

Volume 8
Issue 1
Spring 2025

*A note from the
Editor:*

***Benvenuta
Primavera!***

*Congratulations to
our Grand Council
Officers, Trustees,
Delegates and
attendees to the
State 39th Biennial
Convention, held in
April in Fairfax,
VA. The Italian
Heritage Lodge
hosted the two-day
event that brought
state-wide
dignitaries to
Northern Virginia
from around the
Commonwealth. It
was the perfect
opportunity to visit
with our lodge
brothers and sisters,
get important
business done,
renew friendships
and make new
acquaintances as
we shared our
Italian heritage. A
bonus was the
attendance of our
National President,
Michael Polo, for
the entire
convention!*

*For future issues,
please submit
articles and pictures
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il Giornale

Newsletter for the Grand Lodge of Virginia
Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America

A note from the Grand Lodge President

Cari amici,

Well, the 39th Biennial Convention of the Grand Lodge of Virginia is in the books. I think the 2-day event held in Fairfax was a success. I am proud and honored to have been elected to serve another 2 years as your president. I will do my best to live up to the trust you have put in me to lead the Grand Lodge.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank IHL President Dawn Falsinotti and her team for hosting the convention and making all of us feel welcome.

Although much business was discussed and decisions made, the highlight of the convention was the attendance by our National President Michael Polo. Michael was there for both days and fully participated in the convention meetings. He was open and approachable, taking time to speak to as many delegates as possible and answering a number of questions. It was awesome to have him there and see his commitment to OSDIA. Thank you, Michael.

Another notable item was the formation of a scholarship in memory of Brother Linwood Sykes, Jr. Linwood (Junny) Sykes was a lifelong member of Giuseppe Verdi Lodge, President of that lodge for a total of 6 or 7 terms, and Grand Lodge President for 4 years. Junny was a member of the VA OSDIA Foundation for many years. He also served as Grand Lodge Chaplain until his passing last year. He, together with his wife Bea, donated literally thousands of hours to our Order. He is sorely missed by GVL and the Grand Lodge.

It was decided at the convention that going forward the Grand Lodge would take on the responsibility of the Biennial Conventions rather than saddling the local lodges with the planning and hosting of the convention. I will be forming a committee for this purpose at the next quarterly meeting.

Summer is fast approaching, and I hope everyone enjoys that time with vacations and all the outdoor events that summer brings. Be safe and know that every one of you is appreciated.

Respectfully,

Aldo Funai
Grand Lodge President



ORDER
Sons and
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of Italy
IN AMERICA

Grand Lodge of Virginia Quarterly Meeting

The Grand Lodge of Virginia will meet for its quarterly meeting on *Sunday, September 21, 2025*.

The meeting will be held at the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #315 in Mechanicsville, VA.

Council members and lodge presidents are asked to arrive no later than 10:30 a.m.

for the Foundation meeting and meeting of the Lodge Presidents.

The Grand Lodge of Virginia's new website is up and running! The new website address is: www.vaosdia.org

Our utmost gratitude to Beverly Amante, GLVA Financial Secretary, for her dedication and the many hours of work she invested to upgrade the state website for the benefit of all our members.



2025 Scholarships Awarded

Two scholarships from the Virginia OSIA Foundation were announced at the 39th Biennial Convention of the Grand Lodge of Virginia held in Fairfax, Virginia.

The Grand Lodge of Virginia Scholarship was awarded to Talyn Arcane from Richmond, Virginia. He is the grandson of Giuseppe Verdi Lodge member Virginia Hudert. He will be attending Brightpoint Community College in Chester, Virginia. Talyn is pursuing a career as a veterinarian. One of his instructors commented, "Talyn's strong connection to his Italian heritage further enriches his perspective. He has demonstrated a keen interest in the history and cultural traditions that have shaped his identity, and he approaches his heritage with a level of respect and reflection that is truly commendable." While he was unable to attend the convention, his scholarship will be awarded at a ceremony at the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge in July.

The Joseph Fulton Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Ashleigh Alpaugh from Chester, Virginia. She is the Granddaughter of Giuseppe Verdi Lodge member Anne Marie Vaughan. Ashleigh will be attending Longwood University, School of Nursing in Farmville, Virginia. She has also been taking classes at Chesterfield Technical Center in radiology. Ashleigh will be studying nursing with a concentration in neonatal nursing. While she was unable to attend the convention, her scholarship will be awarded at a ceremony at the Giuseppe Lodge in July.

Congratulazioni e auguri a Talyn e Ashleigh!

Local Lodges

Giuseppe Verdi Lodge

January 2025 – April 2025

(Submitted by Mary Louise Smith)

Giuseppe Verdi's 2025 year started with having a Mystery Dinner in January to fill the void of unwinding from the hustle and bustle of the Christmas holidays.

With Elections in the first few months, in March the Grand Lodge President Aldo Funai, swore in the 2025-2026 Council.

In April, Verdi Lodge was very proud to have ten out of our eleven delegates attend the 39th Biennial Grand Lodge of Virginia Convention held in Fairfax, Va. Kudos to the Italian Heritage Lodge for all the hard work put into making this a memorable event.

Along with seeing friends and brothers and sisters of our other local lodges within Virginia, we enjoyed a wonderful weekend. Along with the functions of our organization of holding meetings, much excitement for GVL was in honoring three of its members with State Awards, having two students of members of Verdi Lodge awarded Scholarships for their continuing education and Verdi Lodge coming in 2nd Place in the Merit Points. Heads Up to our sister lodges that we will be working hard the next 2 years to re-claim First Position!!

Let us not forget that Verdi Lodge is very proud to have its member, Aldo Funai, re-elected as Grand Lodge President for the next two years and thrilled that National President Michael Polo was present for this occasion.

Also, to the members of Verdi lodge present, it was with great emotion that Kathy Drummond made a motion, that was seconded and unanimously approved, to start a scholarship in the name of Linwood Sykes, Jr., past member, Former President of Giuseppe Verdi Lodge and Former President of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, along with holding many other positions on the Grand Lodge Council.



*Cereal Killer Murder
Mystery Dinner Group*

*Verdi Lodge Fun Event-
January 2025*

*Giuseppe Verdi Lodge
#315
2025-2026 Council*



*GVL members
at
Colonial Downs March Race*

Peninsula Italian American Lodge

March 2025

(Submitted by Beverly Amante)



Newly Installed Officers

Back row: Lee Jamilik Trustee, Bob Amato Master of Ceremony, Betty Dexter Trustee, Faye Bononu Trustee, Stasi Wipperman Guard, Michelle Romanello Trustee, Paul Siebeking Herald & member.

Front row: Chrissy Bellino Assistant Herald & member, Bob Mason President, Barbara Martone Jamilik Vice President, Anna D'Antonio Orator, Terry DeLucia Financial Secretary, Beverly Amante, Recording Secretary, Jim DeLucia Treasurer, Marie Siebeking Assistant Herald & member, Aldo Funai, GLVA President.



*Angela Tambone
and
Bob Amante*



Richard & Madeleine Conway

Terry DeLucia and Bob Mason present gifts to Immediate Past President Briana Taravella Robison



Members enjoying fellowship before the luncheon and installation.

Roma Lodge

December 2024 - March 2025

(Submitted by Marie M. Siebeking)

DECEMBER 2024

Our annual Christmas Party was held on December 8th. Our entertainment was the Daybreak Singers. These ten ladies are veterans or related to veterans. Door prizes were given to our members as a *Thank You* for all they do to support our Lodge.



On December 18th fifteen (15) Christmas food and toiletry bags were picked up at Roma Lodge by Mr. Brown from the VETSHOUSE of Virginia Beach. Our next donation will be April for Easter. All food and toiletries were donated by our members.



Mr. Brown, Vetshouse, and Roma Lodge President Marie Siebeking.

JANUARY 2025

One of our coldest months and we always have soup and sandwiches. Our membership chairperson gave the slate of officers and asked for any other nominations for our 2025 council election, which we will be voting on in February. Our scholarship chairperson has been working on scholarships forms, which now include trade schools and two-year colleges. Our ladies started to make the gnomes for the veterans.

FEBRUARY 2025

At our February meeting, we held the election of officers for 2025. At that time any additional members wishing to run for office can be nominated from the floor. To run for an office your dues must be paid before February 1, 2025. The nomination of officers was read and voted on by the General Assembly. We had our first POTLUCK luncheon in more than 20 years. It was a great success. Someone asked is we can have one four (4) times a year and all the members agreed. Our next POTLUCK is June 2025.

MARCH 2025

We had our installations of officers on March 2nd. Our Deputy Bob Amante and his wife Beverly and John Gossner presided over the installation.



President Marie Siebeking, Vice President Ellie Bove, Past President Tony Alfano, Recording Secretary Barbara Murphy, Orator John Illuzzi, Financial Secretary Michelle Knox, Treasurer Peter Langlands, Trustees, Tae Jackson, Bud Merritt, Dono Gambino and Guard Rick Langlands

**GLVA Trustee John Gossner
State Deputy Bob Amante and
Roma President Marie Sibeking**



We presented 130 gnomes made by the ladies of Roma Lodge for the veterans at the Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Center, Virginia Beach, Va . We were snowed out two times, but we finally made the donation. We delivered the Gnomes on the 26th of March.



In the pictures are Vice President Ellie Bove, President Marie Siebeking, Kathryn Shear, CDP, Director of Activities for the Center, and Trustee Tae Jackson.



Close up of the Gnomes Donated



One box of the Gnomes Donated

Italo American Citizens Lodge

March 2025

(Submitted by Larry Brennan)



IACL Outgoing Officers

Paul Siebeking, Assistant Herald, Mary Carroll, President, Angel Ellis, Recording Secretary, Mary Curro, Trustee, Patrick Roundtree, Trustee, Chris Ellis, Guard, Marie Siebeking, Herald, Aldo Funai, State President.



IACL Installation of Officers for 2025-2026

Paul Siebeking, Assistant Herald, Mary Carroll, President, Donna Arnold, Vice President, Larry Brennan, Orator, Angel Ellis, Recording Secretary, Mary Curro, Trustee, Patrick Roundtree, Trustee, Chris Ellis, Guard, Marie Siebeking, Herald, Aldo Funai, State President.

Not pictured: Joanne Robinson, Financial Secretary, Ruth Spendolini, Treasurer, Arthur Smith, Guard, Mary Louise Smith, Mistress of Ceremony

Italian Heritage Lodge

December 2024 – April 2025

(Submitted by Coletta Sciscilo)

December 2024 – *Festa di Natale*



Our annual Christmas fundraiser – Dennis and Ellie Lillo present to the staff of the Hospital For Sick Children in Washington, DC the toy donations we collect at our IHL *Festa di Natale*.

February 2025 – *Chef Nick, The Colonel's Kitchen, Cooking Class for IHL Veterans*



Chef Nick's cooking class began in the kitchen with instruction and demonstrations. We learned preparation, method and the recipe for Chicken Marsala. The cooks then moved into the main hall where stations were set up with all ingredients and cooking utensils.

March 2025 – *Installation of Officers and Trustees 2025-2026*



The Italian Heritage Lodge of Fairfax, Va., installed its newly elected officers for the 2025-2026 term on Saturday, March 15, 2025, in St. Leo's Church, Knights of Columbus Hall. In the front row from left to right, they are Master of Ceremonies Roy Schender, Mistress of Ceremonies Sandra Schender, Financial Secretary Steven Kramer, Immediate Past President Nicoletta Sciscilo, Vice President Michael Gering, President Dawn Falsinotti, Orator Joseph Scafetta Jr., and Guard Dennis Lillo. In the back row from left to right, they are Trustee Ray Stoll, Treasurer John Dovel, and Trustee Donna Stoll. Not shown are Recording Secretary Marianne Hallahan, Trustee Eleanor Lillo, Trustee Vivian Mott, and Trustee Maria Carolla.

The installation ceremony was conducted by former State Trustee and former Lodge President, Colonel John F. Asiello (U.S. Army, Retired). He was assisted by his wife Laura, who acted as the Herald.

March 2025 – *Chef Nick Teaches a Class in Knife Skills*



**ORDER SONS AND DAUGHTERS
OF ITALY IN AMERICA**

GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA

39TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

APRIL 25 – 26, 2025

HOSTED BY THE

ITALIAN HERITAGE LODGE #2517



ORDER
Sons and
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of Italy
IN AMERICA





It was our honor to welcome OSDIA National President Michael Polo as our distinguished guest for the two days of the Grand Lodge of Virginia 39th Biennial Convention.

Here he addresses the convention delegates alongside State President Aldo Funai Jr. and State 1st Vice President Terry DeLucia.

GLVA Officers concentrating on matters at hand during the convention working sessions.



Above: State Trustee and Chaplain Bob Amante, Acting Recording Secretary Steven Kramer, and State Trustee Jim DeLucia.



Left: 2nd Vice President Marie Siebeking, Orator Paul Siebeking, and Trustee Mary Louise Smith

Giuseppe Verdi Lodge Convention Delegates



Back Row (L-R): Joe McGowan, Joann Bonelli, David Gragnani, Arthur Smith, John Howarth, Mike Bonelli.

Middle Row (L-R): Lucie Martucci, Mary Louise Smith, Cynthia (Tia) Kirschner,

Front Row (L-R): Betty McGowan, Virginia Hudert, Ann Sayles, Virginia Lee Bowe, Carolyn Funai, Aldo Funai, Kathy Drummond

Italian Heritage Lodge Convention Delegates



Eric Schena, Joseph Scafetta III, Teresa Talierco Scafetta, Joseph Scafetta Jr., Steven Kramer, Dawn Falsinotti, Colette Sciscilo, Russell DeRose, Floriana Primeggia, Carmine Primeggia, and Micheal Gering

Peninsula Italian American Lodge Convention Delegates



Bob Mason, Anna D'Antonio, Jim DeLucia, Terry DeLucia, Bev Amante, Bob Amante, Bob Amato, Marie Siebeking, Paul Siebeking (both PIAL members), and John Gossner, PIAL past State Deputy.









*2023-2025 Merit Point Awards
First Place – Italian Heritage Lodge
Second Place – Giuseppe Verdi Lodge
Third Place – Roma Lodge*



State Orator Paul Siebeking presenting the First Place Merit Point Award to Dawn Falsinotti, President of Italian Heritage Lodge.



State Orator Paul Siebeking presenting the Second Place Merit Point Award to Mary Louise Smith, President of Giuseppe Verdi Lodge.



State Orator Paul Siebeking presenting the Third Place Merit Point Award to Marie M. Siebeking, President of Roma Lodge.

Grand Lodge of Virginia State Awards

2023 - 2025



*Giuseppe Verdi
Lodge*

*Virginia Lee Bowe
Mike Bonelli*

*Presented by
Mary Louise Smith,
President*



Peninsula Italian American Lodge

Terry and Jim DeLucia

*Presented by Bob Mason,
President*



Roma Lodge

Marie M. Siebeking

*Presented by Paul Siebeking,
State Orator*



Italo American Citizens Lodge

Angel Ellis

*Presented by Mary Carroll,
President*



Italian Heritage Lodge

*Colette Sciscilo
Joseph "Sonny" Scafetta Jr.*

*Presented by Dawn Falsinotti,
President*

Congratulations To All !

Our Sincerest Thanks And Congratulations To All

GLVA Outgoing Officers

*President Aldo Funai – 1st Vice-President Terry DeLucia – Second Vice President Marie Siebeking
– Immediate Past President Larry Brennan – Orator Paul Siebeking – Acting Recording Secretary
Beverly Amante – Financial Secretary Beverly Amante – Treasurer Bob Mason*

*State Trustees: Bob Amante – Jim DeLucia – John Gossner – Betty McGowan – Colette Sciscilo
– Mary Louise Smith*



**Grand Lodge
of Virginia**

**ORDER
Sons and Daughters of Italy
IN AMERICA**

GLVA Incoming Officers

*President Aldo Funai – 1st Vice President Marie Siebeking – 2nd Vice President Jim DeLucia
– Immediate Past President Larry Brennan – Orator Paul Siebeking – Recording Secretary Steven
Kramer – Financial Secretary Beverly Amante – Treasurer Bob Mason*

*State Trustees: Bob Amante – Terry DeLucia – Anna Mason – Colette Sciscilo – John Gossner
– Joseph “Sonny” Scafetta – Joseph Scafetta III*

*Arbitration Commission: Bob Amato – Betty McGowan – Arthur Smith – Virginia Lee Bowe
– Joe McGowan – Alternates: Mary Carroll – Teresa Scafetta*

I would like to acknowledge those who assisted and advised me, and contributed articles, pictures and ideas for this quarterly *il Giornale*:

Beverly Amante, Tommaso Ammazalorso, Larry Brennan, Kathy Drummond, Aldo Funai Jr., Michael Gering, Eleanor Lillo, Nancy Perrelli, Joseph Scafetta Jr., Sandra Schender, Marie M. Siebeking, Mary Louise Smith, Ray Stoll and to all who submitted the terrific convention pictures.

Mostly, I am grateful for the support of *i miei amici italiani!* ~ c.s.