



LA VOCE

Luglio 2026

Northern Solano Lodge #2534

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MESSAGE FROM TRUSTEE RORY NICHOLS

A Time to Celebrate Our Heritage and Our Nation

As we wrap up our Independence Day celebrations and continue commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America, we have a unique opportunity to reflect on both our nation's history and the remarkable journey of our Italian ancestors.

Generations ago, our families made one of the bravest decisions imaginable. They left behind the familiarity of Italy, its traditions, culture, and loved ones, to cross an ocean in search of opportunity and a better life. They arrived with hope, determination, and a willingness to work hard, often facing language barriers, uncertainty, and prejudice. Through perseverance and sacrifice, they built families, businesses, and communities while helping shape the America we know today.

As Italian Americans, we are fortunate that we never have to choose between pride in our heritage and pride in our country. We proudly celebrate the rich traditions of Italy while embracing the freedoms and opportunities found in the United States. Our Italian roots have strengthened America, and America has given our families the chance to thrive.

This spirit of opportunity was on full display recently at the Grand Lodge of California's Annual State Convention. Together, our organization awarded 35 scholarships totaling \$76,000 to outstanding students across California. Here at Northern Solano Lodge, we were equally proud to have recently award four local scholarships totaling \$4,400 to graduating high school seniors in our community.

Meeting these remarkable young men and women fills me with optimism for the future. Their academic achievements, leadership, and community service are inspiring. They represent the next generation of Italian Americans who will continue building upon the legacy our ancestors began so many years ago. If they are any indication of what lies ahead, then our future is exceptionally bright.

As members of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, we honor the legacy of our ancestors by preserving our heritage, serving our communities, investing in our youth, and passing our traditions and values to future generations.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your continued dedication to Northern Solano Lodge. Your friendship, volunteerism, and generosity make opportunities like these scholarships possible and ensures the legacy of our ancestors continues to flourish.

May God bless our Italian heritage, our Lodge, and the United States of America as we celebrate 250 years of freedom, opportunity, and hope for generations to come.

Cordialmente,
Rory Nichols

Buon Compleanno di Luglio



Emma Brandi 5th
Lynn Gallagher 6th
Maria Roberto 14th
Lorenzo Cilia 15th
Ken Gallagher 16th
Nancy Santos 17th

Charlene Godden Ping 21st
Rose Beeler 22nd
George (Mike) Kimmel 24th
Aiden Buffa 27th
Linda DiBenedetto 30th
James Spering 31st

Buon Anniversario

Happy Anniversary to all members who are celebrating this month. Please let Mark know about your special occasion so we can share with your Lodge Brothers and Sisters.



AUGUST 22 -- GENE BRUNO ANNUAL PICNIC

OCTOBER 24—COLUMBUS DINNER FUNDRAISER

Attivita di Luglio

- July 2nd** Board Meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the ARC Conference Room.
- July 23rd** Out to Lunch Bunch will be at Mavericks in Suisun City. Please contact Helen Barker at 707-428-6093
- July 10th** Card night will be at the Fairfield Adult Recreation Center from 4 PM to 8 PM. For more information please contact Jerry Firpo at 707-678-2455 or email him at jfirpo@jps.net. Everyone brings food to share before we play cards. If you like to play cards, please join us for a fun evening with food, drink, and good fun
- July 13th** Please RSVP for the monthly meeting so our kitchen crew will know how much food to prepare. Please RSVP by calling 707-365-1818 or emailing Laurretta Graham at lgraham457@aol.com
- July 16th** Our regular lodge meeting will be held at the Adult Recreation Center starting at 6:00 p.m. with dinner being served at 6:30 p.m. followed by a short business meeting. Don't forget to bring a raffle prize. The proceeds from the raffle offset the cost of the meal.
- July 27th** The Book Club will meet at Hannelore Baffico's home at 1 p.m. The book this month is "The Briars Club" by Kate Quinn. New members are welcome. For more information please call Hannelore at 707-422-9840.
- July 28th** Food Bank. For more information please contact Saskia Lembesis at 707-631-1829.

TABLE DECORATIONS FOR LODGE MEETINGS

The decoration team for the month of July is Juanita Stopponi and Nancy Page.



SUNSHINE

Please remember to contact Joy Bruno if you know of any member that might need to be sent a card. Call Joy Bruno at 707-422-3391 and leave a message or email her at joy.b@comcast.net.

RAFFLE PRIZES FOR COLUMBUS DAY FUNDRAISER

Please contact Laretta Graham at 707-365-1818 with any donations for the raffle or silent auction. Now is the time to gather the gifts so Laretta has time to complete the beautiful baskets for the raffle. Gift cards from your favorite restaurant or store are always a good donation.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Charlene Ping is gathering school supplies for Fairview Elementary School this summer. Please see her message and school supply list on page 4.

The winner of the June monthly free membership drawing was Roberta Martinez. Unfortunately Roberta was not present at the meeting to win.



WEAR YOUR BADGES

Badge checks will be in force at the meetings. There will be a \$1 fine for not wearing your badge. The fine will be used to help with the dinner expenses. Contact Don Cradduck to make you a new badge if yours is missing.

Fairview Elementary School Supply Drive Update

The annual Sons and Daughters of Italy (SOI) School Supply Drive is well underway!

At our June meeting, members generously donated \$340 in cash to help purchase much-needed school supplies for the teachers and students at Fairview Elementary School. Fairview serves a student population facing significant academic challenges. The school currently has an overall rating of 2 out of 10, with a student progress score of 3 out of 10 and a test score rating of 1 out of 10 compared with other California schools. These challenges make our support especially meaningful.

As in previous years, I will personally match all cash donations, up to \$800. With the donations received so far, we now have \$680 available to purchase items from Fairview Elementary's classroom and student store wish lists.

I will continue collecting cash donations (or checks payable to Charlene Ping) and donated school supplies at our July SOI meeting. Every contribution, large or small, helps provide teachers with essential classroom resources and gives students the tools they need to succeed. Together, we can make a real difference in supporting student achievement and helping narrow academic gaps.

The Fairview Elementary wish lists are included below. If you would like to purchase items for the school, I would be happy to send you the Amazon link or to provide information about any specific items. You may bring your purchases to the July SOI meeting, have them shipped to my home, or call me to arrange a pickup. If you have any questions or would like to arrange for donated items to be picked up from your home, please contact me at (707) 631-8808 or cmgping8@sbcglobal.net.

Classroom Wish List	Student Store Wish List
Disinfecting Wipes (80-count packs) – 12 Facial Tissue (75-count boxes) – 10 8-Piece Teacher Stamp Sets – 4 Woodstock Chimes Attention Getters – 2 Cardstock Paper (5-color assortment, 320 sheets) – 4 Glitter Clipboards with Storage – 2 Calming Corner Fidgets – 2 Calm Down Corner Fidgets – 2 Dry Erase Pockets – 4 Metal Rolling Carts – 2 Calming Corner Posters – 4 Table Spots – 2 Whiteboard Markers – 2 Pre-Sharpened Pastel Pencils – 2	Animal Squishy Toys (24-piece package) – 6 Stress Balls (12-piece package) – 4 Mini Multicolor Pens – 2 Bulk Sunglasses (48-piece package) – 2 Bookmarks (36-piece package) – 2 Bubbles (36-piece package) – 3 Slime (24-piece package) – 4 Slime (12-piece package) – 4 Pop-Its (28-piece package) – 4 Welch's Fruit Snacks (60-count box) – 2 Variety Bulk Snack Packs (120-count) – 2

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of this worthwhile effort. Together, we can help provide Fairview Elementary's teachers and students with the resources they need to learn, grow, and succeed.

Thank you all so much for supporting Fairview Elementary School!!!



**ORDER SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA
NORTHERN SOLANO LODGE #2534
COLUMBUS DINNER FUNDRAISER**

Tax ID 95-3830458

Sons of Italy Western Foundation 501(c)(3)

Tax ID 94-2687313

Dear Supporter:

Northern Solano Lodge #2534 is holding their annual Columbus Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at the Fairfield Adult Recreation Center. We are reaching out to the business community in the hope that you will support us through a monetary donation, or donation of food goods or an item that could be used in a silent auction or raffle.

Our Lodge supports the Fairfield Adult Recreation Center, Meals on Wheels, Remember A Vet Wreath Project, and Contra Costa Solano Food Bank. Each year, we provide three to five \$1,000 scholarships to graduating Solano County High School students through the Assist-A-Grad program.

In addition, through our State Lodge, The Grand Lodge of California, we support UC Davis Alzheimer programs, the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, Cooley's Anemia and the Gary Sinise Foundation.

With your generous support, we will be able to continue our part in building a better community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Rossi

Mark Rossi
Immediate Past President, Northern Solano Lodge #2534
4540 Saint Andrews Ct.
Fairfield, CA 94534
(209) 404-0692

The Janet Capello Distinguished Member Award 2026

Frank Rossi, Northern Solano Lodge

The following was submitted to Past State President John Costa and the Janet Capello Distinguished Member Award Committee in Spring of 2026:

Born in 1933, in the Tuscany Region of Italy, Frank grew up in Ciofi, where his family operated a Molina that ground wheat and olives to make flour and olive oil. After surviving the hardships of World War II and the Germany occupation of Italy and his family's property, Frank emigrated in 1953, to seek out a better life in Sacramento, California. Working for his Zio Pietro Rossi, in a small grocery store, Frank began his American journey without knowing any English.

In 1955, Frank joined the US Army. He did his basic training at Fort Ord, spent a short time in Fort Lewis, Washington and then to Port Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska. This is where Frank honed his skills in large group cooking. He married his wife Louise in 1958 and they will celebrate their 68th Wedding Anniversary in August, a legacy that includes four children, ten grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Professionally, Frank had a 35-year career in the grocery business at Campos Food Fair, a family-owned business.

A Charter Member of Northern Solano Lodge, Frank has served for over 43 years. His leadership includes three terms as a Lodge Trustee (6 years), two terms as Financial Secretary (4 years), one term as Vice President from 1995-1997 and one term as Lodge President from 1997-1999. He also served as a State Delegate for three terms (6 years). Frank is best known for his talent in the kitchen. To boost struggling Lodge attendance during his Presidency, he launched a program to offer members a free meal before the meeting and offset the cost with a raffle of items donated by Lodge Members. This program still thrives 29 years later. Frank led the kitchen crew and cooked the monthly dinners for over 25 years. This included doing all the shopping for food and supplies and maintaining the storage unit where the cookware and supplies were stored.

Frank led a kitchen crew for over 30 years that cooked for the two major Lodge functions, a Crab Feed and a Columbus Dinner Celebration. This included all the shopping for food, bar and dinner supplies at each of these events. He also handled the ticket sales. To this day Frank continues to be the largest ticket seller for these two major events.

Frank shares his love of cooking with all. He has trained and mentored the Lodge Cooks that have followed him. Our current Chef is Lori Rossi, Frank's Daughter in Law. Lori cooked with Frank for many years before she took over as Lodge Chef, using Frank's recipes and knowledge of cooking for large groups. Frank is always available for consultation and continues to help as needed.

Northern Solano Lodge meets at the Fairfield Adult Recreation Center. To solidify our relationship with the Center, Frank began cooking for two of their events, a St. Patrick's Day Luncheon and a Holiday Luncheon. The Lodge covers the cost of the food, then prepares and serves the food. The Rec Center keeps all the profits from the

ticket sales. In turn, the Center does not charge the Lodge for using their facilities for their monthly meetings. Frank cooked for the Rec Center for over 15 years and our Lodge continues to cook for these two events. For many years Frank also cooked every 3rd month for the Recreation Center Friday Night Bingo.

Frank was the First President of the Fairfield Bocce Federation. As a Charter Member he worked to petition the City of Fairfield to secure and build four outdoor bocce courts across from the Adult Recreation Center. Frank served multiple years as a Trustee of the Federation. For many years he cooked the meal for the two annual Bocce Federation Banquets. Frank continues to play Bocce three days a week.

Frank has a green thumb and is an avid gardener, planting a vegetable garden each year and sharing the bounty with family and friends. He already has his tomatoes in the ground for this year. Frank has volunteered many times to prune trees and flowers for friends and family. Frank was awarded a beautification award by the City of Fairfield for the work he had done in his front yard.

Frank has also been a very active parishioner at Holy Spirit Catholic Church for over 65 years. He served as a Eucharistic Minister for over 30 years. He would always volunteer to help decorate and set up the church for special holidays. Frank also shared his cooking talents with the Parish. Once each December he would prepare a holiday luncheon for the sick and homebound.

At 93 Frank remains actively engaged in our Lodge meetings and card nights. He never meets a stranger and is one of the first to welcome new guests. Humble and hardworking, Frank is a true ambassador for our Italian Heritage. The Order Sons and Daughters of Italy and Northern Solano Lodge are fortunate to have such a proud Italian American in their ranks. Frank's legacy of faith, family, and service make him an excellent candidate for the Janet Capello Distinguished Member Award.



Frank Rossi, accompanied with family members, is escorted to the podium to receive the Janet Capello Distinguished Member Award at the 89th OSDIA Grand Lodge of California Annual Convention.



AMERICAN HISTORY QUIZ IN HONOR OF AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY



1. What is the name of the first successful English colony in America?

Plymouth, MA

Roanoke, VA

Jamestown, VA

Salem, MA

2. Which is the oldest U.S. city?

St. Augustine, FL

Plymouth, MA

Williamsburg, VA

Philadelphia, PA

3. Which important document declared our Independence from Great Britain?

Magna Carta

Declaration of Independence

U.S. Constitution

Bill of Rights

4. Which location was the 'first shot heard around the world' (1775) marking the start of the American Revolution?

Boston, MA

Albany, NY

Concord, MA

Lexington, MA

5. Who was the first U.S. president to live in the White House?

George Washington

John Adams

Thomas Jefferson

James Madison

6. Which was the first state to join the U.S. Union?

Virginia

Pennsylvania

New York

Delaware

7. Who is considered the 'Father of the U.S. Constitution'?

James Madison

Alexander Hamilton

Benjamin Franklin

Thomas Jefferson

8. Which U.S. city hosted the first Presidential House AND official Capital?

Alexandria, VA

Boston, MA

New York City, NY

Philadelphia, PA

9. Which city became the U.S. capital in 1800?

Philadelphia

Boston

New York City

Washington D.C.

10. What type of government operates in the United States?

Constitutional Republic

Republic

Democracy

Representative Democracy

1. Jamestown, VA; 2. St. Augustine, FL; 3. Declaration of Independence; 4. Concord, MA; 5. John Adams;
6. Delaware; 7. James Madison; 8. New York City, NY; 9. Washington D.C.; 10. Constitutional Republic



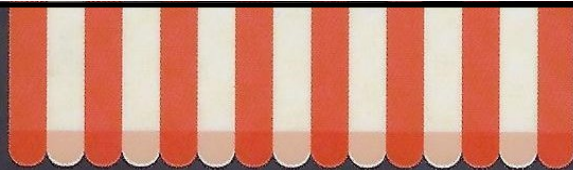
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**Order Sons & Daughters of Italy
in America**
Grand Lodge of California



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1/2 PAGE	\$120.00	12 ISSUES
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**FOR INFORMATION PLACING
YOUR AD PLEASE CONTACT**

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