

**GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA**  
**Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America**

**84th GRAND CONVENTION – Zoom Meeting – 2021**

**OFFICIAL NOTICE**

This is the OFFICIAL NOTICE that the 84th Grand Convention of the Grand Lodge of California will be held by Zoom on the following days:

**Saturday, June 26**

**The Convocation of the Grand Lodge will be as follows:**

**ORDER OF PRESENTATION**

1. Opening of the 84th Grand Convention
2. Roll Call of the Grand Convention Officers
3. Composition of Grand Lodge Districts..... pg. 3
4. Minutes of the 83rd Grand Convention..... pg. 4
5. Report of the State President..... pg. 43
6. Reports of the Vice Presidents.....pg. 45-51
7. Report of the Immediate Past State President.....pg. 52
8. Report of the State Orator
9. Report of the State Recording Secretary..... pg. 53
10. Report of the State Financial Secretary..... separate report.....
11. Report of the Budget & Finance Committee
12. Report of the State Treasurer..... pg. 55
13. Report of the Head State Trustee.....pg. 56
14. NECROLOGIO - Commemoration of Departed Members....pg 57-61  
**(Moment of Silence)**

**OFFICIAL NOTICE ~ ORDER OF PRESENTATIONS: (Continued)**

**15. CONSENT AGENDA (items a through r)**

- a) Report of the Judiciary Committee (By-Law Changes).....pg. 62
- b) Report of the Western Foundation .....pg. 69
- c) Report of the Italian Language, Culture and History Committee.....pg. 71
- d) Report of the SOI WF California Golf Classic Tournament.....pg. 72-73
- e) Report of the Scholarship & Students to Italy Committee.....pg. 74
- f) Report of the Medical Charities Committee.....pg. 78
- g) Report of the Birth Defects Libraries.....pg. 79
- h) Report of the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum Committee.....pg. 81
- i) Report of the Hall Rental Manager
- j) Report of the Social Justice Committee
- k) Report of the Media Committee.....pg. 82
- l) Report of the Investment Committee.....pg. 83
- m) Report of the Webmaster
- n) Report of the Grand Lodge Convention Committee
- o) Report of the Youth Committee.....pg. 84
- p) Report of the Ritual and Protocol Committee.....pg. 85
- q) Report of the Royal Pageant Committee.....pg.86

16. National Presentation

17. Installation of New State Officers

18. Good and Welfare of the Order

19. Closing of the Grand Convention





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*Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America  
Grand Lodge of California*

**Minutes from the 83<sup>rd</sup> Grand Convention**

**June 27-29, 2019**

**Reno, Nevada**

**~Thursday, June 27, 2019**

The Opening Ceremony of the 83rd Grand Convention of the Grand Lodge of California, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America took place on Thursday, June 27, 2019 at the Atlantis Casino and Resort in Reno, Nevada at 8:30AM.

The Mistresses and Masters of Ceremony were introduced by the Grand Herald, Madeline Zunino, from the Cristoforo Colombo Lodge #1534. They included: Michael Colletti Smith, Vincenzo Bellini Lodge #2519, Sharon Roberts, Shasta Lodge #2453, Angela Silva, Cornelia Vita Nuova Lodge #1198, Alan Miller, Napa Lodge #2043, Jessica Ray, Beatrice Portinari Lodge #1626, John Salizonni Eureka Lodge #1274, Rick Silveira, Virgilio Lodge #1586, Marisa Miller, Napa Lodge #2043, Mark Rossi, Northern Solano Lodge #2534 and Carol Esposito, C Colombo Lodge #1315.

The Grand Herald requested the Mistresses and Masters of Ceremony to retreat to the back of the hall in preparation of escorting the dignitaries into the hall.

Grand Herald Madeline Zunino began the introductions of the Committee Chairs, who stood up when introduced:

Grand Lodge Office Manager Alexis Cardenas

Medical Charities - Michael Carroll

Garibaldi-Meucci Museum-Joy Bruno

Scholarship Committee/Students to Italy- Rosemarie Vanderhaar

Youth Committee - Brian Watson

Royal Pageant Committee – Eva Lavezzari

Media Committee - Andy Pampuro

Webmaster-Anna Graeber

Budget & Finance – David Lavezzari

The Grand Herald then introduced the following Past State Presidents:

John Tedesco

Western Foundation CAO Roy Vanoni

Italian Language, Culture and History Chair Maria Fassio-Pignati

The Grand Herald then introduced the State Officers as they were escorted in:

Carmine Baffo-State Trustee South

Manny Finazzo-State Trustee South

Pauline Richmond-Head State Trustee Central

Louise Silacci-State Trustee Central

Bill Murphy-State Trustee North

Ray Bini-State Trustee North

Lori Rossi-State Recording Secretary, Co Convention Coordinator

Mark Vaona-State Orator

Lynn Lawrence-Murphy-Immediate Past State President, Co Convention Coordinator

Barbara Wisniewski-State 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

Sadie Tamburine-State 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Arlene Nunziati-State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Leadership Chair

Father Adam Forno-National Chaplain

At this time, the Grand Herald introduced Vera F. Girolami, National President of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, and her husband Al Girolami, Judiciary Chairman. The delegation gave our National President a standing ovation.

The Grand Herald introduced the Royal Pageant Court: Gianna Benedetti, Miss California, Marissa Lavezzari, Miss Italy, Annamarie Tesoriere, Miss America and our Grand Lodge Queen Brianna Simon.

The Grand Herald then introduced our First Lady and Ritual and Protocol Chair DonnaLee Lawrence-Costa.

The Grand Herald then introduced our State President John J. Costa. Our delegation gave our State President a standing ovation.

The Grand Herald thanked the Mistresses and Masters of Ceremony for their service for this ceremony. She then asked the Mistress and Masters of Ceremony Michael Colletti Smith and Sharon Roberts to take their place at the altar.

Immediate Past State President Lynn Lawrence-Murphy thanked our Grand Herald Madeline Zunino for serving as our Grand Herald. She then asked our Host Lodge President Pamela Ricci, from the Cristoforo Colombo Lodge #1534 to welcome our delegates to Reno. Pamela Ricci gave a wonderful welcoming speech. Pamela Ricci then had a few presentations to make. Her lodge presented a gift to our Grand Lodge Queen, Brianna Simon and our First Lady DonnaLee Lawrence-Costa. Pamela Ricci also presented a gift to our State President John Costa.

Immediate Past State President Lynn Lawrence-Murphy instructed the Grand Lodge of California Sons and Daughters of Italy in America Color Guard to present the colors. Hugh Ricci from the Cristoforo Colombo Lodge #1534 introduced them. They are as follows: Rick Silveira, Virgilio Lodge #1586, Brian Sinaguglia, Centinela Valley Lodge #1991, Bernard Torres, Centinela Valley Lodge #1991. Hugh Ricci instructed the Color Guard to post the colors. Rick Branch from the Virgilio Lodge #1586 led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this time, Past State President Maria Fassio-Pignati was asked to sing the Italian National Anthem and the National Anthem of the United States of America.

National Chaplain Father Adam Forno gave a moving invocation. He also stated that the honor and privilege is his to be present during our convention.

Immediate Past State President Lynn Lawrence-Murphy asked Eva Lavezzari, Royal Pageant Committee Chair, to come up to the podium and introduce the Royal Pageant Court. Mr. Convention City, Joseph Perez, Miss California Gianna Benedetti, Miss Italy Marissa Lavezzari, Miss America Annamarie Tesoriere all spoke about their experience in the last year and what they have planned for the next year. Our Grand Lodge Queen, Brianna Simon was then introduced. She welcomed us to the 83<sup>rd</sup> Grand Convention and is looking forward to visiting with us and her Court. She wished those running for office much luck and thanked those officers that will be leaving office for their time served.

At this time, Immediate Past State President Lynn Lawrence-Murphy asked that First Lady DonnaLee Lawrence-Costa join her husband, State President John Costa by his side. Sister Lynn

Lawrence-Murphy then turned the meeting over to State President John J. Costa. State President Costa then declared the 83<sup>rd</sup> Grand Convention open and that we will commence the business of our Grand Lodge as set forth by the agenda. State Officers were then asked to don their regalia.

State President John J. Costa then dedicated this convention to our deceased members, especially Chris Lotito, a Past State President who dedicated his time and talent to our Order.

State President John J. Costa then gave his welcome speech. Membership is the key to our existence. We do have many members joining, however, the number of members cancelling membership is growing faster. He thanked all members who donated to the devastating fires we have had in the past year in our beautiful state. He reviewed some of the business that took place this past year.

Roll call was taken with the following State Officers present: State President John Costa, State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Arlene Nunziati, State 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Sadie Tamburine, State 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Barbara Wisniewski, Immediate Past State President Lynn Lawrence-Murphy, State Orator Mark Vaona, State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi, State Trustees North Bill Murphy, Ray Bini, State Trustees Central Head State Trustee Pauline Richmond, Louise Silacci, State Trustees South Manny Finazzo and Carmine Baffo. An absence included State Treasurer Al Trentini. A quorum was met. State Officers were asked to don their regalia.

Our National President Vera Girolami was invited to say a few words about our National Lodge. Our Grand Lodge has a lot to be proud of. The donation of \$200,000, made by our Grand Lodge and other Grand Lodges for the Disaster Relief was put to good use. The National COO Joe DiTrapani travelled to Italy and met singer Andrea Bocelli for the unveiling of the new school, built by those funds. The National Lodge has received a large Legacy donation. This means that there will be no Per Capita increase for the next few years.

Maria Fassio Pignati was introduced to perform the Necrologio for the 2018 year. She did a wonderful job honoring our deceased members.

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### **Ratification of Districts**

State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi was asked to ratify the districts for the year 2018. The Ratification of Districts can be found in the Report Book on page 44. State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi asked for a motion to accept the Ratification of Districts report. A motion was made by Pamela Ricci, President Cristoforo Colombo Lodge #1543, to accept the Ratification of Districts for 2018. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Olivia DeLiddo Gallegos, President Colombo-Stella Lodge #1149. The motion passed.

State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi introduced the Internal and External Resolutions Chairperson, Donna Ferreira, Modesto Lodge #2021. Any Internal and External Resolutions must be turned in to Donna Ferreira by Friday, June 28 by 4PM.

State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi also introduced Rick Branch, Virgilio Lodge #1586, who is the Captain of the Guards and also the Election Committee Chairperson. The Election Committee is listed in the Report Book. Rick Branch will hold a meeting this afternoon to review the duties of this committee. State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Arlene Nunziati mentioned that the Columbia Lodge #1940 does not have a representative on this committee and would like someone appointed to represent the candidate from the Columbia Lodge. Angie Fanucchi, Columbia Lodge #1940, was added to the committee.

### **Minutes of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Grand Convention**

State President John Costa asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 82<sup>nd</sup> Grand Convention, held in Ontario, CA on June 28-30, 2018. A motion was made by State Orator Mark Vaona to approve the minutes as written. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Annette Porter, President Centinela Valley Lodge #1991. There were no questions regarding the minutes. The motion passed with one (1) vote opposed.

State President John Costa reminded the delegation to silence their cellphones. If your phone rings you will be fined \$10 and if you answer the call, the fine will be \$25.

State President John Costa then read a message from National Recording Secretary Phil Privitera. He was saddened to inform us that he is unable to attend our 83<sup>rd</sup> Grand Convention. Phil has asked Andy Pampuro, Media Chairman, to approach the microphone. Brother Phil donated \$1,000 to the Il Leone.

State President John Costa then fined Larry Romanazzi, President Enrico Caruso Lodge #1463, \$5 for wearing shorts to the session.

### **State Officer Reports**

**State President**-Brother John Costa requested that the State Officers use some Bullet Points from their reports to give to our delegation. Retention is our biggest issue. Members need to feel welcome and become engaged in their lodge. There were no questions.

**State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**-Sister Arlene Nunziati reviewed her report and the events that she was able to attend throughout the state.

**Leadership**-Sister Arlene Nunziati reported that the State Vice Presidents have had several conference calls and spoke about issues in their area.

**State 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**-Sister Sadie Tamburine thanked her State Deputies for their work and sending in the Quarterly Reports. She also spoke about the 2018 Humanitarian Gala. There was a lot of camaraderie and was successful. She also attended the 2019 NELA Awards. It was very rewarding to see the young scholarship winners.



**State 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President**-Sister Barbara Wisniewski gave us some great news. She is now cancer free! She thanked everyone for the cards and words of encouragement. She also spoke about the importance of membership and retention.

**Immediate Past State President**-Sister Lynn Lawrence-Murphy reviewed her report. She also spoke about retention and making all members welcome to your meetings. Sister Lynn also spoke about the issues that people in this country are having with Christopher Columbus. He was a discoverer and opened the door to the New World.

**State Orator**-Brother Mark Vaona's report is not in the Report Book. He thanked State President John Costa and First Lady Donna Lee Lawrence-Costa for hosting the Grand Council in their home at the March Grand Council meeting. We were all invited to their home for dinner and fraternity. The next night, the Beatrice Portinari Lodge #1626 and Virgilio Lodge #1586 then hosted the Grand Council and all attendees to their lodge building for homemade raviolis and roast beef. It was a very nice gesture.

**State Recording Secretary**-Sister Lori Rossi informed us that we have a new Office Manager, Alexis Cardenas. Please make every attempt to introduce yourself to her. The Grand Lodge office has a new phone service. We have discontinued the fax line. Most communication is done by e-mail. When sending in information to the Webmaster, please make sure that the information is formatted in a PDF form. There is an hourly charge from the company that we use and if we exceed it, we are charged for that time. The nomination of State Officers will take place this afternoon and the voting will take place tomorrow morning, (Friday) at 7:30AM in this room. Any State Officer that has election material that they would like to distribute, will be done during the lunch break today.

The Budget and Finance Chairman, David Lavezzari handed out the proposed budget for July 2019-December 2019 for review. We will discuss and vote on this at a later date.

**Head State Trustee**-Sister Pauline Richmond reviewed the duties of a State Trustee. All Trustees were present for the State Trustee meeting. She informed us that because of the issue with our State Financial Secretary resigning his position, the requested audit information is incomplete at this time. Head State Trustee Pauline Richmond is asking that the audit of the books from April 2019-June 2019 be postponed until the September 2019 Grand Council meeting. A motion was made by Donna Lee Lawrence-Costa, President St. Helena Lodge #2077, to approve the report and audit postponement. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andy Pampuro, Saddleback Valley Lodge #2566. Motion passed.

**State Financial Secretary**-Financial Secretary Gabe Domenici has resigned his position. His resignation came in May 2019. Past State President John Tedesco was asked by State President John Costa to step in and help with this position. Past State President John Tedesco reported that the current figures will need to be audited and sent out to the delegates for approval. There are a few issues with the Life Insurance payments in that the monthly premiums were overpaid for the last 10 years or so. Brother John has found where the error occurred and will

contact the Life Insurance company and ask for reimbursement or lesser monthly premium payment. There is no report of the State Financial Secretary to approve at this time. Brother Tedesco asked for questions at this time. David DePaoli, delegate from Roma Lodge #1573, said this does not sound right. There are no financial officers present at this meeting. He would like to have an external audit. State President John Costa asked Past State President John Tedesco, who is a former State Financial Secretary and Ugo Pignati, also a former State Financial Secretary, to review the General Fund books and the Western Foundation books. Joe Bonino, delegate from Eureka Lodge #1274, wanted clarification that the Western Foundation books are accurate and correct. State President John Costa stated that yes, the Western Foundation books are accurate and correct, thanks to Ugo Pignati for the time he took in auditing the Western Foundation books.

Another question asked was do we hire a private firm for our finances? The Grand Lodge has never had an outside firm to provide our financial reports. We do have an outside company to file our tax returns.

A motion was made by David DePaoli, delegate from Roma Lodge #1573, to hire a 3rd party CPA to audit the financials for the General Fund. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larry Dutto, President Roma Lodge #1573. The subject was open for discussion. Ken Cuneo, President of Monterey Lodge #2003, had a few points. It is very important that this body have full confidence that this audit needs to take place. We need to give the officers the time to provide us with the correct information. They have not had enough time to review the numbers before this convention. Linda DePalma, delegate Cornelia-Vita Nuova Lodge #1198, stated that we should give the volunteers the time to review and audit the books. If we are not satisfied after their review, then we can ask for an outside audit. Past State President John Tedesco suggested to pause the motion and review the report labeled OSIA General Fund Balance Sheet and OSIA General Fund Profit and Loss Year to Date Comparison. These reports are complete and we could review these reports line by line and will answer most of your questions. We could table the motion. David DePaoli rejected this suggestion. Charles Sant'Agata, delegate Hanford Lodge #1543, stated that sometimes mistakes are made. It's time to have another audit for the sake of our Order. Several other delegates spoke against the audit. Let them review the numbers and we can come back to the audit, if needed.

A voice vote was taken and it was inconclusive. State President John Costa asked for a stand-up vote and asked the Guards to help with the count. The motion failed. It did not pass.

State President John Costa stated that Past State President John Tedesco will continue to review the books and when he is finished, the report will be e-mailed to the delegates for their approval. Past State President John Tedesco reviewed the General Fund Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss statement. He also noted that these are not final reports. Brother John Tedesco then opened up for questions. There were a few questions regarding the Profit and Loss report. State President John Costa thanked Past State President John Tedesco and Ugo Pignati for all the time they have taken to review the books.

**Credential Report Thursday, June 27, 2019 AM**

<b>State Delegates</b>	<b>Should Have</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>State Delegates</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>State Officers</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Past State Presidents</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Emeritus</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>127</b>

<b>Local Lodges</b>		
	<b>Should Have</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Full Representation</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Partial Representation</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>No Representation</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>46</b>

**Partial Representation**

<b>Lodge Name and Number</b>	<b>Delegate</b>
<b>Dolly Sinatra Lodge #2400</b>	<b>No Name</b>

**No Representation**

<b>Salinas Lodge #2082</b>
<b>Paradiso Lodge #2743</b>

A motion was made to accept the Thursday, June 27, 2019 AM Credential Report by Pamela Bini, President Beatrice Portinari Lodge #1626. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jessica Ray, Beatrice Portinari Lodge #1626. Motion passed.

**Committee Reports**

**Hall Rental Committee**-State President John Costa reviewed the report. Barbara Muselli, Hall Rental Manager, is working on renting the parking lot to local businesses. A question asked was if the tile in the front lobby replaced? The flooring is actually Terrazzo, and has not yet been replaced.

**Social Justice Committee**-State President John Costa reviewed the report. He stated that an apology from the City of New Orleans was issued for the lynching of Italians in 1891.

**Webmaster**-Chairperson Anna Graeber added that the Local Lodge forms are available on the website. They are fillable forms and can be e-mailed directly to the Grand Lodge office.

**Lunch Break**

**Resumed at 2PM**

Roll call was taken with the following State Officers present: State President John Costa, State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Arlene Nunziati, State 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Sadie Tamburine, State 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Barbara Wisniewski, Immediate Past State President Lynn Lawrence-Murphy, State Orator Mark Vaona, State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi, State Trustees North Bill Murphy, Ray Bini, State Trustees Central Head State Trustee Pauline Richmond, Louise Silacci, State Trustees South Manny Finazzo and Carmine Baffo. An absence included State Treasurer Al Trentini. A quorum was met. State Officers were asked to don their regalia.

**Committee Reports cont.**

**Judiciary Committee**- Chairman Al Girolami reviewed his report. He mentioned that the Queen Contest rules needed to be updated. The biggest change is that we now allow males to be included in the contest, which means the name of the contest needs to be changed. It is now the Royal Pageant Contest. The rules have been updated by the Committee Chairperson, Eva Lavezzari. Chairman Girolami reviewed the other items that were asked of his committee.

Chairman Al Girolami then reviewed the proposed Bylaw changes.

**EXHIBIT A**

**ARTICLE 15B**

Proponent: Grand Council

**CURRENT BYLAW**

State Officers shall: A. Non applicable

B. Not be elected to an office in a Local Lodge, and shall be excused from attending meetings or functions of the Local Lodge.

## PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

State Officers shall: A. Non applicable

B. **Except for State Trustees**, not be elected to an office in a Local Lodge, and shall be excused from attending meetings or functions of the Local Lodge.

### Current Bylaw

Article 80B

B. To be an officer of the Council of the Local Lodge, of the Grand Lodge, or of the Supreme Lodge, or the Benefit Insurance Committee, or of any two units at one and the same time.

### Proposed Bylaw

B. To be an officer of the Council of the Local Lodge, of the Grand Lodge, or of the Supreme Lodge, or the Benefit Insurance Committee, or of any two units at one and the same time, **with the exception of a Local Lodge officer serving as State Trustee.**

A motion was made by Genny Arietta, Gold Country Lodge #2705, to approve the proposed Bylaw. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron Manna, delegate from Desert Valley Lodge #2352. Chairman Girolami opened it up for questions. There were no questions. **Motion passed with one (1) NO vote.**

## EXHIBIT B

Proponent: Hanford Lodge #1543

### PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

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#### ARTICLE 8

B 4. Eliminating the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

#### ARTICLE 9

The Grand Lodge shall create **two (2)** districts to be known as **District 1 and District 2**, respectfully.

**NOTE: The original Article refers to the three (3) Districts as "North, Central and South".**

#### ARTICLE 14

A 4. Eliminating the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

ARTICLE 17

D Eliminating the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

There was a discussion about the order of how these proposals should take place. Louise Silacci, Hanford Lodge #1543, stated that since membership is declining, her lodge is trying to save the Grand Lodge money by not having as many State Officers, which would eliminate the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President position and 2 (two) State Trustee positions.

Louise Silacci, Hanford Lodge #1543, made a motion to eliminate the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Article 8. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Frank Parisi, delegate from Enrico Caruso Lodge #1463. The motion was up for discussion. Mary Jane Cambria, President of Renaissance Lodge #2259 stated that she is against this proposal. Our lodges need more representation, not less. **The motion did not pass.**

EXHIBIT C

Proponent: Grand Council

**Current Bylaw**

Article 8B

B. The Grand Council is composed of **fifteen (15)** State Officers whose title and precedence are established according to the following hierarchical order:

10. **Six (6)** State Trustees

**Proposed Bylaw**

B. The Grand Council is composed of **twelve (12)** State Officers whose title and precedence are established according to the following hierarchical order:

10. **Three (3)** State Trustees

**Current Bylaw**

Article 10 D 2

D. Candidates for State Vice Presidents and the State Trustees shall be elected by the Grand Lodge and shall be:

2. nominated by districts with one (1) State Vice President and **two (2) State Trustees** to be elected for each district.

### Proposed Bylaw

D. Candidates for State Vice Presidents and the State Trustees shall be elected by the Grand Lodge and shall be:

2. nominated by districts with one (1) State Vice President and **one (1) State Trustee** to be elected for each district.

A motion was made by Louise Silacci, Hanford Lodge #1543 to approve the Bylaw Proposal Article 8 B and Article 10 D 2. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by State Trustee Manny Finazzo. Discussion ensued about the reasons for having only three (3) State Trustees. It will cut down on the representation, but it will save on our funds. The Grand Lodge membership is decreasing and the Grand Council should be a representation of the membership. **The motion did not pass.**

### EXHIBIT D

Proponent: Grand Council

#### Current Bylaw

##### Article 3

A. The Grand Lodge is composed of the following components which shall have the right to vote on all matters concerning the Grand Lodge when in session:

**4. Current Emeritus. Future positions of Emeritus have been abolished.**

#### Proposed Bylaw

**The position of the Queen Emeritus shall be stricken.**

A motion was made by Mark Vaona, State Orator, to approve the proposed Bylaw Article 3 #4. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick Branch, delegate from Virgilio Lodge #1586. There was discussion about this that the title of Queen Emeritus was a gift and should remain in place. **The motion did not pass.**

Chairman Al Girolami thanked his committee for all of their input on these Bylaw proposals.

State President John Costa asked Fred and Ruth Acquistapace, from the Santa Rosa Lodge #1896, to come forward. It was announced that the couple have been married for 65 years today.

**Credential Report Thursday, June 27, 2019 PM**

<b>State Delegates</b>	<b>Should Have</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>State Delegates</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>State Officers</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Past State Presidents</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Emeritus</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>127</b>

**Local Lodges**

	<b>Should Have</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Full Representation</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Partial Representation</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>No Representation</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>46</b>

**Partial Representation**

<b>Lodge Name and Number</b>	<b>Delegate</b>
<b>Dolly Sinatra Lodge #2400</b>	<b>No Name</b>

**No Representation**

<b>Salinas Lodge #2082</b>
<b>Paradiso Lodge #2743</b>

A motion was made to accept the June 27, 2019PM Credential Report by Sharon Silveira, delegate from the Beatrice Portinari Lodge #1626. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joan Acquistapace, President of the Santa Rosa Lodge #1898. Motion passed.

**Special Order of the Day**

At this time, State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi called to begin the Special Order of the Day. She had a few general comments to review before starting. She then opened nominations for the election of State Officers.



**State President:**

**Arlene Nunziati**, nominated by Past State President Vera Girolami, seconded by Joe Simoni, President Columbia Lodge #1940.

**John J. Costa**, nominated by Donna Lee Lawrence-Costa, President of St. Helena Lodge #2077, seconded by Annette Porter, President Centinela Valley Lodge #1991.

A motion was made Andy Pampuro, Saddleback Valley Lodge #2566, to close the nominations of the office of State President. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pamela Bini, President of the Beatrice Portinari Lodge #1626.

At this time, each nominee spoke to the delegation.

**Vice President:**

**North:**

**Barbara Wisniewski**, nominated by Pamela Ricci, President of the Cristoforo Columbo Lodge #1534, seconded by Marianne Campbell, President of the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #1441

**Central:**

**Pauline Richmond**, nominated by Larry Romanazzi, President of the Enrico Caruso Lodge #1463, seconded by Pamela Buldo, delegate of the Enrico Caruso Lodge #1463.

**Louise Silacci**, nominated by Olivia DeLiddo Gallegos, President of the Columbo-Stella Lodge #1149, seconded by Michael Leoni, delegate from the Hanford Lodge #1543.

A motion was made Rick Silveira, delegate from the Virgilio Lodge #1586 to close the nominations for the Vice President, Central District. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michael Carroll, delegate from the Valley of the Moon Lodge #1959. Motion passed.

**South:**

**Sadie Tamburine**, nominated by Hank Lowinger, President of the Saddleback Valley Lodge #2566, seconded by Andy Pampuro, delegate of the Saddleback Valley Lodge #2566.

**State Orator:**

**Mark Vaona**, nominated by Annette Porter, President of the Centinela Valley Lodge #1991, seconded by Steve Guthrie, delegate of the Centinela Valley Lodge #1991.

**State Recording Secretary:**

**Lori Rossi**, nominated by Mark Rossi, President of the Northern Solano Lodge #2534, seconded by Don Craddock, delegate of the Northern Solano Lodge #2534.

**State Financial Secretary:**

**David Lavezzari**, nominated by Mark Vaona, Centinela Valley Lodge #1991, seconded by Steve Guthrie, delegate from the Centinela Valley Lodge #1991.

**State Treasurer:**

**Al Trentini**, nominated by Sadie Tamburine, La Costa Dei Fiori Lodge #2424, seconded by Hank Lowinger, President of the Saddleback Valley Lodge #2566. Al Trentini was absent from this session and has submitted a letter stating that he would accept the nomination and position, if elected.

**State Trustees:**

**North:**

**Bill Murphy**, nominated by Michael Carroll, delegate from the Valley of the Moon Lodge #1959, seconded by Doreen Venturi, delegate of the Ukiah Lodge #2104.

**Ray Bini**, nominated by Rick Silveira, delegate of the Virgilio Lodge #1586, seconded by Pamela Bini, President of the Beatrice Portinari Lodge #1586.

**Anna Graeber**, nominated by Alan Miller, delegate of the Napa Lodge #2043, seconded by Julie Querin, delegate from the Napa Lodge #2043.

A motion was made by Annette Porter, delegate from the Centinela Valley Lodge #1991 to close the nominations of the Trustees of the North. Motion passed.

At this time, each nominee spoke to the delegation.

**Central:**

**Pamela Buldo**, nominated by Pauline Richmond, Enrico Caruso Lodge #1463, seconded by Suzanne Simon, delegate of the Enrico Caruso Lodge #1463.

At this time, there were no other nominations for the position of State Trustee of the Central District. According to the Bylaws, Article 10 E, it states that if no candidates for State Trustee to fill the offices in any district, then such offices shall be open to any and all State Delegates having the necessary qualifications.

State Orator Mark Vaona stated that if any nominee from the Northern District would like to be nominated to the Central District, please let us know. State Orator Mark Vaona asked the delegation if there is any other delegate would like to be nominated. Brother Mark Vaona then asked nominee Anna Graeber if she would like to be a nominee in the Central District. Sister Anna answered that yes, she would like to be a nominee in the Central District. There were several other delegates asked, but they all declined.

**Mary Jane Cambria**, nominated by Tom Rizzo, from the Renaissance Lodge #2259, seconded by Hank Lowinger, President of the Saddleback Lodge #2566.

State Orator Mark Vaona then asked Anna Graeber if she would like to stay as the nominee of the Central District or move back to the Northern District. Sister Anna Graeber answered that she will go back to the Northern District.

**South:**

**Hank Lowinger**, nominated by Andy Pampuro, delegate from the Saddleback Valley Lodge #2566, seconded by Annette Porter, delegate from the Centinela Valley Lodge #1991.

**Manny Finazzo**, nominated by Paul Finazzo, President of the Joanne Coccia Lodge #2553, seconded by Lucille Seibel, delegate from the West End Lodge #2127.

**State Arbiter: Five (5) will be elected and Five (5) will be Alternates**

Pam Ricci, nominated by Vera Girolami

Annette Porter, nominated by Steve Guthrie

Joe Simoni, nominated by Angie Fanucchi

Michael Colletti-Smith, nominated by Roy Vanoni

Angela Silva, nominated by Arlene Nunziati

Andy Pampuro, nominated by Hank Lowinger

Monica Domini, nominated by Barbara Wisniewski

Sal Provenza, nominated by Sadie Tamburine

Mark Rossi, nominated by Don Craddock

Joe LaPorta, nominated by Sadie Tamburine

Ron Manna, nominated by Marco Zonni

A motion was made by Michael Colletti-Smith to close the nominations of the State Arbiter. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron Manna. Motion passed.

**National Delegates:**

Al Girolami, nominated by Arlene Nunziati

Arlene Nunziati, nominated by John Tedesco

Bill Murphy, nominated by Gloria Garibaldi

Pauline Richmond, nominated by Pamela Buldo  
Sadie Tamburine, nominated by Hank Lowinger  
Louise Silacci, nominated by Olivia DeLiddo Gallegos  
Maria Fassio-Pignati, nominated by Angela Silva  
Mark Vaona, nominated by Steve Guthrie  
Genny Arietta, nominated by Anthony Scotch  
Barbara Wisniewski, nominated by Roy Vanoni  
Hank Lowinger, nominated by Sadie Tamburine  
Mary Jane Cambria, nominated by Hank Lowinger

A motion was made by Pamela Bini, President of Beatrice Portinari Lodge #1626, to close the nominations for the position of National Delegate. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anna Graeber, Napa Lodge #2043. Motion passed.

State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi reviewed when the election will take place. She also spoke about the importance of having a correct ballot. Please check your ballots and make sure each ballot has the appropriate number of votes. Those that have too many or not enough, will be voided by the Election Committee.

State President John Costa requested Ugo Pignati come to the microphone. The delegation sang Happy Birthday to Brother Ugo.

Anthony Scotch was fined \$10 for wearing shorts on the convention floor.

State President John Costa invited the delegation to his room for appetizers and beverages.

State 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Barbara Wisniewski also invited the delegation to her room for hospitality and meet some of the candidates running for office.

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The meeting for Thursday, June 27, 2019 was adjourned at 4:40PM.

### **~Friday, June 28, 2019~**

The meeting was called to order at 8:35AM on Friday, June 28.

Roll call was taken with the following State Officers present: State President John Costa, State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Arlene Nunziati, State 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Sadie Tamburine, State 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Barbara Wisniewski, Immediate Past State President Lynn Lawrence-Murphy, State Orator Mark Vaona, State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi, State Trustees North Bill Murphy, Ray

Bini, State Trustees Central Head State Trustee Pauline Richmond, Louise Silacci, State Trustees South Manny Finazzo and Carmine Baffo.

A quorum was called and officers were asked to don their regalia.

An impromptu skit began by Rosalia Rosalie Rose` from Roseville. She called on our State 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Barbara Wisniewski and a few others to join her. They were fined \$50 as a group.

An invocation was given by National Chaplain Father Adam Forno.

Hugh Ricci was asked to come to the microphone. Brother Hugh Ricci then asked the Mistress and Master of Ceremony to escort Congressman Mark Amodei to the podium. The Congressman gave us a welcome speech and gave us many laughs.

**Committee Reports, cont.**

Ritual and Protocol-Chairperson Donna Lee Lawrence-Costa reviewed her report. She would like to remind lodges to review the protocol of announcing officers and committee chairs during your events.

**Voting Credential Report Friday, June 28, 2019**

State Delegates	Should Have	Present
State Delegates	114	110
State Officers	15	13
Past State Presidents	8	4
Emeritus	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>127</b>

**Local Lodges**

	Should Have	Present
Full Representation	46	43
Partial Representation		1
No Representation		2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>46</b>

**Partial Representation**

Lodge Name and Number	Delegate
Dolly Sinatra Lodge #2400	No Name

**No Representation**

<b>Salinas Lodge #2082</b>
<b>Paradiso Lodge #2743</b>

A motion was made by Pamela Bini, President of Beatrice Portinari Lodge #1626 to approve the credential report. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alan Spano, from the Enrico Caruso Lodge #1463. Motion passed.

**Credential Report Friday, June 28, 2019 AM**

State Delegates	Should Have	Present
State Delegates	114	110
State Officers	15	13
Past State Presidents	8	4
Emeritus	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>127</b>

**Local Lodges**

	Should Have	Present
Full Representation	46	43
Partial Representation		1
No Representation		2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>46</b>

**Partial Representation**

Lodge Name and Number	Delegate
Dolly Sinatra Lodge #2400	No Name

**No Representation**

<b>Salinas Lodge #2082</b>
<b>Paradiso Lodge #2743</b>

A motion was made by Michael Colletti Smith, President of the Vincenzo Bellini Lodge #2519, to approve the June 28, 2019 AM Credential Report. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hank Lowinger, President of the Saddleback Valley Lodge #2566. Motion passed.

**Future of the Grand Lodge Building Report**-Chairperson John Bianco was unable to attend the convention this year. He has asked committee member Mark Rossi to review his report. This was a separate report that is not in the Report Book. Brother Rossi reviewed the report and gave the delegation some background. Brother Rossi opened up to questions from the floor. Mary Jane Cambria, President of the Renaissance Lodge #2259, asked what the next step was. He stated that the Grand Council spoke about this during the Executive Session. She would like to see a plan in motion. A question came up about transferring the building in to the Sons of Italy Western Foundation umbrella. The only reason to move the building into the Foundation, would be for a tax savings. David DePaoli, delegate of the Roma Lodge #1573, stated that he is done talking about the building. There is no result from any discussions. If we were to sell the building, our per capita would never be increased. His opinion is that the building needs to be sold.

Past State President John Tedesco spoke to the delegation. He addressed the issue about transferring the building to the Western Foundation. He stated that we would not pay capital gain if it was donated to the Foundation.

More discussion took place. Angelo Fanucchi, delegate from the Columbia Lodge #1940, stated that we've had the same problem for 5 years and that is the Grand Lodge building. But our real problem is membership. There were delegates who were in favor of not selling the building, also.

The first Opportunity Board winners were drawn and they are as follows:

\$250-Ray Bini      \$175-Larry Dutto      \$75- Linda Nunziati-Lily Rose

State President John Costa state that the results of the election are in and asked Election Committee Chairman Rick Branch to approach the podium and announce the results to the delegation. The results are as follows:

**National Delegate**

**The Top 6 Are Delegates, the Remaining are Alternates**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Number of Votes</b>
Maria Fassio-Pignati	100
Arlene Nunziati	90
Barbara Wisniewski	86
Al Girolami	76
Bill Murphy	76
Sadie Tamburine	67
Pauline Richmond	65

Mark Vaona	60
Louise Silacci	48
Hank Lowinger	31
Mary Jane Cambria	29
Genny Arietta	22
Total Ballots Cast	127
Total Ballots Voided	2

### State Arbiter

#### The Top 5 Are Arbiters, the Remaining are Alternates

Name	Number of Votes
Mark Rossi	110
Pam Ricci	88
Joe Simoni	70
Annette Porter	66
Andy Pampuro	53
Michael Colletti-Smith	49
Angela Silva	47
Joe LaPorta	45
Sal Provenza	33
Monica Domini	25
Ron Manna	19
Total Ballots Cast	127
Total Voided Ballots	6

### Vice President-Central

Name	Number of Votes
Pauline Richmond	71
Louise Silacci	56
Total Ballots Cast	127
Total Voided Ballots	0



### Trustee-North

Name	Number of Votes
Bill Murphy	90
Ray Bini	104
Anna Graeber	46
Total Ballots Cast	127
Total Voided Ballots	6

### State President

Name	Number of Votes
Arlene Nunziati	63
John Costa	64
Total Ballots Cast	127
Total Voided Ballots	0

Election Committee Chair Rick Branch thanked his committee. He then asked for a motion to destroy the ballots. A motion was made by Mark Rossi, President of the Northern Solano Lodge #2534 to destroy the ballots. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alan Spano, delegate from the Enrico Caruso Lodge #1463. Motion passed.

**Budget & Finance Committee**-Chairman David Lavezzari handed out his report to the delegation yesterday so they could review it and have any questions ready. He reported that we have a projected net surplus of \$12,596 for the remainder of 2019 and the first 6 months of 2020. This includes the revenue from the Royal Pageant Contest. A motion was made by Joe Simoni, President of the Columbia Lodge #1940 to approve the report. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna Lee Lawrence-Costa, President of the St. Helena Lodge #2077. Past State President John Tedesco had a few questions. The questions were answered by Brother Lavezzari. Motion passed.

The meeting of the General Session was adjourned at 10:40AM.

### Sons of Italy Western Foundation Meeting

CAO Roy T. Vanoni opened the meeting of the Sons of Italy Western Foundation meeting.

Roll call was taken, which included the State Officers previously called and CAO Roy T. Vanoni and Trustees Mark Rossi and Joe LaPorta were present.

CAO Roy Vanoni reviewed the purpose of the Sons of Italy Western Foundation. If anyone is interested in becoming a Trustee of the Foundation, please turn in a Letter of Intent to the State Recording Secretary.

## Committee Reports

**Financial Report**-Ugo Pignati, a former State Financial Secretary, was asked to step in and provide his assistance. Brother Ugo reassured the delegation that there is nothing fishy going on. The financials are 99.9% correct. He also reviewed the Profit and Loss Year to Date for the Foundation. Brother Ugo also reviewed the Balance Sheet and went in great detail explaining the financials. CAO Roy Vanoni thanked Brother Ugo for coming out of retirement to help the Sons of Italy Western Foundation. There were no questions.

**Italian Language/Culture and History**-Committee Chair Maria Fassio-Pignati mentioned that many people are telling her that we are losing touch with our heritage. She is suggesting that during your lodge meetings, to add a cultural session. Please visit the History Room. She thanked State Trustee Bill Murphy, Father Adam Forno and Ugo Pignati for their help in setting up the History Room.

**California Golf Classic and Palm Springs Golf Tournament**-Chairman Michael Colletti Smith gave a little history on the golf tournament. The first tournament was held in 1998. This year's tournament is scheduled for Monday, October 14.

WF Trustee Joe LaPorta updated us on the Palm Springs Golf Tournament, to be held on November 18. He generously stated that 100% of the proceeds will go to the Sons of Italy Western Foundation.

**Royal Court of the Golden Lion**-CAO Roy Vanoni reviewed the purpose of the Royal Court. We are still looking for a chairperson for this committee.

**Scholarships/Students to Italy**-Chairperson Rosemarie Vanderhaar stated that there are 5 outstanding students attending the Black and White Ball. The Scholarship Programs for the Black and White Ball have been donated by a friend of Rosemarie. This is a nice savings for the Scholarship account. There were 36 scholarships awarded this year. Brother Ugo Pignati mentioned that a young man from Manteca, who received a scholarship several years ago, sent in a check of \$800. He wanted to pay it forward.

**Medical Charities**-Chairman Michael Carroll spoke about his program for Saturday. He is having a speaker for Cooley's anemia, coming from Utah. State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Barbara Wisniewski spoke about the Cooley's anemia cans. She stated that collecting change to put in the cans is a very easy thing to do. Chairman Carroll asked that the coins collected to be exchanged for dollars or a check. He cannot accept all of the change.

**Birth Defects Library**-State President John Costa informed us that Chairperson HazelAnn Christin is very ill and unable to attend the convention. He thanked State Trustee Louise Silacci for making the presentations to the various libraries.

**Garibaldi Meucci Museum**-Chairperson and National Overseer Joy Bruno stated that she brought a display on the museum for us to look at. She also has some museum magnets for sale.

CAO Roy T. Vanoni reminded us that tomorrow morning, you will be asked to make your donations to the various charities. Please be generous. He also reminded the delegation that he has the donated vintage jewelry to be raffled off. The cost is \$5 per square.

With no further business of the Sons of Italy Western Foundation, the meeting was adjourned at 11:46AM.

State President John Costa reviewed our afternoon session. He reminded the delegation that tomorrow morning, there will be another vote for the placement of the State Vice Presidents. The Vice Presidents will give their speeches after the Leonardo's Knots presentation this afternoon.

We will reconvene the afternoon session at 2PM.

**Break for Lunch 12:00PM-2:00PM**

The afternoon session was called to order by State President John Costa at 2:04PM.

Roll call was taken with the following State Officers present: State President John Costa, State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Arlene Nunziati, State 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Sadie Tamburine, State 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Barbara Wisniewski, Immediate Past State President Lynn Lawrence-Murphy, State Orator Mark Vaona, State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi, State Trustees North Bill Murphy, Ray Bini, State Trustees Central Head State Trustee Pauline Richmond, Louise Silacci, State Trustees South Manny Finazzo and Carmine Baffo.

A quorum was called and officers were asked to don their regalia.

State President John Costa introduced Caroline Cocciardi, author of the book, Leonardo's Knots. She spoke about the famous painting, the Mona Lisa. She will introduce us to a facet of Leonardo da Vinci that no one has ever seen before. Found in the minuscule details of his works yet it speaks volumes about his passion for knots and mathematics. The knots are painted with two strands, in two different colors, an okra yellow and crimson red. Documented with 142 illustrations Leonardo's evolution from the traditional knots (aesthetically appealing and ornamental), to mathematical knots (patterns that tell a story within his art).

The Vice Presidents were then asked to give their speeches for the vote scheduled for tomorrow morning. All three (3) Vice Presidents gave their speeches. The vote will take place Saturday morning at 7:30AM in the convention room.

### Committee Reports cont.

**Membership-**At this time, we do not have a Membership Chairperson. State President John Costa has asked Mark Rossi, President of the Northern Solano Lodge #2534, to give out the Membership Awards. Brother Rossi reviewed the Lodge Summary numbers. He mentioned that this year, The Grand Council wanted to have more emphasis on retention. He then proceeded to award the Lodge Membership Awards. They are as follows:

3<sup>rd</sup> Place-Centinela Valley Lodge #1991 \$50

2<sup>nd</sup> Place-Saddleback Valley Lodge #2566 \$75

1<sup>st</sup> Place-Napa Lodge #2043 \$125

The Proponent Awards were then given and they are as follows:

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Lori Harvey, Dolly Sinatra Lodge #2400 \$50

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Frank DiSalvo Dolly Sinatra Lodge #2400 \$75

1<sup>st</sup> Place Marisa Miller Napa Lodge #2043 \$125

Brother Rossi then asked Marisa Miller to speak a bit about how she has been able to get so many new members. She said that she simply just talks to people. There is a common ground when their heritage comes up. Keep an eye on new members and introduce them to your current members and make sure they are included. State President John Costa thanked Brother Rossi for stepping in.

A conversation came up about getting more members. Louie Lodi, delegate from the Sacramento Lodge #1352, added that talking to people is the easiest way to get new members. Marlene Cristanelli, President of the Roseville Lodge #1413, stated that her lodge is losing people. Would it ever be possible to lower the per capita for lodges under 100? State President John Costa stated that there is a set amount that we pay the National Lodge. He does not see that happening. He also stated that our per capita will not go up for several years. It has been the same amount for several years already. There were quite a few delegates who also spoke about how they get new members.

Michael Colletti Smith spoke about being involved in your community. He also contacted the Guinness Book of World Records and wanted to set a record for making 12,000 meatballs in one day. He is still contemplating how to do this feat.

**Royal Pageant-**Chairperson Eva Lavezzari spoke about the new Royal Pageant Rules. The addition is that males will be included in the program. She is encouraging every lodge to have a contestant in the next competition. At this time, the new rules for the Royal Pageant will need to be approved. A motion was made by Annette Porter, delegate from Centinela Valley Lodge #1991, to approve the new Royal Pageant Rules. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hank Lowinger,

President of the Saddleback Valley Lodge #2566. The call for questions was opened. Larry Romanazzi, President of the Enrico Caruso Lodge #1463, asked if there was a copy of the current rules, so we can compare them. Chairperson Lavezzari said that she did not have a copy. She stated that the only difference was having a male be able to join the competition. Michael Leoni, delegate of the Hanford Lodge #1543, stated that he is not in favor of the change. **The motion was passed with five (5) NO votes.**

**Media**-Chairperson Andy Pampuro spoke about the Il Leone newspaper being in the red. He talked about the advertisers that have ads in the paper every month are not receiving any benefit by having their ad in the paper. There was some discussion on getting new advertisers from the businesses that the Grand Lodge uses. A suggestion was to contact Schwab and see if they would submit an ad.

**Convention Committee**-Co Chairperson Lynn Lawrence-Murphy stated that the 2020 Convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Concord, CA. The hotel price is \$149++ and a Royal Pageant year. The Bocce Tournament will be held on Wednesday, June 24 and the convention will begin on Thursday, June 25.

**Credential Report Friday, June 28, 2019 PM**

State Delegates	Should Have	Present
State Delegates	114	107
State Officers	15	13
Past State Presidents	8	4
Emeritus	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>124</b>

**Local Lodges**

	Should Have	Present
Full Representation	46	40
Partial Representation		2
No Representation		4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>46</b>

**Partial Representation**

Lodge Name and Number	Delegate
Dolly Sinatra Lodge #2400	No Name
Ukiah Lodge #2104	

**No Representation**

Salinas Lodge #2082
Paradiso Lodge #2743
Santa Rosa Lodge #1898
Monterey Lodge #2003

The delegate from the Santa Rosa Lodge #1898 has her credential and turned it in. The Credential Committee accepted the credential. The report below reflects the change. The delegate from the Monterey Lodge #2003 requested to turn in his credential the next morning. If this happens, a revised report will be submitted.

**Credential Report Friday, June 28, 2019 PM**

State Delegates	Should Have	Present
<b>State Delegates</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>State Officers</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Past State Presidents</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Emeritus</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>125</b>

**Local Lodges**

	Should Have	Present
<b>Full Representation</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Partial Representation</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>No Representation</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>47</b>

**Partial Representation**

Lodge Name and Number	Delegate
<b>Dolly Sinatra Lodge #2400</b>	<b>No Name</b>
<b>Ukiah Lodge #2104</b>	<b>Doreen Venturi</b>

**No Representation**

Salinas Lodge #2082
Paradiso Lodge #2743
Monterey Lodge #2003

A motion was made by Michael Carroll, delegate from the Valley of the Moon Lodge #1959, to approve the Friday, June 28, 2019 PM credential report. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick Branch, delegate from the Virgilio Lodge #1586. Motion passed.

The drawing for the Vintage jewelry was held. The first person drawn has first choice of the jewelry. The first winner was Manny Finazzo. The second winner was Janey Leonardich.

A few housekeeping issues were announced. The voting for the State Vice Presidents positions will take place Saturday morning from 7:30AM to 8:00AM.

The Friday meeting was adjourned at 4:32PM.

### ~Saturday, June 29, 2019~

The meeting was called to order at 8:30AM on Saturday, June 29.

Father Adam Forno was asked to give us the invocation.

Roll call was taken with the following State Officers present: State President John Costa, State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Arlene Nunziati, State 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Sadie Tamburine, State 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Barbara Wisniewski, Immediate Past State President Lynn Lawrence-Murphy, State Orator Mark Vaona, State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi, State Trustees North Bill Murphy, Ray Bini, State Trustees Central Head State Trustee Pauline Richmond, Louise Silacci, State Trustees South Manny Finazzo and Carmine Baffo.

A quorum was called and officers were asked to don their regalia.

Hugh Ricci, from the Cristoforo Colombo Lodge #1534, was asked to come forward and present the Bocce Tournament awards. Before he started, he told us a joke. Brother Hugh let us know that each team played at least 2 games.

The team awards were presented as follows:

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$50 each

Lynn Lawrence-Murphy, Bill Murphy, Donna Branch and Rick Branch

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$60 each

Pauline Richmond, Pam Buldo, Brianna Simon and Lizzy Simon

1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$75 each

Donna Lee Lawrence Costa, John Costa, Rick Silveira and Sharon Silveira

Hugh Ricci thanked State President John Costa for appointing him the Committee Chair for this event. He also thanked Ken Wisniewski for his help during the tournament.

Pam Ricci, President of the Cristoforo Lodge #1534, was asked to begin the raffle drawing.

Youth Committee Chair Brian Watson was asked to come to the podium and bring all of the junior members. He then introduced himself and the young children introduced themselves. Chairman Brian made stepping stones for the members who made donations to the Little Lion Program.

At this time, State President John Costa introduced Melanie Rushing, the Chairperson of the Janet Capello Distinguished Member Award, to come forward to make her presentation. Sister Melanie thanked all of the lodges who nominated their members. She then gave us a little history on our beloved sister, Janet Capello. She then asked Hugh Ricci, from the Cristoforo Colombo Lodge #1534, to come forward. She spoke about the accomplishments of Hugh Ricci. He was then asked to say a few words. She spoke about the accomplishments of Hugh Ricci. He was then asked to say a few words. State President John Costa then presented Brother Hugh with the beautiful plaque.

At this time, State President John Costa asked Rick Branch, the Election Committee Chairman to come forward and give us the results from the placement of the State Vice Presidents. The results are as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Number of Votes</b>
Sadie Tamburine	29
Pauline Richmond	31
Barbara Wisniewski	59
Total Ballots Cast	119
Total Voided Ballots	2

Election Committee Chairman Rick Branch thanked his committee. They did a great job.

A motion was made by Rick Silveira, delegate from the Virgilio Lodge #1586 to destroy the ballots. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michael Carroll, delegate from the Valley of the Moon Lodge #1959. Motion passed.



Pamela Buldo, Credential Committee Chairperson was asked to give Friday, June 28, 2019 Credential Report. This is a correction from yesterday afternoons report.

**Credential Report Friday, June 28, 2019 PM**

State Delegates	Should Have	Present
State Delegates	114	108
State Officers	15	13
Past State Presidents	8	4
Emeritus	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>125</b>

Local Lodges		
	Should Have	Present
Full Representation	46	41
Partial Representation		2
No Representation		3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>46</b>

**Partial Representation**

Lodge Name and Number	Delegate
Dolly Sinatra Lodge #2400	No Name
Ukiah Lodge #2104	Doreen Venturi

**No Representation**

Salinas Lodge #2082
Paradiso Lodge #2743
Monterey Lodge #2003

A motion was made by Larry Romanazzi, President of the Enrico Caruso Lodge #1463, to approve the Friday, June 28, 2019 PM Credential Report. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pamela Bini, President of the Beatrice Portinari Lodge #1626. Motion passed.

**Saturday, June 29, 2019 VOTING CREDENTIAL 2 REPORT**

State Delegates	Should Have	Present
<b>State Delegates</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>State Officers</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Past State Presidents</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Emeritus</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>121</b>

Local Lodges	Should Have	Present
<b>Full Representation</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Partial Representation</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>No Representation</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>46</b>

**Partial Representation**

Lodge Name and Number	Delegate
<b>Dolly Sinatra Lodge #2400</b>	<b>No Name</b>
<b>Rodolfo Valentino #1449</b>	<b>Carol Watson</b>
<b>Roma Lodge #1573</b>	<b>Karen Pedroncelli</b>
<b>Roma Lodge #1573</b>	<b>Shurene Curti</b>
<b>Watsonville Lodge #2016</b>	<b>Casey Clark</b>
<b>Modesto Lodge #2021</b>	<b>John Certini</b>

**No Representation**

<b>Salinas Lodge #2082</b>
<b>Paradise Lodge #2743</b>
<b>Monterey Lodge #2003</b>

**Credential Report Saturday, June 29, 2019 PM**

<b>State Delegates</b>	<b>Should Have</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>State Delegates</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>State Officers</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Past State Presidents</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Emeritus</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>126</b>

<b>Local Lodges</b>		
	<b>Should Have</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Full Representation</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Partial Representation</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>No Representation</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>46</b>

**Partial Representation**

<b>Lodge Name and Number</b>	<b>Delegate</b>
<b>Dolly Sinatra Lodge #2400</b>	<b>No Name</b>

**No Representation**

<b>Salinas Lodge #2082</b>
<b>Paradiso Lodge #2743</b>
<b>Monterey Lodge #2003</b>

A motion was made by Michael Leoni, delegate from the Hanford Lodge #1543, to approve the Saturday, June 29 AM Credential Report and the Saturday, Voting Credential 2 report. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pamela Ricci, President of the Cristoforo Colombo Lodge #1534. Motion passed.

The Credential Committee Chairperson, Pamela Buldo, thanked her committee for doing such a great job.

At this time, we took a 15-minute break.

At this time, State President John Costa introduced to the delegation, Dr. Charles DeCarli, Director of the UC Davis Alzheimers Disease Center. Dr. DeCarli presented the delegation with an in-depth discussion of the disease and what his research department does.

State President John Costa asked Medical Charities Chairman Michael Carroll to come up to the podium.

Brother Michael stated that he will introduce to us Janell True. She will speak to us about Cooley's Anemia. She is a survivor of this disease. She spoke about her story and how our donations have helped her. She was born with TSF. She stated that she was so thankful for the Cooley's Anemia Foundation. Janell was invited by her social worker to attend a conference for TSF. She was able to network with other patients and learn how to live her life with TSF. She was also able to speak to younger TSF patients and pass helpful knowledge on to them. Her story is truly inspiring.

Brother Michael then introduced Leslie Masterful. From the American Cancer Society, based in Reno, Nevada. Her organization leads the fight against cancer. They are the leader in research for the cure of cancer. She informed us of the work that they provide in each community.

Brother Michael spoke about Paul DiLorenzo, a young man who has been speaking at our conventions for many years. Paul wrote a letter that he asked Michael to read. The letter contained updates about Paul and his wife Melissa. He works at DreamWorks. They purchased a house in LaVerne. Paul was able to get his iron down to normal levels, which took a year to do.

Brother Michael thanked his committee for their help today.

At this time, the Sons of Italy Western Foundation donations were open.

### **Internal/External Resolutions**

Chairperson Donne Ferreira was asked to report on any internal or external resolutions she has received. She reviewed the list of resolutions that she received from the delegation. Some of these included Get Well cards for HazelAnn Christin, Sid Tamburine and State Treasurer Al Trentini.

### **New Business**

Donna Ferreria, delegate from the Modesto Lodge #2021, made a motion that we remove the net cap of \$5 million from the prior motion from last year's convention and sell the building at current value. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alan Spano, delegate from the Enrico Caruso Lodge #1463. The discussion was open to the delegation. Past State President John Tedesco spoke on the subject. He is against the motion as it is stated. The discussion ensued, both in favor and against the motion.

Donna Ferreira wanted to clarify the motion that all she would like to do is remove the \$5million cap from the motion made at the 2018 Convention. Judiciary Chairman Al Girolami stated that simply removing the cap is not an option. It brings up the question of do you sell the building or not. The delegation would not have gone for approving the motion if the sale price was under \$5 million. Larry Dutto, President from the Roma Lodge #1573, stated that we

lost 487 members in the past year. If we don't do something about our membership, we won't need a Grand Lodge building. He stated that the delegates from his lodge will not be returning unless the Grand Council comes up with a plan on how we are going to move the membership forward. We can do that ourselves. His lodge wants to see a plan from the Grand Council on how they are going to increase membership. It was also stated at this convention that there will be no Per Capita increase in the next 4 years. He also wants to see the financials from the Western Foundation and the General Fund. They need to be sent to all delegates. Larry Dutto, President of the Roma Lodge #1573, made a motion to table the motion of the selling of the building. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marissa Miller, delegate from the Napa Lodge #2043. Motion passed with one (1) NO vote.

Jeanne O'Neale, delegate from the Eureka Lodge #1274, spoke about the reimbursements for per diems for travel. We don't get to see real cost of these visits. She would like to have all per diems dispersed and the person can return the check.

Jessica Ray, delegate from the Beatrice Portinari Lodge #1626, stated that the millennials have surpassed the Baby Boomers. The millennials are looking for something to be passionate about. Our Order is full of passion. Bring back your Bingo games, and all the fun you used to have during your meetings and the millennials will follow.

Pamela Ricci, President from the Cristoforo Colombo Lodge #1534, let us know that the photos taken from the evening events will be posted on their lodge website. Also, State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi will be e-mailing a link to all delegates to view and save the photos.

Michael Colletti-Smith, President of the Vincenzo Bellini Lodge #2519, spoke about the donations they received from the members of our Grand Lodge. State President John Costa and National President Vera Girolami called Michael and told him that they would solicit donations from all over the US. In total, they received over \$30,000. He, and his lodge members were able to disperse these funds directly to our lodge members.

Linda DePalma, delegate from the Cornelia-Vita Nuova #1198, requested that we order a new banner for our conventions that state Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America.

Mark Vaona's cell phone went off. He was fined \$10. The person who called Brother Vaona was also fined \$10. That person was David Lavezzari, Budget and Finance Chair.

Olivia DeLiddo Gallegos, President of the Colombo-Stella Lodge #1149 asked if we could change the name of the Hall Rental name, 5051 Mission. She stated that it is awfully close to 5150. We cannot change the name, since it belongs to the Hall Rental company.

At this time, we took a 15-minute break to prepare for the Installation of Officers.

The convention resumed at 12:30PM.

History Chairperson Maria Fassio-Pignati requested that all those who brought items for the History Room to please come and retrieve them. Any items left will be taken to the Grand Lodge office.

The total donations and pledges were ready. State Orator Mark Vaona gave the following preliminary totals:

**MEDICAL CHARITIES**

Cooley's Anemia	\$5927.34	
Alzhiemers	\$4775	
Autism	\$1500	
Lupus	\$50	
American Cancer Research	\$2250	
American Heart Assoc	\$650	
Lou Gehrig Disease	\$350	
NAMI	\$700	
UC Davis Alzheimers	\$950	
TSF	\$950	<b>Total \$18,102.34</b>

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Students to Italy	\$1100	
General Scholarships	\$18720	
Perpetual Scholarships	\$1100	<b>Total \$20,920</b>

**II LEONE**

Il Leone	\$7553	<b>Total \$7,553</b>
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**SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

Italian Language & Culture	\$650	
Garibaldi Meucci Museum	\$1175	
Gary Sinise Foundation	\$1500	
Youth Program	\$3035	
General Fund	\$100	
Barry Kirshner Wildlife Refuge	\$325	<b>Total \$6,785</b>

**BIRTH DEFECTS LIBRARIES**

UC Davis	\$2100	
Loma Linda	\$3300	
Stanford	\$1150	
Valley Children's Hospital	\$200	<b>Total \$6,750</b>

Pamela Buldo, Credential Committee Chairperson, then spoke about a discrepancy in the voting credential reported earlier. Please turn to page 122.

**Saturday, June 29, 2019 VOTING CREDENTIAL 2 REPORT**

<b>State Delegates</b>	<b>Should Have</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>State Delegates</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>State Officers</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Past State Presidents</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Emeritus</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>121</b>

**Local Lodges**

	<b>Should Have</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Full Representation</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Partial Representation</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>No Representation</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>46</b>

**Partial Representation**

<b>Lodge Name and Number</b>	<b>Delegate</b>
<b>Rodolfo Valentino #1449</b>	<b>Carol Watson</b>
<b>Roma Lodge #1573</b>	<b>Karen Pedroncelli</b>
<b>Roma Lodge #1573</b>	<b>Shurene Curti</b>
<b>Watsonville Lodge #2016</b>	<b>Casey Clark</b>
<b>Modesto Lodge #2021</b>	<b>Donna Ferreria</b>
<b>Dolly Sinatra Lodge #2400</b>	<b>No Name</b>

**No Representation**

<b>Salinas Lodge #2082</b>
<b>Paradiso Lodge #2743</b>
<b>Monterey Lodge #2003</b>

A motion to approve the amended Voting Credential 2 was made by Alan Spano, delegate from the Enrico Caruso Lodge #1463. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carol Esposito, President of the C Colombo Lodge #1315. Motion passed.

Past State President John Tedesco mentioned that he still owes the delegation 6 (six) more jokes. He was allowed to make 1 joke, and negotiated to make 1 (one) short joke and 1 (one) long joke.

### **Installation of Officers**

At this time, State President John Costa asked National President Vera Girolami to take his place and preside during the Installation of Officers. Sister Girolami then asked Past State Presidents Maria Fassio-Pignati and Roy Vanoni to assist her. Past State President John Tedesco was asked to serve as Herald during the ceremony.

The Installation of Officers commenced.

The following are the 2019-2021 State Officers:

State President John Costa

State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Barbara Wisniewski

State 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Pauline Richmond

State 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Sadie Tamburine

Immediate Past State President Lynn Lawrence-Murphy

State Orator Mark Vaona

State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi

State Financial Secretary David Lavezzari

State Treasurer Al Trentini (absent)

State Trustees Bill Murphy, Ray Bini, Pamela Buldo, Mary Jane Cambria, Manny Finnazo and Hank Lowinger.

They all received a round of applause.

State President John Costa then gave a speech to the delegates and guests.

### **Good of the Order**

National President Vera Girolami truly appreciates what State President John Costa has done for the Grand Lodge of California. Good luck to the newly elected officers and the outgoing officers.



Arlene Nunziati thanked everyone for the cards and kind words that she has received from members in regards to her father. She wished good luck to the new officers. She thanked her family for their continued support. She also thanked her lodge, Columbia Lodge #1940.

Olivia Gallegos congratulated the newly elected officers. She mentioned that the Isnardi Foundation in Fresno is going to add an Italian section at the fairgrounds. They have asked her to collect memorabilia and stories to add to that section. She is asking for some help from the lodges in the Valley to collect items and stories.

State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Barbara Wisniewski made a personal presentation. She then called Joy Bruno, to come forward. Sister Wisniewski gifted a special necklace to Joy.

Mark Vaona spoke about the history of baseball and the fact that State President Costa uses selected history. He then presented State President John Costa with a Steve Garvey, Legend of Baseball bobblehead.

Larry Dutto, President of the Roma Lodge #1573, stated that the Central District has the best-looking Trustees.

Larry Stegmiller, delegate from Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #1441, said that this was his first convention and thanked State President John Costa and State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi for their hard work. He also stated that this was the most fun he has had in a long time.

Mark Rossi, delegate of the Northern Solano Lodge #2534, thanked the outgoing and incoming State Officers. He wanted to remind the delegation that these State Officers are also involved in their local lodges. They take some heat for many things while making visitations. He also wanted to thank the Convention Coordinators, Lynn Lawrence-Murphy and Lori Rossi for all of their hard work in putting this convention together.

John Tedesco mentioned that last year, he celebrated 50 years of coming to the United States. He arrived in New York on July 1, 1968. Then took a plane to San Francisco. He was met by his godfather's wife, Dorothy Simile. He did not speak English. He stated that this was a good convention.

Joy Bruno then spoke about the necklace that she received from State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Barbara Wisniewski.

State 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Pauline Richmond thanked the State Officers and thanked the State Officers that she was lucky enough to work with through the years.

Arlene Nunziati read a letter from our former Office Manager, Oksana Grisko. She has moved to Latvia, by the Baltic Sea and is still in the Army. She is currently an Attaché. She has 18 years of service in the Army and she is hopeful to retire in the next few years.

State President John Costa asked the Lodges to leave their signs and wooden bases on the table.

State President John Costa has tasked the delegation to let him know how they felt about this convention. He would like to know what you liked and what you think could use a little change.

Immediate Past State President Lynn Lawrence-Murphy gave some instructions on the events for the evening. If you are a State Officer, please make sure you have your picture taken. She also thanked the Delegation for their understanding during this convention. She also thanked Office Manager Alexis Cardenas, for all of her help during this convention.

National Chaplain Adam Forno then spoke. He stated that he chose the Grand Lodge of California Convention over his own State Convention.

State Trustee Manny Finazzo has been to many conventions and was always wondering how to stream line the convention. He applauded State President John Costa for his work on streamlining the meetings.

State President John Costa also thanked Office Manager Alexis Cardenas for her work since she has started the position in January.

Maria Fassio-Pignati congratulated the outgoing State Officers and the New State Officers. She also thanked the Host Lodge, Cristoforo Colombo Lodge #1534, for all of their help and hard work during this convention.

With no further business of the 2019 Convention, the meeting of the was adjourned at 1:46PM.

Fraternally,

\_\_\_\_\_

Lori Rossi

State Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_

John J. Costa

State President



***Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America  
Grand Lodge of California***

***John Costa ~ State President***

***Grand Lodge of California State Convention,  
San Francisco, CA  
June 2021***

Worthy State Officers, Committee Chairs, State Delegates and Guests-

Welcome to our first ever virtual Grand Lodge of California State Convention. What a different experience this will be for all of us. Who would have thought we would have had to cancel our 2020 Convention and then have a "Zoom" Convention in 2021?

Once re-elected in 2019, I had many goals that I set personally, the main one was to increase membership and to attend as many filial lodges events as possible. Little did I know, after the first 8 months things would change like no-one had seen before.

After our 2019 Convention, things were going well in the office. Office Manager Alexis Cardenas, was beginning to grasp on to the system. I, along with the 1<sup>st</sup> Lady Donna Lee, were attending various events, anniversaries, the golf tournaments for the Western Foundation, and various Filial lodges fundraising events. It was time to start interviews for an Office Assistant. With the help of State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi and Head State Trustee Ray Bini, we conducted interviews for this position and hired a well-qualified person on March 12. Then March 16<sup>th</sup> came upon us, as we had learned of the pandemic running wild throughout the Our newly hired Office Assistant left the position. She had only worked for 3 days. Office Manager Alexis Cardenas resigned her position in June. So, with the help of Recording Secretary Lori, we were able to keep things going. We started interviews again for a new Office Manager, which during a pandemic was very difficult task to meet in person and conduct interviews. We were able to find Rodelle Palce, to take the position, but that was short lived with her leaving in December 2020.

The Holidays brought out a surge in the pandemic, so we will wait it out on hiring a new Office Manager. Lori Rossi has agreed to take on the position part time as of now, until a new employee is hired.

Our membership has dipped during the past two years and the pandemic did not help. It not only hurt our Order, but if you look at some numbers: 4 million lives lost in the world, 600,000 in the USA and 63,000 people in California have lost their lives to this terrible pandemic. We also have lost a number of members to death, including a number of our past State Presidents. The past two years have also taken a toll on our Filial Lodges, losing the America Lodge, the William Paca Lodge and the Monterey Lodge. Fortunately, a number of members did transfer to other lodges. A lot of other lodges are struggling with membership. I do not have all the answers, we, not just the State Officers, but all of us as a Grand Lodge have to all work on this.

Our membership is aging and we need to pursue new members. Let's work together, not against each other. We have to be willing to change and adapt to new ideas, who would have thought so many of us have become computer literate and now know how to use "Zoom" as a tool to communicate. I know everyone is set in their ways but, try something new if it works, great, if it does not, at least you were open minded to change.

We always state that The Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America is founded on three principals: Liberty, Equality and most all Fraternity. We are one big family, and everyone has the right to agree and disagree. Family has played an important role to everyone these past 18 months.

I would like to thank our Co-Convention Coordinators, Immediate Past State President Lynn Lawrence-Murphy and State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi, for taking on this huge different type of convention. This is not an easy job and it gets harder every year. Remember we are all volunteers.

I look forward to helping and working with the new administration with a smooth transition. Remember teamwork makes the dream work.

Finally; ***Thank you***, the members of the Grand Lodge of California for trusting in me your support to lead our Grand Lodge as your State President, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all of you and work with you.

Membership and Communication are still the keys to our success; we all have to work together on this!!

Yours Fraternaly,

*John Costa*

State President Grand Lodge of California



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*Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America  
Grand Lodge of California*

REPORT OF THE FIRST STATE VICE PRESIDENT

JUNE 26, 2021

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Worthy President, Grand Officers, Lodge Presidents, Delegates and Guests:

The past 2 years have been challenging for all of us. But it also made some things easier. We Grand Lodge Officers have been able to attend Lodge meetings without leaving our homes. We have learned different ways to do things and some we should keep. I hope that we do not limit ourselves to either new or old ways. A blending of the two will serve us well.

As elected officers in the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America it was up to us to reach out to you and let you know what is happening in the other Filial Lodges as well as the Grand and National Lodges.

Your Vice-Presidents have been sending out summaries of the Newsletters we have received. I hope that in sharing this information, you found ideas to bring back to your members. Communicating with members has been a primary need during this pandemic to keep them engaged. I also hope that you Lodge Presidents have shared this information.

I am excited that most of the Lodges that I hear from are planning on having "in-person" meetings by this month.

Many of our Local Lodges have been working on increasing their membership, even during this pandemic, and succeeding. It has been a joy to see this happening. These Lodges have changed things up. Either their meeting day, their time, or place. They have kept in touch with their members through newsletters, emails, phone calls, Zoom meetings, and most recently through outdoor activities. They know that doing the same thing and expecting a different outcome is the definition of Insanity! These Lodges have learned the importance of communicating with their members and letting them know what is happening at all levels of the Order.

President John has met with your Council on Zoom several times. Honestly, I feel some business was difficult to handle electronically. I loved the discussions that were organized, and the speaker could speak without interruption. Of course, there were only about 20 on these calls and each member knew to wait his or her turn and not to repeat, for the sake of saying something. I know this Convention will only work if everyone considers the Rules of Order and waits their turn. I did not like the fact that I could not hear the rumbles in the background of the people not willing to speak their minds. I did not like the fact that there could not be side discussions, out of range of the speaker, so things could be ironed out before coming to the floor.

National President Nancy DeFiore Quinn has continued with her Zoom Plenary sessions. I am grateful to our National Trustee, Lynn Lawrence Murphy for keeping us updated on the activities of National.

Our National OSDIA has joined The Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations. This Organization will work with all our Italian and Italian American groups in the nation to give us strength in numbers. Since our ancestors first arrived in America and formed our various Lodges and Organizations, our groups have never found a way to work together. As a result, we have never been able to help one another accomplish goals, nor have we been able to speak with a strong voice on the national level. I feel this group will help us do just that.

I have asked that our Lodge Presidents consider taking an ad or placing an article in the Il Leone. The number of pages has gone down significantly. I have asked Andy to place my ad in each month to assist in the funding of the paper. Also, please consider being a sponsor. Our Il Leone, I think, is the best OSDIA newspaper in the nation.

Although this Convention is virtual, I urge our Lodges, if possible, to consider their charitable and scholastic donations as they would any other year. I know there have been financial difficulties due to not being able to hold fundraisers, however the need has grown even as our finances have dwindled. Just consider that and do what you can.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve.

Fraternally

Barbara Fumosa Wisniewski



**GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA  
REPORT OF STATE 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT  
GRAND CONVENTION  
JUNE 26, 2021**

Worthy State President, Delegates, Members and Guests,

The following is a report of my activities for the months of July 2019 thru May 2021.

From July 2019 thru February 2020 (eight months) I was able to visit several Lodges, attended their special events and general meetings. A few of these especially stood out: The Columbus Day Celebration held at the Casa Italiana, in Los Angeles, CA. The Deputy Consul General of Italy to Los Angeles Hon. Andrea Perugini gave a wonderful speech about our Italian heritage and the bond with OSDIA. I had the honor and pleasure to represent our State President at the La Costa dei Fiori Lodge's 41<sup>st</sup> Anniversary. It was a wonderful evening of promoting Italian American Culture and Charities. I also attended the 97<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Colombo-Stella Lodge #1147 with the proceeds to benefit the Birth Defect Library @ Valley Children's Hospital, and other various local charities. I had the pleasure to attend the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner of C. Colombo Lodge #1315, and hearing of their success and accomplishments since 1924.

I paid an Official State Officer visit to the C. Colombo Lodge #1315. A very productive and motivated lodge. It was rewarding to visit a lodge that thinks positively with so much enthusiasm and to hear of their calendar of events for the year.

At the September 2019 Grand Council Meeting I was asked if I would participate in revising the State Deputy and State Official Officers Visit Forms along with the help of Past State President Lynn Lawrence Murphy, and volunteer State Trustee-South Hank Lowinger. I accomplished this task with the help of State Trustee – Central Mary Jane Cambria and copies were sent to Past State President Lynn Lawrence Murphy for review and then given to our State President.

In November 2019, Membership Committee Chair Joe Simoni of the National Membership Commission sent a notice to connect with the Webinar Presentation conference call. I shared the notice with my two district State Trustees and Membership Chair. We each took the time to connect to the conference call. I shared our collective remarks and sent them to our State President. Thanks to Joe for up-dated information sent to the area Vice Presidents from the National Membership Commission.



In December 2019 I received notice from Arlene Nunziati to be replaced as the State Deputy for the Watsonville Lodge #2016. She recommended Frank Locicero and he graciously accepted the position. The information of the change was sent to State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi and State President John Costa in, December 9, 2019 on the change that was made.

On January 23, 2020 I made an official visit to the Diablo Valley Lodge #2167 meeting/luncheon. Some constructive ideas and advice to correct an issue were given to Lodge President Linda Parent Tasca. State Deputy Edna Esepito is doing a good job guiding and helping President Linda.

The Enrico Caruso Lodge #1463 held their Valentine Queen Dinner with the crowning of their new lodge queen Elizabeth "Lizzy" Simon. It was a beautiful affair with many lodge members and guests plus the attendance of Past Grand Lodge State Queens of the Lodge. It was a wonderful opportunity for young girls to keep a connection with their Italian Heritage.

On February 18, 2020, I attended the Colombo-Stella Lodge #1149 meeting held at the Chicago Pizza restaurant in Fresno. They are active in the community participating in sponsoring and donating \$1,000.00 to the local Cancer Fashion Show Fund raiser. They were planning a lodge social event "Dolci Italiani": A Celebration of Italian Desserts. Their Scholarship Chairperson is Luca Fanucchi a youth member with wonderful ideas for the Lodge's scholarship program.

#### **The pandemic outbreak of The Covid-19!**

On Saturday, March 21, 2020 I connected to the Webinar conference for the March Grand Council Meeting. For a first time Grand Council Webinar conference it went fairly-well with a couple of issues in connecting. There were sixteen plus members connected. A lot of business was accomplished. Thank you to Leadership Chairperson Mark Rossi and Webmaster Anna Graeber for doing a fantastic job putting this all together in such a short time so that the Grand Council meeting could be held!!

The Lodges in the Central District remain active and stable. The main issue is recruiting and retaining members. Membership is a concern for all lodges.

For the last quarter Of 2019 and first quarter Of 2020 thank you to those of my appointed State Deputies that have sent in their quarterly report on the lodges they are assigned too. This is important information to keep the area Vice President and Grand Lodge updated on the Lodges activities, successful events, or any problems the lodges may have.

The months of April 2020 thru April 2021 I stayed pretty much at home with the State of Emergency Lock Down! During these months, along, with the other area State Vice Presidents I kept in touch with area lodges by email and shared the information from newsletters we received from the lodges each month. In doing this it has kept the communication with our lodges open thru out the state, with the hope that Lodge Presidents are sharing the information with their members.

I have been invited to connect with lodges having Zoom meetings which has been interesting. I connected with a Webinar Conference call, for the National Membership Commission. I Participated in the Town Hall Style Zoom Meeting between California Lodge members and OSDIA National Membership Commission. There was a Special live Columbus Presentation with: Carol Delaney and Rafael Ortiz. I Connected and listened to the "OSDIA Interviews Live" with guest-host, Adriana Trigiani along with Italian America Magazine Editor-in-Chief, Miles Ryan Fisher, and 1<sup>st</sup> National Vice President Supreme Lodge Bob Bianchi.

This report has pretty much covered my OSDIA activities following the 2019 State Grand Convention to the present!

Respectfully submitted,  
Pauline Terrusa Richmond  
State 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Central  
Grand Lodge of California, OSDIA

**GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA CONVENTION  
JUNE 25 - 27, 2021  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA  
SADIE TAMBURINE  
3RD VICE PRESIDENT**

John Costa, state officers, members and guests,

The Covid 19 pandemic has been devastating to OSDIA lodges. We lost many members from all area lodges. Most are working hard to restore their lodges again.

On a better note Fratellanza Garibaldina lodge is determined to retain their lodge. Frank Disalvo is still willing to perform a pro bono concert to give them a boost up. I ask all lodges, north, central and south to support them any way they can. Buy a ticket, make a donation, etc.

~~They are also working hard to take possession of the Christopher Columbus statue that was removed from Discovery Park in San Diego.~~

Respectively submitted,

3rd Vice President

Sadie Tamburine



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*Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America  
Grand Lodge of California*

Report of the Immediate Past State President  
June 2021

Worthy State President, State Officers, Past State Presidents and Delegates.

As summer is here and with the opening of our State, comes the hope for a brighter and warmer future for our Grand Lodge and our local lodges. I would like to take this time to thank all of you for the many ways you worked on helping each other and holding your lodges together. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as an officer and member of the Grand Lodge of California. So many of you have become part of my extended family, and I have missed seeing your warm smiles and welcoming hugs. As strong Italian Americans, we have weathered the storm, and will move forward as a family united in building our lodges and the Grand Lodge into a stronger and more involved organization.

We have lost many of our veteran members and officers these past few years, but their memories and what they did for the Order will never be forgotten. Prayers with many warm hugs to their families and a big Thank You for sharing your loved ones with us.

~~As I step down from the Grand Council and join the other Past Presidents, may I say it has been a pleasure working with all of you, and I am not gone. Bill and I will always be here for you. Just give us a call and we will be there. We are not afraid of working in the kitchen or being there whenever and wherever you need us.~~

God Bless and be safe!

Fraternally yours.

Lynn



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*Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America  
Grand Lodge of California*

**REPORT OF THE STATE RECORDING SECRETARY  
JUNE 2021 ZOOM CONVENTION MEETING**

Dear State Officers and Delegates,

To say that this has been an interesting time in our lives is definitely an understatement. Things are looking up for our State and our Country.

During the last year, our Grand Lodge office has gone through 2 Office Managers and 1 Office Assistant. It has been a somewhat difficult time to find a qualified person during this time. But we will not give up and will begin searching for another Office Manager.

The Grand Lodge has lost 2 more lodges in 2020. The Monterey Lodge #2003 and the William Paca Lodge #1960 closed their doors. Some of the members of each lodge did transfer to other lodges. It was really difficult to cancel members who have been in our Order for over 50 years.

The Grand Lodge building is holding up really well. The graffiti has subsided during this time. When it has appeared, State President John Costa and WF Trustee Mark Rossi has taken care of it. Recology, our garbage collection company, has agreed to suspend our service, during this time.

Our Hall Rental Manager, Barbara Muselli, has been able to rent our parking lot, during this time. The office has been receiving several calls about renting the building. We currently have 2 events booked in the near future.

One of the most important things that a lodge can do, is to keep up with your members beneficiaries. This has been an ongoing issue and continues to be a problem. If your beneficiary is not up to date, it delays the claim process. Sometimes, this can take months, as we have to mail out an affidavit to the family.

I would like to thank Lynn Lawrence-Murphy for her help in the office. Lynn and I work really well together. Its really nice to have someone to have another person in the office and also to share in the commute each week.

I would also like to thank our State President John Costa. Being the State President is a tough gig. To be in this position during the pandemic was pretty difficult, as many lodges had questions about what can be done and what must be done in a lodge, even when you can't meet. He has referred many questions to the Judiciary Committee, as this was all new territory for him, as well as the Grand Lodge of California.

Fraternally,

Lori Rossi  
State Recording Secretary



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*Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America  
Grand Lodge of California*

REPORT OF THE STATE TREASURER

Worthy President, Grand Officers, Sisters and Brothers

To business first. During the past year and half the volume of checks being processed has significantly been reduced. Only those expenses that continued during this period the such as utilities, computer maintenance/upkeep and of course, National per capita, etc have been paid. Grand Lodge expenses/checks will continue to increase activities start to increase.

During the last term all checks have been paid on time with rare exception, too few to mention, in the correct amount and as well as I could tell, charged to the correct budget account. This has been due to a somewhat great office manager and crew and an OK Treasurer. The record is not bad!

In addition to the payment process, the Treasurer is on the Investment Committee. Sorry to say this Committee has not met due to the pandemic and various other reason. I am sure that this coming that it will be rejuvenated and will again continue to look after our investments.

Now for the mushy stuff! I was very proud and honored when I was first elected as Treasurer. Not only because those that voted for me had faith that I would do my best to fulfill the requirements of the position but also it gave me an opportunity serve the order and give a modicum of what it gave me. Thank you, and I am, and will be available to help in any way I can.



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Grand Lodge of California*

Report of the Head State Trustee

Greetings,

An audit was conducted on Tuesday, June 8 of the financial records of the Grand Lodge of California from the time period of September 2020-April 2021. The audit was conducted by Head State Trustee Ray Bini, Trustee Bill Murphy and Trustee Pamela Buldo. The audit was conducted at the Grand Lodge Office at 5051 Mission Street in San Francisco from 9:00am-1:00pm.

The financial records were accessed and provided by State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi and Immediate Past President Lynn Lawrence Murphy. All records listed below were reviewed. Any reports which contained expenditures were reviewed by two trustees. All questions raised by the trustees were satisfactorily answered and explained by Lori Rossi or State President John Costa. All financial records reviewed were found to be accurate and complete with no further action or investigation required.

Records reviewed:

Check registers including all expenses

Bank statements

Western Foundation

Il Leone invoices and payments

The Hall Revenue

Fraternally,

Ray Bini Head State Trustee



**ORDER SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA  
GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA**

**NECROLOGIO for 2019**

<b>NUMBER &amp; NAME OF LODGE</b>		<b>NAME</b>
1198	Cornelia-Vita Nuova	Anita Giacchetto Mary Poole
1274	Eureka	Judy Giannini Gioabbo Pera
1294	Camelia Colombo	Eleanor S. Sukraw
1315	C. Colombo	Rocco Battaglia
1375	Pugliese	Carmela A. Frontino
1441	Giuseppe Verdi	Dorothy Matteoni Frank Nenzel Angelina J. Renucci
1449	Rodolfo Valentino	Alfred Daddino
1463	Enrico Caruso	Dolores De Long William M. Zenner
1518	Cesare Battisti	Viviana Cuppoletti Joan Davenport Victoria Ibleto
1534	Cristoforo Colombo	Dan J. Danna
1543	Hanford	Hazel Ann Christin Robert Counter Lilia Giacomazzi
1573	Roma	Richard J. Atkinson Clifton L. Cleek Sylvia M. Signorelli
1586	Virgilio	Hank Davenport George De Bonis Nilo Rosellini
1626	Beatrice Portinari	Dorothy Branch Joyce Georgetti Lucille Herger
1940	Columbia	Eda M. Adreveno Dorotea Mesturini Andrew Zanardi

**ORDER SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA  
GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA**

**NECROLOGIO for 2019**

<b>NUMBER &amp; NAME OF LODGE</b>		<b>NAME</b>
1959	Valley of the Moon	Dorise Johnson
1960	William Paca	Marie Holmes Lorraine McCutcheon
1991	Centinela Valley	Rosario Vitullo
2003	Monterey	Natalie Whitney
2021	Modesto	Dominic Falasco
2043	Napa	Rita DeZorzi James Laurio
2082	Salinas	Robert Cava Pierina Nichols
2104	Ukiah	Pete Barra Bob Stout Craig Zachlod
2168	Hacienda	Joe Abbate
2259	Renaissance	Sandra Daniels Mary Louise Jeffries Carmela Licata
2352	Desert Valley	Mark Alden
2400	Dolly Sinatra	Morris Diamond Frank Ferro Maria Johannes Tony Manzoni
2424	La Costa Dei Fiori	Rosella Greco
2453	Shasta	Louis Zambonin
2534	Northern Solano	Thomas Tortorete
2553	Joanne Coccia	Rosemary Castillo Mildred Henson Nick Marino Nick Sclafani
2566	Saddleback Valley	Ernest Follis

**ORDER SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA  
GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA**

**NECROLOGIO for 2020**

<b>NUMBER &amp; NAME OF LODGE</b>		<b>NAME</b>
<b>1269</b>	<b>Weed</b>	<b>Sam F. Catalano Geoffrey B. DeBortoli Karen Michelin Marie C. Michelin Cesira R. Salvestrin</b>
<b>1274</b>	<b>Eureka</b>	<b>Ray Cesaretti</b>
<b>1294</b>	<b>Camelia Colombo</b>	<b>George Marostica Ida Spires</b>
<b>1315</b>	<b>C. Colombo</b>	<b>Mary Noia Mildred Peterson</b>
<b>1352</b>	<b>Sacramento</b>	<b>Elsa Luchini</b>
<b>1375</b>	<b>Pugliese</b>	<b>Anna M. Abbadessa James V. Sciarra</b>
<b>1413</b>	<b>Roseville</b>	<b>Armando Dianda Kenneth Lonergan</b>
<b>1441</b>	<b>Giuseppe Verdi</b>	<b>Ed Davis Eva Deller Nello Gonfiantini Anna Menicucci Alfred Panelli Charles Parigini Valdo Renucci</b>
<b>1518</b>	<b>Cesare Battisti</b>	<b>Esther Moreda</b>
<b>1534</b>	<b>Cristoforo Colombo</b>	<b>Frank Ducato</b>
<b>1586</b>	<b>Virgilio</b>	<b>Secondo Sarpieri Raymond Scavino</b>
<b>1626</b>	<b>Beatrice Portinari</b>	<b>Elvira Siri</b>
<b>1627</b>	<b>Fratellanza Garibaldina</b>	<b>Checchino Massullo Sidney Tamburine</b>
<b>1898</b>	<b>Santa Rosa</b>	<b>Edward Papola</b>

**ORDER SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA  
GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA**

**NECROLOGIO for 2020**

<b>NUMBER &amp; NAME OF LODGE</b>		<b>NAME</b>
<b>1940</b>	<b>Columbia</b>	<b>Rose Barcellone Antoniette Gulizia Norma Marcucci</b>
<b>1960</b>	<b>William Paca</b>	<b>Matthew Cusimano Jim Holmes Helen Zanella</b>
<b>1991</b>	<b>Centinela Valley</b>	<b>John Giacobuzzi Ida Sacco Ann Wendel</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>Monterey</b>	<b>Charles Della Sala</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>Watsonville</b>	<b>Pamela DeRose Virginia Yappert</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>Modesto</b>	<b>Philip Anselmo Lilia Muzio Joseph Simile</b>
<b>2127</b>	<b>West End</b>	<b>Daniel Massagli</b>
<b>2167</b>	<b>Diablo Valley</b>	<b>Victor Remorini</b>
<b>2259</b>	<b>Renaissance</b>	<b>Frank J. DeSantis Carol Licata Pearl Russo Domenica Tierney</b>
<b>2400</b>	<b>Dolly Sinatra</b>	<b>Isaia Izzo Tony Pontone</b>
<b>2453</b>	<b>Shasta</b>	<b>Carmelo Brugaletta Larry Hughes Ray Vasconcellos</b>
<b>2519</b>	<b>Vincenzo Bellini</b>	<b>Richard Noerenberg Stella Ricci</b>
<b>2534</b>	<b>Northern Solano</b>	<b>Frederic Barnes Laurel Holmboe Carol Jones Marie Ragusa Richard Tracy</b>

**ORDER SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA  
GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA**

**NECROLOGIO for 2020**

NUMBER & NAME OF LODGE	NAME
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2553	Joanne Coccia	Joseph Bono
		Peter Dente
		Mamie Musolino
		Lawrence Pavia
		Sadie Sciafani
2705	Gold Country	David Hillis
		Bob Matranga
		Douglas Nelson
		John Staiti



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**REPORT OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

**GRAND LODGE ZOOM CONVENTION  
JUNE 25, 2021**

Worthy State President, State Officers, State Delegates, Members and Guests:

Even though the Grand Council has had a number of Zoom meetings, this will be our first Grand Convention utilizing Zoom. Hopefully, it will be our last; and we are looking forward to when we can again meet in person with our Brothers and Sisters in the Order. Not only will we have the pleasure of again socializing with each other, but also we believe the business of the Order can be carried on more effectively in person.

Since the 2019 Grand Lodge Convention in Reno and the skipping of the 2020 Convention due to the Coronavirus shutdown, the Judiciary Committee has handled a number of requests. Before covering the specifics, we ask the Grand Lodge to note the passing of our longtime Judiciary Committee member, Sid Tamburine, on February 5, 2020. Even though he had been in poor health for some time, with the help of his wife, State 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Sadie, he continued to provide input until shortly before his death. He contributed greatly with his extensive knowledge of the law and OSIA history. That is why his name still appears on the Proposals that are being submitted at this Convention. Our prayers and thoughts go to Sadie and the family.

We also welcome the latest addition to the Judiciary Committee. Following the September 2019 Grand Council meeting, President John Costa, appointed Angela Silva, Past President of the Cornelia-Nuova Lodge #1198 to our Committee. She has been going to Law School on the east coast and is now preparing for the Bar. We congratulate her on obtaining her law degree and wish her success in completing

the rigorous Bar examinations. She, as well as Sid, participated in many of the following requests for research and opinions:

1. Roma Lodge #1573 submitted a Proposal for a Bylaw change concerning the Royal Pageant which listed a long list of suggested changes with the major one being the elimination of the requirement that the winners are those that sell the most raffle tickets. Our opinion was that these should be considered not as a Bylaw change, but as a Proposal to change the existing Royal Pageant Rules. Therefore, we recommended that the Grand Council refer the matter to the Royal Pageant Committee. That Committee was directed to review changes requested and provide a recommendation at a future Grand Council meeting.

2. The Scholarship Committee requested an Opinion as to the contents of the Scholarship Application form. We recommended that the Application needed no changes, but that the Score Sheet needed a couple of changes to in order to reduce subjectivity. In particular, the Committee needed to make a recommendation to the Grand Council if it desired to eliminate or change the Grand Council's Resolution of 6/25/2002 requiring at least a 4.0 GPA in order to qualify for a scholarship greater than \$1,000. We also suggested that the Committee make a recommendation as to whether or not the Applicant's need be considered, as that is a Policy matter, which should be made by the Council.

3. The State President requested that our Committee review a proposed Sublease for the Kitchen area at the Grand Lodge Building. Our Committee suggested a few modifications to reduce any possible misinterpretations in the Contract.

4. The State President requested advice on Postponing or Cancelling the 2020 Grand Convention due to the Coronavirus restrictions. Our Opinion was that it was not in violation of the Rules of the Order to do so and the decision was made to Cancel.

5. As elections for Officers and State Delegates had to be accomplished prior to this Convention, our Committee provided the Grand Council with recommendations in using Decrees to implement procedures to assist the Local Lodges perform their required elections through the use of mail and email notices and absentee ballots for voting.

6. Our Committee also provided our President with relevant Laws pertaining to the required Nominations and Elections for this Convention and suggestions on procedures.

7. Monterey Lodge #2003 submitted a Proposal for a Bylaw change to allow an exception for a Social Members to serve as Financial Secretary. Our Committee was unanimous that, even though this was clearly contrary to our National Bylaws, perhaps this was the time to call upon the Supreme Lodge to change. We suggested that the Grand Council pursue this to get maximum attention. Furthermore, rather than just make an exception for the Financial Secretary, the Grand Council, at the

meeting on October 10, 2020, agreed that it would be preferable to go a few steps further and allow Social Members to serve in all positions in the Local Lodge except President, Vice President and State Delegate. Subsequently, the Supreme Lodge agreed. **Social Members may now be allowed to serve in all capacities except President, Vice President and State Delegate.** However, the Supreme Council made a minor change in that the Grand Lodges have the discretion to implement this. If agreed by the Grand Council, our Committee now recommends that this be considered as a Grand Lodge Bylaw change, which would require a 2/3 majority vote of the Delegates. **Specifically, the vote would be to replace the second sentence in Article 67, paragraph C. with the following: "Social Members shall have the right to vote on the business of the Local Lodge, and to serve on Committees, and to hold any Office except President, Vice President, and State Delegate."**

The following Proposals contained in the attached Exhibits were reviewed by our Committee and found suitable by the Grand Council for consideration at this Convention:

**Exhibit A:** Roma Lodge #1573 submitted a Proposal for a Bylaw change to replace the current formula for the number of Local Lodge State Delegates with a U.S. Senate system of two Delegates per Local Lodge. Although it will likely create a lively discussion, it does not violate any Supreme Bylaws, so there is no legal impediment in presenting it to the Delegates at Convention.

**Exhibit B:** Roma Lodge #1573 submitted a Proposal for a Bylaw change to have the annual Grand Lodge Convention held every other year (Exhibit D). Even though this has been tried in the past, there is no legal impediment in presenting it to the Delegates in Convention and will also likely generate a lively discussion. You will note that we suggested it might be beneficial if Staff can track down the old Minutes to see when and why this action was taken many years ago and then quickly reverted to an annual Convention. One of our members recalled that besides the loss of Fraternity, there was a significant drop in donations through the Western Foundation.

Due to the difficulties inherent in a Zoom meeting in being able to thoroughly and effectively discuss and vote on the above, perhaps the Delegates should first consider the merit of a Motion to Table these until the 2022 Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Girolami, Chair

Members: John Bianco, Angela Silva, Roy Vanoni  
Mark Vaona, Orator ex officio



**PURPOSE:** To change the number of Delegates formula to two per local Lodge

**PRESENT ARTICLE  
ARTICLE 57 – STATE DELEGATES**

State Delegates are the representatives of the Local Lodges of the Grand Lodge.

A. Each Local Lodge shall have the right of representation to the Grand Lodge based on the State Delegates count specified by the State Recording Secretary as follows:

1. One State Delegate for the first 25 members;
2. One state Delegate for each additional 40 members (i.e. 40, 80, 120, etc.);
3. One State Delegate for a fraction over one half of 40 members (i.e. 21 or more);
4. Junior members shall not be included in calculating the total membership count;
5. The number of State Delegates of any Local Lodge shall not change for a period of two years regardless of the variations in the numerical strength of that Lodge.

Note: Articles 57 B through M will not change, except the Note after Article 57 B

**PROPOSED ARTICLE  
ARTICLE 57-STATE DELEGATES**

State Delegates are the representatives of the Local Lodges in the Grand Lodge.

A. Each Local Lodge shall have the right of representation to the Grand Lodge by two voting Delegates.

Note: Articles 57 B. through M. will not change, but the “Note” after Article 57 B. that facilities the original computation should be deleted as no longer relevant.

**CHANGES:**

Reworded Article 57 A. to provide for only two voting Delegates and deleted subparagraphs 1 through 5.

**PROPONENTS REASONS:**

1. To reduce the financial burden on Local Lodges for providing Delegates based on lodge membership. Adopting a Senate versus House of Representatives structure, as used in the U.S. Congress, gives Local Lodges adequate and equal representation regardless of how big or small their lodge membership.
2. For those lodges with fewer than 25 members, they could be exempted from having a second Delegate by the Grand Lodge.

3. All lodges would be encouraged to send as many members as they wished to participate in all Convention related meetings and activities. However, when voting would occur, only two Delegates with official credentials would be allowed to vote.
4. Roma Lodge understands the pros and cons of using the current method of Delegate numbers. However, with the loss of membership and Local Lodges placing a bigger financial burden on lodges and members for sending more than two Delegates to the convention needs to be changed.

**RELEVANT LAWS:**

The Proposal was timely submitted pursuant to Grand Lodge Article 31 J. Supreme Lodge Bylaw 47(d) is the only mention made as to the election of State Delegates. It starts out with "To institute a Grand Lodge, it shall be necessary:" and then in (d), "To elect State Delegates by the Local Lodges on the basis of one for every fifty members, or on such other basis as approved by each Grand Lodge". **The Judiciary committee adds that, pertaining to Proponent's reason #2, if this Proposal were adopted, any exception to sending less than two Delegates without paying a fine would require a change to Art.57 M.**

**JUDICIARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

As the Supreme Bylaws allow the Grand Lodge to have the power to select a different method for determining the number of Delegates, this Proposal can properly be placed before the Delegates at Convention. It is noted that Item 2 of Proponent's reasons might need an additional Bylaw to eliminate uncertainty. As with all Bylaw changes, this would require a 2/3-majority to pass (Grand Lodge Article 4 C. 10).

Respectfully submitted,

Al Girolami, Chair

Committee Members:

John Bianco, Angela Silva, Sid Tamburine, Roy Vanoni

Mark Vaona, Orator ex officio

PURPOSE: To change the annual Convention to every other year

PRESENT ARTICLE  
ARTICLE 5 – GRAND LODGE CONVENTIONS

A. The Grand Lodge meets in Ordinary and Extraordinary Sessions. Every meeting is called a Grand Convention which shall meet in:

- 1. Ordinary Session every year at a location previously selected for three (3) days starting on the fourth Thursday of the month of June;

Note: following paragraphs are not relevant.

PROPOSED ARTICLE  
ARTICLE 5 – GRANDLODGE CONVENTIONS

A. The Grand Lodge meets in Ordinary and Extraordinary Sessions. Every meeting is called a Grand Convention which shall meet in:

- 1. Ordinary Session every *other* year at a location previously selected for three (3) days starting on the fourth Thursday of the month of June;

CHANGES: Merely added "other" to Paragraph A. 1.

PROPONENT'S REASONS:

This will reduce the financial burden on Local Lodges for providing Delegates to the Grand Lodge Convention. The current method of the required number of Delegates based on Article 57 – State Delegates, penalizes Local Lodges with large memberships to send a large number of Delegates. Currently, Roma Lodge is the largest Local Lodge in the State with membership of over 300 members, which based on Article 57, requires six Delegates to attend. This requires our lodge to pay nearly \$5,000 annually to send Delegates to the Grand Convention who may or not be able to attend.

Grand Lodge Conventions are unfair to those Local Lodge members who are younger and employed. With the current itinerary for conventions, it forces younger members, who may or may not be self-employed, to take 2-3 days of vacation time or unpaid leave to attend the convention. With shrinking membership as shown by the Grand Lodge Membership Reports (2018 membership of 3,924, a loss of 216 from the previous year and a loss of 851 members from 2014), closure of Local Lodges, and financial constraints of Local Lodges to support local Delegates, the burden would be lessened if the Grand Convention were held every other year. The Grand Lodge, by forcing the Local Lodges to purchase Delegate packets whether they send Delegates or not, is transferring the financial burden of the Grand Lodge to the Local Lodges. Going to a Convention every other year would reduce half of that burden.

**RELEVANT LAWS:**

Article 65 of the Supreme Bylaws provides as follows:

“The Grand Lodge shall hold its Grand Convention once every two years in odd numbered years during the month of April, May, or June at the place previously chosen by the Grand Council or chosen by the Grand Council whenever found impracticable to hold it at such place; provided that the Grand Convention may be held once each year, if the laws of the Grand Lodge so provide.”

This Proposal was timely submitted to the Grand Lodge pursuant to Grand Lodge Article 32 J.

**JUDICIARY COMMITTEE OPINION:**

The Supreme Bylaws expressly state that the Grand Convention must be held at least once every two years, it may be held annually if the Grand Lodge so decides. The only other requirements are that it has to be held in all odd numbered years and within the months of April, May, or June. Therefore, it is within the discretion of the Grand Lodge to hold the Convention every year or every other year.

**JUDICIARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

There is no legal impediment to have this matter placed before the Delegates at Convention. As with all Bylaw changes, this would require a 2/3-majority vote in order to be implemented (Grand Lodge Bylaw Article 4 C. 10). If this change were to pass, it should be followed by a motion to also amend Grand Lodge Article 6 – Order of the Day (Agenda) to eliminate the three asterisks following Articles 6, 9, and 13 and the final sentence explaining the asterisks as those functions would be necessary at every Convention.

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION:**

It is our recollection that the Grand Lodge Convention was changed to every other year about over 20 years ago, but after two years, the Delegates voted to return to an annual Convention. Perhaps it would be beneficial if Staff can go through the old minutes and find information as when the actions occurred and the reasons for the decisions.

---

Respectfully submitted,

Al Girolami, Chair

Committee Members:

John Bianco, Angela Silva, Sid Tamburine, Roy Vanoni

Mark Vaona, Orator ex officio



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## *Sons of Italy Western Foundation*

501 (c) (3) Nonprofit Corporation — Established 1959

Affiliation: GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA  
ORDER SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA  
5051 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94112-3473

### REPORT OF THE WESTERN FOUNDATION

June 26, 2021

Meeting via Zoom

As we all know, we have endured under difficult conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has affected all of us, either personally or in our business lives. I want to assure you that, in spite of these unusual times, Western Foundation has continued to operate as an ongoing business by soliciting and collecting donations and then disbursing funds to the various programs we support. We are grateful to the donors who have continued to give during these troubled times.

Since its inception in 1959 the Sons of Italy Western Foundation has raised money, primarily through donations from its members and their lodges. The money raised has been used to enhance educational opportunities and experiences for graduating high school students through scholarships. The donations have also helped to support medical research libraries, aided victims of natural disasters, provided support for returning veterans and has assisted with the program to promote the preservation of our Italian language and culture.

Even though the pandemic has affected the way we operate our business, the various Grand Lodge committees have continued to do the job of recognizing the needs and disbursing money to assist each endeavor. For example, the Scholarship Committee has worked to select deserving students who will receive scholarships and the Birth Defects Library Committee has delivered funds to various Birth Defects Libraries.

The by-laws of Western Foundation allow for the election of three (3) trustees to sit on the Board. The purpose of these additional positions is to provide fundraising sources and activities to the Foundation. Currently the Trustees are Joe La Porta, Mark Rossi and Roy Vanoni, each representing a different district. I am happy to say that during their term in office, these Trustees have helped to raise funds to assist with the operation of Western Foundation. For example;

- The Western Foundation Golf Classic in the north, under the leadership of Michael Colletti Smith with the help of members from the Vincenzo Bellini Lodge, has raised significant money by hosting the event in Chico, CA, over the past 21 years. The event in 2020 had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. In 2019 this event resulted in over \$5,800 being donated to Western Foundation. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Classic is scheduled for October 11, 2021. I am happy to have been associated with is event since its inception.
- In 2019 Joe La Porta, on behalf of the Dolly Sinatra Lodge in Palm Springs, organized and hosted a golf tournament that resulted in \$5,000.00 being donated to Western Foundation. The event for 2020 had to be cancelled but this year's golf classic is planned for November 15, 2021.

This year in 2021 a raffle was planned and organized by Mark Rossi, the intent being to raise money for Western Foundation. The raffle was held in February of 2021. It was very successful with over \$5,00.00 being raised.

The result of fundraising and disbursements for Western Foundation will be reviewed during the presentation of financial reports by the State Financial Secretary. Members are encouraged to continue giving in support of their favorite charity or program. The need remains with us.

In conclusion, this past year has been a challenge for all of us associated with Western Foundation. I offer my thanks to all who were a part of our operation, including committee chairs and, especially, State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi and her helpers from the Grand Lodge office for a job well done.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy T. Vanoni, CAO Western Foundation  
and Past State President



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### **GRAND LODGE VIRTUAL CONVENTION JUNE 26, 2021**

### **REPORT OF THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE/HISTORY COMMITTEE**

My dear Sisters and Brothers:

I hope that this letter finds you and your families safe and healthy. This past year has been incredibly challenging for everyone, and I am relieved that our lives are slowly reverting to a sense of semi-normalcy. Let's hope this continues.

Since many schools have not been teaching in-person, and most lodges have not met until recently since gatherings have not been allowed, there is very little to report.

2021 is the year of the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of Dante Alighieri, the Supreme Poet and the Father of the Italian Language, whose masterpiece *The Divine Comedy* is one of the most important works of Western Literature. If you have lodge meetings, have someone read about Dante and his life and works. A mini history and literature lesson!

2021 also features the city of Parma as the Capital of Italian Culture. Parma is a renowned culinary capital – the Creative City of Gastronomy - (not just Prosciutto and formaggio Parmigiano-Reggiano, but so much more) and its province of Parma is the home of opera composer Giuseppe Verdi and conductor Arturo Toscanini. Parma features artwork and architecture, museums and symphony halls. There is a lot for us to learn about this city and what it offers.

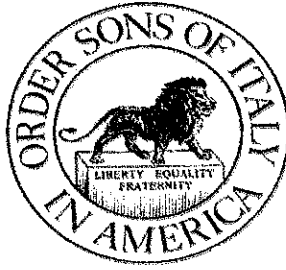
Unfortunately in recent days, Burlingame Intermediate School in Burlingame has decided to discontinue the teaching of the Italian language. As of this writing there will be an open School Board meeting on June 8, but the topic has not been placed on the agenda. I am anxiously awaiting the outcome.

The Hon. Lorenzo Ortona, the wonderful Consul General of Italy in San Francisco, is going back to Rome at the end of June. We have been most fortunate to have had him for five years. He has been a champion for the Italian-American community in his very large jurisdiction and we wish him the best in his future assignments. He will be missed.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Maria*

Maria Fassio Pignati  
Chairperson



**SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY  
WESTERN FOUNDATION  
NORTHERN  
CALIFORNIA GOLF CLASSIC**

June 18, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I have booked the date for this years golf classic, Monday - October 11, 2021. We will be celebrating Columbus Day at our golf classic as we have for the past several years.

We will also be paying tribute to a Great Italian, founder of Sunset Scavenger and now Recology, Lenny Stefanelli. Lenny past away in 2018.

A meeting was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May with the new General Manager of Recology Doug Speicher Senior and office manager Amy Jernigan.

Recology will sponsor us again this year. It is not yet known to the extent of funds they will be able to donate.

Dining Room is open to capacity seating at the Country Club and we again will have a great Italian dinner

Auction and raffle items – with most of the businesses running on limited budgets, it will be difficult to obtain some good auction items. It will up to all of us to dig in to see what we can come up with to generate the funds that we are accustomed to.

Please mark your calendar for Columbus Day and a great day of Golf and Italian dining.

Fraternally,

Michael Colletti Smith  
Chairman – Western Foundation Northern California Golf Classic





Sons and Daughters of Italy  
Dolly Sinatra Lodge

# Golf Tournament

Monday November 15, 2021

Indian Canyons Golf Resort

1097 E. Murray Canyons Dr. Palm Springs, CA 92264

*Registration - Opens 7am*

**8:00 am - Shotgun start 4 Man Best Ball**

**\$150 Members \$175 Non-Members \$42 Lunch Only**

*Includes green fees, cart, Italian Buffet*

For info call or email

Joe LaPorta - 760.219.9171 - joeydoor@dc.rr.com

Dolly Sinatra Lodge P.O. Box 637 Palm Springs, CA 92263

Name (Sign up in 1-4 Players)	Phone/Email	Handicap USGA Index*	No Handicap	Division Your Age on July 22, 2019
1.		#		
2.		#		
3.		#		
4.		#		

Check only - No Credit Card Profits to Western Foundation Sons of Italy  
Make check payable to Dolly Sinatra Lodge



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## *Sons of Italy Western Foundation*

501 (c) (3) Nonprofit Corporation — Established 1959

Affiliation: GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA  
ORDER SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA  
5051 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94112-3473

### Scholarship Committee Report Grand Lodge of California 84<sup>th</sup> Convention Grand Lodge Office/Virtual, San Francisco, California

Worthy State President, Western Foundation CAO,  
State Officers, Lodge Delegates

Once again another unusual year, however due to technology we are able to meet (in a fashion).

This year the committee received eighty applications. Four applications were disqualified, two for lack of the supporting documents requested; one with no application form and lastly, a student who had already received a scholarship a year earlier.

Twenty- one scholarships were awarded this year and attached to this report is the list of those students and the scholarships. The students not receiving a scholarship was sent a “thank you but regrets card”

All applications were sent to the committee chairperson. Upon opening the applications they were logged in and scanned. They were divided among the committee members and the PDF files sent to the committee members for review and evaluation. This system worked well in 2020 and now in 2021. Although we miss the fraternalism of meeting together, this system saves a great deal of money. With membership declining which has an effect on our finances and budget, this is a way to go for the committee.

When the new scholarship application forms come out for 2022, there will be an additional form. One that will be for those students wishing to attend a trade school rather than a four year college or university or community college.

This scholarship program would not be possible without the generous support of our donor and our lodges. So, thank you, Mille Grazie for the continuing support especially during these unusual and difficult times.

A "big thank you" to my committee, Michelle Lowinger, Hank Lowinger, Jackie Giacomazzi, Pam Buldo, Lynn and Bill Murphy. They are the best of the best of any committee. I believe in an adage "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" and they are special to work with. Next thank you goes to John Costa, State President and Roy Vanoni, Western Foundation CAO. Thanks for the opportunity to do this job and for their support. This is a job that I truly love and enjoy doing. To work with the young people is rewarding. Yes, the Order does receive thanks from the grateful students receiving these scholarships. My "inbox" is overwhelmed with the thanks sent by the students.

I have four ladies that I can't say thank you enough times for their help in answering my requests. They make my job so much easier, thanks to Lori Rossi and Lynn Lawrence Murphy. Last, but not least, my behind the scenes advisors and "out of the box thinkers and help" my daughters Kim Brower and Kris Tuck.

I look forward to next year in 2022, when we can hopefully meet at the Black and White Ball and introduce the amazing students receiving the top scholarships

Fraternal regards  
*Rosemarie Biagetti Vanderhaar*  
Scholarship Committee Chairperson

## 2021 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

### Through the Western Foundation, Grand Lodge of California

Anthony Avansino	Trinchero Perpetual Scholarship	\$5,000
Aiden Tomasini	Ena Moresco Memorial (Charles & Anna Pedrazzini Fdn.)	3,000
Isabella Giambruno	In Honor of the Members of Cristoforo Colombo Lodge 1534	3,000
Jenna Ravizza	Terry Watson Memorial Scholarship (Carol Watson)	2,500
Ryan Neighbors	In Memory of Dan & Adua D'Amico	2,500
Morgan Fresch	Chris & Mary Lotito Athletic Scholarship (Mary Lotito)	2,500
Caroline De Sousa	Chris & Mary Lotito Athletic Scholarship (Mary Lotito)	2,500
Katherine Hodges	CAVA Family Trust Scholarship (Mrs. Robert Cava)	2,500
Christina Paulazzo	Pete & Paula Uccelli Fdn Scholarship ( Paula Uccelli)	2,500
Avery Grogan	In Memory ofCristoforo Colombo Lodge No. 1534 Deceased Members	2,500
Sienna Janes	In Memory of Greg & Carol Amendola (Amendola Brothers)	2,000
Jeffery Verne	In Memory of Larry Peluso & Al Scali Anaheim Lodge No. 2076	1,000
Anthony Lipari	In Memory of Anaheim Lodge No.2076 Deceased Members	1,000

Nicole Calentano	Mario Moro Memorial Scholarship (CarolMoro)	1,000
James Rancilio Showalter	In Honor of Andy & Louise Pampuro (Amendola Brothers)	1,000
Christian Joseph Smith	In Memory of Sid Tamburine (Sadie Tamburine)	1,000
Cassidy Lynn Horn	In Memory of Elvira Siri (Beatrice Portinari Lodge No 1626)	1,000
Julian Hewitt	North Bay United Lodges	600
Sicilia Oseguera	In Honor of Ed Malone (Virgilio Lodge No. 1586)	500
Owen Ladinig	In Honor of Centinela Valley Lodge No. 1991 Members	500
Victoria Artale	In Honor of Hacienda Lodge No. 2168 Members	500



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### Report of the Medical Charities

#### June 2021 Convention

Worthy State President John Costa and Grand Council Members

The Medical Charities Committee is requesting that the state lodges please make donations to the charities of their choice.

I know it has been a difficult year and want to wish everyone the best. My charities as you know are the following:

The Alzheimer's Association, The National Cooley's Anemia Foundation, Thalassemia Support Foundation, and The American Cancer Society.

Please make checks out to Western Foundation, thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Carroll  
Medical Charities Chairman



***Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America  
Grand Lodge of California***

***Mary Lucido***

***~ Birth Defects Libraries Chairperson ~***

***State Convention***

***June 26th, 2021***

**Birth Defects Libraries Report**

Worthy State President, State Officers, Committee Chairs, State Delegates and Guests,

I have distributed the donations for the following Birth Defects Libraries: Valley Children's Hospital of Madera, UC Irvine Medical Center, Harbor General-UCLA Research and Education Institute, and the UC Davis Medical Center. Furthermore, I was able to coordinate two presentations: one with the Valley Children's Hospital of Madera and the other with the UC Davis Medical Center.

On March 23rd, 2021, I coordinated an in-person presentation with the Valley Children's Hospital of Madera. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, they limited the presentation to one person but it was still a very special moment. I was able to hear all of the wonderful things they are working so hard to accomplish. I was sure to represent you all gracefully by presenting a speech along with our donation of \$230.00.

On April 20th, 2021, we had a Zoom presentation of the donation for the UC Davis Medical Center Birth Defects Library. In attendance was their Senior Director of Development, Toni Miller as well as Nicole A. Capdarest-Arest, the Head of the Blaisdell Medical Library at UC Davis. I was also accompanied by State 1st Vice President, Barbara Wisniewski. We had a lovely Zoom call, learning all about the UC Davis Birth Defects Library and the various ways in which our donation of \$3,500.00 will help with their efforts.

It has been a true pleasure to serve in this leadership role and I have appreciated this learning experience. Furthermore, it has been an honor to represent the Grand Lodge of California and the

Western Foundation to the various Birth Defects Libraries that we support. Thank you for this incredible opportunity, it has been a privilege and an honor.

I am wishing you all a successful and productive State Convention. I am looking forward to the future where we will all see each other in person again!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Lucido  
Birth Defects Library Chairperson





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### **Garibaldi – Meucci Museum Report**

#### **85<sup>th</sup> Grand Convention**

**June 2021**

The Garibaldi – Meucci Museum has extended its daily closure to the public till further notice, however, a virtual tour is available on the website, [www.garibaldimeuccimuseum.org](http://www.garibaldimeuccimuseum.org). This website will take you through the lives and times of Garibaldi and Meucci.

Upcoming exhibit (TBD) Poetic – Action, a site- specific installation, by Contemporary Artists: Anna Lise and Alyssa Casey. Date TBD

The Museum Annual Fundraising Luncheon for 2021 at this time will be a virtual event enabling everyone to join in the celebrating of the Museum and our Honorees.

Watch the 2020 event on Youtube and please go to the GMM website for more information and details.

Respectfully Submitted

Joy Bruno

State Chair/ National Overseer



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*Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America  
Grand Lodge of California*

Media Committee Report  
by Andy Pampuro

June 2021 Convention Report

Sadly, with the pandemic, the Il Leone has suffered as well as everyone else. Lodges were shut down and had nothing to write about.

Things are picking up now and I hope for a big change. I did call the printer and found he was printing too many issues so we cut the amount down as our membership has dropped to 3300 members.

I was disappointed that the only one who advertised that she was running for a Grand Lodge office was Barbara Wisniewski.



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## *Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America Grand Lodge of California*

### **2021 Annual Convention**

### **Investment Committee Report**

The Investment Committee was formed in March of 2018. The committee exists to identify unused Grand Lodge and Western Foundation assets and make recommendations to the Financial Officers of the Grand Lodge and Western Foundation, on how best these assets can be invested in Federally insured short term and medium-term investments. The investment committee is an advisory committee only and has no authority to execute financial transaction. The committee is made up of GL President, GL Treasurer, GL Financial Secretary and CAO of Western Foundation, Trustees of the Western Foundation and Past State President John Tedesco.

The last recommendation made by the Investment Committee was a \$100K CD with an 18-month term that matured 10/13/2020 (WF). Currently, the Grand Lodge and Western Foundation are using Schwab Money Market Accounts to hold their long-term assets. As interest rates start to increase there will be opportunities once again to move Grand Lodge and Western Foundations assets into CD's.

I would like to thank President John Costa and Past State President John Tedesco for forming this committee and giving me an opportunity to be a part of it. The committee initially made some excellent progress, but stalled in the last 15 months due to the economic challenges that were faced during the pandemic.

Fraternally submitted,

Mark Rossi  
Chairperson, Investment Committee

# GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America  
2021 Grand Convention  
June 26, 2021

## Report of the State Youth Committee June 2021

Worthy State President, State Officers, Emeritus, Past State Presidents, Committee Chairs,

There is no amount of gratitude too great that I would be able to bestow upon our State President John for the opportunity the chair the Youth Committee. This has truly been one of my most memorable and rewarding Sons of Italy experiences in the 30+ years I have been a member of the order. Thank you for believing in me and youth of the order.

I would like to give a special THANK YOU to all who donated to the Little Lion Program. Without your generous donations we would not be able to have such a great youth program.

As we have passed the year mark of living in a COVID-19 world, many of us are struggling with feelings of lethargy and lack of motivation. The cognitive dissonance of living in dull daily domestic certainty coupled with an overwhelmingly uncertain future creates an unbearable tension that can leave us exhausted and demoralized. "The night is darkest just before the dawn. And I promise you, the dawn is coming." This quote from Harvey Dent in *The Dark Knight*, resonates with me because I believe there is a dawn coming for all of us. We will get through this stronger than we were before.

We refer to the convention as the Grand Convention and next summer in Anaheim I want to make it just that.... Grand for all the kids! I don't want to give away too much right now since it's still a year away but believe me next year will be a convention for the kids that they will talk about for years to come. Make sure your if plan on bringing youth members to sign them up early.

A million thanks go out to everyone who has sponsored the Little Lion Program, without the generosity of the lodges and its brothers and sisters I would not have been able to make the youth program what it is today.

To the members of my committee and all who have chaperoned, helped with event ideas and planning you are some of the greatest people in the order to have around me.

Fraternally,  
Brian E. Watson



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*Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America  
Grand Lodge of California*

**GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA  
O.S.D.I.A. CONVENTION  
San Francisco, CA  
JUNE 26, 2021**

**RITUAL & PROTOCOL REPORT**

Worthy State President, Past State Presidents, Grand Council, and State Delegates:

I would first like to thank State President John Costa for appointing me as the Ritual and Protocol Chairperson. I was looking forward to seeing everyone at convention this year (as I was last year) but unfortunately will have to wait. I hope everyone is staying healthy.

As your lodges begin to meet please remember to use the Ritual and Protocol book.

Fraternally,  
Donna Lee Lawrence Costa, Chairperson



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*Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America  
Grand Lodge of California*

Grand Convention

June 2021

Royal Pageant Committee Report

Worthy State President, Grand Council and Committee Chairs,

Earlier this year, I was made aware of proposed changes to the Royal Pageant, submitted as bylaw changes. As chair of the Royal Pageant committee, I met with my fellow committee members (Sherry Monarcky, Annette Porter, Pam Ricci, as well as Mary Lucido, Brianna Simon, and Pam Buldo) to discuss these proposed changes. As a consensus, we have decided that there will be no major structural changes to the Royal Pageant. We appreciate the input of the Roma Lodge #1573 but after consideration, we feel that the recommendations are not suitable for the nature of the pageant.

Some of the proposed changes include changing the nature of the event from a fundraiser for the participating lodges and the Grand Lodge to more of a competitive pageant format. Upon consideration and discussion, the committee decided that they want to keep the Royal Pageant as a fund raiser where the Grand Lodge and participating lodges can benefit from their hard work. The committee concluded that changing the format would discourage rather than encourage participation. We agree that it was more important for the participants to be themselves and have this event be a growing and learning opportunity rather than be another stage in their lives to be judged. The suggestion of poise and make-up classes, during the convention, would realistically not be helpful because those skills require more time to master than just a few days. Another reason for this consensus is that the young women and men, during this time in their lives are busy with school and other activities and do not need more things put on their plate. The money that has been raised through the sale of raffle tickets has not been a detriment to the representation of the Grand Lodge. All the young women and men who have held the position have gracefully and intelligently been excellent ambassadors to the Order, and any suggestion otherwise is inappropriate. We have also assessed that requiring lodges to pay \$3,500 to the Grand Lodge for participation also discourages filial lodges who have small memberships from participating in this event -- especially after the past year and a half.

The pageant as it is now, allows the participants to be a representative for their local lodge as well as the Grand Lodge. It was discussed that the event should continue to encourage young members to be honored given the limited opportunities for their voices. We also agreed that a 2-year term should remain, rather than having the event every year. During our meeting, Mary Lucido and Brianna Simon both expressed how the second year of their reign was when they felt lasting friendships form between them and the court. They also felt that 2 years is needed in order to be able to attend filial lodge events, and this would not be possible to do in one year.

We would like to move forward with several inclusions. Firstly, the Committee will continue to host bonding activities for the Court in addition to requiring participants to attend all convention events, as is tradition. The Committee will also incorporate a cultural event into the activities as suggested. To ensure participants feel comfortable and confident, the rehearsal will include time to practice speeches and review etiquette. It is the priority of the Committee to ensure that the experience is one that is enjoyable and comfortable for all participants. Additionally, we must encourage future participation since this event is one of the only platforms for our youth members to be honored and heard.

With that being said, the Committee has recommended the following changes to the pageant structure for the Grand Council's consideration.

- The Royal Pageant shall be renamed to Corteo Reale to honor the Italian language and reflect the recent inclusion of all genders to the pageant.
- To sync the Corteo Reale event with the election of new Grand Council officers, the 2022 Court shall hold a three-year term. This will allow the event to revert to a 2-year term at the 2025 convention.

In the past six years that I have been chairperson, it has been my pleasure to work with and get to know the participants that I hope will continue to be a part of the Order. The only way that this tradition is going to continue is with the willingness of the filial lodges to support and encourage their youth to get involved. Keep in mind that we are all brothers and sisters, and we are all working toward the same goal, which is the success and continuation of the Grand Lodge.

Thank you,

Eva Lavezzari  
Royal Pageant Committee Chairman