



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL MEETING IN SANTA ANA – SEPTEMBER 2018

President John Costa:

As of this meeting, membership is 3,897. Many within our OSIA family currently need our support. Membership and fundraising are what needs our attention now.

- ✚ Debbie Hemingway from Sotheby's International Realty has been contacted, but questions must be answered before it can be placed on the market.

1st Vice Arlene Nunziati:

- ✚ New membership system is up and running, but still have the old system as a backup until October. Needed are phone numbers and emails of members. It is hard for the office to communicate with a member if they don't have the correct information.
- ✚ May be losing two lodges in the Central – Giuseppe Mazzini and Salinas.
- ✚ Please recruit some new officers in our lodges so that our current ones don't get burned out.

2nd Vice Sadie Tamburine:

- ✚ Gala was a success.
- ✚ May be losing two lodges in the South – Las Vegas and San Diego

3rd Vice Barbara Wisniewski:

- ✚ Lake County Lodge has closed.
- ✚ Louise Silacci will be re-doing the State Deputy Reports and plans to have them online for your convenience with a "click and send".

State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi:

- ✚ Filial lodges need to be nominating a new slate of officers and prior to that, a note should be placed in all newsletters explaining who is qualified for these offices. This information is in the Bylaw binder and can be found on the state website as well. It begins with Article 39 on page 33 and concludes on page 34 with Article 41. The description of each office follows on page 35 with Article 42 and concludes on page 41 with Article 53. The elections of officers should be

held in the month of November. New Officer forms to the current Recording Secretaries will be sent out and please ensure they are completed.

- ✚ In the month of February, the nomination and election of State Delegates are to take place. It is important to let your members know if they are eligible to be a State Delegate or not. This information is in your Bylaw binder on page 44-45 under Article 57. Once elected, please fill out the form and return as soon as possible.
- ✚ 83rd Grand Convention plans have started. It will be held at the Atlantis Hotel in Reno, Nevada.

State Treasurer Al Trentini:

- ✚ The Grand Lodge currently has two CD's, both total approximately \$154,000.00. After learning rates dropped from 0.65% to 0.20%, it was suggested to move the funds to a Money Market Account.
- ✚ Total on all accounts (General Fund, Mortuary Fund and OSIA-Western Foundation) is \$679,170.06.
- ✚ An Investment Committee was appointed by President Costa which will consist of the Western Foundation Officers and John Tedesco to deal with the above issues.

Western Foundation CAO Roy Vanoni:

- ✚ One request for \$500 was made and approved to help support the Columbus Day festivities at Casa Italiana in Los Angeles. With only \$218.00 in the Civic Events fund, the difference was made up from Italian Language and Culture fund. It needs to be noted that this closes the Civic Events fund. This only means that to continue with celebrating Columbus Day as has been in the past in L.A., they will have to start charging a minimal fee to those attending this event which Sons of Italy has sponsored for many years.

Italian Language and Culture/History Committee-Maria Pignati

- ✚ 2018 has been declared the year of Italian food in the world.
- ✚ Please host events revolving around food...cookie or gravy/sauce contests, making food from different regions and sharing and discussing it at a meeting is a great start.
- ✚ Christmas is just around the corner, just an idea, check out the web site italianchildrensmarket.com. and quarterly Italian American Magazine.

Scholarship Committee-Rosemarie Vanderhaar

- ✚ Packets are being sent to all high schools within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of California.
- ✚ If donating, please state exactly how the scholarship award should read and if it is restricted or not.
- ✚ If a lodge is giving scholarships on their own without going through the Western Foundation, please make sure the application clearly states the name of the lodge and please try not to have a due date so like the Western Foundation's date of March 1st.

Report from Medical Charities – Michael Carroll

- ✚ Alzheimer's Society donations totaled \$5,650.00
- ✚ National Cooley's Anemia Foundations received \$5,377.00
- ✚ Paul Di Lorenzo from Santa Ana and founder of TSP, Thalassemia Support Foundation, received \$1,350.00
- ✚ The American Cancer society received \$2,125.00
- ✚ Your generosity has allowed us to have an increase in donations of 22% for 2017.

Birth Defects Libraries – HazelAnn Christin

- ✚ The donations to Lucile Packard Children's Hospital in Stanford as well as Children's Hospital in Loma Linda have been presented.
- ✚ U.C. Davis will be scheduled for some time in November.

Judiciary Committee – Al Girolami

- ✚ Silence is golden. Nothing to report.

Grand Lodge Building Committee – John Bianco

- ✚ Committee has not met but on Sept. 4th additional information was sent to the attorney to analyze the liability and tax information if the building is sold. No response as of this meeting.

Queen Committee – Eva Lavezzari

- ✚ New rules have been given to the Judiciary Committee to review.
- ✚ On Aug. 10th, five of the nine Royal Pageant participants attended the Anaheim Lodge Night at a baseball game.
- ✚ Invitations have gone out to the Royal Court requesting their participation at the United Lodges Columbus Day Celebration in Los Angeles.

Report on Hall Rental – 5051 Mission – Barbara Muselli

- ✚ Eighteen events were run in the first eight months of the 2018 year.
- ✚ 2019 has two events booked already.
- ✚ Extensive plumbing repairs have been done and should make the building solid for years to come.
- ✚ Current church tenants have rented a small office in addition to the room where they have their church services. They are also renting the parking lot on their meeting days which adds \$450 a month to the rent income.

Leadership Committee – Arlene Nunziati

- ✚ Having conference calls to ensure everyone is on the same page. It's a great tool.
- ✚ Lengthy discussion on recruiting new officers in local lodges. Need to be upfront with members on what is needed from an officer and not “pile” too much work on any one officer.
- ✚ Discussed training sessions run by the area VP's with follow up visits after the new officers are installed to assist with their acclimation to the new position.

Report from Summer National Plenary – Lynn Lawrence-Murphy

- ✚ Financial picture for the Supreme Lodge and Foundation look very bright.
- ✚ An IRS update on all national lodges was given – 36 lodges' non-profit status have been revoked (there are three in California).
- ✚ A reminder that all By-law changes need to be turned in by December, so they can be ready for the June Convention & National Convention in August.
- ✚ New website is coming along very well and in the process of allowing lodges to tie into the new National Website and creating a Business Directory.
- ✚ National Historian Carolyn Reres is asking each state to contact her if you have any statues of Columbus in your area.
- ✚ Starting this year, all donations to charities will be reported yearly rather than bi-annually at the National Convention.

Report from Webmaster – Anna M. Graeber

- ✚ Please send any corrections or updates needed to the Grand Lodge website to osia.ca.webmaster@gmail.com
- ✚ Lodge members are now able to create their own website account with login ID and password to access the members only section.

- ✚ Within the ‘Members Only’ section is a Forum/Message Board. This is a place for all members to share new ideas, questions and suggestions.

Report from Membership Chair – Gary Smith

- ✚ We continue to drop 100 members per quarter.
- ✚ There is an extremely useful document on membership, please call or write any of my committee members for one.
- ✚ Plan to be a major part of the 2nd Annual A Tutta Pizza Fest in Los Angeles. It is a big opportunity to get our name out there.

Report from Grand Lodge Queen – Brianna Simon

- ✚ Have attended meetings, Anniversaries and even an Angel’s baseball games with the Anaheim Lodge. Going out the field of Angels Stadium to sing “Take ME Out to the Ballgame” with other members of the royal court was truly memorable.
- ✚ In the future, looking forward to being a part of the Columbus Day parade in San Francisco.
- ✚ Please send all invitations to your events and I will try to make as many as I can.

Report from Ritual and Protocol – Donna Lee Lawrence Costa

- ✚ Changes have been approved by National on our Ritual and Protocol. Currently they pertain to new member initiation ceremonies and as more changes get approved you will be updated.

Report from Garibaldi/Meucci Museum – Joy Bruno

- ✚ Museum will be hosting its 30th Annual Fundraiser Luncheon Saturday, Nov. 3rd.
- ✚ The new DVD “Hearing Voices” as shown at the convention in June is available if anyone would like copies. Contact me at 707-422-3391.

In closing, I would like to remind all members that our Grand Council Meetings are held all over the state. I urge that when it comes to your area, you attend and see for yourself, the time and effort it takes to keep our order running smoothly.

Fraternally,

Louise Silacci, State Trustee - Central