



IL CITTADINO

Founded 1916

January 2026

PERSON OF THE YEAR 2025 KEN HARTJE

On Sunday, December 7 the Italian American Citizens Club honored Ken Hartje as Person of the Year for 2025 at the South San Francisco Elk's Lodge. Unfortunately, Ken came down with some serious flu systems and was unable to be present. Without missing a beat, Ken's wife Reenie and his daughter Gina stepped up and accepted all the accolades on his behalf. To a full house, members of the Club celebrated and made it clear that he would be acknowledged at the following General Meeting in January. For years Ken has been a mainstay in keeping the IACC running smoothly as the Chair of the Maintenance Committee and has been available whenever called upon. For photos of the evening's event, go to pages 6, 7 and 8.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear IACC Members & Friends:

As 2025 came to an end, I hope that all our members and friends had a wonderful holiday season and are ready to take on the new year with health and new energy.

The renovations at the new patio area has been trying for many of us and every effort was made during the process to make it as little disruptive as possible. I still believe that the new area will bring an abundance of opportunities for the Club to utilize the space for new and exciting events. At this time, the finishing touches are still being completed, and it's projected that the area will be open for public use in March.

Our Christmas & Person of the Year Dinner Dance, which was held on Sunday, December 14, was a great success with an unusual twist. Our honored guest, Ken Hartje, was unable to attend because he suddenly came down with flue symptoms, so we celebrated him remotely while his wife and daughter accepted all the accolades as Ken looked on via Facetime.

The new year will kick off with our annual Crab Feed Fundraiser on Friday, February 6 at the Fernekes Recreation Center in Orange Memorial Park with Robert Lasher taking the lead once again. As usual, Winnie Girard and Celeste Giuliani will be assisting as they have done for all our many events during the past year. Please mark the date on your calendar as it is our biggest effort to raise funds for our scholarship and charity programs. The RSVP flyer is located on page 9.

As we move further into 2026, we are planning on holding our IACC Italian Festival, which had to be postponed because of the renovations, in the Spring. The annual Festa Italiana – South San Francisco, which has been received with great enthusiasm throughout

- Continued on page 4

IACC JANUARY ELECTIONS

The IACC elections for the terms for 2026-2027 will be held on Tuesday, January 20 at St. Veronica's Falcon Hall. As with ever year, elections steer the course of the club into the future.

This year's positions up for election include president, treasurer, one trustees position and six board positions. Adding to some confusion to the process is that no nominations were made for the president's position and only five nominations were received for the six board spots.

This opened the door to a process in the Club's bylaws where motions were made and were seconded at the November General Meeting to have individuals that are termed out to serve additional terms. Motions were made for three individuals for the Board positions and only one can fill the one non-nominated position.

Where the confusion comes in is that the elections will be in two parts. One, as a normal voting process where the membership will vote on those nominated for their respective positions. On a second and separate portion will be the membership voting to ratify the motions for the president and the one remaining board position.

Once again, the motions were seconded and voted on at the November General Meeting. A simple majority of the members present at the January General Meeting will be needed to ratify the motions made.

As always, it is highly recommended that all members attend and exercise their right to vote and have a voice in who holds these important roles for the next two years.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

IACC Clubhouse

Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 1 pm

GENERAL MEETING

St. Veronica's Cafeteria

Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 7:00 pm

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING DEDICATION OF RICHARD BORDI MEMORIAL PLAQUE WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



Former IACC President Bill Green (left) swears in new members and during the presentation of the Richard Bordi Memorial Plaque, current President Leo Pierini (right) presents Marie Patea with a certificate in honor of her father.



Jim Spes



Ann Lucchesi



John Sanna



Suzanne Sanna



Palma Anastasio



IACC SSF – OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS



2025



(Terms Serving)

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Leo Pierini, President (24-25)

IACC.LEO@YAHOO.COM 415-716-6813

Manny Garcia, Vice President (25-26) 650-892-0391

Barbara Guevara, Treasurer (25) 650-259-9981

Dee Delorio, Secretary (25-26) 650-740-3205

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rich Garbarino, Chairperson (24-25) 650-438-7309

Bob Cox (24-25) * Rosemarie Garcia (24-25) * Winnie Girard (24-25) * Celeste Giuliani (24-25) * Helen Birkeland (25-26) * Judy Dianos (25-26) * Janae Morales (25-26) * Bill Green (25-26) * Sandy Lencioni (25-26) * Armando Altamirano (25)

TRUSTEES

Steve Hawthorne (25-26) Armando Altamirano (24-25)

BOCCE COMMITTEE

Manny Garcia (Sports Director) MANNY3630@YAHOO.COM

Chris Babcock * Terry Elsibai * Carroll Meek * Janae Morales *

Rich Vaznaugh * Rosemarie Garcia * Sandra Lencioni *

Germano Colombana

IACC COMMITTEE CONTACTS

EMAIL: IACC.SSF@YAHOO.COM

WEBSITE: [HTTPS://SSFIACC.ORG](https://SSFIACC.ORG)

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR: Janae Morales

EMAILS: Rosemarie Garcia ROSEMARIEROCKS@ATT.NET

NEWSLETTER: IACC.SSF@YAHOO.COM

WEBSITE CONTRIBUTIONS: IACC.SSF@YAHOO.COM

COURT MAINTENANCE: Taco Morales 650-755-5366

HOSPITALITY: Judy Dianos JDBREW52@AOL.COM

MAINTENANCE: Ken Hartje
IACC.MAINTENANCE@YAHOO.COM

EVENTS: Winnie Girard, Celeste Giuliani
IACC.EVENTS@YAHOO.COM

MEMBERSHIP: Sandy Lencioni SKAARMOM@GMAIL.COM

SUNSHINE: Chris Babcock 650-873-8730
CHRISBABCOCK179@GMAIL.COM

THE NEW YEAR

By Diana Stanton Minsky

Old Father Time will soon disappear
When the bells of the new year
ring loud & clear for all to hear
The past is gone and we begin anew,
Wishing peace, health & prosperity
For you in the coming New Year

ITALIAN AMERICAN CITIZENS CLUB

South San Francisco



GENERAL MEETING

&

ELECTIONS

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

7 PM

ST. VERONICA'S FALCON HALL

434 ALIDA WAY, SSF

(Enter on Alida at the Rectory, down to the church parking lot)

Sunshine Corner



Cathy Welch
Family



Bruno Zamboni
Andy Ynostroza
Rodolfo Ramirez



Ken Hartje

*If you would like a Club member to
receive a card, contact Chris Babcock
650-873-8730*

IACC RECYCLE PROGRAM

The IACC Recycle Program continues to thrive and helps supplement all our activities during the year and offsets many of the expenses that we encounter to keep the Club running. Once again, we'd like to thank everyone that has taken the time to bring their recycle items to the Club and a special thank you to those of you that have stepped up to help sort and make the run to the recycle center. We do ask that everyone be conscious of what they put in their bags (check to see that your items have the CRV label on them) and be conscious to place your bags in the designated areas. Any questions, contact Barbara, our Recycle Queen, at: tisbarb@sbcglobal.net.

SAVE THE DATES

Tuesday, January 6 – IACC Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 20 – General Meeting & Elections

Friday, February 6, 2026 – Crab Feed Fundraiser

**All photos in this newsletter,
and more are on the IACC website:
[HTTPS://SSFIACC.ORG](https://ssfiacc.org)**

Teani's Italian Deli

772 El Camino Real
South San Francisco
650-589-2456



GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED

Help is always needed for the various events, tournaments and other activities at the Club.

We encourage all those that can assist in a number of roles, big or small, to sign up. The

IACC is only as good as we make it. Tasks include set-up and clean-up for a variety of events or helping with the planning and execution of a particular event. The

Maintenance Committee has an endless task during the year as does the Events Committee.

A list of the various committees is on page 3. More hands-on deck always makes the process easier and smoother and is well appreciated.

Contact Manny Garcia at 650-892-0391 or manny3630@yahoo.com or Ken Hartje.

President's Message

-Continued from page 1

the community, is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2026 and once again promises to bring our Italian Culture to the community with exhibits, food and entertainment, all with an Italian twist.

The elections for the terms of 2026-2027 will be held on Tuesday, January 20 and I hope that as many members as possible make an effort to attend as those in certain positions help shape our Club and make sure that it continues to run properly and for the benefit of all our members. The process of electing those nominated and those who have had motions to continue in their positions is a bit confusing and every effort has been made to explain what will transpire at the General Meeting.

An added feature is that the Club will host Italian Language Classes that are set to begin on January 8. At this time, we have had limited sign ups and it is my hope that anyone who is interested in participating sign up soon so that we are not looking at a postponement or cancellation. More information is on page 10.

Depending on how our members vote, this may be my last address to you as your president, and I want to express my appreciation in the trust you have placed in me during the past four years.

I hope to see many of you at the General Meeting and I hope that we can continue to have a number of enjoyable events and gatherings in 2026 that make it a pleasure and rewarding to be a member of the IACC.

Leo Pierini
President
Italian American Citizens Club of SSF



BOCCE NEWS



I hope everyone had a nice holiday. Last year was a fun year for bocce league and tournament play. Looking back on 2025, during the Spring, the Al Sacco Mother's Day Tournament and the Al Sacco Father's Day Tournament were fun days and the 4-Person Mix Team or Singles Tournament was a blast, which took place in August.

The Italian Heritage Bordi Memorial Bocce Tournament, which took place during September's Festa Italiana—SSF, went smoothly and we finished in time for the participants to enjoy the entertainment, food and vendors at the Festa.

The Maltese Historical Tournament had great food and door prizes and was a fun day while the YMI Tournament raised over \$1,500 for food for Christmas meals and presents for families and kids who can't afford them. The South San Francisco PAL Tournament raised funds for baseball equipment and bicycles while the annual South San Francisco Fire Department raised funds for Burn Victims. It was a good year in which our members were able to participate in our activities and the Club was associated with several organizations that raised funds and supported many worthwhile causes for the community.

As we enter January 2026, we are ready for IACC Winter Leagues to start, beginning with Thursday morning (10 am) on January 8 with Leader Carroll Meek. A new Friday afternoon Raffa League will commence on January 9 with Leader Germano Colombana. Monday nights will double up with league play at 5 pm and 6 pm starting on January 12 with Leader Ruth De Nardi. A Wednesday morning league will begin on February 18 with Leader Chris Babcock.

SSF Parks & Recreation Bocce Leagues will begin on Wednesday, January 14, Thursday, January 15 and Friday, January 16.

We are very excited to host Special Olympics Bocce play beginning on Saturday, March 7 from 1–3 pm, which will run until May 30.

I'm looking forward to a successful and rewarding 2026.

Manny Garcia
Sports & Activities Director
IACC Vice President

TUESDAY MORNING WINTER LEAGUE



FIRST PLACE: Mike Delorio, Don Sherer, Sandy Lencioni & Captain Sneezy Mike Gallagher

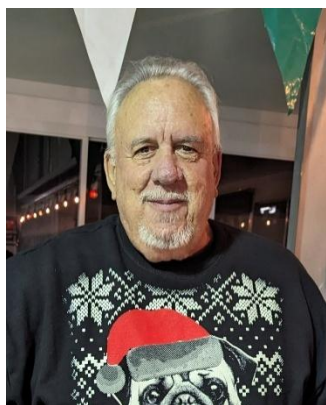


Second Place: Ed Hornung, Tom McGee, Captain Snow White Janis Gallagher & Val McNease



Third Place: Norm Tiernan, Captain Bashful Erica Baxter, Evonne Medeghini & Patti Sarracino

CHRISTMAS & PERSON OF THE YEAR DINNER



Person of the Year Ken Hartje



CHRISTMAS & PERSON OF THE YEAR DINNER



CHRISTMAS & PERSON OF THE YEAR DINNER



Italian American Citizens Club



South San Francisco



CRAB FEED

Friday, February 6, 2026



Fernekes Recreation Building, Orange Park



6 PM Doors Open / 7 PM Dinner

\$80.00 Members / \$85 Non-Members RSVP by January 29, 2025

For our non-crustacean folks, Beef Tenderloin

(Dinner includes Appetizers, Salad, Pasta, Main Course, Bread, Dessert & Wine)

Mail RSVP To: IACC Crab Feed, Helen Birkeland, 187 Poplar Ave, San Bruno, Ca 94066

Raffle to be held for our Scholarships & Charity

(Please bring a raffle prize donation)



IACC 2026 Crab Feed RSVP - \$80 Members / \$85 Non-Members

RSVP by 1/29/26 with payment to IACC & mail to:

IACC Crab Feed, Helen Birkeland, 187 Poplar Ave, San Bruno, Ca 94066

Names Attending: _____

Check if requesting Beef Tenderloin & how many: [☐] **Total Persons Attending:** _____

Request Seating With: _____

I cannot attend but would like to make a separate donation to the scholarship/charity fund [☐]

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

LEARN ITALIAN AT THE IACC

ITALIAN AMERICAN CITIZENS CLUB

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO

PRESENTS

ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES

BY INSTRUCTOR FRANCESCA LORENZON

Learn one of the Romance Languages with a class in Italian Basics & Introduction



THURSDAYS, JANUARY 8 – 29, 2026 (FOUR CLASSES)

AT THE IACC CLUBHOUSE, 783 TENNIS DRIVE, SSF (IN ORANGE PARK)

CHOICE OF CLASS TIMES: 5:30 PM – 7 PM OR 7:15 PM – 8:45 PM

\$140 plus purchase of class book, Nuovo Espresso 1 ISBN 9788861826724

(available on Amazon or at Libreria Pino, SF www.libreriapino.com)

IACC Member's Discount - \$130

IACC ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASS

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____ 5:30 OR 7:15 PM CLASS (circle one)

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ITALIAN AMERICAN CITIZENS CLUB (IACC), MAIL TO: IACC ITALIAN CLASS, PO Box 5674, SSF, Ca 94083
Or email IACC.SSF@YAHOO.COM to register or for more information

ABOUT OUR INSTRUCTOR FRANCESCA LORENZON

Francesca was born and raised in Friuli Venezia Giulia, in Northeastern Italy, where she received a Master's Degree with Honors in Modern Languages and Literature from the University of Trieste. In 2011 she moved to the Bay Area with her husband, their children and two dogs. Now she proudly calls the Bay Area home after obtaining her double citizenship.

Since 2014 she has been teaching Italian to learners age 3 to 70+ in many Bay Area schools and institutions, such as Istituto Italiano Scuola, Castro Valley Adult School, Palo Alto Adult School, Italingua and Polyglottist. Believing in continuous education, Francesca has attended many professional development courses in Italian Language Teaching from various institutions (Icon, Ca Foscari University in Venice, and Scuola Dante Alighieri in Recanati, Italy). She also became a certified CELI examiner. Teaching her mother language is her passion and her expertise. She knows that keeping students engaged and motivated in a friendly environment is the clue for their success in the learning process. In her free time, she loves hiking, cooking and reading.

SUPPORT OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

The Italian Cemetery
SERVING ALL FAITHS AND NATIONALITIES SINCE 1899



IACC CALENDAR

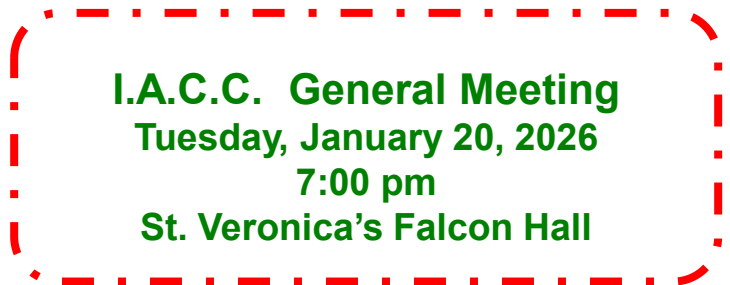
DATES AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

JANUARY 2026

Sun 28	Mon 29	Tue 30	Wed 31 10:00 AM IACC Winter League	Thu 1	Fri 2	Sat 3
4	5	6 1:00 PM IACC Board Meeting	7 10:00 AM IACC Winter League	8 10:00 AM IACC Winter League	9 1:00 PM IACC Raffa	10
11 1:00 PM IACC Bingo	12 5:00 PM IACC Winter League 6:00 PM IACC Winter League	13	14 10:00 AM IACC Winter League 6:00 PM P&R Winter League	15 10:00 AM IACC Winter League 6:00 PM P&R Winter League	16 9:30 AM P&R Winter League 1:00 PM IACC Raffa	17
18	19 5:00 PM IACC Winter League 6:00 PM IACC Winter League	20 7:00 PM IACC General Meeting & Elections	21 10:00 AM IACC Winter League 6:00 PM P&R Winter League	22 10:00 AM IACC Winter League 6:00 PM P&R Winter League	23 9:30 AM P&R Winter League 1:00 PM IACC Raffa	24
25	26 5:00 PM IACC Winter League 6:00 PM IACC Winter League	27	28 10:00 AM IACC Winter League 6:00 PM P&R Winter League	29 10:00 AM IACC Winter League 6:00 PM P&R Winter League	30 9:30 AM P&R Winter League 1:00 PM IACC Raffa	31

FEBRUARY 2026

Sun 1	Mon 2 5:00 PM IACC Winter League 6:00 PM IACC Winter League	Tue 3	Wed 4 10:00 AM IACC Winter League 6:00 PM P&R Winter League	Thu 5 10:00 AM IACC Winter League 6:00 PM P&R Winter League	Fri 6 9:30 AM P&R Winter League 1:00 PM IACC Raffa	Sat 7
8	9 5:00 PM IACC Winter League 6:00 PM IACC Winter League	10	11 10:00 AM IACC Winter League 6:00 PM P&R Winter League	12 10:00 AM IACC Winter League 6:00 PM P&R Winter League	13 9:30 AM P&R Winter League 1:00 PM IACC Raffa	14
15	16 5:00 PM IACC Winter League 6:00 PM IACC Winter League	17	18 10:00 AM IACC Winter League 6:00 PM P&R Winter League	19 10:00 AM IACC Winter League 6:00 PM P&R Winter League	20 9:30 AM P&R Winter League 1:00 PM IACC Raffa	21 8:00 AM Elk's Purple Pig Bocce
22 10:30 AM Private Party	23 5:00 PM IACC Winter League 6:00 PM IACC Winter League	24	25 6:00 PM P&R Winter League	26 6:00 PM P&R Winter League	27 9:30 AM P&R Winter League 1:00 PM IACC Raffa	28



Italian American Citizens Club of South San Francisco
P.O. Box 5674
South San Francisco, CA 94083-5674

