS,
&
NEIGHBORS!

RAFFLE BASKETS,
50/50
and MORE!



FOOD,
GAMES,
& FUN!

PLATTDUETSCHER PARK

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2026
1 PM - 5 PM

- \$50.00 PER PERSON.
- FULL BUFFET LUNCH WITH SOFT DRINKS.
- \$20.00 CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER.
- CASH BAR.

CONTACT MARIA PASSALACQUA
(516) 456-3078

America Lodge #2245
55th Anniversary Dinner Dance

honoring
America Lodge Past District Deputy
Anthony Vasature
and
America Lodge members
Marie Geneva Frank, Cindy Lampasi,
and Lisa Feitz

Save the Date

Sunday, October 18th, 2026
12-5:00pm

Leonard's Palazzo, Northern Blvd, Great Neck

Contact Karen Mollish
Annual Dinner Dance Chairperson
(516) 852-2823

America Lodge #2245
**Il Dolce Libro
 Book Club**



Summer Book Club "two-fer" event
Tuesday, August 11th

First, we are going to the beach (Lido west) at 10:00 am to discuss our summer read "*Theo of Golden*" by *Allen Levi*. Then, at 6:30 pm, we'll meet at Averill Park for a fun "*Theo of Golden*" themed art class run by one of our book club members!
 Come to one or both but you have to be a **BOOK CLUB MEMBER** to attend!

Join the *Il Dolce Libro* Book Club today to enjoy this and our other wonderful and fun upcoming Book Club events!

Contact Mary Sperrazza

(516) 993-8453



UPCOMING EVENTS



BRUCE A. BLAKEMAN
 Nassau County Executive

*Italian
 American
 Night*

INTERNATIONAL NIGHTS

Eisenhower Park at *Lakeside Theatre*



Italian American Night !



Italian National and USA National Anthems *Maria Ince and Olivia Duffy*
 Mistress of Ceremonies *Carolyn Reres*

Monday, July 13, 2026 | 7:00pm

Free admission ■ Bring Chairs or Blankets

s p o n s o r s



RAYMOND JAMES®

Christopher M. Delosh
 for the
 Capt. Kathy Mazza Lodge #2163A

John Michael Marino Lodge Foundation, Inc.

For further information call or text
 Carolyn Reres ♦ 516-376-3056

- Parking Fields 6 & 6A ● Merrick & Stewart Avenues ● East Meadow ●
- 516-572-0200 ● Day of Event Weather - 516-572-0355



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 of Italy
 IN AMERICA®

★ New York State Grand Lodge ★

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FOOD IS
 BEING CATERED
 BY



**New York State
 Order Sons & Daughters of Italy
 in America**

Gift of Sight Annual Fundraising Luncheon

**** Save the Date ****

Saturday, September 26, 2026

Captain Bill's
 Bayshore, New York

Banko Award - Dr. David Y. Rhee

Excellence in Leadership Award - Mary Naccarato

Arthur Spera - President
 Mary Ann DeCostanzo - Chairperson
 Mark A. Ventimiglia - Vice-Chairperson

Questions call: Mary Ann DeCostanzo
 © (631) 848.3641



AMERICA LODGE

SHOW US YOUR GARDENS!

As we do every year, we want to see what you're growing!

Send us photos of your figs, tomatoes, zucchini or whatever you have growing this year!

Email your photos to mdjohnson1020@gmail.com or text me (Donna) @ (518) 681-7915!

And if you're not growing veggies, but have a beautiful flower garden that you are growing, send us your flower photos too! We want to see it all!

Your photos will be added to an upcoming Newsletter!



Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America®
America Lodge #2245
Presents

Giacomo Puccini's

Tosca

Monday, November 9th, 2026 at 7:30 pm
The Metropolitan Opera House Lincoln Center



Tickets for the Opera and Bus are \$150.00
Ticket for the Opera only (no bus) is \$100.00

Payment must be received by October 5, 2026

Contact Opera Chairperson Jo Falabella (516) 354-2989

Make checks payable to America Lodge #2245 and mail to:
Jo Falabella, 51 Vassar Street, Garden City, NY 11530

The bus departs from the public parking lot behind Wendy's off Hempstead Turnpike in Franklin Square. Please be there at 2:30 pm as the **bus will leave at 3:00 pm SHARP.**

America Lodge Bocce is Back!

Officially starting after Mother's Day
Thursday's 5:00 pm at Rath Park, Franklin Square

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

COME JOIN IN THE FUN!

Contact Marie Geneva Frank (516) 852-1276 or
Cindy Lampasi (516) 690-1085
for more information!



AMERICA LODGE MAH JONGG

**No experience?
No problem!**

Join us for a relaxed, fun afternoon
of Mah Jongg!

We'll teach you everything you
need to know—just come ready to
play and have a good time!

Tuesday's at the Franklin Square
Library from 3:30-6:00 pm.
Contact Lisa Teitz (516) 965-8465
for information and dates!





Buon Compleanno!
Happy Birthday!

To Our July "Luglio" Celebrants!

Joe Armocida, Joan Basta, Tiziana Brugellis, Tina Baio, Ralph Esposito, Jean Fichtl, Rosetta Fiorello, Carl Gerrato, Jodie Marinello, Chris Mollish, Annmarie Monteleone, Mark Mrakovcic, Theresa Munda, Thomas Muscarella, Joseph Nicoletti, Diane Rizzo, Rosemarie Roberts, Victor Rossi, Angela Salerno, Joseph Scaffa, Leonard Timpone, Luke Zahradka.

Praise for your Lion's Roar Newsletter!

"As always an amazing informative newsletter. Thank you Donna for your hard work and effort put into each edition, I love how you always include so many great stories and insights into our Italian heritage and community. Looking forward to seeing you soon." Susan McKee.

"Good Morning, Another great edition to enjoy reading with my cup of coffee! What an amazing newsletter- Congratulations America Lodge on another well done job! Looking forward to seeing everyone up at Convention in a few weeks." Mary Ann Scarola-DeCostanzo



Good & Welfare

Get Well Soon...

Lauren Kobler
Mike Kelly
Robert Goldmann
Bryan Lynch

Rest in Peace

Nancy Binda

Congratulations

to our America Lodge
Raffle winners: Mary
Sperrazza (1st & 3rd
place!) and
Graziella Montoni!

Why is America Named After an Italian?

Every day, millions of people around the world use the words "America," "American," and "the Americas." Yet few realize that these names trace back to an Italian from Florence: Amerigo Vespucci.

Born in Florence in 1454 during the height of the Renaissance, Vespucci grew up in a city renowned for its art, commerce, and intellectual life. He worked for the powerful Medici family before becoming involved in the great age of exploration that was transforming Europe's understanding of the world.

The story of how America received its name begins in the years following Christopher Columbus's voyages across the Atlantic. Columbus believed he had reached islands near Asia, and he died convinced that he had found a new route to the East. Vespucci, however, reached a different conclusion.

Based on his travels and observations, Vespucci argued that the lands discovered across the Atlantic were not part of Asia at all. Instead, they were part of a previously unknown continent—a "New World." His letters describing these voyages were widely circulated throughout Europe and attracted enormous attention.

In 1507, a German cartographer named Martin Waldseemüller published a groundbreaking world map. Impressed by Vespucci's accounts, Waldseemüller labeled the newly identified lands "America," using the Latinized version of Vespucci's first name, Americus. Following the custom of using feminine names for continents, such as Europa, Asia, and Africa, he chose the form "America."

Interestingly, the original map applied the name only to part of what is now South America. Over time, however, the name spread to the entire Western Hemisphere and eventually came to include both North and South America.

America is one of the few continents whose name can be traced directly to a specific individual. Yet there is no evidence that Vespucci sought such recognition. In fact, Waldseemüller later questioned whether Vespucci deserved the honor and stopped using the name on some subsequent maps. By then, however, the name had already been adopted by other cartographers and had become firmly established.

The naming of America has long sparked debate among historians. Some argue that Columbus, whose voyages opened the door to European exploration of the Western Hemisphere, deserved the distinction. Others note that Vespucci's contribution was not necessarily discovering new lands, but helping Europeans understand what those lands actually were. His insight—that these territories constituted an entirely separate continent—changed geography forever.

Another fascinating detail is that the United States did not create the name "America." By the time the United States of America declared independence in 1776, the term had already been used for more than two centuries to describe the continents of the Western Hemisphere. The new nation simply adopted a name that was already familiar throughout the world.

More than five centuries later, the legacy of Amerigo Vespucci remains remarkable. From a Renaissance city in Tuscany, his name traveled across oceans and continents to become one of the most widely spoken geographic names in human history.

Every mention of America serves as a small reminder of Italy's contribution to the Age of Exploration and to humanity's expanding understanding of the world. Few individuals have left a legacy so enduring that their name is spoken daily by hundreds of millions of people across the globe.

<https://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib/0309/maps.html?utm>

<https://loc.gov/loc/lcib/08012/naming.html?utm>

<https://www.unesco.org/en/memory-world/universalis-cosmographia-secundum-ptolomaei-traditionem-et-americ-vespucii-aliorumque-illustrationes?utm>

https://www.history.com/articles/amerigo-vespucci?utm_source=chatgpt.com



Liberty

On July 4, 2026, America will celebrate her semi quincentennial marking 250 years since the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. But it was a fiery speech given more than a year earlier, at St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia, by an American politician, planter and orator, Patrick Henry, that persuaded his fellow delegates that the time for peaceful negotiation with Britain had passed. Although he was not elected to the Continental Congress, and therefore he was not a signer of the Declaration of Independence, it was his speech that galvanized the movement for independence.

***I know not what course others may take; but as for me,
give me liberty or give me death!***

Merriam-Webster defines liberty as the fundamental right and condition of being free from physical restraint, arbitrary control, and oppressive restrictions imposed by authority. It empowers you to live, act, and express yourself according to your own will, while respecting the equal rights of others.

Liberty vs. Freedom: Liberty and freedom are often used interchangeably, but they have distinct meanings.

Liberty can be defined as the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behavior, or political views.

Freedom, on the other hand, refers to the ability to act or think as one wants without being hindered by outside forces. It is often associated with the idea of self-determination and the pursuit of happiness.

Liberty emphasizes the importance of individual rights and the limitations of government power, while freedom is more focused on the ability of individuals to pursue their own interests.

And while America will celebrate 250 years of "liberty," our very own Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA) celebrated our 121 years in support of liberty. We hear it during every Initiation of New Members. The OSDIA defines Liberty as *"we want a free country with individual freedom of thought, of conscience and of religion. This is our concept of Liberty."*

With nearly 400 lodges throughout the U.S. and Italy, and more than 100,000 members and family affiliates, the OSDIA mission continues to foster a strong sense of community among Italian Americans by providing opportunities to build friendships, cultivate our culture and language, and support charitable causes, thereby preserving our rich heritage – and inspiring future generations. The Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America has always embraced **Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.**

Happy 250th Birthday America our sweet land of liberty...let freedom ring!

<https://www.ushistory.org/documents/libertydeath.htm>

[Patrick Henry - Wikipedia](#)

[Liberty vs. Freedom: What's the difference? | United We Pledge](#)

[My Country, 'Tis of Thee - Wikipedia](#)



WE THE PEOPLE

The question, “is America a democracy, or is it a republic?” is often debated in political discussions, social media, and even classroom conversations. But framing the issue as an “either-or” actually continues the misunderstanding of how our American political system works.

In a pure democracy, laws are made directly by the voting majority, leaving the rights of the minority largely unprotected. In a republic, laws are made by representatives chosen by the people who must comply with a constitution that protects the rights of the minority from the will of the majority.

The United States, while basically a republic, is best described as a “representative democracy.”

According to ThoughtCo.com, the United States, like most modern nations, is neither a pure republic nor a pure democracy. Instead, it is a hybrid democratic republic. While the majority still rules in the selection of representatives, for example, we elect people to represent us at the city, township, county and state level, we also have ballot initiatives that allow citizens to vote directly on proposed law changes, an official charter lists and protects certain inalienable rights, thus protecting the minority from the arbitrary political whims of the majority at the national level.

America’s government is structured to put roadblocks in front of majority control. For instance, the rules favoring low-population states in the Senate were explicitly chosen to prevent high-population (urban) states from implementing policies that would help big cities and hurt rural areas. Yet, states have the authority to set many of their own policies, meaning that national majorities do not automatically produce uniform outcomes. In this way, the system allows different majorities to exist at different levels.

One of our “seven” Founding Fathers and forth President, James Madison, known as the "Father of the Constitution" due to his pivotal role in drafting it as well as the Bill of Rights, said pure democracy often leads to “mob rule.” That means the majority can gang up on the minority. So instead, they gave us a republic — a system with checks and balances to make sure power doesn’t get out of hand. Madison believed a large republic would make it harder for narrow factions to dominate the political system. Constitutional design reflects these concerns. Power is divided among the three branches of government, authority is shared between federal and state governments, and elections occur at different intervals. These institutional arrangements were intended to balance democratic responsiveness with political stability.

On July 4, 2026, America will celebrate the most important milestone in our country’s history—250 years of American Independence. “With a single sheet of parchment and 56 signatures, America began the greatest political journey in human history.”

Source: [Republic vs. Democracy: What Is the Difference?](#)
[Is America a Democracy or a Republic? - Everything Policy - Briefs](#)
[Freedom 250 - United States Department of State](#)

THE 118TH GRAND LODGE OF NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION

Article 34 of the General Laws defines: STATE DELEGATES

State Delegates are the representatives of the Local Lodge who represent it at the Grand Convention of the Grand Lodge. A delegate is a person chosen, elected, or sent to act, speak, or vote on behalf of a larger group, especially at a government or political convention.

Our America Lodge 2245 delegates assembled in Albany on Thursday June 25th for our First General Session. In total, 55 Lodges were represented by 238 delegates from across New York, and the Albany Crown Plaza became our home for the next four days.

Daily meetings followed our Ritual and Protocols, similar to the plenary sessions but on a much grander scale. State Committee Reports were submitted, discussed and accepted in lavish ballrooms with long tables organized in uniform rows. Three delicious meals were planned to keep our energy and our attention levels high. And because we are America Lodge delegates, we had supplemental nutrition at the ready consisting of peanuts, pretzels, chocolates, hard candies and more.

The scheduled agenda was loosely followed by our Worthy State President Arthur Spera. During the Second General Session America Lodge delegates got their exercise as notice of the Community Outreach Award, Newsletter and membership growth winners were announced. It's a good thing we had plenty of supplemental nutrition. There was also the presentation of the 2026 Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro awards given to Anna Magliato and Anthony Vasaturo. The evening gala replete with jacket and tie, featured the 2026 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Robert and Geraldine Graham and the Bene Emeritus award bestowed upon National Financial Secretary and New York State Immediate Past President Biagio Isgro Jr. Then at 10:00PM all delegates were invited to a Meet the Candidates Night reception. This offered us a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet the candidates running for office.

Saturday is always the highlight of the convention. Balloted elections begin in the morning at 7:30AM. Today's sessions are beautifully interrupted by the incredibly touching videos of the many charities our OSDIA supports. You truly got a better understanding of how giving an organization we are privileged to belong. Many eyes were watering as we saw just how important we are to these charities. Thousands of dollars were again donated to these wonderful organizations as each lodge took to the microphone to announce how much their lodge was donating. There are just a few hours to compose ourselves before the Cocktail Reception at 6:30PM. Tonight is the formal evening with the Grand March of the State Officers at 7:45 followed by a banquet dinner. Everyone looked fabulous in their suits, tuxedos and gowns.

The sixth and final session convened promptly at 9:30AM. Where did the time go? These conventions are so informative and inspiring. The final tally was in and this year our New York lodges came together to donate over \$138,000.

We had the privilege to meet our fellow lodge brothers and sisters from across the state to share best practices, learn from each other and celebrate our wonderful culture and heritage. We are already looking forward to next year...







2026 NYS OSDIA CONVENTION LODGE CHARITABLE DONATIONS



Thank you to all of our lodge members for your generosity and support. Because of your contributions during the year, our lodge was proud to be part of the
New York State Convention's charitable giving effort.

Together, lodges across New York State donated an incredible
\$137,400.00 to several deserving charities.

Your kindness and commitment to helping others made this possible. Thank you for representing our lodge so well and for making a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need.

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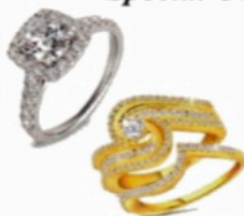


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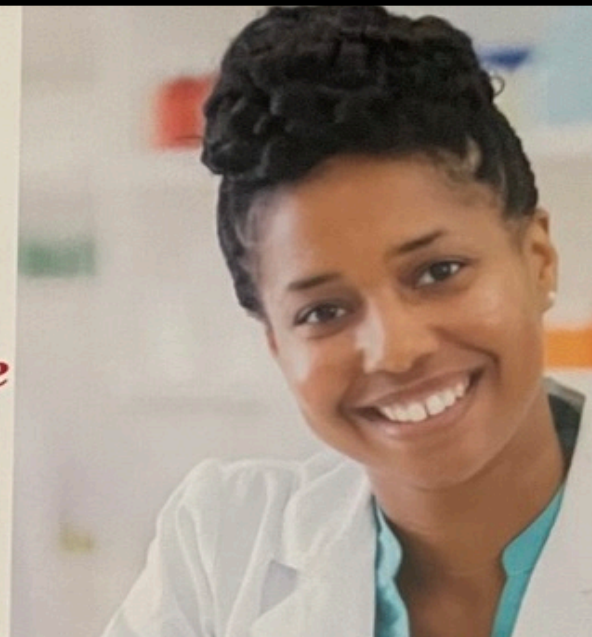
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