



## C.I.A.O.

Cultural Italian American Organization  
144 Genesee Street, Suite 102-240  
Auburn, New York 13021  
[www.CayugaCountyCIAO.org](http://www.CayugaCountyCIAO.org)

**Newsletter, August, 2025**

### **Officers**

#### **Chairman**

Paolo Saltarello

#### **Co-Chairman**

Tony Gucciardi

#### **Secretary**

Joseph Palmiotto

#### **Recording Secretary**

John "Jay" Elice, Jr.

#### **Corresponding Secretary**

Jo Anne Charles

#### **Treasurer**

Anna Saltarello

#### **Financial Secretary**

Dick Paulino

#### **Trustees**

Matteo Bartolotta

John Murtari

Arlene Ryan

Mike Vasco

Dr. Frank Vassallo

#### **Sentinels**

Giuseppe Casamassa

Sue Gatto

#### **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!***

**PLEASE NOTE:**

***Next meeting - Wednesday, August 6, 6:30 PM, Father Nacca Hall***

### ***MEMBERSHIP/SCHOLARSHIP PICNIC***

***Monday, June 23rd, 4:30 pm***

The annual membership and scholarship picnic, held on Monday, June 23, was once again well attended. Those who attended enjoyed delicious picnic food, beverages, desserts, and, most importantly, *buona compagnia*, good companionship. This year, the scholarship recipients for 2025 were from several schools within our community. The winners were: Luke Fallat, Aiden Musso, Jake Ackerman, Sara Alberici, Mitchell Homick, and Skyler Bishuk from Auburn; Gabriella Turo from Port Byron; and Lily Stryker from Moravia. Congratulations! CIAO can offer these scholarships thanks to the fundraisers held throughout the year, particularly the pizza fritte events. CIAO remains very active, and the community greatly appreciates our involvement in helping others. Special thanks to the committee members: Tony Gucciardi, Mary Ann Mucedola, Arlene Ryan, and John Murtari. We would also like to thank Sue Dwyer, who participated in handing out the scholarships this year. Sue was the honoree at our Christopher Columbus dinner last October and requested that her honorary cash award be donated back to the scholarship fund.

Additionally, we appreciate the Owasco Town Board for allowing CIAO to use their facilities. Lastly, a heartfelt thank you to those who prepared the food: Casamassas, John and Carolyn Elice, Saltarellos, Mucedolas, John Murtari, Sue Gatto, and Frank DeOrio. As tradition dictates, everyone enjoyed the spaghetti *aglio e olio* served at the end of the meal. We hope to see even more attendees next year. The picnic is hosted by CIAO as a complimentary event for our members.

### ***Bocce League 2025***

The CIAO Bocce Summer League began in June and will run through August. We appreciate the Owasco Town Board for the use of their facilities, where players engage in a very *amichevole* friendly game that has been enjoyed for centuries.

### ***Benvenuti – Welcome to New Members***

We extend a warm welcome to new members Steve and Marianne Hultz. Thank you for quickly joining us in the pizza fritte events! If you have friends of Italian ancestry or those married to someone of Italian heritage, consider inviting them to join CIAO...that's nice!

### ***Cayuga Museum fundraiser***

On June 17, CIAO members hosted another event to raise funds for the Cayuga Museum. The pizza fritte crew began making the pizza fritte at 11 AM and continued until sold out at 2 PM. Many of our loyal supporters drove through the museum's round driveway to enjoy our specialty. This event allowed CIAO to donate a \$700 check to the Cayuga Museum, which was greatly appreciated by the museum board. Good work done by the crew: Gucciardis, Casamassas, Nancy Mancini, Altieris from Syracuse, Jo Anne Charles, Sue Gatto, Carolyn and John Elice, Mucedolas, and Steve and Marianne Hultz.

### ***Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church Festival***

Once again, CIAO assisted the Ukrainian Church during their annual festival. Fr. Vasile Colopelnic and the parishioners greatly appreciated CIAO's participation in making traditional pizza fritte as a fundraiser for their church, with all profits donated to them. Despite the hot weather, the crowd thoroughly enjoyed the pizza fritte, and the crew worked tirelessly throughout the day, raising a total of \$1,100 for the Ukrainian church to use for maintenance and other parish needs. Thank you to everyone who helped: Sue Gatto, Jo Anne Charles, Tony Gucciardi, Felix Mucedola, Dr. John Ryan, Casamassas, Saltarellos, Annie Febles, Carolyn and John Elice, Gloria Alano, Evan Pettigrass, Steve and Marianne Hultz, Paul Ricci, Sue Dwyer and her mother Ida Slaski, John Murtari, Dr. Anthony Tabone, and Arlene Ryan, in company. We also appreciate Marks' Pizzeria (Mike Harvard) and Mamma Maria's Pizzeria (Salvatore and Maria Igiolio) for providing the pizza dough/garlic strips. Their contributions help CIAO raise funds successfully.

### ***CIAO Sponsored Army Band Concert***

On Wednesday, July 9, a wonderful concert was presented by the 198th Army Band, based in Rochester. Once again, CIAO brought an impressive concert band to our community, featuring talented musicians, including SSgt. Gerald Fitpatrick, a career music teacher who has since retired. The concert was well attended and enjoyed by many at Hoopes Park. After the performance, the musicians were treated to a delicious pasta dinner at K of C 207 in downtown Auburn. It was an enjoyable evening, and the musicians expressed their deep appreciation for CIAO's warm hospitality. Food was prepared and beverages were served by Casamassas, Gucciardis, John Murtari, Sue Gatto, Jo Anne Charles, and Saltarellos.

### ***Future Pizza Fritte event - Erie Canal Museum Fundraiser***

CIAO's traditional pizza fritte is returning to the Erie Canal Museum in Port Byron. We will be making our pizza fritte on Saturday, August 23, at the old St. John Church, now the Erie Canal Museum, from 11 AM until 2 PM. We anticipate a sell-out! CIAO continuously supports the museum with their annual fundraisers. In the past, we have successfully prepared and served pasta dinners for the museum, receiving heartfelt appreciation in return. Anyone interested in helping can contact Felix Mucedola at 315-406-4859. Pasta dough will be provided by Nino's Pizzeria and Angelo's Pizzeria.

### ***Christopher Columbus Day Celebration for CIAO Annual Recognition Dinner***

CIAO announces that our annual recognition dinner will be held on Sunday, October 12, 2025, and will be held at Springside Inn in Auburn, with enjoyable cuisine and other tasty specialties selected by CIAO. CIAO board members recently met and agreed to honor two men of our community: Very Reverend Vasile Colopelnic, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Auburn, and Angelo D'Angelo, an Auburn legend. Save the date, Sunday, October 12, cash bar 5 pm, dinner 6 pm. No tickets sold, by reservation only – more details will follow in upcoming newsletters. Ticket price will be \$50, and we will print a program book as well.