



ORDER
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IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213



*September 2025
Issue 7*

I can't believe September is here. The days of summer just flew by in a blink of an eye. Now there is the hustle and bustle of parents preparing to get their children ready for another school year. Also during the month of August and September many of our members were either busy or preparing for making their homemade tomato sauce a time-honored tradition. There is nothing like home made "Sauce" Yes "Sauce" on a Sunday afternoon with your pasta. To me what is more important is how we are able to pass down that tradition to our children, and hopefully to their children for generations to come. This year I'm so glad I didn't have to make my sauce as I still had plenty of jars left over from last year. So if you have the opportunity share some of your homemade sauce with your family and friends they will love you for it.

The regular season of Bocce is now over and the championship games will be played the first week of September. Would you believe my team the Bingo-ettes who hadn't won a game, and was in last place, made it to the championship round. Apparently, all teams make it to the finals, but what would be even more funnier is if in the finals we won a game and move on to the next round. Stranger things have happened. I encourage people to come watch the games starting on September 2nd, and root for your favorite teams who are playing. Bocce starts at 7:00pm weather permitting.



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A few weeks ago, our Lodge was excited to send Brother Adam Pacceca to the 2025 FOTO convention in Orlando, Florida. FOTO which stands for the Future Of The Order coincided with the OSDIA National Convention, which provides a platform for young adults (ages 21-40) to discuss and shape the future of the organization and Italian Identity. At our last General meeting, Brother Adam was excited to report on his experience after attending this convention. I'm sure in the next few months he will share ideas on how we can get our youth more involved in the Order. I'm also happy to report that at the National Convention New York was so well represented in winning some key positions on the Executive Board. Congratulations to Brother Thom Lupo on becoming our National President, Brother Robert Ferrito National 5th Vice President, Brother Biagio J Isgro Jr National Financial Secretary, Sister Caroline Reres National Trustee, Brother Joseph Illardi National Alternate Commissioner of Arbitration, and to Brother John Fratta as the new National President of the Commission for Social Justice. The Antonio Meucci Lodge sends our sincerest best wishes and congratulations to all of these well deserving individuals. We know you will make us proud.

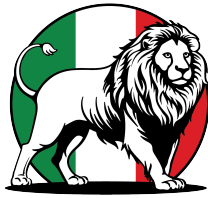
On Monday August 25th, our Lodge was excited to support the NYS Golf Outing by sending 4 golfers to this event. Thank You to Brothers Mike DiSavino, Anthony Miceli, Anthony Miceli Jr, and Lorenzo Santoli. I heard you had a blast and I'm so happy you were able to represent our Lodge that day. Hopefully, next year we can send more Golfers.



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Our Annual Family Picnic was held this past Sunday on August 31, at Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale. The weather was absolutely perfect. There was an abundance of food where we served lunch of Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chicken, Sausage & Peppers, Pasta & Meatballs, along with all the condiments to go with it. There were even Hot Peppers that I understand all went. That was followed by dinner of London Broil, Peas & Mushrooms, and Corn on the Cob. Of course we also had the Watermelon, an amazing Dessert table, and let's not forget the Ice Cream. But if that wasn't enough food at the end of the day we served Spaghetti Aglio e Olio ala Nick Vaccarelli. Special thank you to our Chairpeople for the day. Brothers Anthony Miceli, Nick Vaccarelli, and Charles Toto, and let's not forget IPP Mario Cermele your hard work paid off and everyone had a great time. We also had music by DJ Marcello, and a magician and face painter for the kids. I need to personally thank all our Brothers and Sisters that came to help in the morning and evening to set-up and breakdown it was gristly appreciated. But the biggest highlight of the day was to have our newly elected State President Arthur Spera, his lovely wife First Lady Joanne, and Past State President Anthony Naccarato and Past First Lady Mary in attendance. What an honor. Thank you also to State Trustee Vito Catania, and our Lodge Deputy Margaret Forte as well for attending the picnic. Glad you are feeling better Margaret. It was also great to see some of our Brothers and Sisters of filial Lodges such as Le Amiche, Father Licata, and Giuseppe Garibaldi enjoy the day with us. To all the lucky winners who won at our raffle we thank you for supporting the Lodge so we can continue to donate to the many worthy Charities we support over the year.



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Also as previously mentioned that on Saturday September 13, 2025, 12:00 pm at Verdi's Catering in Westbury, NY, the NY State Gift of Sight will be honoring our Immediate Past President Mario Cermele and Sister Pamela Danza with a Humanitarian Award. The cost for the event is \$90.00 per person. If anyone would like to attend please reach out to Sister Lucy Tocci on 914 683-5448 no later than September 4th, 2025 so the appropriate reservations can be made. This is such a great honor for them, and we should have a nice showing from our Lodge not only to support Brother Mario and Sister Pamela but the Gift of Sight charity.

The CSJ (Commission for Social Justice) is sponsoring the [John Dabbene Italian Heritage Essay contest](#). The criteria is for a member in good standing in one of our local lodges and have a child, grandchild, niece or nephew who is in grades 7 through 12, that child is eligible to enter the contest by submitting a 250 word essay on what it means to be an Italian. All the information is uploaded on our website. The winner will receive \$250.00. [All applications have to be in by September 30, 2025](#)

I'm also excited to announce that our Lodge is planning two new events that have peaked the interest with our members. The first event will be on Saturday September 20, 2025 which is a [Liberty Cruise Boat Ride](#), which will leave from New Rochelle, NY at 7:00 pm, and cruise the water aboard the "[The Princess](#)" around Manhattan & the Statue of Liberty. The evening will include a buffet dinner, music and dancing and of course you will experience the beautiful skyline of New York City as you cruise down the Hudson River. The cost for the event is \$125.00 per person but seating is limited. For reservations please reach out to Vice President Anthony Miceli



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914 879-6884, or Brother Nando Alpuche 917 418-6990. Can't wait, this should be a fun night.

The other exciting event we are planning is for our members children and grandchildren is a Halloween *"Boo-Bash"*. This was an idea brought to us by Brother Chris Famularo and was well received by the Officers of the Lodge. The date for the event is Sunday October 26th, from 12:00 pm-4:00 pm for children 3-12 years old, of course the little ones are always welcome to attend and experience all the excitement of this SUPER *"EERIE-SISTIBLE"* Halloween party. His committee is working real hard to plan a fun afternoon of activities and games for the children. Please see our website for the event flyer and you can make your reservations by calling Chris on 347 203-5991. All donations will be greatly appreciated. Looking forward to seeing all these kids dressed in their favorite costumes.

At our next General meeting on September 23rd, our Lodge will be initiating 12 new members who are excited to join the Antonio Meucci Lodge and be proud members of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. So I invite you to come to the meeting that night and welcome these new members to our great Lodge. Help them feel welcome and try to get them involve in some of the wonderful things our Lodge has to offer.

A few weeks ago, you all received a letter in the mail regarding an open *vacancy on the Arbitration Commission*. Due to a recent resignation the Lodge needs to run a special election to back fill the position. We are looking for one permanent and one



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alternate position to fill the open vacancy. If you have an interest in serving in this capacity please let Sister Pamela Danza [know by Friday September 12, 2025](#). She can be reached on 914 980-1055. Thank you for your consideration in serving as a potential Commissioner to the Arbitration Commission.

There are a couple of events that our Lodge will be hosting in the month of October that you should be aware of so mark your calendars. The first one of course is on Sunday October 12, 2026 which is our annual [Columbus Wreath Celebration](#) at Tibbits Park in White Plains. This is where we get to pay homage to Christopher Columbus. This ceremony which has been performed by our Lodge for many years, and with all the controversy surrounding Christopher Columbus these past few years, we should be proud that his Statue in White Plains was declared a historical landmark which means it can never be touched or taken down. Some of our members remember just how hard we fought to preserve and save that Statue with all the meetings we attended with the White Plains Common Council. Well it worked, and it's still there. As our IPP Mario Cermele always said "[We Named It, We Built It, We Served It, We Respect It, We Love It](#)". The ceremony will start at 10:00 am followed by a continental breakfast at the Lodge. More information to follow.

The next event we will be hosting on Saturday October 25, 2025 will be the NY State Plenary Session. While we were at the State Convention this past June our newly elected State President Arthur Spera approached Myself and Vice President Anthony Miceli if we would host the October Plenary session at our Lodge. Of course we said yes, as this is such an honor for us. VP Anthony will chair the event however, we will be



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looking for volunteers for the day to help prepare and serve food which will consist of Breakfast and Lunch. I would love to see if I can get some of our fantastic bakers to make some of their homemade treats for that day. We will definitely keep you posted.

I would like to send Get Well wishes to all our members and friends not feeling well especially Sisters Nina Marie Chillemi, Josephine DeMaria, Anna Maria Forte, Margaret Forte, Teresa Rivero, Brothers Tony Amato, Umberto Amato, Nick Fragnito, Mike Grisanti, Patsy Sposato, Charles Tota, and Pete Viviano, may you experience good health real soon

I also like to express my deepest sympathies to The Riguzzi Family on the passing of Sister Mary Riguzzi. Sister Mary was a long time member of the Antonio Meucci Lodge and along with her departed husband Brother Rich ran the Italian Heritage Festival at the Kenisco Dam for many years before retiring to Florida. May she rest in the arms of the Lord as she will sorely be missed

To all our members celebrating September Birthdays Buon Compleanno. Also wishing all our September couples a very Buon Anniversario, I hope you have a wonderful day filled with joy, happiness, and love.

Also this year on 9-11, marks 24 years on the horrific attacks on the American people in US history when United Airline flight struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center, then minutes later another plane hits the South Tower. Many innocent lives were lost that day, and some of those lives lost hit very close to home as we lost



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Joseph Ríverso, son to our Past President Teresa Ríverso, and Brother Domenico Ríverso. We also lost Michael McHugh nephew to Past President Mario Cermele, and so many others that had deep ties to our OSDIA family. May they rest in peace and know that they are dearly missed and remain in our hearts for eternity.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Labor Day. Labor Day is a day that goes as far back as the nineteenth century, when labor activists pushed for a federal holiday to recognize the many contributions workers have made to America's strength, prosperity, and well being. For others, Labor Day weekend marks the unofficial end of summer and perhaps the last getaway time families have together before getting the kids off to school. Whatever your plans are enjoy that quality time with family and friends. But hopefully you won't forget us here at the Lodge as we are very busy planning activities and functions over the next couple of months. Perhaps I will see you at some of these events. Also if you are not aware the month of September in Italy offers a variety of festivals and holidays, including religious celebrations, historical reenactments, and harvest festivals. Key events include Regata Storica in Venice, the Festa della Rificolona in Florence, and the Feast of San Genaro in Naples. Additionally, September marks the start of the vendemmia, or grape harvest particularly in Tuscany with numerous wine-related festivals. I'm sure some of our Brothers and Sisters will also start to make their homemade wine another time-honored tradition. I get such a kick out of the friendly banter of who makes the best wine. We definitely know VP Anthony Miceli's wine came in second place at the convention. Whatever you are planning for the month of September enjoy it.



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

Sempre Avanti,
President Camille