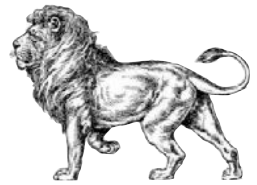


THE LION'S ROAR



AMERICA LODGE #2245

"AMERICA LODGE, WHERE FRIENDS BECOME FAMILY"



VFW Hall
68 Lincoln Road
Franklin Square, NY 11010

LIBERTY EQUALITY **FRATERNITY**

Volume 54
Issue 12
December 2025



Merry Christmas
Buon Natale

AMERICA LODGE # 2245

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Gloria R. Maffettone '93-'95	Vincent Giordano '18-'20
Christian Seidel* '95-'97	

*deceased



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 Mary Sperrazza, Alternates: Jo Raia, Angelo LaVeglia,
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THE LION'S ROAR NEWSLETTER

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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.



President's Message

Buono Natale a tutti!! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your families. What a great time of the year, once again to be spending time with family and friends.

This issue of your newsletter is all about traditions and gifts. Whether you're eating seven different fish dishes on Christmas Eve or enjoying panettone for dessert while playing some cards before midnight mass. This season has a special meaning for us all. If you have little ones, getting home and putting them to bed so you can begin setting everything up for a joyous Christmas morning is an added treat. On Christmas day we do it all over again with another great meal, enjoying our family and friends, maybe this time playing a little bingo or uno with the kids.

Then, a week later it's off to Times Square for the ball drop (most likely watching it on TV like I do) to ring in the New Year. An Italian tradition for just after midnight is to eat lentils. If you follow this tradition, enjoy! I want to wish you all the best for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

It has been a fantastic year for America Lodge. We have not only kept up with all our existing clubs and events, but we have added new ones like a Carnevale party in February and Mahjong games at the library. (I am told it's not like the video game!).

It has also been a good year for membership. As of our November meeting, we have added thirty new members with a few more expected at our December meeting! Congratulations on a job well done and a very warm welcome to all of our new members. I want to assure you that you are in the right place...because **America Lodge is where friends become family.**

A special thank you to everyone that helped us support the St Vincent De Paul Society at St Catherine's Parish outreach program. The amount of food that was donated was both heartwarming and impressive. We filled two tables with donated items. Thank you again for your generosity and kindness.

I am looking forward to our lodge Christmas party on December 7th and it is shaping up to be another great afternoon. You never know, we may even have a visit from Saint Nick.

Please read all about it and more in this issue of your award-winning newsletter. I will see you at the Christmas party, if not before.

Buono Natale,

Joe



MERRY CHRISTMAS



Welcome to your December Newsletter!

This month, as we continue with La Famiglia and traditions, we wanted to highlight what makes our Italian culture and heritage so special.

Christmas in Italy, on page 7, reminds us that the Christmas season actually starts on December 8th and continues until January 6th. Enjoy this article and reading about the customs and traditions that are not only in Italy, but what we continue to keep alive here in the U.S.!

Advent technically started on Sunday, November 30th this year. Our article on the **Advent Wreath**, on page 8, explains the importance and significance of the wreath; its colors and materials used.

Time, Talent, and Treasure...in keeping with the theme of the religious aspect of Christmas, because truly it is what this season is all about, this motivational on page 9 challenges us to "give" in other, perhaps more meaningful ways to joyfully embrace the meaning of this season.

We end this month with **New Years Eve**, and while some of these traditions on page 10 are not necessarily done here in the U.S., (watch out for falling dishes!) we do continue some traditions handed down to us.

The season wouldn't be complete without a **love story**...On page 11, enjoy this comparison of the Magi to Jim and Della Dillingham Young, and how their love for one another lead them to the realization of the perfect gift.

Lastly, the holiday season is not complete without the mention of **FOOD**! Enjoy **Italian Christmas Foods and Regional Specialties** on page 12 and check off how many of those items you and your family enjoy!

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo.

Donna



NEWSLETTER REMINDER-Deadline for the January Newsletter is December 19th, 2025. For planning purposes, all articles for publication should be received by the Friday after the General Meeting. We welcome photos with your article! Please email Donna Johnson 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, and spelling and for conformity to the ideals of the Order.

Membership Corner

During our November 19th meeting, we installed 6 new members. Please welcome: **Steve Izzo, Philip Pursino, Marc Anthony Montemarano, Matthew Capp, and Rita and Claudio Fabrizi** (not pictured).

For our existing members, remember Membership Dues are being collected now. See page 15 for the membership renewal application and send your dues payment to **Maria Passalacqua** before the due date of December 31st to remain a member in good standing.



Let's keep up the great work by talking to our family, neighbors, friends, and co-workers about joining America Lodge #2245. Remember, new members are the key to keeping our Lodge vibrant and growing. If you have any prospective new members, please reach out to Jo Ann Maggio at (516) 850-5288 or madsav1128@yahoo.com for an application. You can also visit our website at www.americallodge2245.com/Membership. And if you're feeling neighborly, consider bringing a friend to our December 17th meeting!


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



www.americallodge2245.com

 Find us on
Facebook
America Lodge #2245

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 2, America Lodge Mah Jongg 3:30-6:00 pm, Fr. Sq. Library.
- December 2, America Lodge Council Meeting. 7:00 pm, Fr. Sq. Library.
- December 7, America Lodge Annual Christmas Party. See flyer page 20.
- December 9, America Lodge Mah Jongg 3:30-6:00 pm, Fr. Sq. Library.
- December 13, America Lodge Opera Matinee: Umberto Giordano's Andrea Chénier.
- December 17, America Lodge General Membership meeting. 7:30 pm, Fr. Sq. VFW.
UGLY/FESTIVE sweater contest
- December 31, America Lodge Membership Dues!
- January 6, 13, 20, 27 America Lodge Mah Jongg, 3:30-6:00 pm, Fr. Sq. Library.



GOOD AND WELFARE

BUON COMPLEANNO to our December "Decembre" Celebrants!

Alfonso Amico, Linda Camolli, Christine Capitolo, Christina Frank, Carolyn Gallo, Louis Gatto, Andrew Monteleone, Ralph Munno, Marissa Nicoletti, Nina O'Neill Schmidt, Josephine Raia, Stefania Santopadre, Aldo Tonti, Frances Varon, Dominick Lampasi, Robert Tinelli.

GET WELL SOON...WE'RE THINKING OF YOU...

Nancy Binda, Pina Carbone, Helen Geneva, Past President Sylvia Giglio, Antonino Guarrasi, Past President Gloria Maffettone, Vice President Karen Mollish, Sally Nicoletti.

Letters to the Editor: Thank you!

“Grazie”! That’s the article that hit home the most to me! It definitely is that constant companion in conversations. Everyone in my family, as I remembered them, always had their own way of showing thanks to each other whether it was a little kiss, a gentle hug or even a soft smile with a little wink. But you know, even though that was back then, I even see a lot of that going on in our own club! Whenever members are called on to help or pitch in for something, everyone smiles, embraces or shakes hands to convey their own “thank you.” That’s why I love this club! So, “Grazie Donna”, that was a heartwarming article.”

~Anthony Spano





Christmas in Italy

Christmas in Italy spans from December 8th (Feast of the Immaculate Conception) to January 6th (Epiphany). Italians cherish spending time with families, exploring outdoor markets, and enjoying panettone! Unique customs include whimsical flying donkeys and benevolent witches.

Christmas markets emerge throughout November and December, offering treats like roasted chestnuts, *Torrone*, and ornaments. Local toys and crafts are also popular.

La Befana, an enchanting old woman who rides a broomstick, arrives during Christmas. She lost her way after following the Three Wise Men and spreads joy by delivering sweets and gifts to well-behaved children. Naughty children may find lumps of coal in their stockings.

Italy's South celebrates Christmas with the *Presepi Viventi*, or Living Nativity. Locals re-enact the biblical nativity scene, complete with livestock and traditional attire. St. Francis of Assisi founded this tradition in 1223, spreading across Italy, especially in Puglia, Campania, and Sicily.

Naples' Via San Gregorio Armeno is famous for its meticulously crafted *Presepi*, representing traditional Southern Italian village life. Artisans create these figurines, and visitors can watch craftsmen at work. Over 500,000 annual visitors immerse themselves in the festive atmosphere.

In Northern Italy, particularly Lombardy and Veneto, St. Lucy delivers gifts on December 13th with her flying donkey. She rewards well-behaved children and punishes naughty ones. Children often leave carrots for her donkey and coffee for St. Lucy. In Verona, the city hosts a grand Christmas market in her honor.

Christmas in Italy goes beyond folk customs and food; for many Italians, it's a deeply religious celebration. Vatican City in Rome hosts numerous Christmas-themed religious events, including the papal midnight mass on Christmas Eve and a towering fir tree in St. Peter's Square adorned with a massive nativity scene.

Campo Santo Stefano in Venice transforms into an enchanting Christmas village each December. Stroll through the stone piazza to find holiday-themed stalls and vendors, including artisans showcasing Venetian handcrafts. Food enthusiasts can enjoy festive treats like Venetian panettone or *Torrone*.

For a truly awe-inspiring Christmas experience, visit Umbria's charming hillside town of Gubbio. Ascend to Monte Ingino, overlooking the city, where over 460 lights create the illusion of the "world's largest Christmas tree." In 2017, Italian astronaut Paolo Nespoli lit the tree from outer space! The design illuminates over 2,133 feet of the mountainside, making it a remarkable example of one giant Italian Christmas tradition!





WHAT IS AN ADVENT WREATH?



While the exact origin of the Advent wreath is uncertain, one thing is undeniable: the use of this symbol is a longstanding tradition in our Catholic Faith, dating back to at least the 17th century.

As we progressively light the candles throughout the Advent season, we acknowledge God's coming through reflection, prayer, and hope. We make our own private vigil while awaiting the Light of the World. Not only do we recall His first coming, we also await His second coming, when He will judge the living and the dead.

Significance of the Advent Wreath's Shape and Color:

Since circles have no beginning and no end, the circular shape of the Advent wreath symbolizes eternal life in Christ. The wreath holds four candles, which are lit one-by-one over the four weeks of the Advent season. Generally, three are violet (purple) and one is rose-colored, each representing 1,000 years. Added together, the four candles symbolize the 4,000 years that humanity waited for our Savior.

Violet is a liturgical color symbolizing penance, sacrifice, and prayer. During the first, second, and fourth weeks of Advent, we light violet candles as a reminder of the preparation of heart and mind undertaken during this season, which was traditionally known as a "little lent." The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. On this day, we celebrate that our wait is almost over. Since rose is the liturgical color used to signify joy, we light the rose candle on the Third Sunday of Advent as we rejoice in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah.

Materials Used in the Advent Wreath:

Advent wreaths were traditionally made of evergreen branches, which have long been a symbol of the constancy and faithfulness we aspire to as Christians. Evergreens flourish during every season, remaining unchanged through the harshness of winter. We are called to live our Faith this same way with holy confidence and fortitude.

Holly, with its prickly leaves, represents the Crown of Thorns. Pinecones represent the Resurrection, because they contain the seeds of a new tree and therefore of new life.

SOURCE



Inspired by the Three Wise Men, we give...

..."Time, talent, and treasure." A framework for giving, it represents the three main resources we can share. It encourages giving back through our most valuable assets: our time (volunteering), our talent (skills and expertise), and our treasure (money).

Time

Our time begins at birth and ends on this earth with death. For most, it is about 30,000 days. Our time is precious and cannot be stored up like grain in a barn. Once a moment passes it is gone forever. Our life on earth is a pilgrimage toward heaven. Each day, each week, each month and each year, we must be progressive on our pilgrimage. We cannot do this unless we give some time to God. *Your gift of time is unique, because you are the only one who can give it.*

Talent

All of us have special talents or gifts, which are a sign of the power and majesty of God. These talents and gifts are not given to us just for our own use but are given to us for the enrichment of the lives of others and so that we can better serve God. Whether you share your professional expertise, unique skills/hobbies, or even your social networks or ideas, you can give back to our community, or anywhere there is a need.

Treasure

Christians are asked to share our gifts of Treasure. We are to make good use of material gifts given to us by God. To be less than frugal with our material goods is a sin. To do nothing with them is just as wrong. Cash is what we most commonly think of as "treasure." Money plays a significant role in our lives, and because of this, it needs to be aligned with our most deeply held beliefs. "Where your treasure is, there also lies your heart." -Luke 12:34

It is in this season that we remember, while Christmas may be a cultural holiday, it is also a religious holiday when we celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus Christ. Christmas gives us many things to enjoy, like parties, carols, and decorations. But it's also important to remember that the true and lasting joy of the season comes from the hope of Jesus. Our treasured Christmas traditions, such as exchanging presents, counting down with an advent calendar, and sharing a meal with loved ones, beautifully reminds us of the gift of Jesus Christ. Inspired by the Three Wise Men, we gather to give gifts to one another at Christmas. And while gift giving spreads joy, sometimes the most meaningful gifts, are the ones that often cost nothing.

Giving our Time, Talent and Treasure shows us that a life of giving offers many opportunities to change the world for the better. **Remember the words of St. Francis of Assisi: "It is in giving that we receive."**

Merry Christmas...

Source: Time, Talent & Treasure | St.
Francis of Assisi Catholic Church



Italian New Year Traditions

As the world prepares to bid farewell to the old year and welcome the new, Italy stands out with its vibrant and diverse New Year's traditions. Each region, and even each town, has its own unique way of celebrating *Capodanno*, the Italian New Year's Eve, promising a "*buon anno*" (good year) and the banishing of last year's "*sfortuna*" (bad luck). Unsurprisingly, many of these traditions are deeply rooted in Italy's rich culinary heritage.

In the bustling city of Naples, the arrival of midnight is marked by a dramatic spectacle. As the clock strikes twelve, residents take to the streets, tossing old dishes and furniture out their windows in a tradition known as "*buttare le cose vecchie*" (throwing out old things). This bold act is believed to clear out the old and make way for the new, a literal interpretation of "out with the old, in with the new." If you find yourself wandering the streets of Naples on New Year's Eve, it's wise to seek shelter at midnight to avoid a shower of falling plates and pans.

Elsewhere in Italy, the celebration is more subdued but equally festive. Families gather around a large table for a hearty feast, or *cenone*, served family-style. The menu typically includes pork and lentils, both symbols of prosperity. Pork, often in the form of *cotechino* (cooked sausage) or *zampone* (pig trotter), represents life's fullness and richness to come, while lentils, resembling miniature coins, foretell a prosperous new year.

As the night progresses, the air is filled with the sound of fireworks and the clinking of glasses. At the stroke of midnight, Italians across the country raise a toast with *bacini* (kisses) on both cheeks and a glass of fizzy Prosecco or Spumante. A playful tradition involves dipping a finger in a glass of bubbly and touching the ear of someone to whom you wish a happy new year.

In Rome, the city's historic streets and piazzas come alive with firework displays and open-air concerts. The sky above the Colosseum is illuminated by a dazzling array of colors, drawing locals and visitors alike to join in the revelry. Meanwhile, in Florence, the celebration takes on a unique twist. Up until 1750, the Florentines celebrated the new year on March 25th, the Feast of the Annunciation, and to this day, you can experience New Year's Day twice in Florence!

As the clock continues to tick towards midnight, some Italians indulge in a sweet tradition of eating grapes imported from Spain. A grape is consumed for each hour struck on the clock, a custom believed to bring good luck. In some regions, raisins are also enjoyed for their auspicious symbolism.

New Year's Eve in Italy is more than just a celebration; it's a social affair, a time for friends and *famiglia* to come together and share in the joy of the season. Whether it's through food, fireworks, or the simple act of wearing red underwear for luck, Italians embrace the new year with open arms and hopeful hearts, ready to accept whatever adventures lie ahead.

O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi*

First published in 1905 under his pen name of O. Henry, William Sydney Porter was a writer of short stories and gives us *The Gift of the Magi*. The story tells the tale of a young husband and wife and how they dealt with the challenge of buying secret Christmas gifts for each other with very little money.

The plot centers on the main characters, Jim and Della Dillingham Young, who are very much in love, but lack financial resources. Each wants to give the other something valuable but realize that they don't have the means to do so. And Della, despite months of pinching pennies at the grocer, butcher, and vegetable market has only saved a \$1.87.

Both have only one prized possession. Della has her beautiful knee-length brown hair that would "depreciate the Queen of Sheba's jewels." And the ever punctual, Jim, in part because his one treasured possession is a beautiful gold pocket watch that had belonged to his father and his grandfather before him. Although slightly embarrassed by its old leather strap of a fob, Jim often checks the time.

Desperate and crying, Della finds a hair shop who will purchase her cut hair for \$20. She can then use the money to buy Jim a Christmas gift; a platinum fob chain for his pocket watch. In the meantime, Jim, knowing how much Della loves her beautiful hair, sells his pocket watch to buy Della a set of lavish ornamental combs.

Della returns home to fix her hair into curls and make dinner. When Jim walks through the door, he freezes, staring at Della's hair. Della tells him that she cut her hair to buy him a proper Christmas present. Jim hugs Della and throws his present on the table. He explains his stunned appearance and that no haircut could make him love her any less. He was only surprised because of the present that he bought for her. Della opens her Christmas gift to find a set of very expensive tortoiseshell combs for her long hair. She's ecstatic for a moment before she begins crying.

Suddenly, Della remembers her Christmas present for Jim and asks him to see his watch so she could put the new chain on it. Jim sits back on the couch, smiles and admits that he sold his watch to buy her the combs.

In order to give each other a "valuable" Christmas present, each sacrifices the one item that they prize the most. The narrator concludes the story by describing the magi who invented the art of giving Christmas presents. He compares Della and Jim to these wise men, and concludes that of all those who give gifts, these two are the wisest. Because while the gifts themselves no longer have a purpose, the giving of the gifts means everything: they now know that each one would sacrifice their most prized possessions for the other. In the end, they gave each other not objects, but love.



Merry Christmas

Source: [The Gift of the Magi](#)
Study Guide | Literature Guide
| [LitCharts](#)



Italian Christmas Foods and Regional Specialties

Food forms the heart of Christmas in Italy, with each region contributing unique dishes that reflect local ingredients and centuries-old traditions.

Sweet Delicacies

From December 8th onward, Italian bakeries overflow with festive treats.

Panettone: The iconic Milanese sweet bread studded with candied fruits.

Pandoro: A golden, star-shaped cake dusted with powdered sugar.

Cartellate: Puglian honey-coated pastries shaped like roses.

Torrone: Traditional nougat available in countless regional variations.

Biscotti: Twice-baked cookies perfect for dipping in wine or coffee.

Christmas Eve Seafood Traditions

La Viglia showcases Italy's coastal culinary heritage.

Capitone: Roasted eel, considered especially lucky.

Baccalà: Salt cod prepared in numerous regional styles.

Seafood pasta: Linguine with clams, spaghetti with sea urchin.

Frittura mista: Mixed fried seafood platters.

Regional Specialties: Sicilian swordfish, Puglian oysters, Venetian baccalà mantecato.

Christmas Day Celebrations

December 25th brings hearty meat dishes.

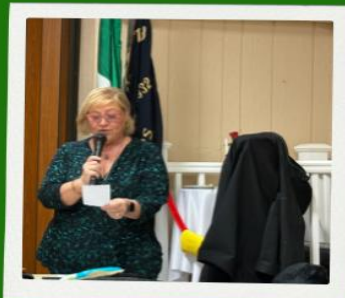
Antipasti: Elaborate spreads featuring local cheeses, cured meats, and preserved vegetables.

Brasato: Beef braised in wine.

Arrosto: Roasted veal or lamb.

Regional mains: Tuscan bistecca, Roman abbacchio, Sicilian involtini.

November General Meeting





AMERICA LODGE
BOCCE
end of season
Dinner





AMERICA LODGE #2245
2026 MEMBERSHIP DUES ANNUAL RENEWAL

AMERICA LODGE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

I know it's hard to believe but it is that time of year where America Lodge will be mailing out the 2026 dues notices.

Last year we tried something a little different by asking everyone via email to send in their dues and it was a huge success so we will be doing it again this year. We are requesting that you mail in your dues without receiving formal mailed notice. If we do not receive your dues by November 15th, notices will be mailed.

Dues are \$50.00 and checks should be made **payable to America Lodge #2245**.

IMPORTANT: If you are a **new member** that joined from September 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, you do **NOT** have to pay dues for 2026 as they were included in your 2025 payment.

Please include below information with your payment:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email address: _____

Signature: _____

Please mail payment to:

Maria Passalacqua, 265 Cleveland Street, Franklin Square, New York 11010

THANK YOU!

America Lodge appreciates your continued support and membership!

WWW.AMERICALODGE2245.COM

"America Lodge, where friends become family"

BECOME AN OFFICER!



2026 ELECTIONS!

AMERICA LODGE #2245

It's That Time of Year Again...

America Lodge will elect our officers this February, and we wanted to invite **everyone** to learn more about our officer positions and responsibilities. We hope this information will help you discern whether you are ready to become an officer!

For any organization to succeed they must consider a *Succession Plan (a pipeline of talent ready to fill roles in the future, ensuring continuity and growth)*. Because our officer positions are voted on, and elections are held every two years, America Lodge must always identify and prepare its future leaders. An effective Succession Plan calls for talented new officers to join the ranks of existing officers to bring **new** ideas, **new** leadership styles and **new** perspectives.

Some may ask, what are the qualities of an officer? Well, as an officer, you need to have initiative, ambition, good judgement together with a certain human kindness all cemented with an unfailing sense of courtesy and tact. At the heart of it all, officers are members just like **YOU**, who volunteer to help our Lodge and OSDIA grow and share our beautiful heritage.

Any effective leader knows that to be successful; you mustn't forget the past, you must build on it. America Lodge has a wonderful 54-year history, rich with visions and ideas which have all come to fruition. Together we stand, proud to be Italian Americans and celebrate everything our Italian forefathers and descendants gave the world.

Is now your time to step up and join our officer ranks? I think you will be surprised at how such a small contribution of your time can yield such great results. Your contribution helps us ensure the continued viability and strength of America Lodge. If you can't volunteer at this time, won't you please encourage and talk to someone about becoming an officer. Your support may be all they need...

Contact:

America Lodge Nomination Chairperson

Andrew Monteleone

(516) 784-9142

monteleoneandrew@gmail.com

PRESIDENT

ART. 22. The President is the highest-ranking officer and the leader of the Local Lodge and as such;

- (a) Calls and presides over all the meetings of the Council and of the assembly.
- (b) Sees that the laws of the Local Lodge are observed and the deliberation of the Council and of the assembly are carried out.
- (c) Sees that the laws of the Order are respected and observed, and the orders of the Supreme Lodge and of the Grand Lodge are obeyed.
- (d) Controls the affairs of the Local Lodge and supervises the performance of duties by the other officers of the Council.
- (e) Signs the minutes of the meetings of the assembly and all orders of payment, checks, correspondence, and all documents which invest the responsibility of the Local Lodge.
- (f) Unless the laws of the Local Lodge provide otherwise, the President appoints all committees of the Local Lodge, of which the President is an ex-officio member.
- (g) Refrains from making proposals at the meetings of the assembly; participates in discussions only to clarify the issues presented and votes only in case of a tie.
- (h) After hearing the opinion of the Orator, the President rules upon controversies involving the application of the laws. The member who disagrees with the ruling and the interpretation of the President shall appeal within 10 days to the State President in case the Local Lodge is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, and to the National President, in case the Local Lodge is under the direct jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge.
- (i) When disorder arises in the meeting of the assembly or of the Council, the President may silence or censure the member or members causing such disorder. If such member or members persist in causing disorder, the President may fine, silence or expel the member or members from the hall or suspend the meeting.
- (j) May appoint a Chaplain whose primary duties shall be to conduct, whenever practicable, all religious exercises of the Local Lodge. The Chaplain shall also perform such other duties relating to the office, as shall be assigned to the office from time to time by the President.

VICE PRESIDENT

ART.23. The Vice President is the second ranking officer of the Local Lodge. As such, the Vice President assists the President and takes the President's place when the President is absent or unable to act. In the absence of the President, the Vice President performs the duties and exercises the prerogatives of the President to the same extent and with like power which the President would have, if present.

RECORDING SECRETARY

ART. 26. The Recording Secretary is the custodian of the archives and the keeper of the seal of the Local Lodge. The Recording Secretary's duties are:

- (a) To take and record the minutes of the meetings of the Council and of the assembly, which minutes are to be at the discretion of the Local Lodge distributed to all members prior to the successive meeting or read at the successive meeting.
- (b) To make up and keep up to date the membership roll of the Local Lodge.
- (c) To care for correspondence and write letters which the Recording Secretary is directed to write by the President or other higher officer in the ranking units of the Order.
- (d) To be the sole officer through whom a member may communicate with the Grand Council.
- (e) To write and send notices for meetings.
- (f) To act as the clerk of the Local Lodge Arbitration Commission when such Commission is in session, except in case the Recording Secretary is an interested party.
- (g) Within ten days after receipt, to forward to the State Recording Secretary all appeals referred or presented to the Recording Secretary by members because of administrative irregularities. The appeals when forwarded shall be accompanied by a report of the views expressed by the Council.
- (h) To carry out all orders which the Recording Secretary may receive, in matters pertaining to the office, from the President or from the higher-ranking officers of the Order. (Art. 26 revised 10/15/2021)

NEW YORK SUPPLEMENTAL BYLAWS

Article 26 CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

B.L.2: If the office of Corresponding Secretary is established by a Local Lodge, pursuant to B.L.2 et seq. of Article 21 hereof, the duties of the Corresponding Secretary shall be as follows:

- 1. To maintain a file of all Local Lodge correspondence;
- 2. To write letters as directed by the President;
- 3. To notify members of meetings;
- 4. To make and keep up to date the Local Lodge membership lists;
- 5. To be the sole officer through whom a member may communicate with the Grand Council;
- 6. To read all pertinent correspondence at meetings; and
- 7. To perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President concomitant with the officer of Corresponding Secretary.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

ART.27. The Financial Secretary is the collector and accountant of the Local Lodge. The Financial Secretary's duties are:

- (a) To collect dues and assessments, giving proper receipt therefor.
- (b) To write orders of payment, affixing the Financial Secretary's signature thereon, together with that of the President.
- (c) To present orders of payment to the Treasurer, who issues checks thereon, which checks the Financial Secretary presents to the parties to whom they are payable, exacting at the same time money due from such parties to the Local Lodge.
- (d) To make up and keep up to date financial records, particularly those entrusted to the Financial Secretary by the Grand Lodge or Supreme Lodge. Those financial records are: The ledger, the journal book, the financial statements, and the orders of payments.
- (e) To notify by mail those members who are in default with the payment of dues and assessments.
- (f) To announce members in default with the payment of dues and assessments to the assembly.
- (g) To communicate, at the end of each meeting of the assembly, the total collections and disbursements made on the day of the meeting.
- (h) To make a quarterly financial report, which report is to be audited and signed by no less than three trustees, a copy of which is to be sent to the State Financial Secretary.
- (i) To make payment of the Capita Tax, computed on the basis of the number of members listed on the membership roll at the end of each quarter, which payment shall be made, without the necessity of deliberation on the part of the assembly of the Local Lodge, not later than January 15th, April 15th, July 15th, and October 15th of each year.
- (j) To carry out all orders which the Financial Secretary may receive, in matters affecting the office, from the President and from higher ranking officers of the Order.

TREASURER

ART.28. The Treasurer is the custodian of the funds of the Local Lodge. The Treasurer's duties are:

- (a) To receive at the end of each meeting all money collected by the Financial Secretary and to issue proper receipt therefor.
- (b) To record in and keep up to date the Cash Book of the Local Lodge, in which record the Treasurer shall register monthly income and disbursements of the Local Lodge.
- (c) Not later than three days after each meeting, to deposit in previously designated banks the funds received by the Treasurer in accounts opened in the name of the Local Lodge.
- (d) To issue and sign checks upon the receipt of proper order of payment and consign them to the Financial Secretary for delivery to the payee thereof.
- (e) To withdraw funds from savings accounts opened in the name of the Local Lodge; provided the withdrawal slip bears the signature of the President, of the Financial Secretary, and of at least one Trustee, in addition to the Treasurer's; and provided further that the assembly of the Local Lodge may dispense with the signature of the Trustee when deemed advisable.
- (f) To carry out such orders which the Treasurer may receive, in matters pertaining to the office, from the President or from the higher-ranking officers of the Order.

ORATOR

ART.25. The Orator gives opinion concerning the application and interpretation of the laws of the Order and sees that the laws of the Order are observed and properly applied. In matters which relate to the administration of the affairs of the Local Lodge, the Orator is subordinate to the President. In matter relating to the exercise of Judicial Power, the Orator is subordinate to the State or National Order. The Orator, either on the Orator's own initiative or upon complaint being made to the Orator, shall have power to prefer written charges against a member who has violated the laws of the Order.

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 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 deliberation of the assembly of the Local Lodge.

MASTERS AND/OR MISTRESSES OF CEREMONIES

ART.30. The Masters and/or Mistresses of Ceremonies are officers of the Local Lodge who participate in ceremonial activities prescribed by the laws of the Order during the course of the meetings of the assembly of the Local Lodge.

GUARD

ART.31. The Guard is the doorkeeper of the Local Lodge. The Guard's duty is to exclude strangers from the meetings of the assembly and to admit those members who have identified themselves by announcing their presence to the President, who, in turn, orders the Guard to either admit or exclude such members.

LOCAL LODGE ARBITRATION COMMISSION

Art. 33. The Local Lodge Arbitration Commission is the judicial tribunal of the Local Lodge. The rules and regulations which prescribe the mode of procedure, the jurisdiction, the powers and the revenue incident to the functioning of the Local Lodge Arbitration Commission are set for in the Judicial Code of the Order.

The Local Lodge Arbitration Commission is composed of five (5) regular members, known as Commissioners, and five alternate members, known as Alternate Commissioners. The Local Lodge Commissioners and the Local Lodge Alternate Commissioners are elected at the annual meeting for electing officers of the Local Lodge for a period of one (1) year and shall serve until their successors are elected and installed. Local Lodges holding biennial elections shall elect their Arbitration Commission members for a period of two (2) years and shall serve until the successors are elected and installed. Whenever a vacancy occurs among the Commissioners, it shall be filled by the Alternate Commissioner who received the highest number of votes during the election of the Alternate Commissioners.



2026-2028

OFFICER INTEREST FAQs



AMERICA LODGE #2245



AMERICA LODGE #2245

I am interested in becoming an officer, but I work and I'm not sure I will have enough time.

Thank you for your interest. While it's true our officers do attend one additional meeting, usually the first Tuesday of every month, both our current President and our Immediate Past President work full time. Our National President also works full time. Many find it takes a lot less time than they thought. Different roles require more of a commitment, for example our President, but they manage to excel at it and so can you!

Do I have to know how to use email and have a computer or smart phone?

Yes. As an officer you will need to use email and need a reliable computer or smart phone for communication. Being able to communicate via email and text is a fast and cost-effective method of communication.

I have never been an officer before, I won't know what to do.

None of us had experience when we became officers. But this opportunity allows us to spend more time with our Lodge brothers and sisters and learn more about our Lodge and the Order. We really appreciate being able to make a difference and help improve our Lodge now and into the future.

I go to Florida for the winter and will miss a meeting, so I can't be an officer.

Good news! We support Zoom meetings! We can send you an Zoom link and you can join our meeting virtually. Yes, it's true our officers have attendance requirements. Having three UN-excused absences can result in removal from office.

I am not good with money; I couldn't be Treasurer or Financial Secretary. Do you need to be a CPA or Accountant to fill these roles?

Excellent points and question. It's important to know your strengths and interests. Advanced financial degrees are not required. If you can balance a checkbook and use a calculator you are qualified. For skilled roles like this there is lots of help and assistance.

Will I need to speak to the Lodge publicly? I've never made a speech before.

Our officers are not the only members who speak at meetings. For instance, our Committee Chairpersons usually provide updates to their upcoming events. If you can talk at the dinner table, you will be fine talking before us. We are all family!

Do I need to dress nicer when I'm an officer?

As an officer, you represent America Lodge at meetings, functions and events. While there is no specific dress code, you should look neat, and presentable. You are the face of America Lodge and prospective and current members look up to you.

I don't want to run against anyone. I don't want someone to get angry with me.

Please don't look at this like a contest with winners and losers. We are all winners in our wonderful Order and America Lodge. A sign of a strong, vibrant Lodge is when multiple members put in for the same role. We are all brothers and sisters, and we all want what's best for the Lodge. Our terms are for two years with a maximum of four years, so we are always looking for new officers.

Will I need to interview?

Yes, the Nominating Committee will interview you via a Zoom meeting. They will ask questions and prepare a slate of officers to be announced at our January meeting. Elections will be held in February, with installation in March.

How will I know if I am ready to be an officer?

If you are interested, you are ready! We are looking for members who want to make a difference; members who want to build on our past to make a better future.

How do I apply?

Express your interest to IPP Andrew Monteleone or any of the Nomination Committee members. The Nominating Committee will be in touch with you to schedule your interview. It should be noted that President Joe Armocida is not a member of the Nominating Committee. The Committee members are IPP Andrew Monteleone, Past President Gloria Maffettone, Mark Johnson, Marie Geneva Frank and Helen Goldmann.

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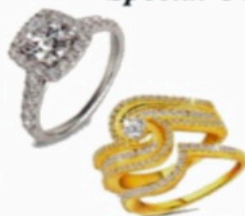
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