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A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213



*August 2025
Issue 6*

I can't believe it's August already and before you know it fall will be upon us. So happy to see some familiar faces as people started to return from their vacations. I heard about some really exciting things that are members experienced for the very first time. Those of you who attended the Jubilee in Rome that must of been an amazing experience even though the weather was unusually hot in Italy. Some were even lucky to have an audience with Pope Leo. Amazing. So glad everyone is arriving back home safely, and hope to see you at some of our upcoming events.

Bocce is just about rounding down and championship games will be played soon. My team the Bingo-ettes has yet to win a game, and we are currently sitting in last place, but who cares we are having fun and we are learning from other team members who are willingly giving us pointers. That is true sportsmanship. Maybe next year we will do better. Thanks to all the people who have come to watch the games and root for their favorite teams who are playing.

As many of you know in June our Lodge attended the State Convention. As I previously reported it was a great convention where we had the opportunity to meet some of our friends from other Lodges as well as connect with some new Brothers and Sisters. We also had the opportunity to listen to two guest speakers which I found interesting and wanted to share that information with our members. One of the guest



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speakers was NY State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, who is a member of the Cellini Lodge in Long Island. He mentioned about “unclaimed funds” where there is millions of dollars in unclaimed money that you may be entitled to. He did research of all the Lodges in the State and was able to present some checks on unclaimed funds to those Lodges. I advise you to check the website on unclaimed funds [OSC.NY.Gov/OUF](https://osc.ny.gov/OUF). Who knows you may just have some money waiting to be claimed. Another interesting speaker was Vincent Marmorale who in 2010 founded Italy & the Holocaust Inc., a 501C3 organization and through that foundation they made a documentary which they showed at the convention called [My Italian Secret. The Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust](#), which tells the heroic story how a WWII bicycling idol Gino Bartali who helped saved the lives of thousands of Italy's Jewish population. The CD can be purchased on Amazon, however I would like to play the movie at our Lodge in the near future. Believe me when I say it was a very interesting story, and worth showing.

On July 10-13, 2025 Mt Carmel Church in White Plains had their Festa The Antonio Meucci Lodge was a proud sponsor of the event, and the Lodge graciously donated \$1,000.00 towards their Festa. Thank you all who were able to support the Festa and Mt. Carmel Church.

On Sunday July 20th, we had our Italian Heritage Festival at the Kenisco Dam. You all know this is one of our major fundraising events for the Lodge and a day where we get to celebrate our Italian Heritage. There is so much planning and coordination in order to put this event together and, we did it in grand style. Even Mother Nature held



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up with no rain, just very hot, but we rather have the heat than the rain. We had so many volunteers that came to help, to many to name, but I need to personally thank some key people. To Sister Cathy Grisanti who coordinated all the vendors. If I'm not mistaken we had apx. 56 of them, Sister Caroline Baviello not only was she our Secretary but she coordinated all the volunteers and assigned them their job responsibilities and time slots to work, to IPP Mario Cermele, you are just amazing handling all the food purchasing, pre-cooking at your Cafe, ordering the U-Haul, and Penske trucks along with securing what was needed at Party Line Rentals, Thank You. To Brothers Ray Tocci, Mike DiSavino, Umberto Amato who handled all the financials, to Brother Nando Alpuche who was our MC, and provided music in the food court, as well as ordering all the signs and getting the Gelato, to Sister Roselle Cucuzza who handled the raffle tickets. Also a special thank you to Brother Anthony & Sister Rosalia Miceli, Brother Frank Autera, Sister Pamela Danza, Roberto Caso, Brothers Gino and Dominick DiMicelli who drove the trucks, to Brothers Richie Strobel and Marcello Carrera, our grillers Brothers Mike DiSavino, Dominick D'Ambrosio, Sam Amello, Nick Fragnito. Sal Cappello and many more. I saw you sweat behind the grills, thank you. To Sister Lina Amello & Brother Mike Grisanti, handling beverages and to our Membership booth run by Sister Lucy Tocci and Brother Joe Tanzi. A special thank you to Brother Joe Tanzi for coordinating every year the Veterans to do the Presentation of the Colors to start our program. It's a special tribute to our military personnel. May we never forget what our men and women do to protect this great country of ours. So happy to report we received 17 applications for new potential members, and to everyone else who volunteered their time Thank You. I also have to give a special shout out to Brother Roberto Caso who is currently working on inventory



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control. Brother Roberto never been to Restaurant Depot or to Party Line Rental before so I can't explain to you his reaction to this adventure. He was like a kid in a candy store. Just to funny to hear him explain about his experiences. Our honoree this year was Nick Prisco from Prisco Appliances, who was introduced by our very own past Honoree Sister Lisa LaRocca a morning reporter from Channel 12 News Westchester. Nick was so proud and humble to accept this honor. I also need to give a very special thank you to Carozza Entertainment who provided amazing music for the day. So nice to see people signing along to some of their favorite Italian songs, and even to see people who got up and danced in the heat. A special thank you to Past President Tony & Sister Tina Amato for securing over \$7,000.00 in sponsorship donations, and to IPP Mario Cermele who secured a \$5,000.00 donation from Metro Blood. I also need to recognize Brother Lucio Gatti for selling over \$500.00 in raffle tickets. You guys are amazing, and while I'm at it, I need to thank Sister Cathy Grisanti who was able to get Shoprite Supermarket to donate a lot of grocery products we needed for the Festa. I'm also happy to say this year we got TV coverage from Channel 12 News, and Brother Adam Pacceca had a podcaster Martin Blanco from CT come to interview some of us, and we were featured on his radio show "I wish I was a Prosciutto". Just amazing from beginning to end, and I know we can't wait to do this all again next year.

Our next event is our Annual Family Picnic on August 31, 2025 at Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale. The cost for the Picnic is \$55.00 per person, Children 6-12 \$25.00 per person, and children under 5 are free. If anyone has ever been to one of our picnics know there will be an abundance of food, music and games for the children and adults.



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We will also have a magician and face painter for the kids. Brothers Charles Tota, Anthony Miceli, and Nick Vaccarelli will Chair the event. Please make your reservations as soon as possible by calling Brother Anthony Miceli on 914 879-6884. You can also view our website for more information. So come one come all. Enjoy a nice family day as we wind down the summer and get ready for the fall.

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 a person, however I'm still trying to gather more information regarding the event so I will keep you posted regarding making reservations. 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 would like to extend my congratulations to Brother Sal & Nancy Garro who celebrated 50 years of marriage, and to Brother Sam & Sister Lina Amello who



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celebrated 25 years marriage. Congratulations to all of you and may you celebrate many more happy, and loving years together.

On July 17, 2025 our very own Sister Lisa LaRocca, Emmy Award winning Channel News 12 morning reporter was recognized by County Executive Ken Jenkins with a special proclamation proclaiming Lisa LaRocca Day in Westchester County. Sister Lisa was awarded this distinct honor for all the years she has worked with the Sharp Again Organization. This is an organization that focuses on taking healthy measures to prevent and even reverse the effects of dementia. Congratulations Sister Lisa we are so proud of you.

I would like to send Get Well wishes to all our members not feeling well especially Sisters Josephine DeMaria, Teresa RIVERSO, Dora Griffo, Brothers Ralph D'Andrea, and Tony Amato, May you experience good health real soon. I also like to express my deepest sympathies to Sister Suzanne Tarulli on the passing of her mom Agatina Maria Lucia, and to Brother Mike Clarizio on the passing of his sister Cesarea Regina. So sorry for your loss. May they rest in peace in the arms of the Lord.

To all our members celebrating August Birthdays Buon Compleanno. I hope you have a wonderful day filled with joy, happiness, and love. Tanti Auguri.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that we lost a dear friend to the Antonio Meucci Lodge. Sister Genevieve Limbo Past President, and Founder of Le Amiche



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Lodge in Yonkers. To Sister Cathy Lembo-Lloyd, and Anthony "Slim" Lembo so sorry for your loss on your mom and wife. She was a very special woman, and I am so proud to say I knew her for over 40 years. Gen was a very devoted and proud member of the Order. May she rest in peace.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a great rest of the summer, hopefully I will see you at the Picnic. Also if you are not aware the month of August is a big holiday in Italy celebrated on August 15th. It combines the Catholic Feast of the Assumption of Mary with the ancient Roman festival of Feriate Augusti. That is how the name Ferragosto came about as it marks the peak of the summer and is a time when many Italians traditionally take a break from work and enjoy vacations.

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

Sempre Avanti,
President Camille