Winter 2024

AVANTI

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213, OSDIA • White Plains, NY

A Message from your President: Mario Cermele



2/10 2/13 2/27	Valentine's Dance 7:0pm Officer's Meeting, 7:30pm General Meeting, 7:30pm
3/13 3/16 3/26	March Officer's Meeting, 7:30pm St Pat/St Joe Dinner, 7:00pm General Meeting, 7:30pm
4/5 4/10 4/12 4/23	April Pocketbook Bingo, 7:00pm Officer's Meeting, 7:30pm Comedy Night, 7:00pm General Meeting, 7:30pm
5/8 5/28	May Officer's Meeting, 7:30pm General Meeting, 7:30pm & Scholarship Presentation
6/12 6/25 6/27-6	June Officer's Meeting, 7:30pm General Meeting, 7:30pm 5 /30 Annual NY State Convention
7/10 7/21 7/23	July Officer's Meeting, 7:30pm Kensico Dam Italian Festival General Meeting, 7:30pm
8/14 8/25 8/27	August Officer's Meeting, 7:30pm Annual Picnic General Meeting, 7:30pm
9/11 9/24	September Officer's Meeting, 7:30pm General Meeting, 7:30pm
10/9 10/13 10/14 10/22 10/25	October Officer's Meeting, 7:30pm Columbus Wreath Ceremony NYC Columbus Day Parade General Meeting, 7:30pm Halloween Party, 7:00pm
11/3 11/13 11/15 11/26	November Memorial Mass, OLMC Officer's Meeting, 7:30pm Pocketbook Bingo General Meeting, 7:30pm

December

Children's Christmas Party 12/8 12/11 Officer's Meeting, 7:30pm

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last year our Lodge had a banner year, we surpassed all expectations. Our activities were many and our donations were very well received by all. Our membership has grown to where we are soon to be the number one in the State of New York. Thanks to all our chairpersons and their committees all our fundraising events broke all the records of the past.

In this letter as we begin our New Year you will notice I have a lot to mention all about our events and how we are working to bring the best to all of you. As the saying goes it takes a village and we surely have a village here at Antonio Meucci Lodge. A big thank you

to the chairs of the bocce tournament it was an incredible competition, and the event was enjoyed by all. Once again, our annual picnic, was the largest event we ever had, and this is all made possible by all our brothers and sisters who worked together to make this such a successful and enjoyable event. Another event the Cornhole tournament another huge success and enjoyed by all those who participated, and the competition was amazing. Bravo. And now we have our newest social media tool The Lion's Den @213 Podcast hosted by Brothers, Joe Griffo, Nando Alpuche, and Adam Pacecca, You can find them on our website for the link to listen to our Italian American podcast. www.antoniomeuccilodge.com. It is fun and full of information and feel free to contact any of the brothers if you would like to participate in these pod casts all are welcome.

In November after our annual Memorial Mass this year we celebrated the life and accomplishments of our Past Venerable Antonio Capicotto. We came back to the lodge to a reception and presentation of a beautiful memorial plaque that was placed on the front of the building. Brother Tony taught us how the American dream can become a reality.

And now our annual Childrens Christmas party chaired by our own producers and directors Sister Camille Tarone and Sister Pamela Danza and their committee for their production of Pinocchio and to their actors our fellow members who created a Broadway show for all the children and their families we thank you all. Santa was here with gifts for each child followed by refreshments.

And now I am happy to say we have met so many new people and many have become members of our lodge and there are many more people out there just like you and me, who are very proud of their families, heritage, goals, and our achievements and it is our duty as an Italian organization to keep our past alive. Remembering our motto of Liberty. Equality and Fraternity.

Looking forward to a great 2024 with all your support. Be active, participate in our many events, by attending our general meetings. By getting involved we can accomplish anything we start if we all work together, and we can do an incredible job on promoting our Italian heritage.

Sempre Avanti Un Abbraccio Forte Fraternally, President Mario and Sister Pamela Danza



Antonio Meucci Lodge #213 279 Maple Avenue at Antonio Meucci Place White Plains, New York 10606 (914) 761-9073 www.antoniomeuccilodge.com

OFFICERS 2024

Executive Board

Mario Cermele, President Camille Tarone, 1st Vice President Rita Cestone, 2nd Vice President Antonio Amato, Immediate Past President Cathy Grisanti, Orator Caroline Baviello, Recording Secretary Rosalia Miceli, Corresponding Secretary Annamaria Forte, Financial Secretary Lina Amello, Treasurer Dominick D'Ambrosio, Principal Trustee

<u>Trustees</u>

Nando Alpuche - Tina Amato Rita Carolini - Antonella Capicotto DeLia Anthony Miceli - Gino Di Miceli - John Rubillo Richard Strobel - Lucy Tocci - Nick Vaccarelli

Ceremonial Officers

Heidi Banziger • Tony Cestone <u>Sentinels</u> Adam Pacceca • Dina Roselli

Arbitration Committee

Maria DiMiceli • Joe Griffo (Pres.) • Charles Guastella Carlo Riccobono • Tina Salerno

Past Presidents

Antonio Amato - Antonio Capicotto - Teresa Riverso Frank Tarone - Rose Tassone - Charles Tota

> Chaplain Joe Tanzi

District Lodge Deputy Margaret Forte

LAMOSIA

Pamela Danza (Treasurer) - Antonio Amato Rose Tassone - Teresa Riverso - Charles Tota

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213 Inc. Directors Umberto Amato - Michael Di Savino - Raymond Tocci

The Avanti is the official newsletter of the Antonio Meucci Lodge #213 and it is published Quarterly. Please submit all items for publication by the next day after the General Meeting preceding the month of publication. Contact Margherita Capicotto for all new submissions at fivecaps@optonline.net. Let's Party! The Lodge is available for your NEXT EVENT! Members fee for rental \$500 + \$150 clean up fee + Insurance. Pricing Effective 2024 Contact Brother Mario at 325-1239 for available dates & times



Guidelines for Honorary Members

• Any member who was initiated prior to January 1st, 2023 are considered Grandfathered and would be exempt from paying any dues when they turn 85 years of age. They will now be considered an Honorary member, and the Lodge will continue to pay the Grand Lodge Per Capita Tax for these members.

• The year that the Grandfather member turns 85 years of age they will no longer have to pay their dues. For example if the Grandfather member turns 85 years of age either in the month of January or June of the current year they will no longer pay any dues, however the Lodge will continue to pay their Per Capita Tax for these members.

• Any member who was initiated after January 1, 2023 and who were already 85 years of age or who will turn 85 years will pay 1 year of the regular amount of the Lodge's dues from their initiation date, than after that the member would only be responsible to pay the Grand Lodge Per Capita Tax amount going forward and would still be considered an Honorary member.

If you have moved, changed email or phone please notify us with your new contact information so we can keep our records up to date. Contact Camille Tarone at 914-772-1768 or email tarone96@aol.com

OFFICERS' MEETINGS

2nd Wed. of every month @ 7:30pm

Feb. 13 • March 13 • April 10 • May 8 June 12 • July 10 • August 14 Sept. 11 • Oct. 9 • Nov. 13 • Dec. 11 GENERAL MEETINGS

4th Tuesday of every month @ 7:30pm

Feb. 27 • March 26 • April 23 • May 28 June 25 • July 23 • August 27 Sept. 24 • Oct. 22 • Nov. 26

Members are NOT required to RSVP for general meetings.

Deepest Sympathy

To Brother Antonio and Sister Tina Amato on the loss of their Aunt Giovanna Zinnone

To Brother Danny Miele on the loss of his niece Rosanna Reid

To **Brother Joseph Rosamilia** on the loss of his cousin Rosanna Reid

To Sisters Cathy Grisanti, Rita Carolini and Brother Pat Carolini on the loss of their cousins Giulia DeSantis Belfert and Vito DeSantis

To Brother Carmine and Sister Joan Prezioso on the loss of Carmine's brother Joseph Prezioso

To **Sister Margherita Capicotto** on the loss of her mother Rita Marinaro

To Caterina Cugliari and family on the loss of her husband **Brother Paul Cugliari**

To **Brother Ronald Ritacco** on the loss of his father Federico Ritacco

To **Sister Tina Chillemi Salerno** & Chillemi Family on the loss of her cousin Tony Amedeo

> To **Sister Rachel Filastro** on the loss of her Father Frank J Filastro

Congratulations

To Dominick DiMiceli son of **Bro. Gino DiMiceli and Sister Maria DiMiceli** on becoming a fireman with the City of White Plains.

Happy Birthday Wishes

To Bother Nick Santoro celebrating 90 years!

Get Well Wishes

To our brothers and sisters Connie Morabito, Vincenzo Roselli, Mike Clarizio, John DiPlato, Joseph Baviello, Roselle Cucuzza, Rose Tassone, Charles Tota, Tony Amato, Ray Tocci, Anthony Miceli Sending prayers and healing to all those not feeling well at this time.

If you would like to publish milestones about your family i.e. weddings, births, anniversaries etc. please contact Sr. Margherita Capicotto at 914-980-7987 and your information will be added to next AVANTI.

NY OSDIA Annual State Convention



This year the annual convention will be held on June 27- June 30, 2024 at the Crowne Plaza Albany The Desmond Hotel. Our Lodge is one of the largest in New York State. 325 members to be exact. Therefore we need our presence at the annual convention. We need to have 10 delegates attend our annual convention. If you are interested please contact Sr. Pamela Danza at 914-980-1055. It is a fun weekend and you meet many people from lodges from all over NY State. Many activities and events take place during the weekend to look forward to, ie. Dinner

dance, discussion on topics that are important to our Italian heritage, awards night.

Our membership at this time is 333 members, our presence at the convention is much needed we are required to be represented by 10 delegates. All are welcome to become a delegate. If interested please contact Sister Pamela Danza at 914-980-1055 for more information and cost. You will experience a weekend of fun and meet many of our brothers and sisters from lodges all over the state of New York. The weekend is full of activities and events concerning the workings of the New York State Lodges and their members, including our heritage, traditions and welfare of the order.

Fall Bocce Tournament



Man of the Year



Congratulation to President Mario Cermele who was honored this past December by the Le Amiche Lodge #2550. He was their Man of the Year on December 3, 2023 at the Westchester Manor in Hastings-on Hudson, NY . The Le Amiche Lodge celebrated their 40th Anniversary. President Mario is well deserving of this award for his tireless efforts and dedication to the Antonio Meucci Lodge.

> Congratulations to President Mario Cermele This Year's Man of the Year

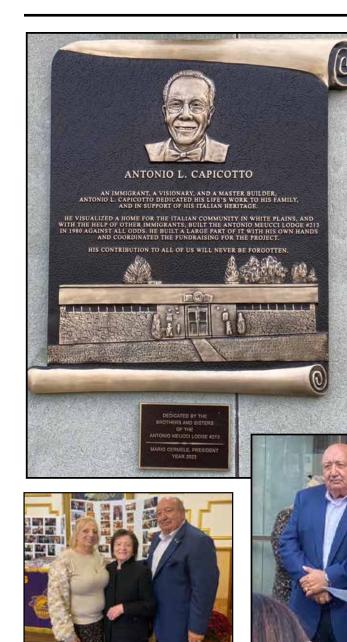
In recognition of your dedication & bard work to the OSDIA A Well Deserved Honor From your Brothers & Sisters of the Autonio Meucei Lodge #213







Plaque for Antonio L. Capicotto



On November 5 we had our Annual Memorial Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church to remember all our departed brothers and sisters of our lodge. We also had a celebration of Life for our departed brother and past president Antonio L. Capicotto who also was the builder of our lodge. His family attended as well as dignitaries from the State of NY Grand Lodge. A memorial plaque was unveiled in his honor which was placed on the front of the building. Thank you to President Mario Cermele and the board for organizing this in celebration of Antonio L. Capicotto's accomplishment. Thank you to Sister Pamela Danza for planning the beautiful brunch and to Sister Rita Cestone for organizing the Memorial Mass.





Children's Party







Donation from ITALO

We want to thank Olivia Paolillo President of the Italian American Law Students' Organization at Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University for their donation to our lodge. Below is a little bio on her organization.

The Italian American Law Students' Organization (ITALO), is a student-run organization at Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University. We are law students who are dedicated to celebrating and exploring the heritage of Italian American culture while highlighting its valuable contributions to the legal community. We also strive to actively raise funds for charitable purposes, and provide opportunities for meaningful networking through social, academic, and professional events.

During the 2023 fall semester, ITALO hosted an Italian Dessert Bake Sale on campus. We sold a variety of popular and delicious desserts including cannolis, rainbow cookies, ricotta cake, sfogliatelle, napoleons, pizzelles, and more! We are happy to have donated all of the money raised to The Order Sons and Daughters of Italy, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213! We applaud all that the lodge has done for the local community, and want to support their efforts. We acknowledge that this is a charitable lodge where the donation will be put towards scholarships, research, and other important needs. We appreciate all of the support from the lodge and value our newfound collaboration.

Burke Rehabilitation Hospital Auxillary

In December our lodge also gave a donation to Burke Rehabilitation Hospital Auxillary organization. Our gift will allow the Auxillary to continue to help patients at Burke who are less fortunate and need help. A letter of thanks was sent to the lodge by the President of Burke for our donation.

Shepherd's Flock

The Shepherd's Flock used the majority of the Lodge's very generous check coupled with individual members donations to feed poor families. We concentrated on helping families whose children would not be receiving food from school during the Christmas holidays. Your gift not only provided nutritious food, you mitigated the parents' stress of not being able to feed their children. We also purchased clothing of coats, hats, gloves and scarves for teenagers who were in dire need of warm clothing. We sincerely appreciate all your kindness and generosity, especially for those who are victims of poverty. God bless each and everyone with a Happy and Healthy New Year.



Italian Welfare League

We also gave a donation to the Italian Welfare League located in New York city. This donation will help to provide needed health care and support for needy children of Italian decent. Since the beginning of the campaign called "I Nostri Bambini" the League has donated more than \$3,000,000 to more than 2500 children who require medical assistance or are suffering from emotional trauma, and in grants to agencies who serve children with special needs. Our donation has made a difference in the lives of these children.

Antonio Meucci Lodge Scholarships

Over the years, the Annual Antonio Meucci Lodge #213 Scholarship program has expanded in many categories.

The Annual Antonio Meucci Lodge #213 Scholarships is awarded to a child or grandchild of a lodge member in good standing where dues are paid. In addition, the member must have **joined the Lodge at least one year prior to the deadline of the Scholarship application.**

There is also a scholarship to honor the memory of Past President Brother Frank Tarone. This scholarship is for someone who will pursue a career in the **Vocational/Technical Fields**.

This year the Antonio Meucci Lodge #213 will be awarding to a child or grandchild of a lodge member in good standing a Graduate scholarship to an under graduate student who will pursuing a post graduate field of study.

These applications can be found on the Antonio Meucci Lodge Web site: **www.antoniomeuccilodge.com/forms**. The deadline for the Scholarship applications and all supportive materials must be postmarked no later than **May 1, 2024**.

If you have any questions you can contact Sis Rita Maria Carolini for further information at 914 656-4095.

Also through the Antonio Meucci Lodge #213 Inc., the family of the late Brother Vito Cirioni will be awarding a perpetual The Vito Cirioni Memorial Scholarship in his name to a worthy senior recipient of White Plains High School. Anyone who wishes to donate to this scholarship in Vito's memory can do so by writing a check to the Antonio Meucci Lodge #213 Inc., and mail it to 279 Maple Ave, White Pains, NY 10606.

In conjunction to the Vito Cirioni Memorial Scholarship the Antonio Meucci Lodge #213 will contribute the same amount of monies to that same worthy recipient at White Plains High School.

Additional Scholarship Opportunities

There are other worthy Scholarships that students can apply to which vary in monies being awarded. Below are a few websites that a students could apply to. Please check application due date and possible fees to apply.

https://www.niaf.org/programs/scholarships

https://columbusfoundation.org/students/scholarships

www.osdia.org/scholarships

https://www.fierifund.org

Grand Lodge Scholarships of New York

In addition the Grand Lodge Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America has their own Scholarships that students can apply to. Please note their deadline is March 31, 2024

<u>Eligibility</u>: Applicant must be of Italian descent and a resident of New York State. Undergraduate and graduate awards are presented to high school or college students who will begin full-time study for the fall academic term of the year their application is eligible to apply for competition. The scholarship awards are based on academic excellence and service. Students must have an average of 85% or above to apply.

This year the NY State Grand Lodge has also established a Vocational/ Trade school scholarship award.

<u>Application Deadline:</u> Applications and all supportive materials **must be postmarked no later than March 31 2024.**

<u>Application Fee:</u> An application fee of \$10.00, made payable to the NYSOSIA Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc. must be included with each application. For applications for the State Scholarships please visit the Antonio Meucci Lodge website <u>www.antoniomeuccilodge.com/forms</u> to downloads the forms

Grants

The NYSOSIA Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc. also awards several grants for students with special needs. The requirements for grants are the same as noted above with the exception of the need for a minimum of an 85% average. Also, all grant applicants are required to submit a written document of special need.

This form can also be downloaded from the Antonio Meucci Lodge website www.antoniomeuccilodge.com/forms.

If you have any questions regarding the State Scholarships you can contact Sister Margaret Forte District IV Chairperson for further information at 914 337-1387.



Events Calendar



February 10 - 7:00pm Decades of Love Valentine's Dance Contact: Tina Chillemi Salerno 914-774-5540

March 16 - 7:00 pm St Patricks/St Josephs Dinner Contact: Sr. Lina Amello 914-522-6488

April 5 - Pocketbook Bingo Doors open 5:30 pm, Games Begin 7:00 pm Contact: Cathy Grisanti 914-523-6158 or Camille Tarone 914-772-1768

April 12 - 7:00 pm Comedy Night As seen on HBO, Showtime and in Las Vegas Comedians Gene Trifilo, John lavarone, Jeff Norris

July 21 - 12-6pm Kensico Dam Italian Festival Volunteers needed, + corporate sponsorship

August 25 - Annual Picnic

October 13 - Columbus Wreath Ceremony

October 14 - NYC Columbus Day Parade

October 25 - 7:00 pm Halloween Party

November 3 - Memorial Mass, OLMC

November 15 - Pocketbook Bingo

December 8 - Childrens Christmas Party



Check us out on our social media pages to stay up to date on current events at the Antonio Meucci Lodge#213



Facebook: Antonio Meucci Lodge 213 White Plains Instagram: @Antonio.Meucci.Lodge Website: https://antoniomeuccilodge.com



DONATION DRIVE FOR PROM FORMALWEAR

MISSION

Operation Prom Network, Inc., is a national 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit organization that helps students attend their prom by providing free dresses and tuxedos. Each School year we collect and distribute prom formalwear as well as accessory items & shoes, undergarments, jewelry and bowties. Our goal is to ensure that each student we serve receives the perfect room attire allowing them to feel confident & empowered.



FORMAL DRESSES EVENING BAGS COSTUME JEWELRY ACCESSORIES TUXEDOS & DINNER JACKETS SUITS & SPORT COATS NECKWEAR & ACCESSORIES FOOTWEAR

ALSO WELCOME MONETARY DONATIONS FOR SPECIAL FITTINGS GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR HAIR & MAKE-UP SERVICES

DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED MONDAYS & THURSDAYS THRU MARCH 31st, 2024 For More Information, Text Sister Nina Chillemi: (914) 879-2373

Antonio Meucci Lodge, Nº 213 279 Maple Avenue • White Plains, NY 10606 • Ph. (914) 761-9073 www.antoniomeuccilodge.com

Pasta Tombola





Pasta Tombola event was a fun evening. Thank you to Sister AnnaMaria Forte ,Brother umberto Amato and President Mario Cermele And their committee for all their hardwork to make this a successful fun event.





Sis. Camille Tarone at (914) 772-1768



INCLUDES: 10 BINGO GAMES, DAUBER & DOOR RAFFLE TICKET Players get 10 Bingo Game Sheets (3 cards per sheet) additional sheets \$10 each COFFEE, COOKIES & WATER INCLUDED BYO FOOD & BEVERAGES WELCOWEL

DESIGNER POCKETBOOK BINGO EVENT	RSVP FORM (Us	e Back If Needed)
Complete, Detach & Induits Clark Populater:	April	
Chiefenses Laterated Longer addard and and the	A233112	

Non

Nor

Nue



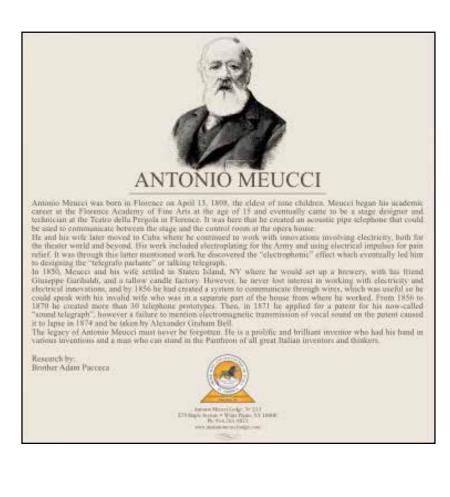
Geograv Pockethook Binga Event Antonin Neuczi Lodge #213 279 Reple Rvenue Wate Plean, KY 10006

LHalt		
of Guest		
d fant		
of Guest	distant and the distant	
	Check Totel Nº of Adults:	@\$\$0 forb + 5



The Antonio Meucci Lodge #213 Order Sons of Italy in America 279 Maple Avenue at Antonio Meucci Place White Plains, NY 10606

The Avanti will be published 4 times a year. Please mark your calendar for the events you would like to attend so you don't miss out on our wonderful events throughout the year.



WHO WAS ANTONIO MEUCCI