



FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our speaker at our February Membership Meeting was Coach Tiger LaVerde from Kirtland High School. Tiger talked about his coaching background in Kirtland and before that in Oil City, PA. as well as his philosophy for coaching and life.



UPCOMING EVENTS

prossimi eventi

20 March 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p
- The Nominating Committee shall continue assembling a slate of nominees for the positions of Officers and Trustees for FY25 and FY26.

27 March 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: Dennis R. Sutcliffe, Cleveland Historian, to talk about alleged organized crime in Cleveland.
- The Nominating Committee shall continue assembling a slate of nominees for the positions of Officers and Trustees for FY25 and FY26.

17 April 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p
- The Nominating Committee shall continue assembling a slate of nominees for the positions of Officers and Trustees for FY25 and FY26.

24 April 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club

- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: Bob DiBiasio from the Cleveland Guardians.
- The Nominating Committee shall continue assembling a slate of nominees for Officers and Trustees for FY25 and FY26.

22 May 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p
- The Nominating Committee shall finalize the slate of nominees for the positions of Officers and Trustees for FY25 and FY26.

29 May 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- The Nominating Committee shall present the slate of nominees for the positions of Officers and Trustees for FY25 and FY26 to the membership. In addition, the Nominating Committee shall take any nominations from the floor for those positions. After all floor nominations, if any, have been taken, the Nominating Committee shall officially close the slate of Nominees and advise the membership that the elections shall occur at the June Membership Meeting.
- Speaker: [TBD⁶](#)

19 June 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Time 5:30p
- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room

26 June 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: [TBD⁵](#)
- The Nominating Committee shall conduct the Election of Officers and Trustees for FY25 and FY26.

24 July 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p

31 July 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club

- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: [TBD⁴](#)

3 August 2024, SATURDAY, AIH GOLF OUTING

- [Committee Chair and primary Point of Contact: TBD](#)
- [Committee: TBD](#)
- Venue: Black Brook Golf Club.
- Time: [TBD](#)
- Cost: [TBD](#)
- Capacity: [TBD](#)
- Guests: Spouses and Guests are welcome
- Caterers: [TBD](#)
- Reservations are required.

21 August 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p

28 August 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: [TBD³](#)

18 September 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p

25 September 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: [TBD²](#)

23 October 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p

30 October 2024, WEDNESDAY, AIH CLAM BAKE

- [Committee Chair and primary Point of Contact: TBD](#)
- [Committee: TBD](#)
- Venue: Regovich's Party Center
- Time: [TBD](#)
- Cost: [TBD](#)
- Capacity: [TBD](#)
- Guests: Spouses and Guests are welcome
- Reservations are required.

13 November 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p

20 November 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: TBD¹

December 2024

In accordance with our Bylaws, there is no scheduled Executive Committee Meeting or Membership Meeting in December.

14 DECEMBER 2024, SATURDAY, AIH FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

- Committee Chair and primary Point of Contact: Gus Paolucci
- Committee
 - John Perrotti
 - Jim Federico Sr.
 - Mario Bertone
- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Cost for attendees: **TBD**
- Hours: 2:00p to 4:00p, set up from 12:00p to 1:30p.
- Santa and Presents: Santa will pass out presents to children. All presents are to be purchased, wrapped, and delivered to the venue no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the event.
- Registration is required. There is a limited capacity of 80, so it will be first come, first served.

SAVE THE DATES

Be sure to mark your calendars now for:
3 AUGUST 2024, SATURDAY, AIH GOLF OUTING
30 OCTOBER 2024, WEDNESDAY, AIH CLAM BAKE
14 DECEMBER 2024, SATURDAY, AIH FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Compleanni di marzo

Glenn Pizzuti 01
 Chris Cheraso 11

When you see these members this month, be sure to wish them a Buon Compleanno.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

salute e benessere

The committee reported the following:

- Malvina Lunardi, mother of member David Lunardi passed away on 12 February 2024 at the age of 80.
- Helen Rapposelli, the mother of former member Donnie Rapposelli passed away on 22 February 2024 at the age of 98.

Please keep these two souls and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

If you know of or hear of any Health or Welfare issues involving a member, please pass that information on to Richard O'Keefe at richardokeefe65@gmail.com or 440-537-8505.

SPECIAL DAYS IN MARCH

Here are just a few of the not so well-known special days in March for your observance.

- 14 Mar: Pi Day (3.14)
- 22 Mar: International Goof Off Day
- 24 Mar: Chocolate Covered Raisins Day
- 26 Mar: Make up your own Holiday Day
- 29 Mar: Smoke and Mirrors Day

The above information was taken from timeanddate.com/holidays/fun.

MARCH FESTIVALS AND HOLIDAYS IN ITALY

March is a great month to visit Italy. Springtime weather starts to take hold in most of the country, and there are fun and interesting events taking place in all corners of the nation. Note that unless Easter falls in March, there are no legal holidays this month, but there are still plenty of festivals and events.

Keep in mind that if you're visiting Northern Italy in March, you may still run into some winter weather, including cold, rainy days and even the occasional late-season snowstorm.

Carnevale (nationwide)



Depending on the date of Easter, Italy's Carnival, or Mardi Gras, occasionally falls in early March. It's celebrated with parades, masquerade parties for little kids, and, in cities like Venice, elaborate masked balls.

Festa della Donna (nationwide)

Festa della Donna, or International Women's Day, is celebrated March 8 all over Italy. On this day, men bring flowers, usually yellow mimosa, to the women in their lives. Restaurants have special Festa della Donna meals and there are often small local festivals or concerts. Groups of women frequently have dinner together that evening, and some museums and sites offer free or reduced admission for women.

St. Patrick's Day (nationwide)

Saint Patrick's Day is March 17. Although not widely celebrated in Italy there are a few festivals, especially in Northern Italy. There's at least one Irish pub in larger Italian cities, so you're sure to find someplace to drink a Guinness with fellow revelers on March 17. In cities like Rome and Florence, which have large international student populations, there are Irish pubs a-plenty.

Festa di San Giuseppe (nationwide)

Feast Day of San Giuseppe (Saint Joseph, Mary's husband), March 19, is also known as Father's Day in Italy. The day, which used to be a national holiday, is traditionally celebrated with bonfires and sometimes pageants with scenes from the life of Saint Joseph. Children give gifts to their fathers on San Giuseppe Day. Zeppole, a filled, doughnut-like pastry, are traditionally eaten on Saint Joseph's Day.

Easter (sometimes in late March; nationwide)

Easter sometimes falls in late March with events during Holy Week, the week leading up to Easter Sunday. Second to Christmas, it's the most important religious holiday in Italy and it's observed with piety by most Italians. As the seat of the Catholic Church, Vatican City in Rome is at the center of the action during Easter week, with masses, processions and papal ceremonies. If you plan to be in Rome during this time, make your hotel and flight bookings well in advance.

Commemoration of Caesar's Death (Rome)

Caesar may have met his fate a few thousand years ago, but he's still remembered in Rome on the Ides of March, March 15. Cultural events are usually held in the Roman Forum near the statue of Caesar and a re-enactment of Caesar's death is held at the site of his assassination in the Torre Argentina archaeological site.



Rome Marathon (Rome)

The Rome Marathon, held in late March, is a 42km run through the streets of Rome. Starting at the Roman Forum, the course passes some of Rome's most famous sites and the Vatican before ending at the Colosseum. Runners from all over the world participate. More than 30,000 casual runners participate in a shorter run that

ends earlier. The city streets in Rome's historic center are closed to traffic for the event.

Mandorla in Fiore (Sicily)

All things almonds are celebrated at Mandorla in Fiore, a delightful spring festival in the Agrigento region of Sicily. The name literally means "almonds in bloom," and the festival includes culinary, artistic, and cultural aspects. It's usually held the first part of March.

Palio dei Somari (Tuscany)

The Palio dei Somari, a donkey race between neighborhoods, takes place in Torrita di Siena (a medieval village near Siena in Tuscany), on Saint Joseph's Day, March 19. The festival also includes a colorful historic parade.

Festa della Primavera (nationwide)

Festa della Primavera, a spring festival, is held many places in Italy on March 21. Often the festival is centered around regional food. Spring festivals are sometimes held to coincide with Saint Joseph's Day on March 19, too. Le Giornate FAI is usually held the first weekend of spring and is sponsored by FAI, Italy's national trust. Numerous sites, including castles, palaces, and archaeological sites not normally open to the public are open for a rare glimpse inside.

The above information is taken from tripsavvy.com/march-festivals-an-events-in-italy.

McDONALD'S IN ITALY
20 March 1986

When the first McDonald's opened its doors on the Piazza di Spagna in Rome on March 20, 1986, thousands of people, including famous Italian celebrities, showed up to protest. Local restaurant owners served free pizza and pasta to discourage people from eating at McDonald's and to remind them of their heritage. But the efforts proved fruitless. This was the largest McDonald's in the world at that point, and it opened to big crowds.



Today there are around six hundred McDonald's in Italy. Even as the Italians have embraced McDonald's, Italian food remains the most popular cuisine in the world. According to an international study by YouGov in which twenty-five thousand people in twenty-four countries were surveyed, Italian cuisine got the highest approval ratings. Pizza and pasta topped the list of favorite dishes.

MARCH MADNESS

- The first NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament was played in 1939.
 - It had eight teams.
 - Oregon is the first NCAA tournament champion, beating Ohio State for the title.
- The NCAA tournament field grew to 16 teams in 1951, doubled to 32 in 1975 and expanded to its current size of 64 teams in 1985.
 - An opening-round game was introduced in 2001. Three more games were added to that round in 2011 for the inaugural First Four.
- The term 'March Madness' was first used in reference to basketball by an Illinois high school official, Henry V. Porter, in 1939.
- March Madness wouldn't become associated with the NCAA tournament until Brent Musberger used it during coverage of the 1982 tournament.
- One Shining Moment, the anthem of March Madness, was first aired following the NCAA men's basketball tournament in 1987.
 - It was initially scheduled to run after Super Bowl XXI but the game coverage ran long.
- Believe it or not, the NIT (1938) was actually founded before the NCAA tournament.
 - The NIT field is now usually made up of teams that miss the NCAA tournament.
- UMBC owns the biggest upset in March Madness history, becoming the first 16-seed to win against a 1-seed. The Retrievers beat No. 1 Virginia 74-54 in 2018.
- Duke owns the largest comeback and second-largest lead blown in NCAA tournament history
 - The 2001 Blue Devils stormed back to beat Maryland after being down 22 points while Duke's 1989 team lost despite leading Seton Hall by 18.
- Christian Laettner (Duke), is the NCAA tournament's all-time leading scorer with 407 points. Only nine players have more than 300 points in March Madness.
- Notre Dame's Austin Carr is not among the nine, but he holds the NCAA tournament's single-game scoring record with 61 points in a 1970 game against Ohio.
- Loyola Marymount is part of the three highest scoring games in NCAA tournament history. The Lions' 149-115

win over Michigan in 1990 is the highest scoring game in March Madness.

- There have been 80 NCAA tournaments between 1939 and 2019. Kentucky has the most NCAA tournament appearances (58) and NCAA tournament wins (129).
- UCLA has the most NCAA men's basketball national championships with 11, including a stretch of seven titles in a row between 1967 and 1973.
- Duke's Mike Krzyzewski has the most NCAA tournament wins by a single coach (97).

Taken from ncaa.com

THINGS THAT HAPPENED IN MARCH

- March 1, 1803 – Ohio became a state.
- March 1, 1969 – Micky Mantle retired from baseball.
- March 5, 1937 – Hormel introduced the public to SPAM.
- March 6, 1475 – Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni was born in the village of Caprese, in the province of Arezzo, in the Tuscany region.
- March 8, 1669 – Mount Etna began to rumble, and nearby citizens were directed to evacuate. Three days later the volcano erupted killing around 3,000 people living on the mountainside.
- March 29, 1886 – Coca Cola was invented.

BABY BOOMER PHRASES

Below are 20 Phrases that Baby Boomers say that no one else understands. If you're not a Baby Boomer and you don't understand any of these phrases, just google them.

1. Back in my day...
2. Kids these days.
3. Make it snappy.
4. You sound like a broken record.
5. Don't count your chickens before they hatch.
6. Burning the midnight oil.
7. That's the way the cookie crumbles.
8. Not my first rodeo.
9. Money doesn't grow on trees.
10. It's six of one, half a dozen of the other.
11. To each his own.
12. We'll cross that bridge when we come to it.
13. This too shall pass.
14. Keep your nose to the grindstone.
15. You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
16. A penny saved is a penny earned.
17. The early bird gets the worm.

- 18. At the end of the day...
- 19. Tighten your belt.
- 20. An ounce of precaution is worth a pound of cure.

PHRASE OF THE MONTH
La vita e breve. – Life is short.
Information taken from the Living Language Italian 2023 Calendar

A LITTLE TRIVIA
How did wakes become a part of the funeral tradition?

The Irish are the most famous for their wakes, holding elaborate and festive celebrations with testimonials and toasts to the recently deceased. The custom began long before the advances of scientific undertaking and was a way of passing enough time to ensure that the subject wasn't about to be buried alive. The ritual was held to see if the subject would wake up, which sometimes happened, and so it was called a "wake."

Why are flags flown at half-staff?

In the sixteenth century, ships would lower their flags halfway as a sign of submission during battle, and it was said they were flying at "half-mast." On reaching port, the flag remained half-lowered in honor of those who had sacrificed their lives. In the seventeenth century the ritual moved to land, where it was said the flags were at "half-staff," as a sign of respect for any individual who had died serving his country beyond the call of duty.

Why do funeral processions move so slowly?

The Romans introduced the lighting of candles and torches at *funeral services* to ward off evil spirits and guide the deceased to paradise. The word funeral itself is derived from the Latin word for torch. By the fifteenth century, people were placing huge candelabras on the coffin even as it was carried to the burial ground. The funeral procession moved at a very slow pace so that the candles wouldn't blow out.

Why do the British drive on the left side of the road while Americans use the right?

The British custom of driving on the left was passed down from the Romans. The chariot drivers stayed to the left in order to meet an approaching enemy with their right sword hand. Americans switched to driving on the right because on covered wagons the brakes were built on the left, forcing the driver to sit on that same side and, consequently, to drive on the right so they could have a clear view of the road.

Why do we use X's as kisses at the bottom of a letter?

During medieval times, most people could neither read nor write, and even those who could sign their names were required to follow it with an X, symbolizing the cross of St. Andrew, or the contract would be invalid. Those who couldn't write their names still had to end the contract with the X to make it legal. To prove their intention, all were required to kiss the cross, which through time is how the X became associated with a lover's kiss.

How did we start the ritual of kissing a wound to make it better?

Everyone with children has kissed a small bruise or cut to make it better. This comes from one of our earliest medical procedures for the treatment of snakebite. Noticing that a victim could be saved if the venom was sucked out through the point of entry, early doctors soon began treating all infectious abrasions by putting their lips to the wound and sucking out the poison. Medicine moved on, but the belief that a kiss can make it better still lingers.

How did flipping a coin become a decision maker?

The Lydians minted the first coins in 10 B.C. but it wasn't until nine hundred years later that the coin toss became a decision maker. Julius Caesar's head appeared on one side of every Roman coin of his time, and such was the reverence for the emperor that in his absence, often serious litigation was decided by the flip of a coin. If Caesar's head landed upright, it meant that through the guidance of the gods, he agreed in absentia with the decision in question.

Why was the Cleveland baseball team called the Indians?

Controversy generally surrounds the choice of Native American names for sports teams, but not in Cleveland (at that time). That city's baseball team was named in honor of one of their star players in the 1890s. He was Alex Sophalexis, a Penobscot Indian, so respected that in 1914, one year after his death, Cleveland took the name "Indians" to commemorate Alex and what he had meant to their team.

The above information was obtained from The Little Book of Answers by Doug Lennox.

MISSION STATEMENT

dichiarazione di missione

The purpose of this Association is to promote the moral, social, and civic advancement of its membership, and to perpetuate the customs and cultural aspects of Italian Heritage.

Article II, Section 1 of the AIH Bylaws

AMERICANS OF ITALIAN HERITAGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1 July 2022 – 30 June 2024

PresidentGus Paolucci
 Vice President Ronald Wassum
 SecretaryGlenn Pizzuti
 TreasurerVince Pona

Trustee (e)Rio DeGennaro Jr.
 Trustee (e)Jim Federico Sr.
 Trustee (e) John Perrotti
 Trustee (e)Tony Illano Sr.
 Trustee (e)Ken Mancuso
 Trustee (a)Carmen Frederico
 Trustee (a) Mario Bertone
 Trustee (a) Richard O'Keefe

SOCIAL MEDIA

Be sure to check our two social media sites. Our website can be found at AIHClub.com and our facebook can be found at [facebook.com/Americans of Italian Heritage](https://facebook.com/AmericansofItalianHeritage).

ATTACHMENTS

None

FINAL THOUGHT

You have to be odd to be number one.
 Dr. Seuss

COMMENTS TO THE EDITOR



If you have any questions or comments about, or suggestions for this newsletter, please put your thoughts in an email and send them to me at GPizzuti@GlennPizzutiArchitect.com