



# il GIORNALETTO



ORDER SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA  
P.O. Box 1543 Hanford, California 93232 Lodge No. 1543



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[2019 Calendar of Events](#)

## JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Agenda: No Meeting

Officer Meeting: 5 pm, August 4, 2019  
at Hot Dog Roast



[Last Meeting Minutes June  
2019](#)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Order Sons and Daughters  
of Italy in America

## THE ORDER SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA TURNS 114!



Originally called "Figli d'Italia," the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America® was established in the

Little Italy neighborhood of New York City on June 22, 1905, by Vincenzo Sellaro, M.D., and five other Italian immigrants who came to the United States during the great Italian migration (1880-1923).

Their aim was to create a support system for all Italian immigrants that would assist them with becoming U.S. citizens, provide health/death benefits and educational opportunities and offer assistance with assimilation in America. We continue that mission through our National Supreme Lodge, Sons of Italy Foundation and Commission for Social Justice.

Today, we are a national organization of men and women who represent the estimated 26 million Americans of Italian heritage, dedicated to promoting our culture, our traditions, our language, the legacy of our ancestors, and our contributions to the U.S. and the world. With members and lodges across the United States of America and Canada, we continue to be the largest and oldest organization for people of Italian heritage.

### Inaugural Address by OSDIA Founder Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro

*The following is a translation from Italian of the inaugural address given by Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro, founder of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. Lost since 1935, the speech was discovered recently by Professor Frank P. Oliveri of Rochester, New York, who also translated it. OSDIA is deeply grateful to Professor Oliveri.*

Today is the 22nd of June 1905! Today we are blessed with a magnificent day of sunshine. Today the Almighty has brought us together for a purpose. We are all brothers and sisters, who represent every corner of Italy.

No matter what part of Italy we came from, we are first and foremost Italians. I happen to be from Sicily; our pharmacist, Ludovico Ferrara is from Piedmont; our attorney, Antonio Marzullo is from Campania; Giuseppe Carlino, a sculptor, from Lazio; and our barbers, Pietro Viscardi is from Calabria, and Roberto Merlo is from Tuscany.

But we cannot continue to treat each other as sub-nationalities of the Italian peninsula. If we do, we will not only remain weak as a nationality in the larger American society, but we will also find it difficult to achieve our rightful place of influence and respect as we help make this country greater than ever before. This wonderful country can only become the richer and more cultured as a result of our efforts.

Today we are gathered together for one main purpose—a purpose that I believe someday will become a very important part of American history. We are the newest of the immigrants to this great country and because of the fierce and undeserved prejudice and discrimination that we have had to suffer for nearly two decades, we must begin to work together for our common good.

We must educate ourselves and insist that our children receive the best education possible. Only through education will we understand the ways and beliefs of this marvelous adopted country of ours, and be treated as equal and worthy American citizens.

We left our native land for a new life, in order to survive. Our former country and its government demonstrated after so many years of trying, that it was simply not capable of providing us what we deserved--a decent and respectable life.

The majority of us have come to these shores as the poorest of all Italians, and the least educated of most of Europe. But we are also the most courageous for having made the decision to come here we left behind our motherland and our families, in the hope, not to find a new life, but to earn a better one.

Before leaving Italy, only a few of us were fortunate enough to have received an education. Many of us reached these shores as common laborers, tenant farmers, field workers and shepherds, gardeners, fishermen. But just as many of us came as skilled artisans -- masons, carpenters, stonecutters, bakers, tailors and miners. And our contribution as tradesmen, lawyers, teachers, accountants, entrepreneurs, pharmacists, and yes, doctors as well—is second to none.

One of our most important objectives should be to bring over the rest of our family members we left behind in Italy and do that as soon as possible. The other objective that all of us must keep in mind at all times is that at all times whatever we say or do must enhance the greatness of this wonderful country that has received so many of us. We ask only for the opportunity to earn a living! We are not here to be a burden. By staying united and helping one another we will achieve all our goals.

Some say that history has dealt us a bad hand because we are the last to come to America, but I say to them, “Wasn’t it one of our own who discovered America?” While others

might have come here with masters and, in many cases, as slaves, we have come of our own accord. We are a free people.

It is because of this that today I have a dream and a hope that someday, even if it takes a hundred more years before we are fully accepted, our children and their children's children, even if they carry a single drop of Italian blood will be able and proud to continue to carry on our traditions, our culture and our language. It is up to us, and what we do today!

My full Convention Report is included on our website.

Louise Silacci, - President



## SUNSHINE

*Debbie Nardini*

We just learned of the passing on July 18<sup>th</sup> of our dear brother **Bob Counter**. Bob has been a member of the Hanford Lodge since January 1990. We offer our condolences to his widow JoAnn Counter, son and daughter-in-law – Jamie and Suzann Counter, grandchildren – Kyle and Kelsi Counter and great grandchildren Brayden and Kayden Counter. We will have a write-up in the next newsletter.

**Richard Mattos** is at the Hacienda. He can have visitors and cards are appreciated as well. The address is Hacienda Post-Acute 351 E Grangeville Blvd., Hanford, CA 93230, Room 200B

**Joyce Sant'Agata** had a visit to the hospital in June and is currently awaiting treatment

for her back that will hopefully give her some relief.

**Gio Giacomazzi** had a trip to the emergency room after a mishap with a golf cart. He had lots of scrapes and bruises and 2 or 3 fractured fingers. He is doing fine.

Would you please keep **Bodhi Cuddalare Patta** in your prayers as he spent some time in the hospital in Amsterdam.

## STATE DELEGATES CONVENTION REPORTS RENO, NEVADA JUNE 26 - 30, 2019

I drove up with fellow delegate Mike Leoni on Wednesday June 26<sup>th</sup>, & arrived at the hotel at 3:30 p.m. we registered, went to our rooms & then to the bocci tournament that afternoon.

On Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, I & my fellow trustees Mike Leoni & Louise Tesoriere attended the two general sessions which consisted of reports from the various committees & the nomination of state officers – speeches followed from all the nominees. At 7 pm that evening I attended the “theme night” – Star Wars dinner. There were a lot of interesting costumes at the event, but our president, Louise Silacci, in my opinion, had the best one - she came as a gorilla!! A night of dancing followed.

Early Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m., I went to vote for the various positions for state office. Then i attended two general sessions. At the first session additional reports were given &, after the final count, the following officers for 2019 were announced. They are:

State President John Costa; 1<sup>st</sup>. VP, Barbara Wisniewski; 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Pauline Richmond; 3<sup>rd</sup> VP, Sadie Tamburine; Immediate past pres., Lynn Lawrence Murphy; Orator, Mark Vaona; Recording secretary, Lori Rossi; Financial Secretary, David Lavezzari; Treasurer, Al Trentini; Head State Trustee, Ray Bini; Trustee North, Bill Murphy; Trustees Central, Pamela Buldo & Mary Jane Cambria; Trustees South, Manny Finazzo & Hank Lowinger; State Arbiters Mark Rossi, Pamela Ricci, George Simoni, Annette Porter, & Andy Pampuro; National Delegates: Maria Pignatti & Arlene Nunziati.

At the 2nd general session more reports were given & all the resolutions presented were rejected. Then, at 7 p.m., I attended "entertainment night" which included dinner, dancing to a live orchestra & being entertained by a great comedian/singer.

On Saturday the 29th at 7:30 a.m., I voted for my choice of 3 state vice presidents. The results, are noted above. Also, it was reported that we ended the year in the black.

The remainder of the morning & afternoon sessions included lodges & individuals donating monies to various charities we support, including the western foundation. In addition, various new officers & individuals made remarks, including our second term president, John Costa. That evening I attended the black & white ball where dinner was served & various scholarships were given with remarks from all of the recipients. In my opinion, each one deserved their scholarship.

On June 30<sup>th</sup> I checked out of the hotel & joined Mike Leoni for the ride home. Thank you, Mike!

Respectfully submitted,  
CHARLES SANT'AGATA, DELEGATE

Hi there friends and Members:

Our Lodge saw fit to send me to the Grand Lodge Convention the last week of June. Thank you for your confidence in me. I'm afraid we have had more successful convention.

A couple of items:

1. The Grand Lodge membership is down, and I get the feeling that they are trying to manage the decline.
2. The Grand Lodge building is making money (at least on paper) and is unlikely to be fixed to my expectation or sold.
3. The Queen Contest is officially a Royale Court. Rules are for both men and women.
4. The Grand Lodge Treasurer quit 2 weeks before the Convention and the lodge's books are not in order as of yet.
5. Last but not least, I lost \$350 at blackjack. I did enjoy playing between 3:00am and 7:00am each morning.

On the other hand, Annamarie (Miss America) represented the Hanford Lodge with grace and dignity. I was very proud. Louse Tesoriere and Charles Sant'Agata did an upstanding job as deletes as did Louise Silacci Draxler as Grand Trustee. The Delegation elected new Officers. I'm hopeful we will have a competent Treasurer. There are a few new faces, but not any younger.

On a lighter note, just because I am paranoid, does not mean they aren't out to get me! On the floor of the Convention, I made a few spirited remarks about my thoughts on having men in a Queen contest. That night at dinner, I was seated at the same table as the Royale Court. I did get a chance to talk to Joey Perez (Mr. Convention City) and he is a fine young man. The next night dining found me seated next to Joey's parents. His mother is an absolute joy to be around. I don't think this was the

coincidence it was passed off as. Still I had a wonderful time both nights.

Fraternally Yours  
Michael Leoni

## QUEEN REPORT



“Hi everyone!

I hope y’all are keeping cool! I had an amazing time at Convention this year, especially getting to see my girls from the Central Valley! I can’t believe we only have one more year together in the Royal Court. Time sure flies by fast! Congratulations to our new and returning officers of the Grand Lodge and thank you to those who no longer hold positions for your service, it has been wonderful! I’m looking forward to our 90th Anniversary dinner coming up in September! I hope to see you all there! Including our Weiner Roast that we have at the Giacomazzi’s house, come out for some delicious food and some bocce! Hope you guys are having an awesome summer.

Love,  
Queen Annamarie

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR YOUTH



*Gianna Gomes & Kixton Meeks hanging out at Hanford Fraternal Hall, watching their Nono’s Mark Nardini & Michael Leoni, BBQ for the 2019 Pork Feed on Friday, June 14, 2019.*



*Blake Scialo placed 2nd in Replacement class Heat 1 at the Kings County Fair on May 30, 2019*



*Miro Giacomazzi with his First Awards for showing his PYGMY Goat.*



*Proud parents and grandparents of Kings Fair winners Miro and Gio Giacomazzi*

**GRADUATION FROM KINDERGARTEN TO  
GRADUATION FROM COLLEGE, THE  
FUTURE OF OUR LODGE IS IN GOOD HANDS**



*Gio Giacomazzi proud of his entry in the Kings Fair*



*Gio graduate of kindergarten at Jefferson charter school in Hanford*



*Kent Sheldon had the Grand Champion Market Steer and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Showmanship*



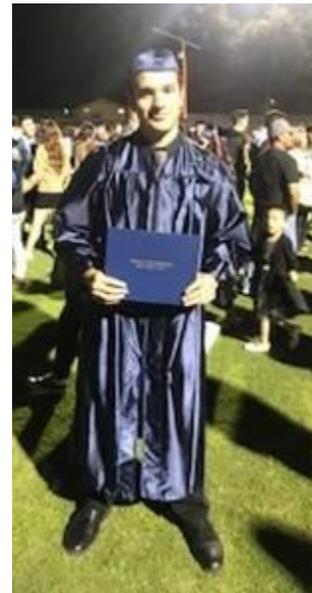
*Hanna Hageboeck A graduate of eighth grade at Stanley Middle School in Lafayette California*



*Kent Sheldon graduated from Hanford High receiving the honors of CSF Seal Bearer and Golden State Seal of Merit Diploma*



*Giulia Fernandez 8th grade graduate from Joaquin Miller Middle School Saratoga California*



*“John Tesoriere graduated from the College of Sequoias, earning an Associates' Degree in AOJ (Administration of Justice). He plans to Transfer to Fresno State in the Spring. He graduated with a 4.0 GPA this past semester and made the President's List all throughout his time at COS. Congrats John!”*

# UNITED LODGES MEETING HOSTED BY HANFORD LODGE

by Jackie Giacomazzi

On June 9, 2019, the United Lodges of the San Joaquin Valley was held at the Kings County Historical Society's meeting room in Hanford. The Hanford Lodge was the host. The committee with President Louise Tesoriere in charge, consisted of Tony and Louise Tesoriere, Debbie Nardini, Michael Leoni and me (Jackie G.)

About 30 members and guests were treated to a luncheon featuring lasagna, salad, rolls, and sherbet prepared and served by the committee.

Mark Vaona, State Orator was the guest speaker. He gave members an update on what was happening with the Grand Lodge building, explaining the ramifications on why it has not yet been on the market for sale. He also answered many questions asked of him to the best of his ability.

As a matter of business, it was approved to access each lodge dues of \$200.00 per year. With this money, a donation of \$1000.00 can be made each May to the Birth Defect Library at Valley Children's Hospital. No other fundraisers will be necessary.

The opportunity drawing winners were as follows: Doris Hildreth, \$100.00; Annamarie Tesoriere, \$40.00; Carol Watson, \$10.00.

The next meeting will be held on September 8, 2019, with Roma Lodge of Tulare as host.



[PICTURE MOVIE OF UNITED LODGES  
JUNE MEETING](#)



[PICTURE MOVIE OF UNITED LODGES  
JUNE MEETING \(MP4 FORMAT\)](#)



**PHOTOS LODGE  
MEETING JUNE, 2019**





## BIRTHDAYS

Alec	Tesoriere	7/8
Anthony (Tony)	Tesoriere	7/8
Nancy	Allen	7/10
Dolores	Scopel	7/10
Yvette	Tesoriere	7/10
Tyler	Webb	7/20
Cheryl	Lehn	7/23
Dino	Giacomazzi	7/27
Bill	Hatfield	7/28
Richard	Martella	7/28
Kassidy	Sheldon	7/31
Pam	Foster	8/11

Danny	Sheldon	8/14
Jackson	Virgadamo	8/15
Miro	Giacomazzi	8/17
Rochelle	Lourenco	8/21
Shirley	Woods	8/24
Mason	Christin	8/26

Did we miss your birthday?  
Let Janis Hansen know at 582-4731 or  
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ITALIAN WORD OF THE DAY



## LODGE OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

Anna Williams \$100  
Louise Tesoriere \$40  
Anna Williams \$10.00

# HANFORD SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY ANNUAL HOT DOGS AND SWIMMING



**WHEN:** SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2019

**WHERE:** GIACOMAZZI POOL/LILIA'S YARD

**TIME:** SWIMMING 3:00 P.M.

**DINNER:** 6:00 P.M.



**HOTDOGS, BUNS, DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED**

**THOSE ATTENDING PLEASE BRING A SALAD OR DESSERT**

**\*\*\*OUR TESORIERE FAMILY WILL BE ON HAND TO DO THE COOKING!!  
(MILLE GRAZIE, RICHARD AND YVETTE)**

**OFFICER'S MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 5 P.M. AT JACKIE'S**

**PLEASE RSVP TO: 584.7433 or [jackiegiacomazzi@gmail.com](mailto:jackiegiacomazzi@gmail.com)**

**STAY COOL!!**



*Save the Date*  
*Come help us Celebrate*  
*Hanford Lodge #1543*



*September 21, 2019*  
*Wyndham Hotel & Resort*  
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❖ *More information to follow*

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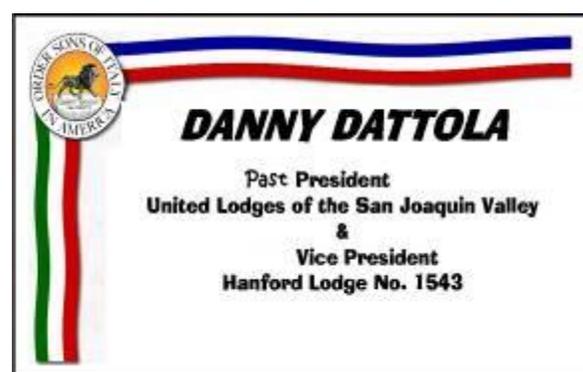
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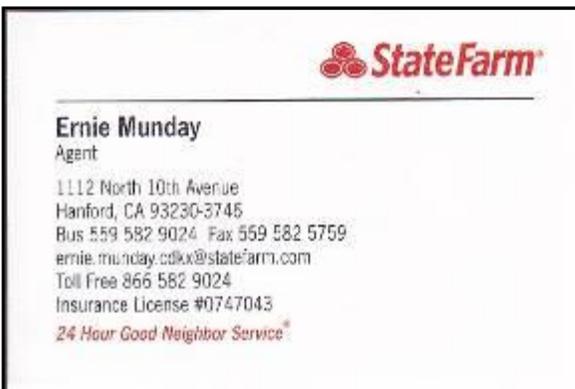
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