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## *A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213*



*October 2025  
Issue 8*

Autumn is finally here, with cooler temperatures and shorter days. I personally like this time of year especially when I see all the beautiful colors of the leaves changing on the trees and knowing Halloween will be upon us in a few short weeks. I especially enjoy it when the little ones come trick-or-treat-ing in their costumes with their bright smiles asking for their treats. My house is already decorated and just waiting to celebrate the day with whoever knocks on the door. This time a year is also when all the sports enthusiasts look forward to Sunday and Monday night football or perhaps they are waiting for the World Series to begin. However you spend your time enjoy it. Autumn is also a time when some of our Brothers and Sisters will start to make their homemade wine. Another time- honored tradition to be passed down to our children and grandchildren. I would love to taste some of that wine.

The regular season of Bocce is now over and the Winners were Viva Las Vega, Brothers Carlo Riccobono, Sal Cappello, Vinny Azzone, and Lou Iannacchino, The Second Place winners were Graziella's Market, Brothers Angelo DiFeo, Nick Ciaramella, Pete DeVito, Mike Iannacchino, and JR Amorosa, and the Third place winners were Mt Vernon, Brothers Guy DeSantis, Chris Giordano, Steve Saccomano, Bill Clifford and Tommaso DeSantis.



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*I would like to congratulate all the teams that played as it was a great tournament with a lot of fun and laughter. I would like to especially thank our Chairpersons Brother Joel Sonny, and Sister Margaret Bernabei for coordinating the event, and to all those people that helped with the refereeing, and setting up for the games. To Brothers Maurizio Rosamilia, Michael Chillemi, John Rubillo, and a special thanks to Brother Joe Rosamilia who got the court ready to play, and to all the other Brothers and Sisters who helped to facilitate the playing of the games on any given night. Thank you so much.*

*Also as previously mentioned that on Saturday September 13th our Lodge attended the [NY State Gift of Sight](#) annual fundraising event, and this year they honored our very own Immediate Past President Mario Cermele and Sister Pamela Danza with a Humanitarian Award. It was a great event, and I need to personally thank all the Brothers and Sisters who attended. There were so many highlights to the afternoon especially when Chairperson Mary Naccarato asked our Lodge to sing the Italian National Anthem. We sang our hearts out to an arousing applause from the audience. Brother Mario and Sister Pamela also got to name the seeing eye dog, which they chose the name Chiara which means Bright or Clear in English. How appropriate. Another highlight of the day was guest speaker Anastasia Pagonis who is legally blind and a 2021 Paralympic Gold Medalist Swimmer at the Tokyo games. She spoke about her journey from losing her sight at an early age to being a gold medal athlete. She was truly*



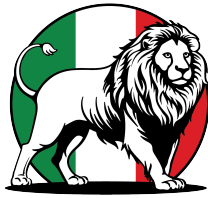
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*inspiring and an amazing young woman. Her story was very emotional and it gave me chills just to listen to her speak, and I'm sure the others in attendance felt the same way. Our members should also be proud that on that day the Lodge donated \$2,000 to the NYS Gift of Sight.*

*On Wednesday September 17th, our Lodge was excited to support the NYS Cigar Night by sending 4 members to this event. Thank You to Brothers Gino DiMiceli, Joe Griffo, Anthony Miceli, and Mike Miceli for attending. I heard it was a great night, but more importantly you had the opportunity to network with other filial Lodges across the State, and I am so glad our Lodge was able to help support the endeavors of the Grand Lodge in their effort to raise money for such worthy charities like the CSJ, Cooley's Anemia, and Gift of Sight, to name just a few.*

*On Saturday September 20th we had another great night aboard the "The Princess" as we cruised down the Hudson River. It was a beautiful fall night and it was especially nice to see all the famous landmarks of NYC in lights. We saw the Chrysler Building, the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty all lit up in lights. But the highlight was the fireworks display near the Brooklyn Bridge. I need to thank Brothers Anthony Miceli, and Brother Nando Alpuche along with the Social Committee for doing an excellent job in coordinating this event.*



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On September 23rd, our Lodge had the great pleasure of installing 18 new members, Sisters Donna “DQ” Boyer, Lina Carolini-Cannavo, Deborah DeMasi, Donna Fama, Brenda Magnotta, Valerie Maccarrone, Marianne Pellegrini, Brothers Antonio Aversa, Carl Calabro, Carlo Cannavo, Gaetano Gizzo, Robert Jaffe, Christopher J. LaRocca, Alfonso Magnotta, Oscar Martini, Michael Mascia, Christopher Pellegrini, and Roger Pellegrini. Congratulations to all of you. You joined a very active Lodge. A Lodge that is very proud in supporting not only the local community of White Plains, but we also donate monies to a vast number of charities at both the Grand Lodge and the local surrounding areas in Westchester County. We are also proud to support our young adults through our Scholarship program. It’s even nicer when these scholarship recipients join the Lodge. One of those previous scholarship winners joined the Lodge that night. To Sister Lina Carolini-Cannavo welcome to the Lodge. I know your dad Brother Nat Carolini, and your mom Sister Rita Mioli-Carolini are so proud that you are carrying on their legacy by joining the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy. To date we currently, have [340 members](#) that belong to the Antonio Meucci Lodge, but I’m also sorry to report that so far this year we lost 6 of our beloved members who passed away. Needless to say, they will sorely be missed.



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This year *The Yonkers Columbus Day Parade* will be held on Sunday October 5th at 1:00pm. We were asked to participate to march by Brother Rocco DeRose from the John D. Calandra Lodge. If you are interested in joining us we will meet at 12:15pm at Seminary Ave, & Hayward Street, in Yonkers with the kick off of the parade at 1:00pm. I also need to thank Brother Gino DiMiceli for volunteering to showcase his 2 Fiat cars. Should be a great day. Hopefully, I will see you there.

On Sunday October 12th, 10:00 am, 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 this Statue here in White Plains was declared a historical landmark which means it can never be touched or taken down. IPP Mario Cermele will be the Master of Ceremony for the day, and our guest speaker will be our very own Sister Rita Mioli-Carolini. After the ceremony we will come back to the Lodge for a Continental Breakfast hosted by Sister Pamela Danza. I hope you will join us on this very special momentous day as we celebrate Christopher Columbus.



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The following day on October 13th, our Lodge will march down Fifth Ave in the NYC Columbus Day Parade. We currently have a large contingent of people who will proudly march in honor of Christopher Columbus. This is where we get to show the world just how proud we are to be Italian, and hopefully you'll get to see us on TV.

On Thursday October 16th, Westchester County, and County Executive Ken Jenkins will host Italian Heritage month with the Raising of The Italian Flag. This is a night we get to celebrate our Italian Heritage in Westchester County. The ceremony will begin at 5:00 pm in front of the Michaelian Office Building on Martine Ave in White Plains. They will have a reception to follow after the flag raising. You can make your reservations by sending an email to [communications@westchestercountyny.gov](mailto:communications@westchestercountyny.gov) by Thursday October 9th. I encourage everyone to come to celebrate our Italian Pride.

The next event we will be hosting on Saturday October 25th, which will be the [NY State Plenary Session](#). The Plenary Session is basically where the State President Arthur Spera has a meeting with his Officers and conducts Grand Lodge business, and is generally held quarterly. Brother Anthony Miceli is Chairing the event, and I would love to see if I can get some of our fantastic bakers to make some of their homemade treats for that day. If anyone is





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interested in helping or would like to bake some desserts please reach out to Brother Anthony Miceli on 914 879-6884. Thank you.

The next 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. 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 Brother Chris on 347 203-5991. Looking forward to seeing all the kids dressed in their favorite costumes.

On Sunday November 2nd, at 10:30 am at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in White Plains, the Lodge will have its annual memorial mass. The mass will be performed in both English and Italian, and it is a time where we get to pay homage to our deceased Brothers and Sisters who came before us. After mass we will go back to the Lodge for a Continental Breakfast. More to follow on this.



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Recently, Sister Maria Theresa Quaranta brought to our attention that the IAFI which is the Italian American Future Leaders are looking for new applicants to join their ranks. If anyone is interested please view our [website](#) for all the particulars. Thank you Sister Maria Theresa for bringing this to our attention.

I would like to send Get Well wishes to all our members and friends not feeling well especially Sisters Nina Marie Chillemi, Angela D'Ambrosio, Teresa Rivero, Brothers Tony Amato, Ron Cardillo, and Mike Grisanti. I also would like to extend get well wishes to Past State & National President Joseph Sciamè. May you all experience good health real soon

I would like to express my deepest sympathies to The Colantuno Family on the passing of Brother John Colantuno. Brother John was a long time Honorary member of the Antonio Meucci Lodge, and in his hey day did so much to support the endeavors of the Lodge. May Brother John rest in the arms of the Lord.

To the DeMaria & Malandro families I would also like to express my deepest sympathies on the passing of your mom Sister Giuseppina "Josephine" DeMaria. Sister Josephine along with her dear departed husband Brother Tony were long time Honorary members of the Lodge. They were so proud of their Italian heritage and were even prouder when their children joined the Lodge to





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carry on their legacy. To Brother Nick, Sister Maria Malandro and Anthony please accept our deepest sympathies. May Sister Josephine rest in the arms of the Lord.

Unfortunately, we also need to send sympathy condolences to Past President Tony Amato, Sister Tina, Amato, Brother Umberto Amato and Sister AnnaMaria Forte on their passing of their Sister-in-law Carmelina Amato in Italy. So sorry for your loss, may she also rest in the arms of the Lord.

To all our members celebrating October Birthdays Buon Compleanno. Also sending special birthday wishes to Brother Umberto Amato who will be 90 years "young" this month. Also wishing all our October couples a very Buon Anniversario, especially to Brother Vito and Sister Santina Tassone celebrating 25 years of marriage. I hope you all have a wonderful day filled with joy, happiness, and love.

I would like to send congratulation wishes to Brother Luigi & Sister Jean Ilardi on the upcoming marriage of their son Joseph to Taylor this month. May their future be filled with love and happiness always.

Additionally, I need to send congratulation wishes to The Eglauf and Amato families on their son and grandson Tyler who will be joining his father's, Brother Dr. Pat Eglauf Chiropractic office, Eglauf Wellness Center. I know your mom



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Sister Diana Amato-Engulf and your Grandparents Past President Tony and Sister Tina Amato are so glad you are back home from Florida after completing your education. Congratulations Tyler. Hopefully, you will join the Lodge or perhaps even join your father's Bocce team next season.

Hopefully, everyone had the opportunity to read the latest edition of the [Avanti](#). I need to give a special thank you to Brothers Nando Alpuche and Joe Griffo for designing the new layout. As you can see the Avanti has a new look and feel to it. It will continue to cover news of the Grand Lodge as well as our own Lodge news with pictures of past events, and upcoming ones, but it will also have human interest stories, recipes, etc. If you have anything you would like to share for our next edition in January let us know. Hope you enjoy reading it.

Furthermore, I need to thank Brothers Nando Alpuche, Joe Griffo and Adam Pacecca on their monthly podcast The Lions's Den @213. I find it very informative on how you keep the audience abreast on what is going on, and you also have very interesting guests on the program. I encourage our members to take the time to listen to it. You'll love it.

I would be amiss if I didn't mention that on September 7th, Pope Leo XIV canonize blessed Carlo Acutis, making him the first millennial Saint. Now Carlo joins the ranks of Saints like Mother Teresa and Francis of Assisi, showing the world that holiness is possible at any age even in our modern digital world. If you



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want on ETWN you can stream his story *My Highway to Heaven*. This is a truly emotional and moving story on his life. I also know that a lot of our members enjoyed going to the San Gennaro Festa in Little Italy. Believe it or not this year marked the 99th anniversary of the 11 day festival on Mulberry Street. This event is a long time tradition where Italians get to showcase their Italian pride with great food, music and just being proud to be Italian. As you may know San Gennaro is the patron Saint of Naples and is not only celebrated in Italy, but notably in lower Manhattan "Little Italy" because that is where many Italian immigrants settled in the late 1800's.

Also the month of October is a popular time for wine harvest celebrations and food festivals across the different regions in Italy. Such notable ones are the Alba White Truffle Festival in Piedmont, the delicious EuroChocolate Festival in Perugia, and the various Chestnut Festivals Sagra della Castagna. Also Rome is famous for its Film Festivals and smaller wine events generally called Sagra dell'Uva. But let's not forget Italy will most noticeably celebrate on October 4th the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, October 12th Columbus Day, and October 31st All Hallows's Eve. So whatever your plans are for the month of October, enjoy the time with your family and friends.

In closing, hopefully you will enjoy all the many Festas, Parades and cultural Italian activities the month of October has to offer as we celebrate our



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*Italian heritage with pride and dignity. I would also like to wish everyone a Happy Columbus Day as we celebrate the Man, the Myth, the Legend, and a very Happy Halloween to all. Stay safe, and hopefully I will see you at one of our upcoming events or at a general meeting.*

*To all my Brothers and Sisters may you always remember our motto  
[Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.](#)*

*Sempre Avanti,  
President Camille*