

— The Fall Issue 2025 —

OSDIA AKRON LODGE 685

THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS



**INSIDE,
WE ALSO
TALK
ABOUT:**

New Member
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A Message from the President

Nicole Smith

What a busy and fulfilling summer it has been for our Lodge! From welcoming new members to celebrating at the State Convention, preparing thousands of meatballs, and enjoying our Family Picnic, I continue to be inspired by the dedication and camaraderie of our members.

As we move into fall, we look forward to events like our first Pasta Dinner in many years, our annual Memorial Mass and Christmas Dinner. These are moments that bring us together not only to celebrate, but also to honor our traditions and community spirit.

Thank you for all you do to make our Lodge vibrant and welcoming. Let's keep the energy going strong!



WELCOME

Cheryl will be selling football squares for the Ohio State-Michigan game to be played on November 29th. Squares will be available for purchase at our October meeting for \$10 per square and is open to members, friends, and relatives as there are 100 squares we need to sell. Payouts are \$100 at the end of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarters with a final score payout of \$200. The remaining \$500 will be used towards a special request for Project Rise. Last year Jo Dusi was able to purchase twin bed sheets and pillowcases with the money from this small fundraiser which was much needed and appreciated by Project Rise. You can contact Cheryl at cdkbear@aol.com or text her at 234.525.9521 if you are unable to attend the October meeting and wish to purchase a square or squares.



2025 Initiation Luncheon

By Cheryl Koshar

Approximately 30 members attended the luncheon held at Anthony's Funeral Home on Sunday, May 18th, including 3 new members who were initiated that afternoon, Mark Caruso, Debbi Hout, and John Paul Metzler. The luncheon was catered by Antonio's Pizza in Copley and included Chicken Marsala, Sausage and Peppers, and Rigatoni, as well as additional side dishes. Desserts were provided from Michael Angelo's Bakery in Broadview Heights. Unfortunately, we did not have any scholarship recipients this year. Following the initiation and luncheon, a gift basket raffle was held for a basket donated by OSDIA as well as those items donated by members and the money raised from the raffle was combined with last year's raffle and sent to the 2025 Convention for the Grand Lodge of Ohio charities, Alzheimer's, Cooley's Anemia, Doug Flutie Autism & Garibaldi-Meucci Museum. The event was chaired by Cheryl Koshar and Deb Deptuch with the help of Carol Wilson selling raffle tickets and Nicole Smith, Remington Smith, and Mikki DeMarco assisting with setting and cleaning up.

State Convention

By Nicole Smith

Members of Akron Lodge 685, Mikki DeMarco, Angie Agnoni, Jack and Mary Schifano, Vera Thornton, and Nicole Smith proudly attended the State Convention on June 13-14. Our delegation represented the Lodge with enthusiasm, contributing to important discussions about the future of OSDIA in Ohio. Mikki DeMarco was elected at an Alternate Arbitration member of the State.

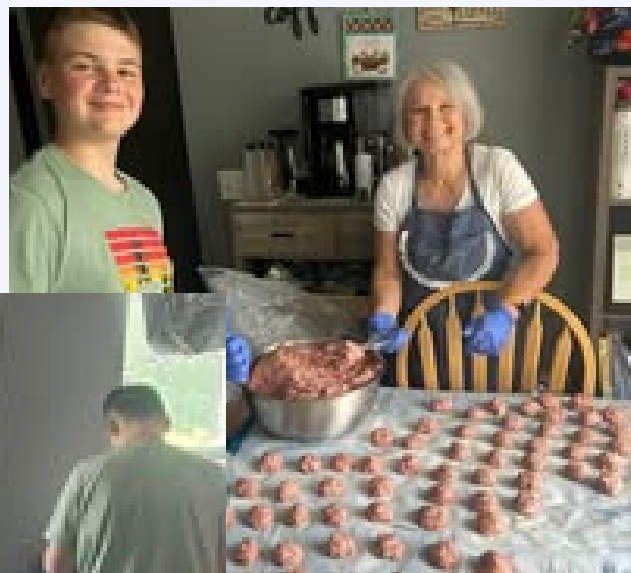
The weekend was a wonderful chance to connect with fellow lodges from across the state and celebrate our shared Italian heritage. We learned and played scopa and bocce. Enjoyed some great Italian treats in the hospitality suite in addition to meeting and discussing topics with the National President, Michael Polo.

State Scholarship awards were also presented as part of the convention. This year our own Nico Metzler was a recipient. Congratulations, Nico!



Celebrate
Heritage





Meatball Mania & Festival Recap

By Nicole Smith

This summer, our Lodge once again showed the heart and spirit of OSDIA through Meatball Mania and our participation in the Italian American Festival at Lock 3 in Downtown Akron (July 10–12).

In June, more than 25 volunteers came together to prepare over 6,000 meatballs and 30 gallons of sauce — an incredible effort that made our booth one of the festival favorites. A huge thank-you goes to everyone who rolled, stirred, and prepped to make it all possible!

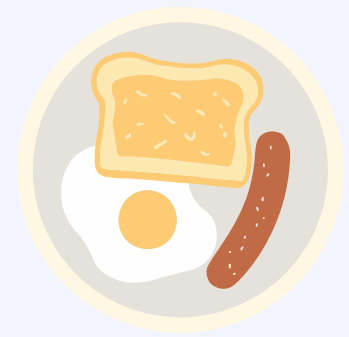
At the festival, we served up classic Italian favorites: Italian sausage with peppers and onions, hearty meatball subs, and meatball bowls. We shared booth space with the Sicilian American Women's Club, who delighted visitors with cookies and pizza frita. While the crowds weren't as large as expected this year, our Lodge still turned a profit — setting us up strongly for our upcoming Pasta Dinner in October.

Beyond the food, Italian heritage was proudly on display. Festival-goers enjoyed the lively Carnevale for kids, music from Avanti during the day, and a meaningful flag ceremony and mass. The Thursday night fireworks lit up the sky and capped off the celebration beautifully.

We hope you had the chance to attend, and if not — mark your calendars for next year! The festival remains one of the best opportunities to share our traditions with the community and celebrate the rich culture we're proud to represent.

Council Scholarship Breakfast

By Jo Murdocco - Scholarship Chairperson

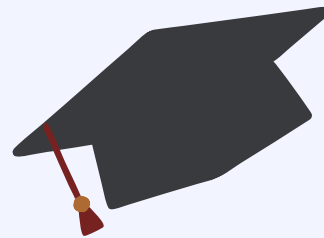


The Italian American Council of Summit County held its annual breakfast on July 19, 2025 at St. George's Event Center where we had close to 100 attendees.

The council awarded 8 scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each.

Students receiving scholarships were: Lily Bond, Abby Cerutti, Jake Cerutti, James Chalfant, Mason Dexter, Morgan Flack, Benjamin James, and Thomas Velotta.

Mason Dexter recently joined our club and we look forward to seeing more him!



Family Picnic

By Debbie Hout

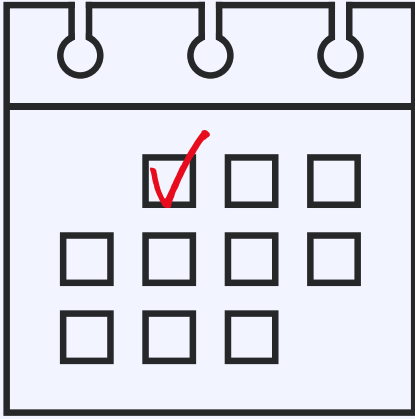
We had a great annual picnic on Sunday, August 24 with approximately 50 people attending.

The tables were full of delicious food and desserts. We had 2 tables full of 30+ door prizes for adults and kids. Some of the donations were wrapped to make it even more interesting! Each winner was excited with what they won. Nicole Smith brought Tombola (Italian Bingo) which was so much fun and the winners won scratch off lottery tickets. There were other card games being played by various members along with a "fierce" Bocce Tournament on the front lawn. Prevailing were the teams of John Hujar and Eric Maghes and Kimberly Kramer and Angie Agnoni.

Thanks to everyone that attended, helped set up, worked the grill, brought a delicious covered dish, sold raffle tickets, and helped clean up. Everyone that attended seemed to have a great time!! I'm already looking forward to next year!



Save the Date!



- September 21 – 1:30pm Regular Meeting
- October 4 - Pasta Dinner - 4:30pm-7pm
- October 11 – Gun Bash
- October 19 – 1:30pm Regular Meeting
- November 16 – Memorial Mass & Luncheon
- December 6 – Christmas Party

Luglio: Lou Mascolo, Mason Dexter, Frank Bevilacqua, Phyllis Mascolo, Keith Apffel, and Janet Gliha

Agosto: Mary Kelley, Joseph Musitano, Nancy Rinella, John Paul Metzler, Nico Metzler, Terry Lattavo, Jaclyn Mure, Patricia Mascolo, and Toni Ross

Settembre: Eric Maghes, Jackie Casamento, Lisa Aglioti, Chris Gorman, Robert Paparone, Janet Mure, Don Ferrante, Nick DiOrio, Kathleen Musitano, and Danny Clemente

Ottobre: Karen Mascolo, Tony DeNunzio, Ed Rauckhorst, Michael Nicolosi, Emma Colletti, Donald Derrig, Mary Schifano, Dewey Wineland, Toni Fisher, Jo Dusi, and Marie Chiarappa

Novembre: Thomas Pirollo, Mikki DeMarco, Sue Lattavo, Jennie Toth, Marsha Wineland, Mark Iati, Ryan Theodore, Colin Derrig, Mary Ann Morgan, Carol Wilson, and Pat Puhak



*Buon
Compleanno!*



Pasta Dinner!

Saturday, Oct 4th

We need you! Please see link in e-mail to sign up and help! The flyer is attached - please post and share as much as possible!

Thank you to our committee for making this possible!