



Cultural Italian American Organization  
P.O. Box 1005  
Auburn, NY 13021  
[www.CayugaCountyCIAO.org](http://www.CayugaCountyCIAO.org)

## Newsletter, August, 2026

### Monthly Newsletter

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

***Next meeting - Wednesday, August 5, 6:30 pm***

***Father Nacca Hall, 303 Clark Street, Auburn***

### ***Scholarship/Membership Picnic***

The annual membership and scholarship picnic, held on Monday, June 30, 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 2026 were from several schools within our community. The winners were: Giuseppe Labaro, Angelia Bartolotta, Justice Loperfido, Adelyn Bartolotta, Samantha Carr, Nina Bartolotta, Sarah Feocco, Anthony Mancuso, Michael Lomascolo, and Mallory Brown. 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. Thank you to scholarship contributors Dr. Paul Fallon, DDS, Anna Saltarello and Sandro Mironti, who donated a scholarship in memory of their mother Gina, Bruno Ruscio, who is a CIAO member and soon to be a centenarian, and Nick Musso and AT Wally's. Special thanks to the committee members: Tony Gucciardi, Mary Ann Mucedola, Arlene Ryan, Toni Colella, and Jay Elice. Additionally, we appreciate the Owasco Town Board for allowing CIAO to use their facilities. The picnic is hosted by CIAO as a complimentary event for our members.

### ***Bocce League 2026***

The season was originally set to begin on June 11, but the eight-week schedule has been disrupted by bad weather, high temperatures, and even a statewide air quality warning in NYS last week. Our league currently has six teams and has only played twice so far. Rain-out dates are scheduled for Thursday, August 6, and Thursday, August 13, with the banquet to follow the next week on Wednesday, August 19 at Lascas.

### ***Christopher Columbus Day Celebration - October 11, 2026***

CIAO announces that our annual recognition dinner will be held on Sunday, October 11, 2026, 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 Dr. Paul Fallon, DDS, with a special recognition at the event to Bruno Ruscio. Save the date, Sunday, October 11, cash bar 5 pm, dinner 6 pm. No tickets sold, by reservation only – more details will follow in upcoming newsletters. Ticket price will be \$55, and we will print a program book as well.

#### ***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

### **Member News**

**Benvenuto** – Welcome - CIAO expresses a warm welcome to Joe Lopiccolo as he joins our membership roster, sponsored by Tony Gucciardi.

**Get Well Wishes** – *auguri* – to Mario Daniele, a charter CIAO member, for better days to enjoy. Mario is the former Vice-Consul in Rochester, serving the Italian communities in Rochester and other counties.

**Condolences** – We extend our heartfelt condolences to Dr. Frank Vasallo, a member of the CIAO Board, on the passing of his wife, Janet. Janet was a devoted member of CIAO — she regularly attended monthly meetings, played in the Bocce league, took part in CIAO events, and served on the Social Committee. She will be deeply missed. *Le nostre sentite condoglianze.*

### **Pizza Fritte News**

**Memorial Day** - The season began on Memorial Day, where the crew set up on the frontage of the K of C #207 on Market Street – plenty of people attending the parade enjoyed CIAO's traditional fried dough, which helped our scholarship treasury by \$1,000. Nice!

**St. Francis Church** - CIAO's pizza fritte makers were very happy to be on the church grounds on Saturday, May 16 from 11am-3 pm, raising funds for St. Francis parish. The event resulted in a CIAO donation of \$1,000 to the parish, and a note of appreciation was received from Father Daniel White, pastor of St. Francis.

**Erie Canal Museum Port Byron** – On Saturday, June 6, CIAO set up at the Erie Canal Museum on Rochester Street from 11 am-3 pm, selling pizza fritte in support of the Museum. The Museum was pleased to receive CIAO's donation of \$750, from that day's sales.

**Mater Dei Academy, Warners** – On Saturday, June 20, CIAO's pizza fritte volunteers traveled to Warners, outside of Syracuse, bringing all the necessary frying equipment to Mater Dei Academy, Society of Saint Pius X, to help raise funds for the school. Administrator Father Richard Boyle and his staff were most grateful for CIAO's willingness to assist with the fundraiser, which raised \$750 for the day. As is CIAO's practice, the full amount raised was donated back to the school via check. Our motto: *caritas* and *cultura*.

**Owasco Farmers Market** - CIAO joined the Owasco Farmers Market on July 1, setting up alongside the food trucks at the weekly Wednesday event. Once again, the pizza fritte — a longtime favorite among attendees — was a hit and enjoyed by all. Many thanks to the member crew who worked hard preparing the pizza fritte that day, especially with temperatures in the high 90s. Despite the heat, the day was a success, raising a net \$500 to help fund scholarships in our community. Another pizza fritte event at the Owasco Market is planned for late August. Any member interested in helping out can call Felix Mucedola at 315-406-4859. *Bravi, che meraviglia* — how wonderful to be part of it all!

**St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Festival** – This year marked CIAO's fourth consecutive year participating in the Ukrainian Church's celebration festival on Sunday, July 12. The annual event is a special tradition, featuring homemade food and dinners prepared and served on-site by the parishioners. Father Vasile Colopelnic is always happy to see CIAO's presence, joining with parishioners to help raise funds for the church, which has recently undergone much-needed renovations after many years. CIAO's pizza fritte group continues to share a friendship with the Ukrainian parishioners, whose pizza fritte has been enjoyed at every event. As in previous years, CIAO donated the net proceeds of \$1,100 to the church.

**Thank you!** CIAO's pasta dough has been donated by Angelo's Pizza, Mark's Pizzeria, Kosta's Bar/Grill, Nino's Pizzeria, and Mamma Maria Pizzeria. The above mentioned pizzerias are very helpful to CIAO – helping others. **Grazie mille**, many thanks and appreciation to the dedicated pizza fritte workers: Tony and Pat Gucciardi, Joe and Donatina Casamassa, Felix Mucedola, Jay and Carolynn Elice, Maria Lentini, Gloria Alano, Annie Febles, Jo Anne Charles, Dr. John Ryan, Sue Gatto, the Saltarellos and Mario, Mike Vasco, Patty Motell, Ida Slaski and daughter Sue Dwyer, John Murtari, Joe Palmiotto, and Nick and Valerie Altieri.