



C.I.A.O.

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

Newsletter, January, 2024

Officers

Chairman

Paolo Saltarello

Co-Chairman

Tony Gucciardi

Secretary

Joseph Palmiotto

Recording Secretary

John "Jay" Elice, Jr.

Corresponding Secretary

Joanne Charles

Treasurer

Sam Vitale

Financial Secretary

Dick Paulino

Trustees

Matteo Bartolotta
Arlene Ryan
Dr. Anthony Tabone
Mike Vasco
Dr. Frank Vassallo

Sentinels

Giuseppe Casamassa
Vito Charella

Public Relations

Mike Vasco

Chaplain

Father Paul Alciati

Chaplain Emeritus

Father Louis Vasile

Member-at-Large

Tony Tesoro

Monthly Newsletter

Ciao a tutti! Hello everyone!

A reminder that our next membership meeting date is Wednesday, January 10, 6 pm Father Nacca Hall, Auburn. PLEASE NOTE THE DATE AND TIME CHANGE!

January Dinner/Membership Meeting

January is the month when annual membership dues must be paid. At the **January 10, 2024** meeting a complimentary dinner will be held for members and new members, at which time annual dues can be paid.

- Membership dues are \$25.00 for single, and \$40.00 for couple.
- If you attend the dinner, please bring your dues payment with you at that time. Otherwise, checks may be made payable to C.I.A.O. and sent to: C.I.A.O., 144 Genesee Street, Suite 102-240, Auburn, New York, 13021.

If you plan to attend the dinner/membership meeting, please do one of the following to rsvp by Monday, January 8, *capish?* Call Felix Mucedola at 315-406-4859, or email coach7068@yahoo.com or Lynda@cayugacountyciao.org with your reservation so we can plan the food preparation. The Cucina Crew will be preparing an enjoyable *mangia*, dessert, *vino* and more. *Ci vediamo* - see you there!

CIAO has been a very strong, supportive organization in our community, all due to the support received by you, the members, and the strong caring of all the volunteers in our CIAO organization. We are celebrating our 10th year anniversary in 2024! *Bravi!* In a sign of *rispetto* to our senior members, those who are over 90 years of age are excluded from our annual membership dues. *Alla salute!*

December meeting presentation - thank you!

Thank you to CIAO member Nick Altieri, who shared a photo presentation at our December meeting of a 16 day trip to Giovinazzo, Italy, located north of Bari in the province of Puglia. It was a fascinating look at the area, and a wonderful opportunity to view statues created by Nick's ancestors. Thank you for sharing!

Auguri! Buon principio d'anno!

Best wishes for a happy new year!

When the holiday hustle and bustle have passed, we hope that all your jolly old memories will last to enjoy with your dear ones. May you all be blessed with every happiness and *buona salute!* *Semplicemente e sinceramente i piu fervidi auguri per l'anno nuovo, che porti tanto benessere! Auguri!*

Riconoscimento/Recognition

In recognition to Salvatore "Sam Turiddu" Vitale for his tremendous service as CIAO's *tesorerviere* - Treasurer. *Grazie* Sam for the fine work that you did watching our \$\$\$ account very diligently. We're glad you made it to America from Cinisi, as a very young "*picciutto*" to have accomplished so much; proud of your heritage, Italiano and Siciliano. It's *bene*!

CIAO extends their appreciation to Vito Charella, a charter Board member since the very beginning of our organization in 2014. Vito has always been involved with the local Italian organizations, helping in numerous events promoting the Italian heritage that he has been proud of. *Grazie mille, Vito! Buona salute.*

CIAO Board changes - 2024

The new year of 2024 brings two available positions on the CIAO Board roster. With the vacancies of Treasurer Sam Vitale and Sentinel Vito Charella, these positions will be filled for the new year at the dinner/membership meeting on Wednesday, January 10 at 6 pm. During this annual meeting, CIAO members attend to share in "*buona compagnia*," good companionship, and pay dues for 2024. For the vacancies of Treasurer and Sentinel, some contacts were made, but the individuals declined. Co-chair Tony Gucciardi suggested and contacted Anna Saltarello, who gladly accepted the position of Treasurer. Sue Gatto has accepted the vacancy for Sentinel. Antonia "Toni" Collella has agreed to take on offering opening and closing prayers at the meeting when the Chaplain is not available, replacing Vito in this responsibility. At the January meeting, we will have an election for these vacancies. If there are any members that would like to be considered for the Treasurer or Sentinel positions, please contact Recording Secretary Jay Elice at 315-237-1072 by Monday, January 8, so your name can be presented on the ballot.

Buon Natale CIAO Celebration 2023

A good time was had by all who attended the annual fest for the Christmas get together, which was well organized and enjoyed, thanks to mother and son co-chairs Carolynn and John "Jay" Elice. A great job and good food was served by the Osteria staff, as the *padrone*, Guillermo Salinas, was also part of the culinary preparations. *Grazie* to Guillermo for the special meal and the gift certificates offered which were given away, along with all the other gifts that were given away by drawing names. *Che bella*, how wonderful, for Rocco Lattanzio, a CIAO member from Syracuse who operates the Auburn Nationwide Insurance office, for providing a gift certificate to Osteria Salina. *Grazie* to Matt Bartolotta for his gift certificate, and Mamma Mia NY Pizzeria.

Among the attendees were people that Paolo had invited to attend, and they were very pleased by the warm welcome they received. Our four guests were Tony and Ellen Rusyniak, and Giovanni Belotti and Valeria Fanciulli. Giovanni originally came from Firenze, coming to America 10 years ago. Tony Rusyniak was very impressed by the reception he received, as he brought with him packages of meat from the bison farm that he has owned and operated over the years in Scott, New York. This very exclusive farm-raised bison meat was included in the giveaways. Our appreciation to Tony Rusyniak, who plans to attend more of our festivities!

We were happy to share the evening with the presence of Fathers Frank Lioi, Lou Vasile, Paul Alciati and Joe Martuscello. Father Felicjan Sierotowicz was not able to attend, due to the fog on the road. The evening's dinner placemats with CIAO's log were very colorful with welcoming words for the celebration, and were compliments of Giacona Law. *Grazie!*

Congratulations

To Sue Dwyer upon her retirement as Cayuga County Clerk, after 20 year of service. Sue was a wonderful supporter of CIAO in all of our events. To thank her for her years of service, CIAO sent her a floral arrangement with a picture of the very first County Clerk's office. *Grazie*, Sue, and enjoy your retirement!

Thank Yous received and donations given

CIAO donated \$250 to the Cayuga Museum for their West End Arts Campus.

We also received a special "thank you" from one of our members with their dues renewal, with a note, "You are an awesome group of hard working people with golden hearts." Thank you to all members for making CIAO a wonderful group to be a part of!