



ITALIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

of

NOTRE DAME/MICHIANA

April 1, 2021

Dear Members,

Last year was quite a year for all of us. It was filled with uncertainty and tragedy, but also triumph and hope. You are all missed very much and we look forward to being able to see each other in person very soon.

Here is important news and action items for your consideration:

1. **Scholarship Awards in 2020**

While we paused most of our activities, we did go forward with our awarding of scholarships. We were able to award \$1,500 scholarships to following:

- Jackson Bound, Penn High School
- Diamond Coleman, Washington High School
- Carrigan Duffield, Brandywine High School
- Katie Fraser, Elkhart Central High School
- Alondra Maria Garcia, Elkhart Central High School
- Blake Garretson, Jimtown High School
- Brandon Kirkendall, Brandywine High School
- Krista Parsons, Concord High School
- Lorei Munoz Ramirez, Washington High School
- Mikayla Sanford, Elkhart Central High School
- Meghan Shreve, LaVille High School
- Erika Renae Toops, Concord High School
- Edna Zheng, Concord High School

This year, scholarship applications are due **April 23**.

2. **Web Page.**

We have updated our web page. You are able to link to it using our web address, www.iahsndm.org, or you can visit directly at www.italianamericanhs.org. You will be able to renew your membership and pay your dues on the web page, or you can use the attached form.

3. **Annual Dinner.**

We are once again choosing to not hold our annual dinner as it is still a bit too soon.

4. **Golf Outing.**

We are going ahead with our Golf Outing on **June 14, 2021**. Please visit our web page and sign up to golf, sponsor a hole, or sign up to help with this important fundraising event.

5. **Election of Officers.**

This year our slate of officers is as follows:

President:	Janet Whitfield-Hyduk
1 st VP:	Dominic Porpiglia
2 nd VP:	Mike Caurro
Secretary:	Rosemary Mandrici
Treasurer:	Frank Agostino

As we are not having our annual meeting in person, we ask you to indicate your consent to this slate by marking your consent on the membership form, or alternatively, write in a different candidate if you wish to vote for someone else.

6. **In Memorium.**

Since the last time we met, we have lost several members. While each loss is significant, there were three that deserve special mention. Let us acknowledge the great assistance provided to our organization by our beloved Joe Roman, Joe Zappia, and Terry Wentworth. Their long-time service was truly foundational to our current success. Joe Zappia was one of our strongest scholarship supporters and a great recruiter for this organization as measured by the large number of Zappia (and related to Zappia) members. Joe Roman provided invaluable guidance and help with many, many events including the Golf outing and other fundraising events. Joe is survived by his lovely wife Donna, who he recruited to be a key part of our golf outing. Unfortunately, Terry Wentworth and his wife Gloria

both lost their lives at the same time in a tragic accident. We will miss Terry on the Golf Course—he is the one who made us all look better on camera. All three were very committed to our mission and will truly be missed.

7. **Ferragosto Picnic/October Dinner.**

While we are not holding the annual dinner, we do intend to have our Ferragosto picnic in August, and a dinner in October. Further details will be shared as they become available.

8. **Treasurer's Report**

THIS INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED TO OUR MEMBERS IN A MAILING. WE ARE NOT PUBLISHING THIS ONLINE, BUT MEMBERS CAN CONTACT US TO OBTAIN.

9. **Update on National Italian American Activities.**

On February 20, 2021, more than 350 Italian Americans participated in a nationwide zoom call. This was organized by 50 of the largest, most influential Italian American groups in the country (Sons of Italy, National Italian American Foundation, etc.) with a goal of uniting fragmented Italian American organizations by promoting mutual support for each other, recruiting younger people, and saving Columbus. I invite each of you to visit the web site Italian American Online (<https://italianamericaonline.com/>) to access invaluable resources and connections. Joseph F. Agostino, Rosemary Mandrici, and myself were all fortunate enough to participate in this first of a kind summit.

In the context of today's front-page stories regarding the treatment of minorities, it should not be forgotten that our ancestors also endured their own struggle for acceptance. I will be adding links to our web page which tell this story. Do you know about the attack on Italian Americans by the KKK and other hate groups? Do you know about the lynching of 11 Italian Americans in Louisiana which eventually caused President Harrison to recognize Columbus Day?

Columbus Day was never meant to represent the promotion of imperialism or to glorify bad actions. To the contrary, the name "Columbus" represented freedom for Americans building a new nation after the Revolutionary War; it was a sign to Italian Americans to let them know that they could be at home in this great country; it was a symbol meant to give our ancestors a sense of belonging.

We don't have to give up our history to support those who struggle to get that same sense of belonging.

Please visit www.iahsndm.org, and come back often.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter J. Agostino". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "A".

Peter J. Agostino
Executive Director