

November Questo Mese Newsletter

From Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America <nationaloffice@osia.org>

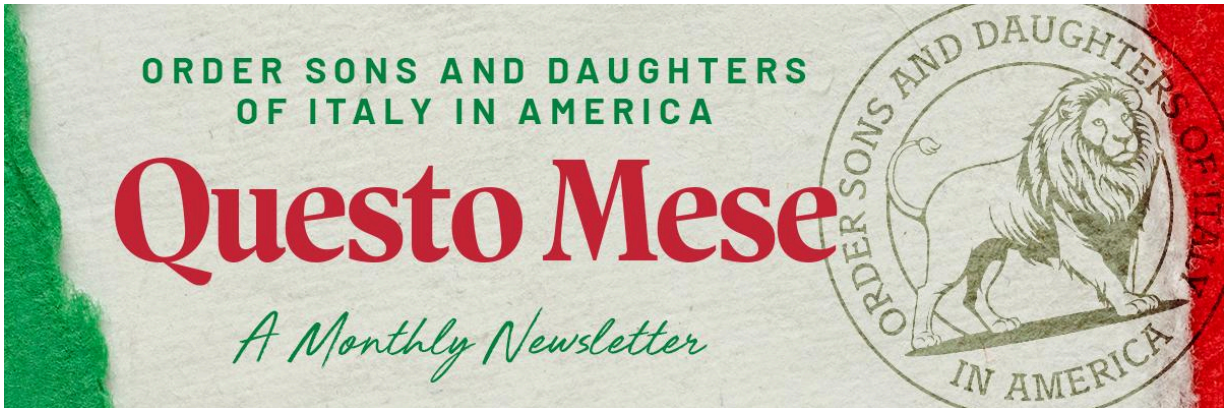
Date Friday, November 1st, 2024



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November | Novembre 2024

A MESSAGE FROM

National President, Michael G. Polo



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you have all had a wonderful Italian American Heritage Month! During October, I have had the pleasure of attending multiple events along the East Coast celebrating Italian heritage, and was especially honored to be welcomed to the White House by U.S. President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden for an Italian American Heritage Month Celebration on October 15.

I started my Italian American Heritage Month at the Massachusetts State House to celebrate Italian heritage, and then spent Columbus Day weekend in New York, where OSDIA led the annual Columbus Day Parade. I then concluded the month in Washington, D.C., the home of our National Office, for a board meeting of the Italian American Leadership Forum. If you lead an Italian American organization that would like to collaborate with the largest in the country, complete an application to be an affiliate [here](#).

Suffice it to say, this past month has been a busy, yet productive month for us. I'm excited to announce that we are getting closer to unveiling a more unified and consistent branding for our organization, a move which I am confident will better reflect our rich values and heritage as Italian Americans. These rebranding efforts will come after months of deliberation among state and national leadership and speak to a need to update our brand in a way that appeals to both new and seasoned members of OSDIA.

Most prominently, this rebranding effort can be seen with the release of our new logos. Rather than have varying designs for the different arms of our organization, such as the Sons of Italy Foundation or the Commission for Social Justice, all logos now follow the same guidelines. This will allow us to attract new members, build a stronger community, and better showcase our heritage. More details on our rebranding efforts are coming soon, so be sure to keep an eye out for more updates from the National Office.

Moreover, I'm pleased to announce that we are making progress with integrating our lodges with iMembersDB, our membership management software. Despite this, there is still significant work to be done, and if your lodge has not yet been integrated into the software, we urge you to notify the National Office at nationaloffice@osia.org or at (202) 547-2900.

I am also pleased to announce that we have a new Editor-in-Chief of our quarterly magazine, Italian America. Samuel Weinmann, who is also currently serving as OSDIA's Communication Coordinator at the National Office will head the publication, and I am confident that an in-house approach will allow us to put more emphasis on the accomplishments of OSDIA members, and the many happenings at our lodges.

On a final note, I would like to offer my condolences to all of those who have been impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. The damage wrought by these storms has been unimaginable, and my

heart goes out to all of those who have been impacted by the damage and those who have lost loved ones. We are committed to contributing to relief efforts, and earlier last month launched the OSDIA/SIF Hurricane Relief Fund to do so. We will continue to raise funds until December 31, 2024, and in the meantime, I encourage all members to donate to the fund by clicking the button below, and selecting "Disaster Relief." Alternatively, donations can be made via check. Checks can be made payable to the Sons of Italy Foundation, and mailed to the address below, or by clicking the Donate Now button:

Sons of Italy Foundation
Attn: Hurricane Relief
219 E St NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

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

[Donate Now](#)



OSDIA President Michael Polo Attends White House Italian Heritage Celebration



OSDIA President Michael G. Polo poses for a picture with U.S. President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden at the White House during an Italian American Heritage Month Celebration (October 15th).

President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden welcomed OSDIA President Michael Polo, among other leaders of notable Italian American organizations to the White House on October 15th. The event aimed to honor Italian Americans and to celebrate their contributions to this country.

The event was co-hosted by the National Italian American Foundation, and delegations were present from multiple other major Italian American organizations, such as UNICO, the National Organization of Italian American Women, and the Columbus Citizens Foundation, among others.

First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, the first Italian American First Lady, spoke of her Italian ancestry in a speech to the crowd, saying that when her ancestors “arrived on Ellis Island to take their first stride into a new life, I don’t think they ever could ever have imagined... a group of hundreds of Italian Americans coming together in the White House,” adding that “when our roots run deep, there is no limit to how high we can reach.”

President Polo attended the event with Anthony Bengivenga, the newly elected President of UNICO National. Before the event, both presidents met at OSDIA’s National Office in Washington, D.C., expressing confidence among each other in the strong relationship between UNICO and OSDIA, and looking forward to strengthening ties moving forward.



Newly elected UNICO President Anthony Bengivenga (left) shakes hands with OSDIA President Michael G. Polo (right) at OSDIA's National Office in Washington, D.C. (October 15th).



OSDIA Leads 80th Annual Columbus Day Parade in New York



OSDLA leaders from the Supreme Lodge and the Grand Lodge of New York at the front of the annual Columbus Day Parade in New York City (October 14th).

The 80th annual Columbus Day parade in New York city was led by a delegation of OSDIA leaders from the Supreme Lodge and from the Grand Lodge of New York. The parade spanned throughout Midtown, starting on 5th Avenue and ending on 72nd Street, and drew hundreds of Italian Americans and supporters of the community from throughout New York in a celebration of Italian American heritage.



A photo of a Christopher Columbus statue being carried through the streets of New York during the annual Columbus Day parade (October 14th).

Many Italian Americans kicked off the festivities at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Prior to the parade, OSDIA President Michael G. Polo joined a group of other Italian American leaders at a breakfast hosted by the Italian American Museum in New York City.



Rockland Lodge #2176 Restores Torn-Down Columbus Statue



The newly restored Columbus Statue outside Rockland Lodge #2176 in Blauvelt, New York.

A once-torn-down Columbus Statue now has a safe home outside of Rockland Lodge #2176 in Blauvelt, New York. The nearly 2000-pound statue was defaced and thrown in a river in 2020 by anti-Columbus protests in Richmond, Virginia, but lodge members spent thousands of dollars restoring the statue and transporting it to their lodge in Blauvelt.

“We’re proud of our heritage,” said Lodge President Mike Pizzi during an interview with News 12 of Hudson Valley in August, adding that “Christopher Columbus is a symbol of the impact that the Italian heritage has had on the world.”



CSJ-Sponsored Plaque Commemorating 1891 New Orleans Lynching Unveiled in

Italian American Heritage Month Ceremony



On Sunday, October 6, a commemorative plaque was unveiled at the site of the 1891 mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans, Louisiana. The plaque was co-sponsored by the Commission for Social Justice, OSDIA's anti-defamation arm.

The plaque was unveiled at the Sewage and Water Board Facility in Armstrong Park, the site of the former prison where the lynching took place, and the event was organized by the American Italian Federation of the Southeast.

"I'm happy that the CSJ was able to sponsor this plaque, and especially that we were a part of the dedication," Robert Ferrito, President of the CSJ said, adding that "It was something I felt we needed to do."

The CSJ has played a critical role in increasing awareness of the mass lynching – one of the largest in U.S. history. In 2019, New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell issued a historic apology to the Italian American community for the 1891 massacre – made possible in large part by consistent engagement by the CSJ.



Newly Appointed West Virginia

Grand Lodge President Seeks to Strengthen Ties with Italy



Cosiamo Bavuso stands with lodge leaders as he gets sworn in as the new President of the Grand Lodge of West Virginia.

Cosiamo Bavuso, member of Dan di Mucci Lodge #2465, was officially sworn in as president of the Grand Lodge of West Virginia early last month. “It is a huge honor to take on this leadership role,” Bavuso said. He added that “My dedication to our heritage fuels my passion to unite our community, building stronger bonds both here in West Virginia and abroad in Italy.” Cosiamo said that in his new role, he is most excited about honoring his ancestry. and “helping people honor and recognize their own [ancestry.]”

Cosiamo will succeed Richard Viglianco as the President of the Grand Lodge of West Virginia, and among the new lodge leadership are five new inducted trustees: Janessa Pyles, Rocky Romano, Tony Lanna, Victor Triolo, and John Disibbio.

In his induction speech, Cosiamo expressed his passion for strengthening ties between West Virginia and Italy – particularly with Basilicata. He also stressed the cultural similarities between both regions, including a deeply rooted sense of community, as well as family values and resilience.



Italian America Magazine Gets

New Editor-in-Chief

We are pleased to announce that Samuel Weinmann, Communications Coordinator at our National Office, is now the new Editor-in-Chief of our quarterly magazine, *Italian America*. Samuel, who is a bilingual Italian American, with family hailing from Fano, is passionate about promoting the Italian language and culture in the U.S.

Andrew Cotto, our previous Editor-in-Chief, has made the decision to step back from the magazine to pursue opportunities in the Italian culinary industry. We are grateful for all of the great work he has put into our magazine; we wish him the best in his future endeavors, and we look forward to collaborating with Andrew in the future!

Moving forward, Samuel is excited to work closely with our lodges to focus more on the accomplishments of our members and the great work our lodges are doing in their respective communities. Samuel can be reached at italianamerica@osia.org for any inquiries.





It Is Time For Our Biennial Convention Award Nominations

It is time to consider names for the **2025 Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro Award and the Guglielmo Marconi Award**, both to be presented at 59th Biennial Convention in Orlando, Florida next 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



Get Involved in The Future of the Order Forum!

We are excited to announce that the Future of the Order (FOTO) has opened up Forum applications. The Forum will take place during OSDIA's 59th Biennial Convention from August 13-16, 2025 in Orlando, Florida.

FOTO is an initiative of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA), focused on fostering leadership development among members aged 21-40. The program is open to all members within the specified age range and aims to incorporate the perspectives of this demographic into the organization's discussions and decision-making on key issues.

Each Grand Lodge will be allotted one delegate to represent their state at the forum, and there will be 13 additional "free agent" slots. These can be used for duplicate Grand Lodge members, Subordinate Lodge members, or At-Large members. Applications will be open until December 31, 2024, and decisions will be made by January 15th, 2025. Reach out to FOTO Chair Mike D'Amore at foto@osia.org with any further questions!

Apply Today



Italian Holidays and How to Celebrate Them in Your Lodge

The OSDIA Italian Relations, Culture, Language, and Travel Committee has curated a list of many Italian holidays, and a guide for how to celebrate them in your lodge.

Access the document on OSDIA's Lodge Resources page, or click [here!](#)



OSDIA Is Now Seeking Submissions For Two New Impact Projects!

Our Public Image Committee is rolling out a new project to enhance OSDIA's social media presence and impact, and we need your help! The first component of this initiative is called "*Italian at Heart*." It is a comprehensive photo and story campaign, inspired by "*Humans of New York*," in which different OSDIA members of all ages are artfully photographed and tell a brief story. Stories should be good-hearted, positive, and uplifting and inspire conversation and engagement. Researchers have suggested that humans are intrinsically connected to their individual experiences and that personal storytelling is a way of making sense of life and moving forward. For more information and to submit an entry, click the button below!

[Click Here to Submit an Entry](#)

The second component is called "*Recipe Collection*." We are collecting culturally relevant member recipes to share on OSDIA's social media channels. Send your recipe by clicking the button below.

[Click Here to Submit a Recipe](#)

These projects are being administered by the OSDIA National Public Image Committee in collaboration

with the Future of the Order (FOTO) Committee. Please direct any questions to PIC@osia.org.



A New Website Experience is Coming Soon

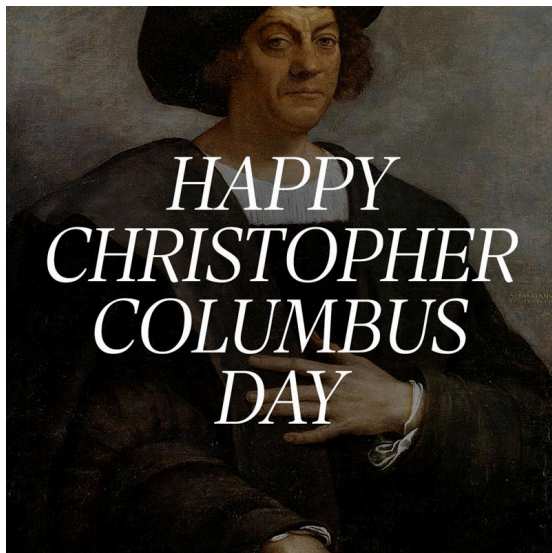
Following the launch of our new logo, we're thrilled to announce that a complete website revamp is underway! The new website will offer streamlined navigation, faster access to key resources, and a user-friendly interface designed for seamless use across all devices. Efficiency and ease of use are our top priorities, ensuring that you can find everything you need quickly and effortlessly.

We're committed to staying relevant and meeting your needs while building a website that strengthens our membership and community. Thank you for your continued support and patience — we can't wait to unveil the new site soon!



SOCIAL MEDIA

Posts of the Month



Columbus Day is a time to honor Christopher Columbus, an Italian explorer whose voyages in 1492 opened the Americas to European exploration.

As we celebrate, let's recognize the contributions of this Italian hero and one of the most impactful figures in world history.

[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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