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A Message From the President,

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213



May 2026

Issue 15

Welcome to the May edition of my *Newsletter*, I know I'm sending it out early, but it's only because I'm leaving for vacation. I'm so excited that I'm finally going to England and France, which has always been on my "bucket list" to experience. I can't wait to see the sights of Buckingham Palace, the Louvre, Eiffel Tower and so many more exciting places that are rich in history, and let's not forget that it was France who gifted us with the Statue of Liberty.

Once again the Lodge had a busy month of April with so many events and activities. As I always say there is something for everyone to enjoy. Currently, we are winding down with the Winter Cornhole games, and will resume with the Spring/Summer Bocce games. The card players have been actively playing Scopa and have now been playing Mahjong. I must say the competition has been intense and very interesting to watch them play.

As for the Spring/Summer Bocce Games. Brother Sam and Chris Amello will Chair this year's Season of the Bocce games, which are always very fun to play and watch. The games are also very competitive. If anyone is interested in playing please send



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an email to Sam Amello at amlbocce@gmail.com. We're looking to start the games in early May, so start to get your teams together, and let's enjoy these games with our Brothers and Sisters. All are welcome to play. I personally would like to thank Brother Joe Rosamilia for getting the Bocce court ready to play after a rough winter.

On *Tuesday April 7th* the Lodge attended the Cooley's Anemia Dine Around at Verdi's in Long Island. Special thank you to Sisters Rita Carolini, Roselle Cucuzza, and Cathy Grisanti, who attended this event with me. Cooley's Anemia or Beta-Thalassemia, is a severe inherited blood disorder that causes the body to produce insufficient hemoglobin, resulting in severe anemia primarily affecting people in the Mediterranean region like Italy. Over the years there has been significant progress made in curing Cooley's Anemia through gene therapy and gene editing, with life expectancy now to be around 50 to 60 years old. Cooley's Anemia is one of the NYS Grand Lodge charities we support and we will be making a donation when we attend the Convention in June.

On *Friday April 10th*, the Lodge had its *Cigar, Steak and Lobster Night*. The night was such a success, and I heard nothing but rave reviews and most wanted to know when our next one will be held. A special thank you to Chairperson Anthony Miceli, his fabulous committee of Brothers Frank Autera, Mario Cermele, Paul Carlo, Joe Griffo and Sister Rosalia Miceli. A special shout out to Brother Mario Cermele, of Cermele Catering and his staff who did a



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outstanding job grilling the Steaks and preparing the Lobster Tails, and to all who attended and supported this event by buying 50/50 and Raffle tickets for gift baskets. I heard there were some very happy winners of the gift baskets. A special thank you to all the merchants who donated items. It's through these type of events we are able to raise the funds needed so we can give back to all those worthy charities we support. I will keep you posted when the next one will happen. Hopefully it's real soon.

On April 15th, it was *National Made in Italy Day*, which was celebrated on the birthday of Leonardo da Vinci, the ultimate symbol of Italian genius and creativity. On that day we celebrated The Wine, The Food, The Cars, The Fashion, and of course the people behind it all. There's a reason the whole world wants a piece of Italy. Italian Americans have always known that what is made in Italy is made differently. That is why we celebrated that legacy and the generations who brought it to American shores. Viva Italia.

Back by popular demand was our *Pocketbook Bingo held on April 24th*. As you may know this event is one of our biggest fundraiser for the Lodge and that night did not disappoint anyone that attended. The room was packed with both men and women who came to play Bingo, and of course to win the many raffles that were there to select from. I know Sister Lisa Stumpo was ecstatic to win the 50/50 totally \$1300. Congratulations Lisa. I need to personally



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thank Chairperson Cathy Grisanti who works so hard to pull this off every year. Of course she had a fabulous committee behind her. Special thank you to Reservation Chair Pamela Danza, Sisters Tina Amato, Caroline Baviello, Rita Carolini, Maria DiMicelli, Lucy Tocci, Dina Roselli, Maria DiMicelli, Maria Malandro, and Rosalia Miceli. And we can't forget the men who came to assist that night especially our Bingo Caller Brother Mario Cermele, and Assistants Gino DiMicelli, and Dominick D'Ambrosio. Also thanks to Brothers Frank Autera, Anthony Gerasia, Mike Grisanti, Sergio LaNotte, Adam Pacecca, and Ray Tocci. We couldn't have done this without your help. Also thank you to all the local merchants who so generously donated gift cards, hopefully you support them and tell them you won it at Pocketbook Bingo.

There are three more interesting events we will be doing in May that may interest some of our members. At our March general meeting we had two guest speakers Chris Tuosto and Brian Viggiano from the Westchester Soccer Club speak to us regarding the newest Mens Professional Soccer team in Westchester County. The games are played at The Stadium at Memorial Field, Mount Vernon NY. After hearing Chris speak and the interest of our members we will be having a *Fundraiser on May 15th*, and actually go see the team play against the NY Cosmos. So for every ticket purchased at \$17.00 through the Lodge the WSC Organization will donate \$ 5.00 back to us. Brother Adam Pacecca will coordinate this



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for us. He can be reached on 860 271-6507. *The cut off date to reserve the tickets is May 1st.*

Another fun night will be on *May 29th*, The Lodge will be having a *Country Western Line Dancing* event Chaired by Sister Lina Amello and Co-Chair Sister Lynda Innocenzi. This should be another fun night, so get your Cowboy Boots and Hats ready for this “*Sip & Stomp Your Boots*” party. The cost is \$80.00 per person. Please see our website for the flyer with all the particulars. You can call Sister Lina for reservations on 914 522-6488. This should be another fun night for everyone to attend.

The following night on *Saturday May 30th*, some of us will be attending the *Legends in Concert at Stepinac High School*. Brother Nick Ciarmella has been actively involved in raising funds for the School, and again he asked if the Lodge would like to participate in this fundraiser event. For every ticket that is purchased through the Lodge at \$50 per ticket he will donate \$10.00 back to us. This is a Win-Win for both the School and the Lodge. Thank you to everyone that already bought tickets. See you there.

The Antonio Meucci Scholarship Chaired by Sister Rita Maria Carolini and her committee are currently working on reviewing the Scholarship applications received for both an Undergraduate and Graduate student and will be announcing the winners real soon. *Please save the date May 26th.* At our next General meeting we will



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present the scholarship winners with their certificates and we will also be having initiation of new members. I would also like to mention that the *Frank Tarone Vocational and Vito Cirioni Memorial Scholarships* will be awarded to a worthy student at White Plains High School on May 14th. I will be attending that ceremony along with Sister Rita Maria and Sister Rosemary Cirioni.

On *April 19th*, I along with Sisters Caroline Baviello, Cathy Grisanti, Pamela Danza Antonella Delia, Brothers Mario Cermele and Eduardo Delia attended the Fieri Scholarship Breakfast at the Bronx Zoo. This year they honored Honorable Janet DiFiore, and Gil Teitel from Teitel Brothers of Arthur Ave. What was even more special was that one of our members sons Marco Buglione received *The Italian American Forum Scholarship* in the amount of \$5,000. I know your parents Brother Frank and Rosita are so proud of everything you have accomplished. Congratulations Marco you made us so proud that day.

The CSJ is having an Essay contest called "*Discovering The Truth-The Louis J. Gallo Jr. Memorial Columbus Award*". The contest is for students in grades 11-12 for all children of Lodge members in good standing. The student must select one of the many Anti-Columbus myths/falsehoods being repeated today and prove it wrong using reputable sources. Cash prizes will be awarded. I recently, sent out an email regarding the criteria. The information is also posted on our website antoniomeuccilodge.com. I encourage our young students to



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take advantage of this opportunity. You never know they just may be a winner. *The deadline is June 1, 2026.*

Just wanted to keep you in the loop regarding a Christopher Columbus statue in the City of Columbus, Ohio. The Italian American organization filed a federal lawsuit against the City on April 7th seeking to restore the Christopher Columbus statue to its original location outside City Hall. The 20 foot Bronze statue, a gift from Genoa, Italy in 1955, was removed by Mayor Andrew Ginther in 2020 during nationwide protests. The suit claims the removal violated Federal, State and Local Law and discriminated against the Italian American community. Plaintiffs include the Columbus Foundation, and the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American organizations, represented by Attorney George Brochetto who previously won similar cases in Pennsylvania. I will definitely keep you posted on the outcome of this case.

As I have been mentioning the Garibaldi Meucci Museum was having The Dollar Challenge. They had challenged **each and every** OSDIA member to contribute \$1.00 through their filial/subordinate Lodge for the Museums' upkeep. The museum is OUR OSDIA treasure and will now be one of OUR National Charity. They were raising funds needed to help with the many repairs and maintenance needed on the building. Over the years our Lodge has always supported the museum because we felt an allegiance to it as it has our name associated to it. I'm happy to



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report that based on what we collected from the \$1.00 challenge we coupled that with additional money from our 501(c)3 account and made a total donation of \$750 to The Garibaldi Meucci Museum. At the Convention we will make an additional contribution, since it is now part of our National Charities.

It just so happens that on *April 18th* The Garibaldi Meucci Museum had a special Street dedication ceremony honoring the two influential figures for which the museum was named after. They are Antonio Meucci and General Giuseppe Garibaldi. In recognition of their enduring legacy and profound impact, the crossroads will now be called *Antonio Meucci Way* and *Giuseppe Garibaldi Way*. This historic occasion celebrates the innovation, courage, and lasting contribution of their Italian heritage in America. Let's not forget that Antonio Meucci was the true inventor of the Telephone.

This year the NYS Grand Lodge Foundation, OSDIA proudly announced a new charitable partnership with the *Marty Lyons Foundation*. Established in 1982 by former New York Jets Defensive Lineman Marty Lyons, the foundation is dedicated to fulfilling the special wishes of children ages three to seventeen who have been diagnosed with terminal or life-threatening illness. This year at the convention the Antonio Meucci Lodge will once again, generously donate to this worthy charity in support of children stricken with catastrophic illnesses.



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Also this year the National OSDIA is proud to announce Umbria as its 2026 Region of celebration, showcasing the culture, history and traditions of Italy's "Green Heart" at this year's National Education & Leadership Awards (NELA) Gala. If you get a chance Umbria is a beautiful city to visit in Italy.

I'm also happy to announce that our Lodge not only sold all 25 \$100 raffle tickets assessed to us by the NY State Grand Lodge, but we also sold an additional 11 tickets. That's a total of 36 tickets. Amazing. Thank you Brother Anthony Miceli for coordinating this for us. I hope we have some lucky winners. The winners will be announced at the Convention in June.

As in the past our Lodge just made a \$1,500 to Mt. Carmel Church in White Plains to support their 2026 Festa Italiana. We have always been a proud sponsor of the Church. Their *Festa Italiana* will be held on July 9th- July 12th, so if you have the time please go and support their Festa, it would greatly be appreciated.

I would like to send *Get Well* wishes to all our members and friends not feeling well especially Sisters Antionette Cinicolo, Nina Maria Chillemi, Rita Cestone, Teresa Rivero, Josephine Scopelliti, Nancy Vernillo, Brothers Tony Amato, Mario Cermele, Lucio Gatti, John Pezzullo, Vince Roselli, Joe Tanzi and Peter Guastella son to Charlie Guastella. May you all experience good help real soon.



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To all our members celebrating *May Birthdays*, Buon Compleano. I hope you all enjoy celebrating your Birthdays.

I would like to wish all our May couples a very *Buon Anniversario*. I hope everyone has a wonderful time celebrating your Anniversaries, and your day is filled with Joy, Happiness, and most of all Love.

Congratulations to Brother Tony and Sister Rita Cestone who celebrated 65 years and to Past President Brother Tony and Sister Tina Amato who celebrated 60 years of marriage. May you enjoy many more years of wedded bliss,

I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to Brother Ron Cardillo and his family on the passing of his son-in-law Kenneth Montgomery Brown. May he rest in the arms of the lord.

Congratulations to Luca DelConte, son to Brother Ivano DelConte who was just named All League and All Conference as well as Section 1 Class C All Tournament Team. Luca is a Junior at Tuckahoe High School and is a multi-sport athlete playing Varsity Basketball, Football, and Baseball for the School. Way to go Luca.

I would like to wish all our Mothers a Happy Mother's Day. Did you know the origins of celebrating motherhood can be traced



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back to Ancient Greece and Rome, where festivals were held in honor of their mother goddesses, Rhea and Cybele. Much later, in the 16th century Mothering Sunday was recognized during the fourth Sunday of Lent for parishes of the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church. So Mothers's Day is a special day to recognize the women who have given us so much. That is one of the reasons we celebrate Mothers's Day to honor the accomplishments of the women in our life.

I also want to wish all those men and women who served in the military a very Happy Memorial and Armed Forces Day. Armed forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May, and honors all active-duty members across all U.S. military branches. It was established in 1949, and signifies the unification of the services under the Department of War focusing on appreciation, military-civilian community, and honoring service sacrifices. Memorial Day is celebrated on the last Monday of the month of May to honor and mourn military personnel who died in service to their country. Hopefully, we never forget the men and women who died for us in serving this great country we so lovingly call America. I would like to mention the recent success of Amadeo Falce an Italian disabled U.S. Army Veteran who served for eight years in the military. Amadeo founded Blue Dove Coffee as a way to honor his Italian heritage while building a brand centered around "peace, connection, and clarity". The name Blue Dove serves as a reminder to provide a



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moment of calm and genuine connection through quality coffee in the middle of a hectic day. Blue Dove Coffee is a NYC based company which started with a hand built coffee cart and now has numerous brick-and-mortar locations around NYC which specializes in high quality Espresso coffee. So if you see this store, go in grab a cup of Espresso and know you are not only supporting one of our own Italian entrepreneur, but more importantly a disabled veteran who served our country.

Spring time in Italy is just a beautiful time to visit this magical country especially in May. On May 1st-4th Sagra di Sant'Eufisio, is a major four day religious and folklore festival held in Cagliari, Sardinia. It's one of Italy's largest most continuous religious processions, featuring thousands in traditional costume to honor the Saint who saved the City from plague. Also on May 1st it's Labour Day known as Festa dei Lavoratori. This is a National public holiday, with rallies and a large concert in Rome near the Basilica of San Giovanni in Laterano. Some of the major Festa's celebrated are the Festa della Sensa (Ascension Day Venice): A religious/civic festival recreating Venice's "marriage" to the sea with a massive boat procession. Also in early May in Assisi they celebrate II Calendimaggio. It's a dramatic medieval re-enactment celebrating spring with parades, music and competition between the town's two factions of the Nobilissima Parte de Sopra (the very Noble Upper Part) and Magnifica Parte de Sotto (the magnificent lower Part). The Feast of San Fortunato (second Sat/Sun of May, Camogli) Honors the Patron Saint of fishermen, featuring a large fish fry in 28 tons pans. Also in Sicily in Mid-May Infiorata di Noto is celebrated. It's a stunning



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flower petal festival where streets are covered in intricate, religiously, themed designs. May 15th is the Festa dei Ceri, an ancient, intense race with enormous, wooden towers carried by locals to honor Saint Ubald

As mentioned last month our *Italian Heritage Festival will be on July 26th*. We are in the planning stages of the event but we will need the help of our Brothers and Sisters with the festivities that day. Right now I'm happy to say we have music by Pane E Cioccolato, Ella Cristina, and DJ Rocco Ruscito who will perform in the Food Court. I'm also very happy to announce our *Honoree this year is Brother Michael Bellantoni*. Brother Michael has not only been a longtime member of the Lodge but he owns Bellantoni Landscaping in White Plains, serving the community of White Plains for more than 60 years. We couldn't have picked a better person to honor this year than Brother Michael. Also special thank you to Chairpersons Sister Cathy Grisanti and Brother Mario Cermele who are working very hard to make this a day to remember for all our Italian-American ancestors. The Lodge is looking for any support possible with Sponsorships, Donations, Vendors, etc. You can see our website for more information. Also our members will be receiving raffle tickets in the mail. Your support would greatly be appreciated as we raise money to support all our charitable donations especially for Scholarships through out the year. Volunteers are also needed for that day, If interested you can call or text Caroline Baviello 914 760-4095. *Our next Festa meeting will be May 19th, 7:00 pm*. All are welcome to attend. Thank you for your support.

I want to mention that the month of May we get to celebrate all our hard working Nurses. On May 6th it's National Nurse Day, so let's give a special shout out to all our fabulous Nurses. Also in the



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month of May we get to celebrate National Hamburger and Chocolate Chip days, two of my favorites. We also can't forget Cinco de Mayo on May 5th. But in Italy the foods they are know to celebrate in the month of May are fresh spring vegetables and fruits, Fava Beans paired with Pecorino Cheeses, Artichokes, Asparagus, Strawberries, Cherries and in Rome they enjoy Vignarola a stew made with those spring vegetables along with Peas and Lettuce. Sound delicious.

So here's a fun fact, The Museo del Cognomen in Padula, Salerno has discovered the birth certificate of Carmine Antonio Baldi, born March 28, 1862 in Castelnuovo Cliento, Campania, officially confirming singer Taylor Swift's lineage to having Italian ancestry. The document shows Baldi was the son of Vito Baldi and Rosa Galzerano, making the global pop star one sixteenth Italian through her paternal side of the family. Carmine emigrated to Philadelphia at the age 14 in 1876 with his father and brother. I wonder if she is going to apply for dual citizenship. Too funny.

This year on July 4th we will celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the United States, which marks 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. With that being said there will be lots of events and celebrations that will happen around the country and in Washing D.C. One such event will be the *Freedom 250 Grand Prix* car race, but did you know that Barilla will be the Official Pasta Partner of Formula 1. Barilla has just recently debuted Racing



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Wheels, a special edition pasta shape inspired by F1 tires, just in time for the Miami Grand Prix on May 3rd. The ridged, circular pasta is designed to capture sauce and deliver the perfect al dente bite. The pasta is now available on [walmart.com](https://www.walmart.com) for \$1.77 per 16 ounce box. Barilla, founded in Parma in 1877 by Pietro Barilla, is promoting the launch as part of Domenica Italiana, the Italian Sunday tradition of gathering around a shared meal while watching Formula 1 races. Here again, Italians are being celebrated and intertwined with American traditions and past times.

In closing, Brother Frank and I want to wish all our Sisters a very Happy Mother's Day. Also let's not forget the month of May is Military appreciation month. To all our veterans and military personnel we salute you and thank you for your service to this great country of ours, America.

To all my Brothers and Sisters may you always remember our motto **Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.**

Sempre Avanti,
President Camille



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