

January Questo Mese Newsletter

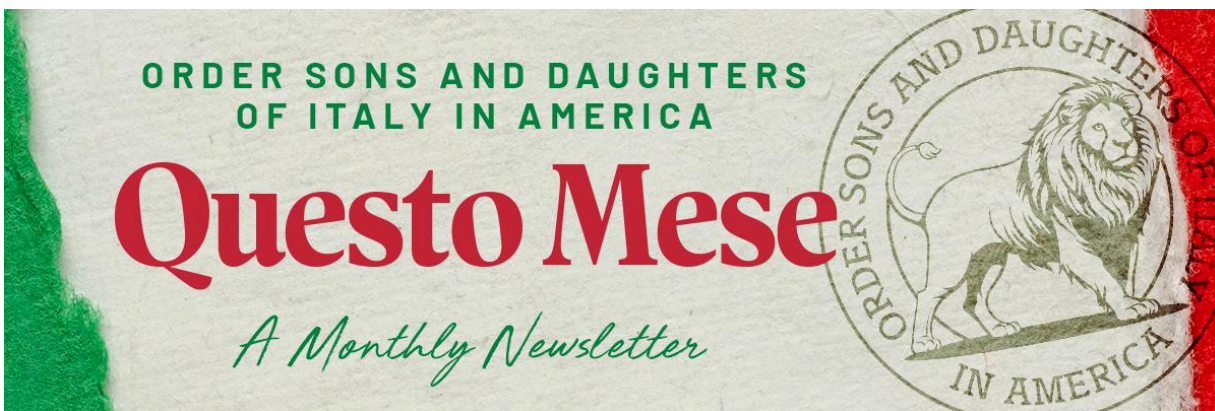
Wednesday, January 1st, 2025



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January | Gennaio 2025

A MESSAGE FROM

National President, Michael G. Polo



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy New Year, and welcome to 2025! I hope that you all have had a wonderful holiday season. In the past month, much like the past year, there has been much to be proud of.

I am particularly proud of the way that members throughout the country rallied for those impacted by hurricanes Helene and Milton, which devastated areas of North Carolina and Florida, among other areas earlier this past fall. Our OSDIA/SIF Hurricane Relief Fund raised more than \$7,000 over the past few months, which will directly go toward rebuilding efforts in those areas. I am inspired by the way our OSDIA family consistently rises to the occasion to help those in need.

In other news, we have two new subordinate lodges coming soon to Phoenix, Arizona, and Charlotte, North Carolina! If you are interested in joining these lodges, please reach out to nationaloffice@osia.org for more information.

This growth of our organization, in terms of new lodges and membership overall is very exciting and gives me hope for another year of stellar growth for OSDIA. In 2024, our organization experienced its first year-over-year membership increase in 10 years, with a 3.48% growth from 2023 to 2024.

Here's to another great year!

Sempre Avanti,

Michael G. Polo
National President
Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America



Lou Carnesecca, Famed Basketball Coach and First NELA Honoree, Passes Away at 99 Years Old

A headshot of Lou Carnesecca. Photo courtesy of Zeusgtp, via Wikimedia Commons.



Lou Carnesecca, the Hall of Fame-inducted men's basketball coach who led the St. John's University team for 24 seasons, passed away on November 30, 2024, at the age of 99. Lou was beloved by those who knew him, and "endeared himself to generations of New Yorkers with his wit and warmth," a statement by St. John's University read.

In 1989, Lou was also the first honoree of the Sons of Italy Foundation's (SIF) inaugural National Education and Leadership Awards (NELA) gala. The Sons of Italy Foundation established the perpetual Lou Carnesecca Scholarship in his name during that year's NELA Gala. Lou was also a member of Cellini Lodge #2206 in New Hyde Park, New York since 1992.

In reflecting on Lou Carnesecca's impact, Comm. Joseph Sciame, SIF President and now retired Vice-President for Community Relations at St. John's University, commented, "Lou Carnesecca's love for the OSDIA commenced back in 1989 with his presence at our then national convention in Parsippany, NJ, when he was designated with our Sports Award. Humbly accepting the award, he brought with him 4 basketballs that he signed and then auctioned them off to commence a scholarship in his name. Additional signed basketballs were donated by him thereby raising the 'first' of the Sons of Italy Foundation's endowed scholarships."



OSDIA & SIF Raise \$7k For Hurricane Relief



A road repair operation in Avery County, North Carolina, in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Photo courtesy of [Flickr/NCDOTcommunications](#).

The OSDIA/SIF Hurricane Relief Fund, which collected funds from October through December of 2024, raised more than \$7,000 to support relief efforts following the devastating impacts of hurricanes Helene and Milton last fall.

“Our hearts go out to those who have tragically lost their lives and to the families mourning them. We are committed to responding with the care and resources needed during this difficult time,” said OSDIA National President Michael G. Polo and SIF President Joseph Sciamè in a joint statement in October. This fundraising effort was made possible through support from OSDIA members and supporters throughout the country, by organizing and promoting the cause in their lodges and communities. Stay tuned for more information about the relief organizations benefiting from this fund.



SIF Scholarship Applications Now Open for 2025



SIF Scholarship recipients pose for a photo at the 35th National Education and Leadership Awards (NELA) Gala in Washington, D.C. (May 23, 2024).

Applications for the Sons of Italy Foundation's (SIF) National Leadership Grants are open for 2025!

These merit-based scholarships vary from \$5,000-\$25,000 each year and are given to selected individuals* of Italian descent**, enrolled in 4-year undergraduate programs, graduate programs, or professional schools at an accredited academic institution for the Fall 2025 term.

Applications will close on March 14th, 2025, so get your application started today! For more information and details on applying, please click on the button below:

[Apply Today](#)

** U.S. Citizens and Green Card holders*

** At least one Italian or Italian American grandparent*



Save The Date for Our Upcoming Italian Real Estate Webinar



Colorful homes line a canal in Venice, Italy. Photo courtesy of Lopez Robin via [Unsplash](#).

Are you interested in buying a home in Italy, or do you want to learn more about the Italian real estate process? Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, February 5th at 11:00AM EST** for a webinar on the differences between real estate in Italy and the U.S.

The webinar will feature Giandomenico De Tullio, Managing Partner at [De Tullio Law Firm](#), which has offices in Rome and Martina Franca, and manages property transactions throughout the entire Italian territory. Giandomenico is a multilingual lawyer with more than 20 years of experience in cross-border property transactions. As a distinguished professional in his field, he has been featured in prominent publications such as *The Times* for his expertise.

Giandomenico is also a proud member of the Capitolo di Roma Lodge #3002, in Rome, Italy, made up of professionals and entrepreneurs with strong social, cultural and business ties to the United States. Chartered in 2019, Capitolo di Roma is also OSDIA's first lodge to be established outside of North America.

Stay tuned for more information on how to register for this members-only opportunity! If you have any questions that you would like to be asked at the webinar, or topics pertaining to Italian real estate that you're interested in hearing about, submit a question at the link below:

Submit a Question



OSDIA Convention Open to All Members

The 59th Biennial National Convention of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA), which will be held from August 12-16, 2025, in Orlando, Florida, will now be open to all members, including At-Large members.

The Biennial National Convention is a meeting of OSDIA leadership throughout the U.S. every two years to install the next administration of national officers and trustees.

The convention will be a great opportunity to network with other Italian Americans from around the country. Throughout the week, members will be able to register for various breakout sessions on topics pertinent to growing and maintaining your lodge, iMembersDB training, and leadership panels, just to name a few. And feel free to bring the family, as you will have the ability to purchase discounted Disney World tickets.

Stay tuned for more details on how to attend the convention and for an interest survey from the National Office!



Submit a Video for Our CSJ World Day of Social Justice Video

We are looking for short video submissions from current members for the Commission for Social Justice's (CSJ) World Day of Social Justice video!

To be considered, the video must be in landscape orientation, be no longer than one minute and no larger than 50 MB, and include a testimonial about what social justice means to you. Videos recorded from Zoom will be accepted. If you have any questions, please reach out to csj@osia.org.

To submit your video, please click the button below:

Submit Video Here



Submit Your Nominations for Our Biennial National Convention Awards

It is time to consider names for the **2025 Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro Award and the Guglielmo Marconi Award**, both to be presented at the 59th Biennial National Convention in Orlando, Florida this year. These prestigious awards are to be presented in person during our national convention, so nominees must be present to accept.

The Sellaro Award is the highest honor given to a member of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. This award was originally created to honor those who have dedicated their time and effort on behalf of the Order and who have distinguished themselves by exemplifying the ideals and principles of the Order's founder, Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro.

The Guglielmo Marconi Award is the highest award given by the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. It is presented to an American individual whom OSDIA believes has contributed to our beloved nation and exemplifies OSDIA's creed and way of life, in a manner that best expresses the ideals for which the Order stands.

If you have any questions about award criteria, reach out to programs@osia.org. **The nomination deadline is March 31, 2025.**

Sellaro Nomination

Marconi Nomination



Write for Italian America Magazine



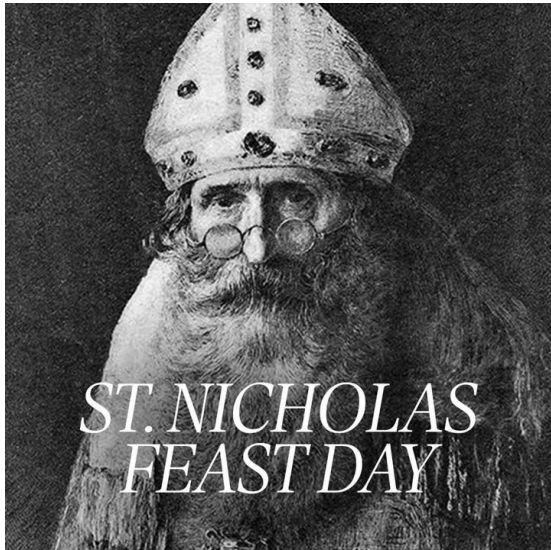
Do you have a story idea about impactful work an OSDIA member or a lodge is doing in their community? Are you interested in writing for the most widely read magazine for people of Italian heritage in the United States? We want to hear from you! For consideration in Italian America magazine, which reaches more than 25,000 people each quarter, please submit your story pitches to italianamerica@osia.org.

Story pitches must be no more than 250 words and be a topic pertinent to the Italian American community. Preference will be given to story ideas featuring OSDIA members or lodges, but all stories of interest to the Italian American community will be considered.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Post of the Month



“St. Nicholas' Feast Day is not just about gifts—it's a celebration of compassion, charity, and community, bringing families together to reflect on the true meaning of giving.”

[Visit Post](#)



Refer Your Friends & Family!



Invite your friends and family to celebrate our rich heritage, make lasting connections, and be part of our vibrant community.

Become A Member



Support Our 2025 Scholarship Awards

Through the Sons of Italy Foundation® (SIF), and tens of thousands of family members located in all fifty states and the District of Columbia, the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America® (OSDIA) has awarded tens of millions of dollars in scholarships to date.

If you want to support the cause, and help propel future Italian-American students to new heights, make your donation at the link below!

Make A Donation





Follow Our Social Channels!

Follow us for daily content celebrating all things Italian-American!

Join our social family today and be part of our mission to preserve our cherished heritage and build a brighter future together.



Advertise Your Business on the OSDIA Website!

Have you thought about advertising on the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America website? You can advertise in our online business directory today!

For more information, [CLICK HERE!](#)

Advertise on our website!



Advertise Your Business in *Italian America* Magazine!

Want the opportunity to showcase your business for a nationwide readership of Italian Americans? You can always promote it in our *Italian America* magazine! For more information, [CLICK HERE!](#)

Advertise in Italian America!



Member Benefits

Massive Savings Await!

OSDIA members gain exclusive access to a wide range of products and services, including genealogy research, travel, Italian language instruction, and more!

Access your benefits today by logging into our Members Only Portal, powered by iMembersDB. Click the button below to log in, and if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the National Office at nationaloffice@osia.org or at (202) 547-2900.

Members Only Portal



Make sure to follow OSDIA on social media to stay up to date on all things OSDIA, Italian American and Italy related! From news and history to recipes and photos, and everything in between!





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