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A Message From the President,

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213



*July 2025
Issue 5*

July is officially here and the warmer weather has finally arrived. July is usually a great month for people to make vacation plans, and for our Lodge Brothers and Sisters that's exactly what they are doing. I heard some exciting places where are members are traveling to like Aruba, Costa Rica, Italy, Sicily, Spain, Portugal, London, Florida etc. May everyone enjoy your time away with family and friends. Stay safe, and will see you when you get back.

Bocce has begun with 13 Teams comprised of both men and women. The camaraderie and competitiveness is unbelievable. We even have some of our senior Brothers playing Bocce like Tommaso DeSantis, and Sal Cassanelli. To Brother Sal who celebrated his 94th birthday on the Bocce court you are an amazing player. You definitely have more pep and vigor than me to say the least. Games are usually played Monday thru Thursday weather permitting. I invite you to come watch and support the teams playing.

On June 8th, Sister Pamela Danza and myself attended a Special Tribute Breakfast in honor of our New York State First Lady Marisol Isgro at Verdi's of Westbury. It was a special tribute to Marisol as her term of First Lady has come to an end with the election of a new State President Arthur Spera and his wife First Lady Joanne Spera at the convention. We were happy to attend and gave our best wishes from the members the Antonio Meucci Lodge.



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On June 12th, the Antonio Meucci Lodge hosted the District IV Scholarship award presentation. The event was Chaired by our Lodge Deputy Margaret Forte. It was a very special night for all the students that received State Scholarships. The keynote speaker for the evening was our very own Sister Rita Maria Carolini. In attendance was our State President Biagio Isgro, his wife Marisol, National and State Officers, as well as some of our Brothers and Sisters and filial Lodges representatives. I'm so proud that 2 of our members children received State Scholarships. Isabella Malannandro received the Franca & Antonio Capicotto Family Scholarship and Alexandra Mia Ferrari received the Joe DiMaggio Lodge / Christopher Columbus Lodge Scholarship in memory of their respective Lodge's deceased members. Also that night the State presented one of our members Sister Maria Theresa Quaranta with a certificate of achievement for her literary work on a children's book she wrote *Andiamo a fare shopping con Mariiii: Lets Go shopping with Mariiii*. Her book can be purchased on Amazon if anyone is interested. In conjunction, with the award Sister Maria Theresa received, she was also inducted as a member into the NYSOSDIA Celebrated Authors society. What an honor for her. I along with the members of the Lodge are so proud of all of your accomplishments. Congratulations.

The following night on June 13th the Lodge had its first Steak Night. The event was Chaired by Brother Richie and Sister Joanne Strobel, along with IPP Mario Cermele. It was an amazing night with an abundance of food, with steaks cooked to order on a barbecue grill, and music by DJ Mike from MA Music along with singer Johnny Sal. You couldn't ask for anything more when you have good food, great music



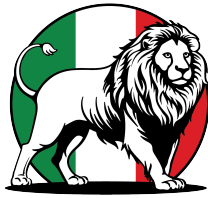
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and just being with family and friends. Just want to thank your committee for all they did to make that night such a success, and I'm so looking forward to the next event

On June 14th, another event the Lodge participated in was an Oldies concert at Stepinac High School. For a number of years Brother Nick Ciarmella has been actively involved in raising funds for Stepinac High School, and this year he asked if the Lodge would like to participate in this fundraiser event. I'm happy to say we had quite a few people attend the concert which featured the music of The Brooklyn Bridge, Jackie Wilson, Dennis Tufano, The Chiclettes and Patrick "Elvis" Perone. It was a very nostalgic night listening to such hits as "The Worst That Could Happen", "Hey Baby", "Suspicious Mind" and music from Motown. I would like to thank Brother Nick and the members who attended, as it was a nice showing for both the School and the Lodge.

On June 26th -29th 10 members from the Lodge attended the NYS OSDIA Annual Convention. I want to thank Sisters Caroline Baviello, Roselle Cucuzza, Pamela Danza, Dora Griffo, Cathy Grisanti, Rosalia Miceli, Brothers Joe Griffo, and Anthony Miceli along with myself for attending. Unfortunately, IPP Mario Cermele had a work commitment and could not be there, but he definitely was missed. The convention was an opportunity to meet some of our friends from other Lodges as well as connect with some new Brothers and Sisters. We had the opportunity to share ideas and discuss opportunities to move the Order forward. We also did Lodge business and I'm pleased to report that the Grand Lodge raised over \$103,165.00 in donations for various charities



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like Cooley's Anemia, Gift of Sight, Cancer Research, Autism, Alzheimers's, the Garibaldi Meucci Museum and the Veterans Assistance Fund, and I'm also happy to report that our Lodge contributed \$2,000.00 to these worth while charities. Also two of our members Brothers Joe Griffo and Brother Anthony Miceli entered their homemade wine into a Wine tasting contest, and I'm delighted to announce that Brother Anthony Miceli won 2nd place for his wine. Of course the highlight of the convention was the election of a new State President Arthur Spera. I'm also happy to report that the new State President approached the Antonio Meucci Lodge and asked us to host the NY State Grand Lodge October's plenary session. What an honor. Again, thank you all for attending, and I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

On July 10-13, 2025 Mt Carmel Church in White Plains will be having their Festa Italiana in the parking lot of their Church. The Antonio Meucci Lodge is a proud sponsor of the event, and if you are available I ask that you go and support their Festa.

Our Italian Heritage Festival has finally arrived. This is one of our major fundraising events for the Lodge which will be held on July 20th, at the Kenisco Dam. This is where we get to celebrate our Italian Heritage. Our honoree this year will be Nick Prisco from Prisco Appliances. The Lodge is looking for any support possible with Sponsorships, Donations, Vendors etc. You can see our website for more information. Also our members received raffle tickets in the mail, and I would like to thank everyone who supported the Lodge by buying these tickets. If interested we still have more raffle tickets available. Your support is greatly appreciated as we raise money to support all our charitable endeavors through out the year. So come enjoy the food, the music by



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Carozza Entertainment, and Dj's Nando and Marcello and the camaraderie with being with your Brothers and Sisters as we celebrate our Italian pride.

Also if anyone is interested on Wednesday August 6, 2025, from 7:00 to 8:30 at Sacred Heart Church in Dobbs Ferry they are having a special concert featuring the Sacred Voices. This concert will captivate you with the exquisite repertoire of the Sistine Chapel Choir, celebrating the legacy of its legendary composer Maestro Cardinal Domenico Bartolucci. Tickets can be purchased by going to www.eventbrite.com.

Another event to save the date will be our annual picnic on August 31, 2025 at Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale. Brothers Charles Tota, Anthony Miceli, and Nick Vaccarelli will Chair the event. More information to follow.

I'm also very proud to share some great news with our members, that on Saturday September 13, 2025 the NY State Gift of Sight will be honoring our Immediate Past President Mario Cermele and Sister Pamela Danza with a Humanitarian Award. This event was also announced at the convention. This is such a great honor for them, and as I get more information from the State I will pass it along. Congratulations to both of you an honor well deserved.

I would be amiss if I didn't personally recognize and thank some people who work behind the scenes to make this Lodge such a special place to be a part of. First I would like to thank Sister Margherita Capicotto. Sister Margherita is our Editor and Chief of putting together the Avanti, our quarterly publication. If you don't know this



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does take a lot of time to gather articles and pictures and do the mailing. If you do have anything you would like to go into the *Avanti*, or to announce an upcoming event you should reach out to her. I also need to thank the "King of Hearts" for donating the money for all the flowers that the our "Gardeners" planted last month. That was a savings of \$1,100.00 to the Lodge. Also a special thank you to Brother Tony Sino who came to our rescue in replacing the glass panel in our front door due to a mishap. Thanks again for your generosity and help, as it was much appreciated

I like to extend my congratulations to first time grandparents. To Brother Frank Zappa on the birth of his grandson Santino, and to Brother Joe & Sister Roseann Racioppo on the birth of their grandson Alfonso "Alfie" Tortorici. Such wonderful news to share with your Brothers and Sisters.

Congratulation wishes to Sister Vincenza Puja on the recent marriage of her granddaughter Cristina Birittieri to husband Andrew. Wishing them a life full of love and happiness.

Also don't forget to listen to the Lodge's most recent Podcast hosted by Brothers Nando Alpuche, Adam Pacecca and Joe Griffo. It's very informative with guest speakers, and also gives highlights on what is going on in the Lodge. Keep up the good work guys.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a Happy 4th of July. This is a day where we celebrate the Declaration of Independence which marked a pivotal moment in American history, signifying the birth of the United States.



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

*Sempre Avanti,
President Camille*