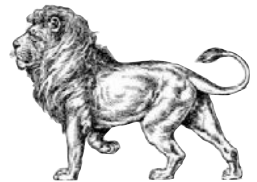
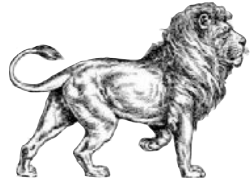


THE LION'S ROAR



AMERICA LODGE #2245

VFW Hall
68 Lincoln Road
Franklin Square, NY 11010

LIBERTY EQUALITY FRATERNITY

Volume 54
Issue 11
November 2025

"AMERICA LODGE. WHERE FRIENDS BECOME FAMILY"



Happy
THANKSGIVING

AMERICA LODGE # 2245

2024-2026 OFFICERS

President	Joseph Armocida	646-879-2842
Vice President	Karen Mollish	516-437-3278
2nd Vice President	Mary Versaci	516-270-3482
Immediate Past President	Andrew Monteleone	516-784-9142
Orator	Ellen Andrasick	516-317-0686
Recording Secretary	Cathy Walsh	516-483-6483
Financial Secretary	Maria Passalacqua	516-456-3078
Corresponding Secretary	Donna Giorandino Johnson	518-681-7915
Treasurer	Lisa Spano	516-477-1561
Chaplain	Pierina Liberatoscioli	516-775-2107

TRUSTEES

Principal Trustee: Annette Koziarz
Nancy Caracciolo
Jo Ann Maggio
Antonio Liberatoscioli
Linda Camolli
Dennis Lyons
Michael Avallone
Debra Goldmann
Jean Fichtl
Phyllis Ann O'Connell

SENTINELS

Josephine Carbone
Sylvana Apicella

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Luigi Pinto
Alfred Pittella

NEW YORK STATE GRAND LODGE PAST PRESIDENTS

*Joseph Montemarano
Carolyn Reres

OSDIA NATIONAL TRUSTEE Carolyn Reres

AMERICA LODGE #2245 PAST PRESIDENTS

Joseph Montemarano* '71-'73	Anthony Arena '97-'99
Peter Lanciotti * '74-75	Carolyn Reres '99-'2001
Matthew Nizza* '76-77	Barbara Giorandino* '01-'03
Salvatore Palmeri* '78-'80	Jo Zanghi* '03-'05
Herbert Capitolo* '81-'83	Frank Rossi* '05-'07
Charles Barragato* '83-'85	Joseph Giglio* '07-'09
Joseph DiGennaro* '85-'87	Doris Collins* '09-'11
Philip Friedlander '87-'89	Marty Raia* '11-'12
Frank Rossi* '89-'91	Doris Collins* '12-'13
Doris Collins* '90-'92	Sylvia Giglio '13-'15
Marie Pacacha Vooris '93	Gloria R. Maffettone '16-'18
Gloria R. Maffettone '93-'95	Vincent Giordano '18-'20
Christian Seidel* '95-'97	

*deceased



COMMITTEES

Annual Christmas Party	Debra Goldmann	516-729-7712
Annual Dinner Dance	Andrew Monteleone	516-784-9142
Annual Fishing Trip	Andrew Monteleone	516-784-9142
Annual Picnic	Maria Passalacqua	516-456-3078
Bocce Club	Marie Geneva Frank	516-852-1276
Bocce Club	Cindy Lampasi	516-690-1085
Book Club/Movie Night	Mary Sperrazza	516-993-8453
Bowling Tournament	Angela Pinto	516-775-1713
Budget Chairperson	Maria Passalacqua	516-456-3078
Columbus Parade	Dennis Lyons	516-481-2077
CSJ Executive Board	Janis Parazzelli	516-358-1409
CSJ Liaison	Jean Fichtl	516-354-6488
Dinner Dance Journal	Debra Goldmann	516-729-7712
Dinner Party/Pasta Night	Karen Mollish	516-437-3278
Gift of Sight	Jean Fichtl	516-354-6488
Good & Welfare	Tiziana Brugellis	516-491-7785
Grand Lodge Plenary	Andrew Monteleone	516-784-9142
Hospitality	Angela Pinto	516-775-1713
Lion's Roar Ads	Ellen Andrasick	516-317-0686
Mah Jongg	Lisa Teitz	516-965-8465
Membership	Jo Ann Maggio	516-850-5288
Memorial Mass	Josephine Carbone	516-483-7320
Opera	Jo Falabella	516-354-2989
Post Office Box	Angela Pinto	516-775-1713
Scholarship	Mary Rose O'Hara	516-521-6275

ARBITRATION

Past President Sylvia Giglio, Joseph Camolli, Sally Nicoletti,
Mary Sperrazza, Alternates: Jo Raia, Angelo LaVeglia,
Phyllis Ann O'Connell.

THE LION'S ROAR NEWSLETTER

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www.Americallodge2245.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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to November! Last month America Lodge debuted her new motto, *"America Lodge, where friends become family."* And with November being the start of the holiday season, with Thanksgiving on November 27th, it is one of my favorite holidays since it's purely about gathering family and friends where we sit down and enjoy a delicious turkey dinner. Of course, being Italians, we start off with an antipasto and after the turkey and a million side dishes we conclude our dinner with nuts and fruits followed by coffee and dessert. But it's each other's company that fills our hearts. **La Famiglia!**

What a busy month October has been! Italian American Heritage month was established in 1989 by President George H.W. Bush to honor and recognize the centuries of achievements, successes, and valuable contributions Italian immigrants and Italian Americans gave the world and indeed America. America Lodge began the month with our beautiful and touching annual **memorial mass**. This prayerful celebration recalls our members who were called home as we continue to remember and pray for them. Next was our showing of ***Cinema Paradiso*** which has been credited with revitalizing Italy's film industry. *Cinema Paradiso* has been cited as one of the greatest films of all time and its ending is considered among the greatest endings in film history. Our General Membership meeting saw a presentation by Paul Van Wie, a member of America Lodge and former president of the Franklin Square Historical Society. This was a perfect nod and tribute to our wonderful Italian heritage with a discussion on Mother Cabrini. And if that wasn't enough, we attended the **Town of Hempstead** raising of the Italian flag at Town Hall. This is a magnificent symbol of both patriotism and unity. Then we marched in the OSDIA's **Long Island Columbus Day parade** in Deer Park. America Lodge with her sea of red shirts helped to celebrate the official holiday of the Order. That's correct, Columbus Day is proclaimed by the Supreme Lodge as the OFFICIAL HOLIDAY OF THE ORDER.

But, without question, the highlight of the month came at **America Lodge's 54th Annual Dinner Dance** where we honored National President Thomas Lupo, NYS Grand Lodge President Arthur Spera and our very own Donna Giorandino Johnson Corresponding Secretary, editor of the Lions Roar, and creator of our website. Leonard's Palazzo Grand Ballroom was the perfect venue to share the afternoon. We ate, drank, danced and most importantly enjoyed each other's company. La Famiglia. A special thank you to our Dinner Dance chairs 1st Vice President Karen Mollish and IPP and District Two Trustee Andrew Monteleone. Many thanks as well to our Journal chair Debra Goldmann with the assistance of Anthony Spano and Anthony Mossa. I also want to thank everyone who helped make the afternoon such an overwhelming success.

I want to remind everyone about your membership dues. Please see this issue's Membership Corner and/or page 16 for more information. I also want to encourage you to volunteer someone, or maybe you want to consider volunteering to serve America Lodge as an officer. I have appointed a Nominating Committee who will interview anyone who is interested. They will present their slate of officers at our January meeting, followed by elections in February. In March we will install 2026-2028 elected group of officers at a ceremony steeped in tradition and pageantry.

Lastly, at our November meeting we will be collecting nonperishable food items to help the food pantry at St. Catherine of Sienna Parish. To learn more, click here: [Parish Outreach – St. Catherine of Sienna](#) Our members, Mary Rose O'Hara and Donna Campanella, are in charge of this ministry's outreach program where so many of our America Lodge members volunteer to help.

GRAZIE,
Joe Armocida
President, America Lodge #2245

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING

WELCOME TO YOUR
NOVEMBER
NEWSLETTER



To President Joseph Armocida, America Lodge members, family and friends,

I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the recognition I received at the 54th Anniversary Dinner Dance. As I mentioned at the dinner dance, you truly are my family, *La Famiglia*, and I am deeply honored, and incredibly grateful for the wonderful celebration, your friendship and love.

Thank you so much to the dedicated Dinner Dance and Journal Chairpersons: Karen Mollish, Andrew Monteleone, Debra Goldmann, and committee members who worked tirelessly to make our Anniversary celebration such an outstanding event. The food, music, dancing, and journal were amazing! Each year gets better than the last!

Thank you also for the meaningful gift of a commemorative brick at the Garibaldi Meucci Museum. It is an honor to receive such a gift and one that I will treasure for many, many years!

I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving, shared with those you love around your table, with an appreciation for all that we have to be thankful for.

I am thankful for you all.

Donna



Membership Corner

by Membership Chairperson, Jo Ann Maggio



During our October 15th meeting, we installed 4 new members. Please welcome: **Anne Marescia, Michael Marino, Marian Karcher, and Eovnya Pesone.**

For our existing members, remember Membership Dues are being collected now. See page 16 for the membership renewal application and send your dues payment in 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.americalodge2245.com/Membership. And if you're feeling neighborly, consider bringing a friend to our November 19th 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.americalodge2245.COM

 Find us on
Facebook
America Lodge #2245

www.americalodge2245.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 3, America Lodge Council Meeting *note change in date!* 7:00 pm, Fr. Sq. Library.
- November 15, America Lodge trip to Wind Creek Casino. ** SOLD OUT**
- November 19, America Lodge General Membership meeting. 7:30 pm, VFW Lincoln Rd. Fr. Sq.
*Remember to bring in your St. Catherine of Sienna food drive items! See page 15 for details.
- December 2, America Lodge Council Meeting. 7:00 pm, Fr. Sq. Library.
- December 7, America Lodge Annual Christmas Party. See ad pg. 20.
- December 13, America Lodge Opera Matinee: Umberto Giordano's Andrea Chénier. See ad pg. 21.
- December 17, America Lodge General Membership meeting. 7:30 pm, Fr. Sq. VFW.
- December 31, America Lodge Membership Dues! See flyer on page 16.



GOOD AND WELFARE

Buon Compleanno

TO OUR "NOVEMBRE" CELEBRANTS

Sandy Amendola, John Anteri, Silvana Apicella, Nicole Armocida, Joseph Calabrese, Luciano Capogna, Rosalie Caracciolo, Carmela Catsicas, Dorothy Corvese, Thomas D'Esposito, Lino Fratarcangeli, John Giuffrè, Stephen Graziano, Annette Koziarz, JoAnn Maggio, Carolyn Reres, Veronica Sanchez, Carol Sorace-Whalen, Linda Sucari, Roberta Tinelli, Enrico Viti.

CONGRATULATIONS

Grandparents **Christine and Victor Rossi**
and
Great Grandma **Annette Koziarz**
on the birth of Kaden Kirk Rossi who was born on September 28, 2025.

THANK YOU

To my friends at America Lodge, a heartfelt thank you for asking me to be one of this years Honorees at the Columbus Day Parade. It was an absolute honor to represent our amazing lodge and to spend such a joyful day with all my wonderful friends. I am so proud to be a member of America Lodge and once again, a huge thank you!

Mary Rose O'Hara

Dear Brothers and Sisters of America Lodge, My family and I want to express our sincere gratitude to all of you for your love and support during this difficult time. All of the calls, cards, visits, and your beautiful ritual at Luigi's wake have provided me with great comfort and the assurance that Luigi had a positive impact on all who knew him. America Lodge has been an important part of our lives for the past 35 years. Luigi loved all of you and he so enjoyed participating in the many lodge events. With love and many thanks,

Angela Pinto and Family

Get Well Soon

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



2025

November

- November 1: All Saints Tutti i Santi (All Saints' Day): A national holiday when Italians honor saints and visit family graves with chrysanthemums.
- November 2: All Souls Commemorazione dei Defunti (All Souls' Day): While not a national holiday, this day continues the remembrance of departed loved ones with cemetery visits and prayer.
- November 11: Happy Veterans Day!
- November 27: Happy Thanksgiving!





Grazie

In the heart of Italy, where the sun kisses the rolling hills and the autumn harvest is in full swing, there is a tradition that transcends the need for a specific holiday to express gratitude. Though Thanksgiving is not celebrated in Italy, the Italian people have woven gratitude into the very fabric of their daily lives, celebrating it through family, food, and heartfelt gestures.

Every Italian household is a testament to the country's rich cultural heritage, where holidays often reflect religious significance or honor national and regional traditions. Yet, it is in the small, everyday moments that gratitude truly shines. Take, for instance, the word "grazie," meaning thank you. It is a constant companion in conversations, but it is merely the beginning of how Italians express their appreciation.

Italians have a unique way of conveying thanks through body language. A warm embrace, a gentle cheek kiss, or a heartfelt smile speaks volumes, reflecting a deep-seated appreciation for the people and moments that enrich their lives. This cultural tendency to express gratitude openly and warmly inspires others to acknowledge and celebrate the small yet significant contributions of everyone and everything around them.

In Italy, meals are more than just sustenance; they are a celebration of life. Families gather around the table, often spanning multiple generations, to share traditional dishes that have been passed down through the years. These gatherings are not just about eating; they are about bringing people together, sharing stories, and savoring the pleasures of life. The act of preparing and sharing food is a profound expression of love and gratitude, whether it is a Sunday dinner or a special occasion.

In this land of beauty and tradition, gratitude is not just a feeling; it is a way of life. And so, in the absence of a Thanksgiving holiday, Italians continue to create their own "Thanksgiving-like" atmospheres, cherishing the bonds of family and the joy of shared meals, one "grazie" at a time.

THANK YOU!

FRANKLIN FUNERAL HOME, INC.,
RED MANGO OF FRANKLIN SQUARE,
and
ANTERI MEATS, INC.



Thank you for supporting America Lodge #2245
at our 54th Anniversary Dinner Dance!

Your generosity and commitment throughout the year
help us host meaningful events, strengthen our
programs, and keep our cherished traditions alive.

We are truly grateful for your support and look forward
to celebrating many more milestones together.

*America Lodge #2245
2025 Dinner Dance*

Proud Sponsor

*Franklin
Funeral Home, Inc.*

Cocktail Hour Sponsor

In Honor of
Bruno Caracciolo Sr.

Thank you very much for your generous gift.

*America Lodge #2245
2025 Dinner Dance*

Proud Sponsor

Red Mango

Floral Arrangements
Sponsor

Thank you very much for your generous gift.

*America Lodge #2245
2025 Dinner Dance*

Proud Sponsor

Anteri Meats

Music Sponsor

Thank you very much for your generous gift.



Happy Thanksgiving

**On behalf of the America Lodge #2245 Officers, I wish you a
blessed and happy Thanksgiving!**

**When we look back at all that we have accomplished this year, and especially
during this Thanksgiving season, I am truly thankful and grateful for all our
members and the way you support our Lodge and the Order.**

**Here's wishing you a day filled with peace, love and gratitude. May you and your
family be blessed on Thanksgiving and throughout the rest of the year!**

**Joseph Armocida
President, America Lodge #2245
Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America**

Zuppa alla Frantoiana

This classic soup of Tuscany - a rich mix of slow-cooked vegetables and beans - is called zuppa alla frantoiana. The Italian term for olive press is used in the name because the recipe features a final finish of newly pressed Tuscan olive oil.

Ingredients

1 pound dried borlotti (cranberry) beans
4 cloves garlic
3 large leaves fresh sage
Salt, to taste
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil, plus more to finish
1 peeled and diced potato
1 leek, thinly sliced
2 diced zucchini
1 bunch Swiss chard, diced
1 bunch kale, diced
2 cups cabbage, diced
Red pepper flakes, to taste
8 ounces pancetta, minced
1 onion, very finely minced
2 stalks celery, very finely minced
2 carrots, very finely minced
1 1/2 cups assorted fresh herbs including parsley, basil, thyme, etc., finely minced, divided
2 tablespoons tomato concentrate
Toasted baguette slices for serving



Instructions

Soak the beans in water overnight. Drain and put into a soup pot with 1 gallon of water, 3 cloves of unpeeled garlic, 2 sage leaves and a pinch of salt and simmer on medium until tender. Add more water if needed.

Meanwhile, in a soup pot, sauté the potato and leeks in oil until half cooked. Add the zucchini, chard, kale and cook until tender. Season to taste with red pepper flakes.

Put 2/3 of the cooked beans through a food mill and puree. Add the pureed beans, whole beans and the vegetables into the soup pot and simmer for about a half hour. Season with salt and pepper.

In a small frying pan, sauté the pancetta with the onion, celery and carrots until just tender, about 10 minutes. Stir in 1 1/2 cups of herbs, tomato concentrate and remaining garlic clove. Top the soup with a drizzle of olive oil and serve with bread.

Recipe courtesy of Chef Aurelio Barattini of Locanda Antica de Sesto in Lucca, Italy
<https://www.italymagazine.com/recipe/tuscan-bean-and-vegetable-soup-tastes-fall>

AMERICA LODGE 54TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE OCTOBER 19, 2025









Thanksgiving

FOOD DRIVE TO BENEFIT ST. CATHERINE OF SIENNA PARISH FOOD PANTRY

With Thanksgiving fast approaching we need to stock our food pantry with the "fixings" for the Thanksgiving meal as well as basic food items. We need your help with donations of the following items:

- STUFFING
- INSTANT POTATOES
- CRANBERRY SAUCE
- GRAVY
- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- APPLE JUICE
- COOKIES
- CANNED SWEET POTATOES
- ANY OTHER CANNED ITEMS

We thank you for your past support, generosity and kindness.

Your donations will be collected at our next General Meeting on Wednesday, November 19th, 2025.



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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Payment must be received by October 20, 2025
Contact Opera Chairperson Jo Falabella (516) 354-2989**

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**The bus departs from the public parking lot behind Wendy's off Hempstead Turnpike in
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AMERICA LODGE #2245

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