



AIH NEWSLETTER

JANUARY gennaio 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025



CHANGE OF VENUE

Just a reminder, our January Membership Meeting will be at Pine Ridge Country Club, 30605 Ridge Road, Wickliffe, Ohio 44092.

NFL CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL GAME POOL

Just another reminder, the NFL Championship Football Game is on Sunday, 9 February. That is 2-1/2 weeks BEFORE our February meeting, so if you want tickets, try to get them before, or at our January meeting. See Attachment No. 1 for more details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

prossimi eventi

8 January 2025, Wednesday, AIH Charities Board Meeting

- Venue: Carver Financial Services
- Times: 5:30p

22 January 2025, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

29 January 2025, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: Pine Ridge Country Club
- Cost: \$25.00 per attendee
- Times:
 - Cocktails and Fellowship: 6:00p – 7:00p
 - Dinner: 7:00p
 - Speaker: Following Dinner
 - Meeting: Following Speaker
- Speaker: Detective Steven Ross, a 9-year veteran of the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

9 February 2025, Sunday, AIHC NFL Championship Football Game LIX Pool

- Committee Chair: John Perrotti (Perrotti1946@gmail.com or 440-478-9913)
- Kick Off Time: 6:30p ET.
- Venue: Caesar's Superdome in New Orleans, LA
- Tickets cost \$100 per Square and are available from John Perrotti.
- The completed Pool Board will be posted on the club website prior to kick-off.
- The split will be 60% (\$6,000) paid out to winners and 40% (\$4,000 minus expense) retained by AIH.
- See Attachment No. 1 for more details.

19 February 2025, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

26 February 2025, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: Pine Ridge Country Club
- Cost: \$25.00 per attendee
- Times:
 - Cocktails and Fellowship: 6:00p – 7:00p
 - Dinner: 7:00p
 - Speaker: Following Dinner
 - Meeting: Following Speaker
- Speaker: **TBD-10**

19 March 2025, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

26 March 2025, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: Pine Ridge Country Club
- Cost: \$25.00 per attendee
- Times:
 - Cocktails and Fellowship: 6:00p – 7:00p
 - Dinner: 7:00p
 - Speaker: Following Dinner
 - Meeting: Following Speaker
- Speaker: **TBD-9**

TBD April 2025, Wednesday, AIH Charities Board Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

23 April 2025, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

26 April 2025, Saturday, AIH Reverse Raffle

- The name has been changed from "Italian Night" to "Reverse Raffle."
- Committee Chair: Bob Andreano
- Committee: John Perrotti, Jim Federico Sr., Gus Paolucci
- Venue: La Vera Party Center
- Time: 6:00p to 11:00p
- Cost: **TBD**
- Dinner:
 - An Italian themed antipasto table.
 - Sit-down, family-style, Italian-themed dinner.
 - A full bar with bar tender.
 - An Italian themed dessert table.
- Capacity: 200
- Guests: Members, Spouses, and guests are encouraged but reservations are required.
- See Attachment No. 2 for more details.

30 April 2025, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: Pine Ridge Country Club
- Cost: \$25.00 per attendee
- Times:
 - Cocktails and Fellowship: 6:00p – 7:00p
 - Dinner: 7:00p
 - Speaker: Following Dinner
 - Meeting: Following Speaker
- Speaker: **TBD-8**

21 May 2025, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

28 May 2025, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: Pine Ridge Country Club
- Cost: \$25.00 per attendee
- Times:
 - Cocktails and Fellowship: 6:00p – 7:00p
 - Dinner: 7:00p
 - Speaker: Following Dinner
 - Meeting: Following Speaker
- Speaker: **TBD-7**

18 June 2025, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

25 June 2025, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: Pine Ridge Country Club
- Cost: \$25.00 per attendee
- Times:
 - Cocktails and Fellowship: 6:00p – 7:00p
 - Dinner: 7:00p
 - Speaker: Following Dinner
 - Meeting: Following Speaker
- Speaker: [TBD-6](#)

TBD July 2025, Wednesday, AIH Charities Board Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

23 July 2025, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

30 July 2025, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: Pine Ridge Country Club
- Cost: \$25.00 per attendee
- Times:
 - Cocktails and Fellowship: 6:00p – 7:00p
 - Dinner: 7:00p
 - Speaker: Following Dinner
 - Meeting: Following Speaker
- Speaker: [TBD-5](#)

20 August 2025, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

27 August 2025, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: Pine Ridge Country Club
- Cost: \$25.00 per attendee
- Times:
 - Cocktails and Fellowship: 6:00p – 7:00p
 - Dinner: 7:00p
 - Speaker: Following Dinner
 - Meeting: Following Speaker
- Speaker: [TBD-4](#)

17 September 2025, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

24 September 2025, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: Pine Ridge Country Club

- Cost: \$25.00 per attendee
- Times:
 - Cocktails and Fellowship: 6:00p – 7:00p
 - Dinner: 7:00p
 - Speaker: Following Dinner
 - Meeting: Following Speaker
- Speaker: [TBD-3](#)

TBD October 2025, Wednesday, AIH Charities Board Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

22 October 2025, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

29 October 2025, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: Pine Ridge Country Club
- Cost: \$25.00 per attendee
- Times:
 - Cocktails and Fellowship: 6:00p – 7:00p
 - Dinner: 7:00p
 - Speaker: Following Dinner
 - Meeting: Following Speaker
- Speaker: [TBD-2](#)

12 November 2025, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

19 November 2025, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: Pine Ridge Country Club
- Cost: \$25.00 per attendee
- Times:
 - Cocktails and Fellowship: 6:00p – 7:00p
 - Dinner: 7:00p
 - Speaker: Following Dinner
 - Meeting: Following Speaker
- Speaker: [TBD-1](#)

December 2025

- In accordance with our Bylaws, there is no scheduled Executive Committee Meeting nor Membership Meeting in December.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Compleanni di gennaio

Paul Fortunato	6
Gabe Cicconetti	15
Anthony Curtis	17
Sal Carriere	29

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

HEALTH AND WELFARE

salute e benessere

The committee had nothing to report this month.

If you know of or hear of any Health or Welfare issues involving a member, please pass that information on to Gus Paolucci at Paolu88G@gmail.com or 440-477-5877

SPECIAL DAYS IN DECEMBER

Here are just a few of the not so well-known, special days this month for your observance.

01 Jan: Polar Bear Plunge Day
 04 Jan: Trivia Day
 08 Jan: Clean Off Your Desk Day
 17 Jan: Ditch Your New Year's Resolution Day
 27 Jan: Chocolate Cake Day

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

EPIPHANY

6 JANUARY

Epiphany, also known as "Theophany" in Eastern Christian tradition, is a Christian feast day commemorating the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and the wedding at Cana.



In Western Christianity, the feast commemorates principally (but not solely) the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child, and thus Jesus Christ's physical manifestation to the Gentiles. It is sometimes called Three Kings' Day, and in some traditions celebrated as Little Christmas. Moreover, the feast of the Epiphany, in some denominations, also initiates the liturgical season of Epiphanytide.

US AIRWAYS FLIGHT 1549

15 JANUARY 2009

US Airways Flight 1549 was a regularly scheduled US Airways flight from New York City's LaGuardia Airport to Charlotte and Seattle, in the United States. On January 15, 2009, the Airbus A320 serving the flight struck

a flock of birds shortly after takeoff from LaGuardia, losing all engine power. Given their position in relation to the available airports and their low altitude, pilots Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger and Jeffrey Skiles decided to glide the plane to ditching on the Hudson River near Midtown Manhattan. All 155 people on board were rescued by nearby boats. There were no fatalities, although 100 people were injured, some seriously. The time from the bird strike to the ditching was less than four minutes.

The Governor of New York State, David Paterson, called the incident a "Miracle on the Hudson" and a National Transportation Safety Board official described it as "the most successful ditching in aviation history". Flight simulations showed that the airplane could have returned to LaGuardia, had it turned toward the airport immediately after the bird strike. However, the Board found that scenario did not account for real-world considerations and affirmed the ditching as providing the highest probability of survival, given the circumstances.



The pilots and flight attendants were awarded the Master's Medal of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators in recognition of their "heroic and unique aviation achievement".

The above information was taken from Wikipedia.

PROHIBITION

16 JANUARY 1919

On January 16, 1919, the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution, prohibiting the "manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes," was ratified and became the law of the land. The movement for the prohibition of alcohol began in the early nineteenth century, when Americans concerned about the adverse effects of drinking began forming temperance societies. By the late nineteenth century, these groups had become a powerful political force, campaigning on the state level and calling for total national abstinence. Nine months after ratification, Congress passed the Volstead Act, or National Prohibition Act, over President Woodrow Wilson's veto. The Volstead Act provided for the enforcement of Prohibition, including the creation of a special unit of the Treasury Department. Despite a vigorous effort by law enforcement agencies, the Volstead Act

failed to prevent the large-scale distribution of alcoholic beverages, and organized crime flourished in America. In 1933, the Twenty-First Amendment to the Constitution was passed and ratified, repealing prohibition.

The above information was taken from the "This Day in History," Page-a-Day Calendar.

BENZ PATENT MOTORWAGEN

29 JANUARY 1886

The Benz Patent-Motorwagen ("patent motorcar"), built in 1885 by the German Karl Benz, is widely regarded as the first practical modern automobile and was the first car put into production. It was patented in January 1886 and unveiled in public later that year. The original cost of the vehicle was 600 imperial German marks, approximately 150 US dollars (equivalent to \$5,100 in 2023).



Two years after Karl Benz drove the car in public in July 1886, Karl's wife Bertha demonstrated its feasibility in a trip from Mannheim to Pforzheim in August 1888. Around the same time, the Patent-Motorwagen became the first commercially available automobile in history. Émile Roger, who made Benz engines under license in France, was one of the first persons to buy Benz' car; from 1888, Roger was also the salesperson of the Benz Patent-Motorwagen in France, selling one to Émile Levassor in 1888. The Patent-Motorwagen was shown at an exhibition in Munich in 1888, winning a gold medal, and at the 1889 Paris Exposition.

Due to the creation of the Patent-Motorwagen, Karl Benz has been hailed as the father and inventor of the automobile.

The above information was taken from the "This Day in History," Page-a-Day Calendar.

ITALIAN EVENTS AND FESTIVALS IN JANUARY

January 1: New Year's Day

On the first day of the year, Italy welcomes the advent of a new beginning during "Capodanno."

Fireworks Spectacles

Witness the night sky illuminated with dazzling fireworks, a hallmark of New Year celebrations in Italy. Major urban centers such as Rome, Milan, Naples, and Florence host some

grandiose shows, uniting spectators in awe and celebration.

Dance Parties till the Early Morning

Join in the spirited New Year celebrations, a pinnacle of January holidays in Italy, at various nightclubs and venues nationwide. Here, festivities extend until dawn, letting individuals dance their way into the new year with unparalleled zeal and joy.

Tuffo nel Tevere



Ring in the New Year with a spirited splash at Rome's Tuffo nel Tevere

Be a part of a unique and exhilarating Roman tradition where daring participants plunge into the chilly Tiber River from the Cavour Bridge. A revered custom since 1946, Tuffo nel Tevere gathers a yearly crowd of enthusiastic watchers.

Musical Galas and Events

On the eve and day of the New Year, cities and towns come alive with various concerts and live acts. These gatherings, often graced by local and international talents, are usually organized in open spaces and invite everyone to join the festivities at no cost.

Cotechino e Lenticchie

Usher in the new year with the Italian culinary tradition of savoring Cotechino, a special pork sausage paired with lentils. A meal synonymous with fortune and prosperity, its enjoyed nationwide amidst gatherings of family and friends.



Cotechino e lenticchie: Italy's flavorful start to the New Year

January 6: Festa della Befana (Epiphany)

On January 6, Italy bursts into a celebration for the Festa della Befana, or the Feast of Epiphany, characterized by many events and age-old traditions. The entire nation observes a holiday, with official establishments shutting their doors to mark the grand closure of the Christmas festivities.

Regata delle Befane (Venice)

On Epiphany, fifty contestants dressed as La Befana race from Palazzo Bilbo to the Rialto Bridge in a spirited single-oared Regatta of Befana, with the winner receiving a sock filled with sweets.



Rowing into the Epiphany with style at the Regatta of Befana

Gift-Giving

La Befana, the gift-bearing old woman who is an integral figure in the Italian Christmas narrative, is taking center stage in the celebrations. Children anticipate her visit with bated breath, and it holds a significance akin to Christmas Day.

Viva la Befana Parade (Rome)

The Viva la Befana Parade is a noteworthy event staged in Rome that commences from Via della Conciliazione and culminates at St. Peter's Square. Scheduled on the day of Epiphany, it leads up to the Pope's noon Angelus, drawing crowds and adding religious fervor to the celebrations.

The Epicenter of La Befana Celebrations at Piazza Navona (Rome)

In the heart of Rome, the vibrant Piazza Navona becomes a focal point of joy and merriment, turning into a bustling holiday market that stands as the epicenter of Epiphany celebrations.

This historic square is not just a market; each year, it holds a special surprise as it turns into the official headquarters for all things La Befana.

As the clock strikes a particular hour, watch the skies – La Befana herself descends, much to the delight of the awaiting children, bearing gifts and spreading joy. A sight to behold, this magical event encapsulates the spirit of the season, bringing smiles to the faces of young and old.

January 16: Saint Anthony's Day (Festa di Sant'Antonio Abate)

On January 16, 2025, Italy commemorates the legacy of Saint Anthony the Abbot, alternatively known as Anthony the Great, through the festive occasion of Festa di San Antonio Abate. Saint Anthony, revered as the pioneer of the monastic lifestyle, relinquished all worldly assets to devoutly follow Jesus, leaving behind

a life marked with miraculous events and unwavering resilience against the devil's temptations, mainly mediated through persistent prayer.



Celebrating Saint Anthony's Day in Novoli, Italy. (Photo: TouringClub.it)

He is the patron of several professions, including farmers, butchers, and basket makers. He is also invoked for protection against certain skin ailments, referred to as "Fuoco di Sant'Antonio" (Fire of Saint Anthony).

Blazing Bonfires



Flames meet folklore at the Sant'Antonio bonfires. (Photo: dooid.it)

An integral part of the day's celebrations, bonfires symbolize Saint Anthony's legendary passage through flames unscathed. Gigantic bonfires illuminate the streets, particularly in Naples and adjacent southern regions, in remembrance of this miraculous event.

Processions

Across various Italian municipalities, the day is observed with vibrant processions accompanied by music and diverse festivities, encapsulating the spirit of communal celebration.

Feast of Sant'Antonio Abate in Collelongo (L'Aquila, Abruzzo)

In Collelongo, a province of L'Aquila, the Feast of Sant'Antonio Abate is a time-honored tradition surpassing 400 years. Scheduled for January 16 and 17, the event is highlighted by a solemn procession followed by an all-night feast, promising a blend of spirituality and merriment.

January 30: Fiera di Sant'Orso Festival in Aosta

Happening on January 30 and 31 every year, the Fiera di Sant'Orso Festival is a storied event in Aosta, Italy, holding the fort of the Aosta Valley's artisan heritage for over a millennium.



Sant'Orso Fair in Aosta, Italy

At this vibrant festival, local craftsmen proudly exhibit an array of creations, from soapstone sculptures to intricate glass works, alongside a diverse collection that includes traditional wooden shoes known as Sabots, charismatic "Galletto" figurines (roosters), and handmade items such as rakes, baskets, and barrels, among other crafts.



Galletti magic at Sant'Orso: a timeless tradition in miniature. (Photo: Valle d'Aosta)

But the festival is more than a mere showcase of artistry; it stands as a hub of cultural celebration, marked by melodious music, folklore performances, and a gastronomic journey featuring the local delicacies of the Aosta Valley, including cheeses, succulent meats, salumi, and honey.

The festival attracts around 150,000 eager visitors each year, who congregate around numerous stands hosted by local artisans. The festival is set against the picturesque backdrop of Aosta's historic city center, nestled beside the ancient Roman walls.

January 2025 in Italy: Day-by-Day Guide January 1

- New Year's Day (Capodanno): Kickstart the January holidays in Italy with a day off to celebrate the beginning of the new year.
- The Inception of the Julian Calendar (45 BC): Marking a significant shift in timekeeping.
- Final Gladiator Contest in Rome (404): The end of a brutal spectator sport.
- Celebrating Lorenzo de' Medici's Birthday (1449): Remembering a great patron of the arts.
- First Postage Stamp Issued in Italy (1851): A milestone in Italian communication.

- Introduction of the Euro as the Official Currency (2002): A monumental economic shift.
- End of Mandatory Military Service in Italy (2005): Marking a change in national service policy.

January 2

- The Year of Four Emperors Commences (69): Roman legions in Germania Superior revolt, refusing loyalty to Galba.
- Commemorating the Death of Guccio Gucci (1953): Reflecting on the legacy of the founder of Gucci.

January 3

- Cicero's Birthday Celebration (106 BC): Honoring the legendary orator.
- Celebrating Sergio Leone's Birthday (1929): Remembering the mastermind Italian director.

January 4

- In Memory of Pino Daniele (2015): Commemorating the life of Naples' beloved singer.
- Spaghetti Day (Celebrated in the US): A day dedicated to appreciating the beloved Italian pasta in the US.

January 5

- Celebrating Umberto Eco's Birth (1932): Remembering the renowned writer and philosopher.

January 6

- Epiphany Celebration (La Befana): A festive day with gift-giving and feasting.
- Viva la Befana Parade (Rome): A spirited Epiphany celebration culminating at St. Peter's Square, leading up to the Pope's noon Angelus.
- Regatta of Befana (Venice): Venice's Grand Canal annually hosts the distinctive Befana Regatta, a one-oared race celebrating the Epiphany.

January 8

- Commemorating the Artistry of Giotto (1337): Remembering the death of the pioneer of the Italian Renaissance.
- Remembering the Death of Galileo Galilei (1642): Honoring the father of modern science.
- Death of Arcangelo Corelli (1713): Remembering the violin maestro.

January 9

- Remembering the Death of King Vittorio Emanuele II (1878): Commemorating the reign of Italy's first king.

January 12

- Marzipan Day (Celebrated in the US): A day where the delight of marzipan, often found in Italian desserts, is appreciated stateside.

January 13

- Avezzano Earthquake Remembrance (1915): A day to remember the devastating earthquake in Abruzzo.
- Costa Concordia Disaster Anniversary (2012): Marking the tragic sinking off the Tuscan Island "Isola del Giglio."

January 15

- ANSA News Agency Foundation Day (1945): Commemorating the inception of the prominent news agency.
- Hot and Spicy Food Day: Spice enthusiasts worldwide commemorate this day, enjoying the zest that Italian herbs and spices often bring to the table.

January 16

- Feast Day of Sant'Antonio Abate: A day of feasting and celebration to honor Saint Anthony the Abbot, the patron saint of animals and farmers.
- Beginning of the Roman Empire (27 BC): Marking a significant turn in world history.
- Remembering the Death of Maestro Arturo Toscanini (1957): A day to honor the legendary conductor.

January 17

- Division of the Roman Empire Anniversary (395): Reflecting on the separation into Eastern and Western Empires.

January 20

- Federico Fellini's Birthday Celebration (1920): Honoring the renowned film director.

January 21

- Feast Day of Saint Agnes of Rome: A spiritual reflection and celebration day.

January 24

- Caligula Remembrance Day (41): Reflecting on the reign of the controversial emperor.
- Celebrating Emperor Hadrian's Birth (76): Honoring the ruler known for Hadrian's Wall.
- Amedeo Modigliani Birthday Celebration (1920): Marking the birth of the legendary painter.

January 25

- Feast Day of the Conversion of Saint Paul: Celebrating spiritual transformation.

January 26

- Council of Trent Anniversary (1564): Reflecting on the historic ecclesiastical council.

January 27

- Dante Alighieri Exile Anniversary (1302): Marking a significant event in the poet's life.
- Commemorating the Death of Giuseppe Verdi (1901): Remembering the legendary composer.

- International Holocaust Remembrance Day in Italy: A day to remember and honor the victims of the Holocaust.

January 30

- Fiera di Sant'Orso Festival in Aosta: Celebrating the traditional crafts festival.
- Croissant Day (Celebrated in the US): Although more associated with French cuisine, this day celebrates the much-loved croissant, which has found a place in Italian breakfast tables, especially in the US.

<https://www.learnitalianpod.com/2024/10/30/january-in-italy-events-festivals-holidays/>

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 2024 – 30 June 2026

PresidentGus Paolucci
Vice PresidentCarmen Cesa
SecretaryGlenn Pizzuti
TreasurerVince Pona

Trustee (e)Rio DeGennaro Jr.
Trustee (e)Jim Federico Sr.
Trustee (e)John Perrotti
Trustee (e)Sal Carriere
Trustee (e)Carmen Frederico
Trustee (a)Ken Mancuso
Trustee (a)Dennis Rosa
Trustee (a)Greg Canteri

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

ATTACHMENTS

No. 1: NFL Championship Game Pool Flyer
No. 2: Reverse Raffle Flyer