



Order Sons and Daughters
of Italy in America

Sons and Daughters Of Italy
Akron Lodge 685
418 Keith Ave
Akron, Ohio 44313

President: Patrick Puhak

Vice President: John Hujar

Orator: John Mancinelli

Past President: Jack Schifano

Financial Secretary: Nicole Smith

Treasurer: Debi Rauckhorst

Recording Secretary: Michelle Hujar

Mistress of Ceremonies: Marsha Wineland

Master of Ceremonies: Dewey Wineland

Sgt. At Arms: Eric Maghes

Chaplain: Dennis Paonessa

Historian: Don Ferrante

Membership: Carol Wilson

Trustees

Mikki DeMarco

Janet Gliha

Ed Rauckhorst

Jack Schifano

Carol Wilson

Akron Lodge 685 Newsletter

January February March 2024

Notes from the President:

Buon Anno everyone. Happy New Year

As we begin a new year, let us pray for peace in Israel and the Ukraine. As I look back in 2023, there have been some sad moments, but we should also remember the good times this lodge has had. We had many well attended events from the Reverse Raffle, Scholarship/Initiation Dinner, our booth at the Italian-American Festival in downtown Akron despite challenges in the location; our Family picnic in September, Card party and games, Memorial Mass/Luncheon, Toy wrapping for Project RISE, Holiday Tree Festival and ending the year with our Christmas party. I wish to thank all the members who chaired these events and the many volunteers who helped at these events. We hope to continue these events not only for the income that is generated, but also for bringing our members together to have some fun. We are always looking for new fundraisers as the pandemic has made it difficult.

Upcoming Events

*January 21-Regular meeting 1:30 pm
Anthony Funeral Home, 1990 S Main St
February 18-Regular meeting, 1:30 pm,
Anthony Funeral Home, 1990 S Main St
March 17-Regular meeting, 1:30 pm,
Anthony Funeral Home, 1990 Main St*

April 13-Reverse Raffle, St George Hall

*April 21-Regular Meeting, 1:30 pm, Anthony
Funeral Home, 1990 S Main St*

May 22-Scholarship/Initiation Dinner

July 11-13 Italian American Festival, Akron

August-Family Picnic TBA

September 15-Regular Meeting, 1:30 pm,

Anthony Funeral Home, 1990 S Main St

October 20-Regular Meeting, 1:30 pm

Anthony Funeral Home, 1990 S Main St

November-Memorial Mass/Luncheon TBA

December-Christmas Party TBA

Hospitality Chairperson

Our Hospitality Chairperson is Kay Metzler. If you know someone who is in the hospital or ill, please contact her at 330-329-6566.

Akron Lodge 685 Newsletter

January February March 2024

COOLEY'S ANEMIA FUNDRAISER

We are having a fundraiser for Cooley's Anemia. Past President Jack Schifano is chairman for the Grand Lodge for the charity. We are doing a Super Bowel Squares and selling 100 squares for \$10.00 each. Prizes are \$100.00 each for the first 3 quarters and \$200.00 for the fourth quarter. The deadline is February 9, 2024. Please make a check to the Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge 685 and mail to Jack Schifano, 130 Akers Ave, Akron OH 44312 or you can purchase the squares at the meeting on January 21. We have sold 15 squares so far and we have notified the Grand Lodge so than can purchase squares also. The Cooley's Anemia fund will see a profit of \$500.00 once all the squares have been sold.

SCHOLARSHIP CHANGES

A committee met last year to discuss changes in the way scholarship program functions. The Executive Board met later and is recommending changes. The changes will be read at the next meeting in January and voted on at the February meeting and will require a majority vote. The changes will then be submitted to the Grand Lodge for their approval. Here are the changes.(in yellow)

1. The scholarship chairperson shall make copies of all **qualified** applicants' application forms and distribute copies of each to all members of the scholarship committee prior to their meeting in April, and as soon after April 1., as possible. The purpose of doing this is to assure that the committee members may each read each application and fill out a rating sheet for each applicant before the scholarship

committee meets to determine the recipient(s).

The scholarship chairperson shall coordinate with the **Christmas Dinner** chairperson the presentation of the scholarship awards at the **Christmas Dinner in December**. The scholarship chairperson together with the president shall present the scholarship check(s).

Applicant must:

- a. Be a member, the child of a member, or the child of a guardian-member of the Lodge, in good standing for a least two fiscal years (January to January)
- b. **Applicant or sponsor must have at least 6 hours of volunteer time for a Sons of Italy event.**
- c. **Sponsor who has attended at least 3 meetings within a 2-year time frame.**

All recipients must be present at the presentation (Christmas Dinner) unless college commitments prohibit attendance. In which case, the parents may accept the award on the student's behalf

MEMORIAL MASS/LUNCHEON

The committee for this event was headed up by Deb Deptuch. She had never attended this event because it has not been held since 2019. She and her committee which included Dennis Paonessa, Michelle Hujar, Cheryl Koskar, Toni Ross, Carol Wilson and Charlotte Bozzelli. We honored the memory of 18 members who passed away and it was a wonderful tribute to them. Most of the families were able to attend and the luncheon was delicious including the cookies and cannoli(Thanks Toni)

Akron Lodge 685 Newsletter

January February March 2024

TOY WRAPPING PARTY

The Toy Wrapping party to benefit Project RISE was held November 17, 2023 at Anthony Funeral Home's Community Room. Don and Cheryl Derrig served as chairs this year due to a prior commitment from Mary and Jack Schifano. With approximately 250 gifts that were wrapped, many children had a happier Christmas.

HOLIDAY TREE FESTIVAL

For many years, Dennis Paonessa has designed and decorated a tree for the Holiday Tree Festival. This year with the help of John Manicelli the theme for the tree was Mardi Gras. There were many families that walked through to view all the amazing trees. Our tree sold for \$750.00 and one night, many members of our club helped to volunteer selling raffle tickets, selling tree and wreaths and doing face painting for the children. This is one of our goals as an organization and that is to give back to the community. From the many people who came through the festival, we continue to put our name out to the public in a positive light.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

We had a wonderful afternoon with a good crowd for our annual Christmas Party. The Pete Silletti awards were presented to John and Michelle Hujar and Nicole Smith for all their efforts for the Sons and Daughters of Italy. I had the honor along with Grand Lodge President David Corsi to present 25 year pins to some of our members. That is quite an accomplishment. Guests enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Joe Catalano and his staff and we had a DJ who entertained with festive music which was paid for by an anonymous donor. The Chinese raffle had many wonderful gifts from which to choose and all in all, I think everyone had an enjoyable time. I wish to thank John and Michelle Hujar for chairing this event. Their committee is to be commended; the committee members are on the video which is on our website.

Akron Lodge 685 Newsletter

January February March 2024



Buon Compleanno!

gennaio

ANGIE AGNONI
CHERYL KOSHAR
CHARLES MAGGIO
VITA MOORE
THOMAS TEODOSIO
JOHN VALLILO
ANNA ZAMPELLI

febbraio

JENNIFER BOLEN
JOHN DEPTUCH
TOMASINA ELAVSKY
JACKIE GERMANO CASSANO
JOSEPH PALLOTTA
TARA PIZER
JACK SCHIFANO
ROSS SIGNORINO
DANIEL ZAMPELLI

marzo

CHARLOTTTE BUZZELLI
JEFF GLIHA
JOHN HUJAR
DOROTHY MARKULIS
DIANA METZLER
KAY METZLER
JOSEPHINE MURDOCCO
VINCENT MURDOCCO
DONNA PALLOTTA
JANE WEBB