



## **C.I.A.O.**

Cultural Italian American Organization  
144 Genesee Street, Suite 102-240  
Auburn, New York 13021  
www.CayugaCountyCIAO.org

**Newsletter, January, 2021**

### **Officers**

#### **Chairman**

Paolo Saltarello

#### **Co-Chairman**

Tony Gucciardi

#### **Secretary**

Tony Tesoro

#### **Recording Secretary**

Lynda DeOrio

#### **Corresponding Secretary**

Felix Mucedola

#### **Treasurer**

Sam Vitale

#### **Financial Secretary**

Dick Paulino

#### **Trustees**

Matt Bartolotta

Frank DeOrio

John Elice, Jr.

Mike Vasco

Paul Vitale

#### **Sentinels**

Giuseppe Casamassa

Vito Charella

#### **Public Relations**

Mike Vasco

#### **Chaplain**

Father Louis Vasile

### **Monthly Newsletter**

#### ***Ciao a tutti! Hello everyone!***

Our future meetings have been postponed for now; when we are able to set a date, we will contact members by email or phone, and post on Facebook and our website. Visit our website for updated pictures!

#### ***Buon Natale, a season when CIAO spreads holiday cheer to members and community.***

Due to Covid 19, we know how challenging it has been for many of us to not be able to see each other, and exchange the Italian ways of greetings. As the times filled us with sadness, Carolyn and John Elice, Jr. had an idea to treat CIAO members with a special *Buon Natale* gift pack to bring CIAO members some joy in the Italian tradition. Gift packs were delivered that included fruits, nuts, and cookies, and a Christmas card. A special gift inside was also a lottery scratch-off ticket for everyone to enjoy. The Board was glad to have the special project, which replaced our 2020 *Buon Natale* party, and the annual dinner/meeting on the second Monday of January. Many, many thanks to those who sent in so many kind words in appreciation of the hand-delivered packets. We were happy to hear your responses! It took some planning, but it went well. Winners were drawn for some extra gifts and included Scott DeJoy, winner of a four pack of Lambrusco; Louis and Elsa Bernardino, who won door jingle bells; the Alberics who won a Christmas plaque; and Dominic Petrosino who won a Santa door plaque. The CIAO *Buon Natale* gift packs were packaged and delivered by Carolyn and John Elice, Jr., Anna and Paolo, Felice Mucedola, "Pompieri" Vasco, Dick Paulino and Paul McDonald.

#### ***Natale e doni - Christmas giving***

A fruitful gift of Christmas cheer was the traditional *panettone* in an Italian way that CIAO delivered to the nurses at Auburn Community Hospital. Dr. John Ryan, member of CIAO, suggested and coordinated the delivery of 50 *panettone* to each nursing station at Auburn Community Hospital, in appreciation for their tireless dedication during the Covid 19 pandemic. All were specially packed with individual CIAO cards with *Buon Natale* greetings from our group, with bows and ribbons to decorate each bag. All gifts were prepared by Dr. Ryan, Anna and Paolo, and assisted by Pam Letizia Harvey. Another gratifying gift giving by CIAO!

#### ***Wishing you a happy and healthy strong new 2021***

As we are in the midst of the pandemic, we all need to be helping each other. If you were affected in any way by Covid 19, may you keep strong and look forward to the final day of recovery to restart the normal way of life. We will once again be able to get on with our lives and visit and hug our *amici*, friends! We wish a good recovery to John Ryan, as he struggled during days of affliction. *Alla buona salute, anno nuovo, vita nuova.* To good health, cheers, new year, new life.

#### ***Member News***

***Recovery/Best Wishes*** to Rochesterian CIAO member Tom Grasso, for his continuous good recovery due to complications developed during health-related issues. *Buona salute caro amico!*

***Condolences*** extended to co-chair Tony Gucciardi and family. The CIAO Board members unite with the members to extend their deep sympathy to Tony, in the death of his brother Ralph, a resident of the Commons, who passed away on New Year's Day. May the Lord embrace Ralph in his kingdom.

#### ***Benefactors - Christmas giving to those in need***

A CIAO member is always extending his hand, donating to assist people in need. A continuous humble gesture that Paolo receives, and makes sure that the proper persons receive the intended donation. *Grazie, grazie alla persona/soci di CIAO, che continua ad assistere i bisognosi, un buon segno de umiltà, durante questi tempi difficoltosi.*

## **Italian Natale, presepios and other religious events canceled by the total lockdown of the entire country of Italy**

The Italian population has complied fully to the “*coprifuoco*” mandated to all the cities and towns, who have been under the watchful protection to keep the restriction in order, by the *carabinieri*, the paramilitary national police force assisted by all other police agencies. Businesses, market centers, churches, piazzas are all bare and empty, as was directed by the Italian Prime Minister, Giuseppe Conti, under the Italian president Sergio Mattarella and approved by the legislators in Roma. The “*coprifuoco*” reminded the Italians of the times it was used during World War II. The population of each city and town have accepted and stood by the severity of the steps needed to slow down the pandemic. People have not been able to travel from one region to another, or town to town, with many roads blocked. The curfew imposed includes a fine of \$500 or more. People depend on each other for their shopping, for which they need to provide a paper document to show affairs all in good order. Christmas, the most celebrated *festà*, was set at a minimum of seven people for Christmas dinner, and seven for New Year’s Day. Many who lost their family members due to Covid 19, were not allowed at all to see their loved one after they passed away. They were brought immediately to the cemetery, accompanied by the priest, funeral director, and the cemetery caretaker. In Biccari, my friend Lorenzo lost his wife, an Italian-American born in New Jersey who moved to Italy to teach English. She died of Covid, and was brought home. Her body remained in the home overnight, with only her grieving husband by her side. Her children were outside looking in through the windows. The next day the body was placed on the hearse, and brought to the cemetery for her burial with Lorenzo, his two children, the priest and the caretaker. Those are only few of similar situations that the Italians are experiencing while still respecting the lockdown imposed by the government. In one town of Puglia, a priest and the Mayor decided to still hold a small religious service in the *piazza*. They were arrested for breaking the “*coprifuoco*”. These people are very resilient and patient as they have demonstrated during the past year, similar to the endurance needed to survive World War II poverty and rebuild their country. They continue to express to each other, “*C’e la faremo,*” we will make it through.

### **Treasurer’s Report to members**

A kind request/suggestion was forwarded to CIAO Board members to have a copy of the end of the year financial statement included with the January 2021 newsletter. As at each monthly membership meeting, full reports are given with copies available to the members. Congratulations to our *tesorieri*, Sam Vitale, and Dick Paulino. These reports are to the penny, and complete. We always have professed the “transparency” in our midst. We are very pleased to also list all of the donations in the report for the year end. As a small organization, we are very proud to support the community, and help in our own various ways. Please, keep the included information to yourself. *Grazie*, many thanks to you all. We’re happy you are part of CIAO, assisting and contributing to our Italian heritage. *Statte buone, capish?*

#### **Cultural Italian American Organization**

Monthly Financial Report as of	12/31/20	
<b>Carryover</b>		\$8478.54
<b>Dates</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Deposit</b>
11/14	Dues (\$80) and ret. ck (\$40 + \$15)	\$135.00
<b>Total Deposits</b>		\$135.00
<b>Expenses Paid</b>		
<b>Check No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
997	F. Mucedola/Mass card	\$20.00
998	Paul Saltarello	\$164.19
999	Carolyn Elice	\$150.00
1000	Warm the Children	\$100.00
1001	United Way of Cay. Cty.	\$100.00
1002	CCDSBA	\$50.00
1003	Vet. Mem. Park	\$100.00
1004	Paul Saltarello	\$201.25
1005	The Citizen	\$110.00
1006	Major Palooza	\$100.00
1007	John Elice	\$73.55
1008	Paul Saltarello	\$39.18
1009	Paul Saltarello	\$184.50
1010	Paul Saltarello	\$114.78
<b>Total Expenses</b>		\$1507.45
<b>Ending Balance</b>		\$7106.09

<b>Charitable Donations 2020</b>
St. Agnes Church
Auburn Chamber Orchestra
St. Francis Church
Auburn Education Foundation
E. John Gavras Center
Warm the Children
United Way of Cayuga County
Cayuga County Deputy Sheriff Ben
Veterans Memorial Park Assoc
Scholarships - 3
St. Mary and Martha Parish

#### ***Dicevano I Nostri Nonni***

**Words of Wisdom from our old people**

***Al bisogno si conosce l'amico***

Only when the chips are down  
can you see who is truly your friend  
(A friend in need is a friend indeed)