



81st Grand Lodge of California Sons of Italy Convention
Fresno, California June 22 – 24 2017

The rooms were clean. The food and entertainment were fabulous. The air conditioners worked great. So, I would consider this convention a SUCCESS. Oh...you want to know what happened? OK, here is my report-

Our very own Youth Lodge Members – Francis, Alec, John, and Ann Marie Tesoriere took second place in the Bocce Tournament and were cheered on by the Sant Agata Cheer Squad plus a few passersby. They even won prize money and were invited to the awards ceremony where they made #1543 very proud. Of course, I cannot leave out Jackie, Hazel Ann, Louise T. and myself, who gave it the ole college SOI try, but no cigar. We lost 11 – 3 at our one and only game;

The election of new officers for 2017 – 2019 are as follows:

President – John Costa – Northern District

1st Vice – Arlene Nunziati – Central District

2nd Vice – Sadie Tamburine – Southern District

3rd Vice – Barbara Wisniewski – Northern District

State Orator – Mark Vaona – Southern District

State Recording Secretary – Lori Rossi – Northern District

State Financial Secretary – Gabe Domenici – Southern District

State Treasurer – Al Trentini – Southern District

Trustees North – Bill Murphy & Ray Bini

Trustees Central – Pauline Richmond & Louise Silacci (yes *me...* which means we need to have an election of Vice President, because Charles will now move up to President).

Trustees South – Manny Finazzo & Carmine Baffo

“The appointed Chairpersons will be announced once they have all be notified by President John Costa and accept the position. Look for this announcement in the Il Leoni when it comes out in September.

As many of you already know, our Bylaw proposal conflicted with the Supreme Lodge and therefore was not considered for a vote at this convention, but the Bylaw changes proposed by the Enrico Caruso and Roma Lodges failed to get a 2/3's vote, so the number of delegates per lodge will remain the same as it is now. We are very fortunate to have them both in our backyard because they know what they want to say and say it. We all need to be very proud of our United Lodges – Lodges. (Tulare, Clovis, Fresno, Visalia & Hanford).

The Grand Lodge Building in San Francisco, now has a new Hall Rental Manager and seems to be on the right track to start bringing in more appropriate funds for its location and size. The delegates approved the spending of funds to give members all the answers needed to make an informed decision about whether to sell or not/ where to move or not/ to give or not to punt under Western Foundation. A new committee was appointed representing all three districts and answers to very specific questions will be given to the board by September's Grand Council meeting in Santa Clara.

The last big-ticket item was the Western Foundations' Donations. Once again, our fellow brothers and sisters were extremely generous. I did not catch the final total, but I know it topped last year's donations. Our California National Delegation members and California dignitaries will be John and Donna Costa, Bill and Lynn Murphy, Al, and Vera Girolami, Arlene Nunziati, Pauline Richmond, Sadie Tamburine, and Maria Fassio Pignati. They will be presenting OVER \$20,800 from California at the convention being held in Florida, in the name of Alzheimer's, Cooley's Anemia, Autism, and Garibaldi-Meucci Museum.

In closing, I want to personally thank Jackie Giacomazzi for attending as a guest and taking all the beautiful pictures that were posted on our Facebook page. Also to Charles and Joyce Sant Agata, Louise Tesoriere and family and Danny Dattola for taking time from their busy schedules to come up to Fresno and be a part of this very important event for our order.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Silacci

Louise Silacci – now your Immediate Past President & current Central State Trustee