

82nd Grand OSIA Convention
June 28 – 30, 2018
Ontario, California

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The following is my report on our Grand Convention. I must start out by telling you that being “up front” looking out, is COMPLETELY different than being in the audience looking “up”. But I am extremely happy to report that President John Costa did not have to use his ‘duct tape’ on me and I did not receive one single fine. So, I must have done something right this year.

My perception of this year’s convention was that it ran smoothly, and delegates were respectful of one another. Of the last-minute issues that came up (and there were plenty), they were handled swiftly and quietly behind the scenes, as to not disrupt the convention and we have sisters Lynn and Lori to thank for that.

I really don’t know where to start my report, so I’m going to start with the one thing that took me by surprise every day, of the 124 State Delegates, only 111 showed up. My first year at convention, there were 132 Delegates and that was only four years ago. Yes, we are losing members, but when our local lodges vote and pay for delegates to represent them, they should be there. Please consider this when you vote again for who will be representing you for the next two years. It is such an educational experience, spread the wealth. Consider asking members who have never been before. Maybe even brand-new members that are eager to learn more about our order. Possibilities are endless, let’s not get into the trap that “*Well, they have been before and know what to do...*”

While on the subject of “numbers”, the composition of Grand Lodge Districts came up on the floor. North has 40% of the membership, while the South only has 23%. We understand it is not equal, but the Grand Council welcomes all alternatives to ensure equal representation. If we can work together towards a ‘fluid’ solution, maybe, just maybe, we can move forward to forming one unified voice for Italian-Americans.

It has been a very hard year with all the officials trying to take away our heritage and our Columbus Day. There has been a united front to group together with other clubs to be aware of different events we all have and to work together to preserve our heritage.

The new membership system still has some issues to work out, but by August, we should be able to use that and only that. Your “per capita” report will look a little different but will have all the same information.

Next years convention will be Wednesday, June 26 – Sunday June 30th at eh Atlantis Hotel in Reno. If you are not a delegate, think about attending a session or two anyway. Every little bit of information helps.

This year, the report of the Judiciary Committee was short and to the point. All questions were answered, even those presented as a ‘Resolution’. Motion to have Grand Lodge Committee Chairs allowed to vote, did not pass by voice vote. I have a copy of all resolution items as addressed by Judiciary Committee and will be happy to share them with you. In short, answers ranged from: a) These items can be considered at a future Convention if properly proposed in a timely manner. b) These items can be brought up during “For the Good of The Order”.

Scholarship Committee received 156 applications and awarded 36. Medical Charities Chair, Michael Carroll, had some outstanding speakers this year and I hated being up front because as hard as I tried ‘NOT’ to cry, just couldn’t hold back some tears after hearing their stories. Next year I am going to sit in the audience.

As for Hall Rentals, 5051 Mission, reported in 2017 there were 22 events with \$40,000 in rent collected by the Grand Lodge. All expenses for the maintaining the building are now covered by rents and there is a surplus. Although improvements have been made, pending maintenance work still needs to be completed. Cost unknow currently. This is as good of a place as any to inform you that it was voted on and approved (by 2/3’s majority) to authorize the Grand Council to sell the Grand Lodge Building on the condition that proceeds from the sale NET a minimum of \$5 million dollars and that no member or past member of the Council will profit from such a sale.

Andy Pampuro has retired from Editor of the Il Leone, so if you are interested, please check out the next issue for specifics in applying for that position. Also, you can get your Il Leone on line if you do not what to have it delivered to your residence. Just let the office know so they can remove you from the mailing list.

Joe LaPorta was voted on and approved to be the third and final board member of the Western Foundation. He has many fundraising resources and activities in mind for the Foundation. Welcome Joe.

Now from one of my favorite parts of the convention... trying something new. The Grand Council Officers were tasked with coming up with Fund Raising Ideas, so I came up with "Tie One On" apron/tie contest in honor of the year of "Italian Cooking".



The contest brought in just under \$1,500. Once the three winners took their cuts, the Youth received almost \$400 and the general Fund made exactly \$500. The youth members painted theirs on site and even gave us a short fashion show as they presented President John with his personalized apron and BBQ utensils. Anna Graeber, who won the tie contest and had four other entries but sold her garments and donated the funds to the Barry Kirshner Wildlife Foundation and Mardell Domenici & Lou Siebel charity "Be Perfect Foundation". It is a foundation in honor of Lou and Ted's son. The foundation works with people that have spinal cord injuries due to their accidents.



Finally, it was time to say, thank you Queen Mary and welcome our new queen, Queen B (as she has approved being called), Queen Brianna Simon.



Fraternally,
Louise Silacci
State Trustee - Central