



LA NOSTRA VOCE

2026 August / agosto

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hello Club Members

August Edition - I'm pleased to share an update on our society's activities, progress, and upcoming plans.

Highlights

Membership Engagement: We welcomed four new members last month: Joe and Kim Consiglio, Terry and Kathy Covone

Facility Updates: Routine maintenance is being done. New lifetime brand picnic tables are in and we will donate the old ones after Festa. Sealcoat of the roof was completed. The flags were replaced and new ropes installed. A new Bocce court bench has been purchased. We updated the hall chandelier and added color changing lights to the wall sconces.

August Events & Activities

Spaghetti Dinner: Dinners will start back up September 10th until May with intentions of the Aglio Olio dinner in June. We will have a Spaghetti dinner volunteer meeting on Monday August 31st at 6 pm. If you would like to be involved please attend. All are welcome and we appreciate your help.

Queen of Hearts: Every Monday starting at 5pm. The current pot as of 7/27/26 is \$17,408.00. We wish you luck. Food is available for purchase certain nights. Check our Facebook for the weekly menu. If you have a meal idea and would like to volunteer and help cook with one of our eight kitchen mangers, please let us know. We will have NO QOH on August 3rd and 10th due to festa. We will resume on August 17th

Festa: Festa is almost here. If you would like to be involved with our festa, contact Christina Hayden or Dan Brandolino for volunteering. We are excited and can't wait.

AICS Scholarship: We received 12 scholarship applications this year. The committee will be reviewing them soon and announcing the winners. Good luck to all who applied. First place, \$1,500.00 a year for 4 years and second place, \$750.00 a year for 4 years. The Committee is considering adding a third place winner this year.

Save the Date

August 7, 8, 9, Festa Italiana, August 29, Sontag car show (food for sale will be provided by club with a portion of the proceeds going back to the veterans), we are considering having a rummage sale on the same date. We will keep you informed through Facebook and call all, September 13, Mother Cabrini Pilgrimage (39 people capacity), September 20, San Vittorino fest. See inside of this newsletter for all of the details.

Administrative Notes

Meetings: The August board meeting will be canceled due to festa. General meeting is August 27th 7pm. Agenda items include fall event planning, scholarship updates, and facility improvements.

Financial Overview: The Society remains in strong financial standing and fundraising efforts continue to support our club and its cultural initiatives. Thank you all for your time and efforts.

Volunteer Opportunities: As always, we rely on the generosity of our members. Anyone interested in helping with events, positions or chairing an event are encouraged to reach out.

A Personal Message

Our Festa has really become a big part of our club. I am happy to be a part of this for all these years. A lot of time and dedication goes into this event from all of us, so it is rewarding to see all of the happy people that attend and to be voted "BEST FESTIVAL IN WILL COUNTY" for the past ten years. Thank you for all your help up to this point and the anticipation of another great and successful Festa Italiana.

Always Together/Sempre Insieme

Dan Brandolino

President, American Italian Cultural Society

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CLUB HOURS

SUNDAY

6:30PM-11:00PM

MONDAY

5:00PM-9:00PM

THURSDAY

6:30PM-11:00PM

American Italian Cultural Society
1918 Donmaur Drive
Crest Hill, IL 60403
815-725-7450



CALENDAR

August /agosto



2026

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

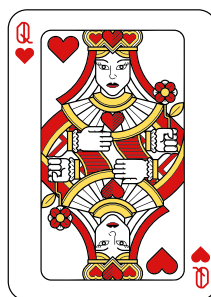
Friday

Saturday

						1
2	3  Festa Set Up	4  Festa Set Up	5  Festa Set Up	6  Festa Set Up	7  5:00pm-11:00pm	8  5:00pm-11:00pm
9  11:00am-9:00pm	10  Festa Clean Up	11	12	13	14	15
16	17  Q O H	18	19	20  Book Club 12:00pm	21	22
23	24  Q O H	25	26	27  General Meeting 7:00pm	28	29  Sontag Car Show
30	31  Spaghetti Dinner Volunteer Meeting 6:00pm Q O H					

AUGUST UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 3	Mon	NO QOH
Aug 3-6	Mon-Thurs	Festa Set Up
Aug 7	Friday	Festa 5pm-11pm
Aug 8	Saturday	Festa 5pm-11pm
Aug 9	Sunday	Festa 11am-9pm
Aug 10	Monday	Festa Cleanup NO QOH
Aug 20	Thursday	Book Club 12pm
Aug 27	Thursday	General Meeting 7pm
Aug 29	Saturday	Sontag Car Show 10am
Aug 31	Monday	Spaghetti Dinner Volunteer Meeting 6pm



QUEEN OF HEARTS

Every Monday Night
5pm - 9pm

Last tickets sold at 7:30pm
Drawing at 8:00pm

Need not be present to win

SAVE THE DATE

Sept 10	Thursday	Spaghetti Dinner
Sept 13	Sunday	Mother Cabrini Pilgrimage
Sept 20	Sunday	San Vittorino Fest
Oct 3	Saturday	Columbus Day Banquet
Oct 12	Monday	Columbus Day Parade, Chicago
Oct 24	Saturday	Halloween Party

EVENT INFORMATION

QOH

AMERICAN ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY
QUEEN OF HEARTS
PLAY WEEKLY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!

DRAWING EVERY MONDAY!

TICKETS \$1.00 EACH OR 6 FOR \$5.00

CLUB HOURS
 SUNDAY NIGHTS 6:30 PM – 11:00 PM
 MONDAY NIGHTS 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM
 THURSDAY NIGHTS 6:30 PM – 11:00 PM

QUEEN OF HEARTS EVERY MONDAY
 ♥ TICKET SALES UNTIL 7:30 PM
 ♥ DRAWING AT 8:00 PM

1918 DONMAUR DRIVE, CREST HILL, IL 60403

AUG 27

REMINDER

General Meeting

Thursday August 27th 7:00pm

Snacks will be served after the meeting!

AUG 29

CAR SHOW
 (815) 729-0468
 CREST HILL, IL

SONTAG SPEED SUPPLIES
 SINCE 1965

at SONTAG SPEED SUPPLIES
SATURDAY AUGUST 29TH
 STARTING AT 10AM • \$10 ADMISSION
 50/50 & PLAQUES TO THE FIRST 50 CARS!
 1931 Donmaur Ave, Crest Hill, IL
 FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE BY THE ITALIAN CLUB!

AUG 31

SPAGHETTI DINNER
VOLUNTEER'S MEETING

MONDAY AUGUST 31ST 6:00PM

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS VOLUNTEERING AT OUR MONTHLY SPAGHETTI DINNERS

SEPT 10

AMERICAN ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY
 1918 DONMAUR DR., CREST HILL, IL
 815-725-7458

SPAGHETTI DINNER
THURSDAY SEPT. 10 11AM-7PM
OR UNTIL WE RUN OUT \$13.00

CARRY-OUT OR DINE-IN
 (DINING ROOM OPEN WITH LIMITED SEATING)

ALSO AVAILABLE FOR SALE
MEATBALLS \$3.00 FOR 2 | SAUCE \$8.00/QUART

HOMemade BAKED GOODS & Bread Dressing

Skip the Line & Order Online!
 Visit our website www.americanitalian.org or scan the QR Code to place your order

SEPT 13

THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER CABRINI
 in collaboration with:
 CASA ITALIA (STONE PARK), THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB (CHICAGO),
 THE AMERICAN ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY (CREST HILL) AND VILLA CESARE (SCHERERVILLE)
 invite you to take part in our annual

MOTHER CABRINI PILGRIMAGE
 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Participation is limited to only those who arrive by bus.

BUS DEPARTURES
 10:00 a.m. from American Italian Cultural Society (max cap 30)
 10:00 a.m. from Villa Cesare (max cap 30)
 10:35 a.m. from Casa Italia (max cap 30)
 10:45 a.m. from the Old Neighborhood Club (max cap 30)
 Buses arrive 15 min. before arrival & depart promptly

TOUR SCHEDULE
 11:15 a.m. Tour of the Shrine
 12:00 p.m. Mass celebrated by Monsignor Kenneth Vito
 1:00 p.m. Reception with sumptuous antipasti table
 2:30 p.m. Return trip by bus

There is no charge for the pilgrimage, but free-will donations during the reception will be greatly appreciated. Antipasti table provided by Onesti Entertainment. Buses & other expenses covered by an anonymous benefactor.

RESERVATIONS
 Casa Italia: nancy@casaitaliachicago.org • Old Neighborhood Italian American Club: onic1@aol.com
 American Italian Cultural Society: darbrandolino@aol.com • Villa Cesare: jms@villacese.com

For general information, email info@franc.com

Seating is limited and reservations by Monday August 24, are an absolute must. You will be informed immediately if seats are still available and, if they are, you will be sent an email on Friday, Sept. 12, providing you with pilgrimage details.

SEPT 20

AMERICAN ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY
 presents
The SAN VITTORINO Fest
 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

FEST BEGINS AT 12:30PM
 Mass in honor of San Vittorino 1:00pm, followed by Dinner catered by La Dolce Vita.
MUSIC, DANCING, AND REMINISCING.

• \$30.00 per person AKS Members
 • \$35.00 per person Non-Members
 • \$20.00 per person Children 12 years and under

Tickets may be purchased at the bar or online using the QR code.

For more information, please contact Don Brandolino 815-919-5440

HEADLINE TO PURCHASE TICKETS IS SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

AMERICAN ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY
 1918 DONMAUR DRIVE, CREST HILL, IL 60403

PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT WILL BE DONATED TO THE CHURCH OF SAN VITTORINO IN ITALY.

OCT 3

97th Annual Columbus Day Banquet

The American Italian Cultural Society

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD, 2026
 6:00PM – 11:00PM
 COCKTAIL HOUR BEGINS AT 6:00PM

HOLIDAY INN & SUITES JOLIET SOUTHWEST
 1471 Rock Creek Blvd
 Joliet, Illinois 60431

\$75.00 PER GUEST CASH BAR

• Cocktail hour featuring:
 • Four-course dinner
 • Scholarship winners' presentation
 • Entertainment featuring Joe Diamond, Nicki Rasmussen and Enzo Scarsone
 • Raffle prizes

For ticket information contact Jason Miller at 815-585-5854
 For Sponsorship information email Lynn@coladibistro.com or Tanya at TanyaT13@comcast.net

For More Information: → www.americanitalian.org



26th Annual *Festa Italiana*

**Voted Best in Will County
10 Years in a Row!**

Friday, August 7, 2026	5:00pm–11:00pm
Saturday, August 8, 2026	5:00pm–11:00pm
Sunday, August 9, 2026	11:00am–9:00pm

FREE ADMISSION

Serving our Full Menu all three days



**ENTERTAINMENT
ALL DAY**



**SERVING OUR
FULL MENU
EVERY DAY**



BAKE SALE



**GAMES FOR
THE KIDS**



**RAFFLES AND
MUCH, MUCH MORE!**

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

Friday, August 7th

5:30pm **Don't Matter to Me**

8:30pm **Pearl Snap**

Saturday, August 8th

5:00pm **Vito Zatto**

7:30pm **Cadillac Groove**

Sunday, August 9th

11:00am **Outdoor Mass & Procession**

12:00pm **Ross Failla**

2:30pm **Pasta Eating Contest**

3:00pm **Jersey Girls**

5:30pm **Hoodwinked**



For More information
visit our website
americanitalian.org
or scan the QR code

American Italian Cultural Society

1918 Donmaur Dr.
Crest Hill, IL 60403

The History of Maria Santissima dell' Assunta



Festa Italiana is three days of food, fun and celebrating our Italian heritage. The roots of our Festa run deep. AICS began our Festa back in 1999 and it was started to honor Maria Santissima dell'Assunta. The title Maria Santissima dell'Assunta means "Most Holy Mary of the Assumption." It refers to the Catholic belief that, at the end of her earthly life, the Virgin Mary was assumed body and soul into Heaven. In all of Italy on August 15 (Ferragosto), the Assumption is celebrated and is one of the most important religious holidays. Nearly every town celebrates with a solemn Mass, processions carrying a statue of the Madonna through the street, bands playing traditional music, fireworks and families returning to their ancestral villages for the celebration. It is in keeping these treasured traditions, that AICS celebrates our Festa.

The story of the statue of Maria Santissima dell' Assunta...

This is one of Caramanico Terme's most treasured and saddest stories. The ancient statue of Maria Santissima dell' Assunta was housed in the main altar of the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore. Art historians believe that the wooden statue dated to about the 11th century, making it one of the oldest surviving Marian statues in Abruzzo. It was especially revered because Our Lady of the Assumption is the patroness of Caramanico, and every year on August 15th the statue is carried through town during the Feast of the Assumption.

In 1950, thieves broke into the church and stole the medieval statue. The theft shocked the entire community. Despite investigations, the statue was never recovered, and many believe it was stolen to be sold on the international art market. Fortunately, the town did not lose its devotion. A renowned local sculptor, Nicola D'Antino, created an exceptionally faithful replica of the lost Madonna. Today, this replica occupies the place of honor on the Assunta altar and is still carried in the annual procession each August. Most visitors cannot tell it is a replacement because it was carved to match the original in remarkable detail.

For families with roots in Caramanico and the Abruzzo region, the statue of Maria Santissima dell'Assunta represents much more than a work of art. She has long been regarded as a protector, and generations of emigrants who left Abruzzo for countries like the United States return each summer for Her feast. Even though the original statue disappeared more than 75 years ago, the devotion to Maria Santissima dell'Assunta still remains one of the strongest traditions in Caramanico today.

A special gift to the American Italian Cultural Society from the town of Caramanico...

In 2010, Monsignor Guiseppe Liberatoscioli, pastor of Santa Maria Maggiore in Caramanico Terme, authorized the municipality of Carmanico to reproduce three resin copies of the statue of the Madonna of the Assumption. The three copies were to be given to cities with a large population of immigrants from the Caramanico area. The Italian organizations that received this special gift were located in Toronto, Canada, New York, New York and Crest Hill, Illinois. Unfortunately, when the statues arrived in the United States they were damaged in transit and needed to be repaired.

On March 28, 2010, a special delegation led by Caramanico mayor Mario Mazzocca, joined the congregation of the Church of St. Anthony, members of the American Italian Cultural Society, and the Joliet community to participate in a special Mass. It was an honor to to have the Mass celebrated by Bishop Siegel and concelebrated by Rev. Michael Valente to bless and welcome the statue to the USA. Mass was followed by a procession and dinner at AICS where the statue was officially presented to the American Italian Cultural Society by Mayor Mazzocca.

A special cabinet was made especially for the statue and our beautiful replica of Maria Santissima dell'Assunta watches over the members of AICS. The next time you pass by the statue, pause for a moment to honor the Madonna and the remarkable story behind this statue.



Past Events

AICS held some fun events during the month of July and we hope that you were there to share them with us. But in case you missed it, here's a few memories!

All American Night

On Monday, July 6th we celebrated America's 250th Birthday with an All American Dinner!



A special meal of hotdogs, macaroni salad, chips, watermelon and summer icebox cake was served.

Slammers Baseball

It was Italian Day at the Joliet Slammers Game on July 12th and AICS was well represented.



Everyone was sporting their Italian gear while cheering the Slammers on. It was a great day at the ballpark!

80's 90's Theme Party

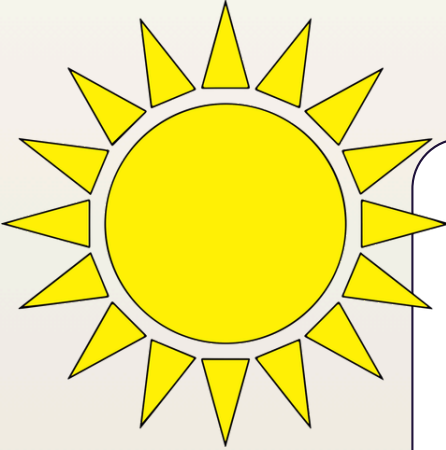
If you were in to outrageous colored clothing and big hair, you could find it at our 80's 90's theme party that was held on Saturday, July 18th. Party goers enjoyed dancing to DJ tunes, eating pizza and snacks while reliving the days of shoulder pads, leg warmers and Aquanet!



MEMBER NEWS

✱ VITA ASSOCIATIVA ✱

SUNSHINE REPORT



Get Well

Anna Binkley
Vince Brandolino
Maureen Chytracek
Tom Giarrante
Curt McCune

Sympathy

LeAnn Maland & family
on the loss of LeAnn's
grandmother

Ramona Delrose & family
on the loss of her grandson

Mike & Deborah Nakroshis
& family on the passing of
Mike's mom

Sympathy

Mary Sue & Jeff Miller
and family on the loss of
Mary Sue's mother, club
member Jeanne Juricic

New Members

Joseph & Kim Consiglio
Terry & Kathy Covone

If you are having or know someone who is having a milestone birthday or anniversary, know of an illness, condolence or a special congratulations for one of our members, please contact
Anna Binkley (815) 342-6524 / Email: anna9108@att.net or
Robin Margliano (815) 531-9116 / Email: rmargliano@aol.com



A spaghetti dinner volunteer meeting will be held on Monday, August 31 at 6:00pm. Meet the spaghetti dinner team leaders and we will be discussing all aspects of our dinner, health department guidelines, volunteer opportunities and scheduling. If you would like to volunteer and are unable to attend, please contact Andrea DiVecchio 815-529-0036 or Dave Margliano 815-531-9115

Nominations are being accepted for open Officer and Board of Director positions. The nomination form can be found on the last page of this newsletter and are also available at the bar. Deadline to submit nominations is Sept. 30, 2026. The election will be held on Nov. 19, 2026.

NOMINATIONS



Congratulations!
to
Tony Brandolino
and
Lynn Coladipietro
on obtaining their
Kitchen Manager Certification.

AICS now has
8 certified Kitchen Managers!

HOST YOUR NEXT
CELEBRATION WITH US!
**American Italian
Cultural Society**

IS A PERFECT PLACE TO HOST YOUR
SPECIAL EVENT. WHETHER YOU ARE
PLANNING A BIRTHDAY PARTY,
BRIDAL SHOWER, FAMILY REUNION,
CORPORATE EVENT, OR WEDDING
RECEPTION, OUR VENUE CAN
ACCOMMODATE UP TO 120 GUESTS.
DATES ARE FILLING UP FAST!
CALL VANESSA TO BOOK
YOUR NEXT EVENT!
815-274-9235

Did you know?
THAT YOU CAN ACCESS
MEMBER INFORMATION
FROM OUR AICS WEBSITE?

- You can see all of our upcoming events
- Photos from the club
- Download forms such as hall rental and new membership applications
- Access our newsletters

There's also a **MEMBER PORTAL** where you can access information only available to our members which requires an access code.

THE ACCESS CODE IS:
AICS2024

Please visit our website
americanitalian.org
or SCAN THE QR CODE

AMERICAN ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY
Preserving Our Heritage Celebrating Our Culture Building Our Community



Festa Italiana

*La vita è
una festa!*

WORD SEARCH

Find the 20 Italian-themed words hidden in the puzzle.

M	A	N	G	I	A	X	N	P	A	S	T	A	C	O	
N	O	N	N	A	G	E	L	A	T	O	P	V	I	N	
A	S	S	U	N	T	A	M	A	R	A	F	F	L	E	S
S	P	A	G	H	E	T	T	I	M	O	S	T	A	C	
T	I	R	A	M	I	S	U	X	E	S	P	R	E	S	
A	M	O	R	E	N	O	N	N	O	C	A	N	N	O	
F	E	S	T	A	B	A	S	I	L	I	C	O	L	I	
I	T	A	L	I	A	B	I	S	C	O	T	T	I	A	
P	I	Z	Z	A	F	A	M	I	G	L	I	A	X	X	
E	S	P	R	E	S	S	O	V	I	N	O	X	X	X	
R	A	F	F	L	E	S	X	P	A	S	T	A	X	N	
G	E	L	A	T	O	X	A	M	O	R	E	X	X	O	
B	A	S	I	L	I	C	O	X	C	M	N	O	L	I	
M	O	S	T	A	C	C	I	O	L	I	X	I	R	A	
V	I	N	O	X	S	P	A	G	H	E	T	T	I	X	

WORDS TO FIND

1. ASSUNTA
2. AMORE
3. BASILICO
4. BISCOTTI
5. CANNOLI
6. ESPRESSO
7. FAMIGLIA
8. FESTA
9. GELATO
10. ITALIA
11. MANGIA
12. MOSTACCIOLI
13. NONNA
14. NONNO
15. PASTA
16. PIZZA
17. RAFFLES
18. SPAGHETTI
19. TIRAMISU
20. VINO



Good Food. Good Friends.
Bella Italia!



AMERICAN ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY

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americaniitalian.org



Italian Language Lesson


Buongiorno! (Good morning!)

Buonasera! (Good evening!)

Buonanotte! (Good night!)

Come stai? (How are you?)

Sto bene. (I'm fine.)

E tu? (And you?)

Mi chiamo... (My name is...)

Grazie. (Thank you.)

Prego. (You're welcome.)

Per favore. (Please.)


Come? (How?)

Cosa? (What?)

Chi? (Who?)

Dove? (Where?)

Quando? (When?)

Perché? (Why?)

Quale? (Which?)

Quanto? (How much?)

questo (This)

quello (That)


caldo (Hot)

freddo (Cold)

triste (Sad)

veloce (Fast)

lento (Slow)

forte (Strong)

pulito (Clean)

sporco (Dirty)

felice (Happy)

debole (Weak)

caro (Expensive)

economico (Cheap)


alto (Tall)

basso (Short)

dolce (Sweet)

salato (Salty)

nuovo (New)

vecchio (Old)

stanco (Tired)

libero (Free)

occupato (Busy)

facile (Easy)

difficile (Difficult)

AICS DIRECTORY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - OFFICERS

President	Dan Brandolino	(815) 919-5440	dan.brandolino@americanitalian.org
Vice President	Christina Hayden	(815) 409-0511	christinamhayden8@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Todd Maland	(815) 791-5215	Todd.Maland@americanitalian.org
Treasurer	Marco Coladipietro	(815) 530-3516	Marco.Coladipietro@americanitalian.org
Sergeant-at-Arms	Carla Liburdi	((815) 931-0667	carla.l@americanitalian.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - TRUSTEES

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Paolo Binkley	(708) 488-6297	paolobinkley2002@gmail.com
Catherine Cerri	(815) 355-2055	kat2478@aol.com
Dane Carlyle	(815) 585-3189	dcarlyle22@gmail.com
Tony D'Amico	(630) 308-0019	tdamico256@aol.com
Zak Kohlhausen	(708) 417-8402	Zak918@sbcglobal.net
Franca Liburdi	(815) 768-9812	francaliburdi@aol.com
Sharon Muhich	(815) 347-9299	muhich1946@gmail.com
Vanessa Pascente	(815) 274-9235	Vpascente71@gmail.com

CLUB CONTACTS

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Building/Grounds	Gary Binkley	(815) 342-6521	bink25002@yahoo.com
Call All	Sandi Doyle	(815) 409-0513	officemanager@americanitalian.org
Decorating	Robin Margliano	(815) 531-9116	rmargliano@aol.com
Festa Italiana	Dan Brandolino	(815) 919-5440	danbrandolino@aol.com
Hall Rental	Vanessa Pascente	(815) 274-9235	Vpascente71@gmail.com
Kitchen Manager			kitchenmanager@americanitalian.org
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Office Manager	Sandi Doyle	(815) 409-0513	officemanager@americanitalian.org
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Sunshine	Anna Binkley	(815) 342-6524	anna9108@att.net
	Robin Margliano	(815) 531-9116	rmargliano@aol.com
Welcome Committee	Vanessa Pascente	(815) 274-9235	Vpascente71@gmail.com
Website	Andrea DiVecchio	(815) 529-0036	Andrea.DiVecchio@americanitalian.org

Grazie to our Sponsors



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Lockport Sister City Program



Città di Asiago



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2501 New Lenox Road
Joliet, IL 60433

(815) 722-2517



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angelpiano@comcast.net

www.angelpiano.net

Richard J. Tapella

Funeral Director

Rich@farkasfuneralhome.com



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SCAN
ME!



OFFICER & BOARD OF DIRECTORS



2026 NOMINATION FORM

Election • November 19, 2026



VICE PRESIDENT



SECRETARY

BOARD MEMBERS



AGE 18-40



AGE 41-60

1. _____
2. _____



AGE 61 & OVER

1. _____
2. _____



REMINDER

All nomination forms must be returned no later than September 30, 2026.