

HISTORY OF THE GRAND LODGE OF THE NORTHWEST (1923 to Present)

While the Order Sons of Italy was founded in New York in 1905, and thus spread rapidly into New England and the Atlantic States, it took 18 years to reach the Northwestern area of this, our adopted country, the United States of America.

In 1923, the first unit of OSIA was organized in Tacoma, WA and given the number 1175. Shortly afterwards the Virtus Lodge #1243 was organized. In the next few years similar groups were founded in Seattle and Spokane in the state of Washington.

With this nucleus of eight lodges and at least one thousand members it was decided to organize a Grand Lodge, and in the fall of 1929 a preliminary meeting was held in Victoria, British, Columbia. This then led to the first convention held in the Fall of 1930, in Tacoma. At that time, authority was given to organize and supervise lodges in Idaho and Oregon which accounts for the name of the Grand Lodge as described above in the title.

Under the leadership of Michael Marinacci, from Tacoma, the first Grand venerable, vigorous efforts of expansion resulted in two lodges in Portland, OR followed in a few years by lodges in Black Diamond, Aberdeen and Everett, WA. Grand Conventions were held every two years at Tacoma, Seattle and Spokane with a new Grand venerable being elected at each of the three meetings.

Following Brother Marinacci were Louis Anthony of Seattle and Felix Mauro of Spokane. In 1936, again in Tacoma, Alfonse Carbone, a very vigorous organizer and worker was elected Grand Venerable, but he was not destined to live out his second full term and Brother Michael Paganotta of Spokane finished it out. In 1940, Frank Carbone, from Tacoma, was elected Grand Venerable, and with the Second World War, lodge functions, while not suspended, were sharply curtailed. There were no conventions and only infrequent meetings of the Grand Council.

In 1946, the first post war convention was held in Portland, OR, and Frank Carbone was reelected Grand Venerable. A vigorous organizing program was



started and new lodges were organized in Auburn, Renton, Cle Elum and Yakima, WA. Again in 1948, in Everett, Frank Carbone was reelected, but in 1949 he was elected Supreme Trustee, so Rudolph Naccarato, from Spokane, was elevated to the position of Grand Venerable, to also be officially reelected in 1950 in Spokane and again in 1952 in Yakima.

During this period Lodge 2020, the Sons and Daughters of Columbus in Portland was installed as a unit, and the New Era Lodge #2033, also in Portland was organized. This last unit, however, was wracked by internal dissension and had to be liquidated in 1952, shortly after the Grand Convention. At this time, also, two lodges in Aberdeen were combined into one, and the men's lodge in Spokane folded up with some of the men being absorbed by the ladies' lodge, which also eventually folded.

Dr. Nicholas Sarro of Seattle was elected Grand Venerable in Aberdeen in, 1954 and again in 1957 in Seattle. Despite strenuous efforts he could affect no further expansion, but did manage to keep together the units that were left, despite many disappointments. He was succeeded by Brother Frank V. Orrico at the 1959 convention held in Tacoma.

In 1946, the Grand Lodge authorized the publication of a monthly newspaper of four pages under the able guidance of Brother Nick Roselli, who was the Assistant Grand Venerable, and later under a Publications Commission, headed by Frank V. Orrico. It is felt this paper has been a major factor in preserving this Grand Lodge. A Mortuary Fund was started during this same period, but soon proved to be financially unstable and was abandoned in 1952, after about five years of operation. The Membership was so disappointed at this failure they declined to authorize any other type of insurance scheme.

In 1960, the Grand Lodge was financially solvent, well respected by the majority of the membership, and striving to advance the cause of the Italians, throughout the Northwest as well as the Order Sons of Italy in America.

(The above History was written by hand, was unsigned in the files - this could have been by Brother Frank Carbone).

CONTINUATION OF THE HISTORY OF THE GRAND LODGE OF THE STATES OF WASHINGTON, OREGON & IDAHO, ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA

By Helen Caputo Harkness, Grand Recording Secretary at this time.

On May 31st, 1959 Brother Frank Orrico was elected Grand Venerable and was reelected in 1961, from the Seattle Lodge. In 1961 Lo Svegliarino, was established as the official publication for notices to the filial lodges. A Grand Lodge ByLaws Committee was established; James Navarra of Portland was appointed as Chairman. Appointed as Chairman of a Scholarship Committee was Michael Rivisto of Tacoma. At this convention it was established that a weekend be set aside to hold Sports Tournaments instead of using convention time.

June 30th, 1963 Brother John DeMattea was elected Grand Venerable and left office in April 1965. Assistant Grand Venerable Michael Yellam assumed the duties of Grand Venerable until the June 20, 1965 convention. It was established at this convention the Director of Publications and the Director of Scholarship would be full members of the Grand Council. Brother Michael Rivisto was elected Grand Venerable at this convention, held in Aberdeen, and is from the Tacoma Lodge.

May 1966, the filial lodge Regina Citta #2169 was installed in North Seattle. A Scholarship assessment of \$1.00 per member, per year was initiated to be obtained from all members of the Grand Lodge of Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Each filial lodge could assess their members, or raise the amount by social functions, etc. It was established at this time the Grand Lodge did not have, in printed form, any governing set of rules and regulations, and they should have them printed, and have them available for all filial lodges.

It was established at the convention in 1965 that all Venerables be a delegate to conventions by virtue of their office, instead of for the first 25 members.

Spokane Lodge No. 1500 was founded April 18, 1928. The Washington Lodge No. 1504 was founded September 8, 1928. The two lodges merged in 1953 as Spokane Lodge No. 1500. The Spokane Lodge No. 1500 dissolved in late 1954 or 1955. There was no Italian Lodge

in Spokane for about ten years. Then in November 1965, a group of people got together and started to talk of setting up an Italian Lodge in Spokane. This meeting was held at Obde's Lounge. At this meeting the name American Italian Club was chosen. The following people were in attendance at this first organizational meeting: Victor J. Felice, Anthony Garcia, Victor R. Felice, Carman Batista, Joe Marchiori, Silvio DeCaro, Ray Martire, Frank Cozzetto, Tom Destefano, Tony Penna, Henry Garofano, Carl Close, Michael Frank, Bert Ressa, Armand Rogers, Austin Pagnotta, Fred Felice, Roger Fruci and Emory Penna. American Italian Club, Lodge #2172, along with the efforts of Mike Rivisto and John Hesslan, both of Tacoma, was sponsored by Tacoma Lodge #1175.

The Regina Citta Lodge #2169 in North Seattle, after a short existence, was dissolved in March 1967.

At the 1967 convention in Renton, Brother Dominic Mastro was elected Grand Venerable and reelected June 14, 1969. He was from the Seattle Lodge.

Brother John Grosso was elected Grand Venerable in 1971 in Seattle, and reelected June 14, 1973 in Tacoma. He was also from Seattle.

In 1973, Bella Vita Lodge #2285 in Olympia and Cataldo Lodge #2280 in Bremerton were organized and installed in Tacoma. Grand Venerable John Grosso lauded Brother Michael Rivisto of Tacoma as a great Organizer. It was under Brother John Grosso's reign that the name Grand Lodge of the Northwest was being referred, and appearing on official notices. This was not an official change by the National. However, they now also refer to us as the Grand Lodge of the Northwest.

At the 1973 convention in Tacoma the organic structure of the Grand Council was changed. Venerables were admitted as members of the Grand Council, with a voice and a vote, but no financial remuneration from the Grand Lodge.

Two additional Assistant Grand Venerables were elected and we were districted into, three areas, which were chaired by the three Assistant Grand Venerables. An election at the convention was to determine which would be 1st Asst. Gr. Ven. 2nd Asst. Gr. Ven. 3rd

Asst. Gr. Ven. Seven Trustees were lowered in number to five. Colombo Lodge #1829 in Everett was dissolved.

In 1975 Brother Michael Yellam was elected Grand Venerable in Portland and reelected in 1977 in Bremerton. Visitations and trips began to be organized at this time. Birth Defects became our National & State charity, and was promoted energetically by Violet DiPietro, of Renton Lodge. Brother Mike Yellam is from the Renton Lodge.

On October 2, 1975, Bellevue Lodge #2377 was organized and initiated sponsored by Seattle Lodge. On July 1976, Yakima Lodge #1963 was dissolved. In Feb. 1979, the Grand Lodge of the Northwest received a Washington State Tax deferred number and we were registered with the State Revenue Department; the (Grand Lodge and all subordinate lodges are tax exempt organizations.

In June 1979, Brother Harold Jackson, of Seattle, was elected Grand Venerable in Olympia. He was reelected in 1981, in Aberdeen.

In May 1980, the Tacoma Lodge #1175 and Virtus Lodge #1243 (women's lodge in Tacoma) were merged into Tacoma Lodge #1175, a mixed gender lodge.

Brother Michael Rivisto arranged for his Excellency Paolo Pansa Cendronio, Ambassador of Italy to the U.S., and for Alessandro Vattani, Council General of Italy to visit Tacoma and Seattle. Receptions were held in both places, and very well attended.

Membership and Expansion and Visitations expanded during Brother Jackson's term. He was a very hard-working Grand Venerable that made things happen. The Northwest Italian News grew tremendously, (formerly Lo Svegliarir).

October 27, 1979 Roseburg Lodge was installed with the sponsoring lodge, Portland Lodge #1611.

On October 17, 1981 a new lodge was installed in Eugene, OR, called Alta Monte Lodge #2513; sponsoring lodge was Black Diamond Lodge #1809.

In April, 1983 the first National Executive Session was held by the Grand Lodge of the Northwest in Seattle.

All filial lodges gave very active participation.

Richard Aries was elected Grand Venerable in June 1983 in Spokane and reelected in 1985 in Bellevue, He is from the Renton Lodge.

The name of Grand Venerable was changed to State President as per the National Convention, held in August of 1983.

We became very active in the fight against Cooley's Anemia; our program was accelerated. A Grand Lodge Italian Cookbook, "ECCO", was printed and the sale) was, and is phenomenal. Sister Mary Kuehn of Bellevue and her committee should never be forgotten for these efforts.

In 1985 Roseburg Lodge #2447 was dissolved, due primarily to inner strife and dissention.

The next convention was held in Tacoma, 1987, 6/11-13/1987. Donald Betz was elected State President in a very closely contested race with Bill Oakes. Visitations continued to be well supported. Cooley's Anemia Program again accelerated. The first Gala Ball for Cooley's Anemia was held, featured a national entertainment group "The Gaylords," by the State Chairwoman, Helen Caputo Harkness. Again cookbook sales continued to grow. The filial lodges and individual members are making serious donations. Reno Nights also supported our Grand Lodge treasury, as well as Dinner Raffles and our treasury was great.

Comprehensive liability insurance was established for all lodges that wished to participate. A lodge, formerly known as Societa Italiana, joined the Sons of Italy and became known as Sno-King Lodge #2611, and was sponsored by the Renton Lodge #1967. Sno-King Lodge met for the last time in June of 2017 as the lodge was disbanded.

In 1989 at the convention in Renton, William Oakes from Seattle attained the office of State President due to the fact that incumbent Don Betz failed to receive two-thirds of the votes cast. Bill Oakes did not receive a majority of the votes cast, nonetheless was installed as State President, due to a law which was passed at the 1989 Convention which required a two-third vote for all Grand Officers after completing only one term. This law was changed back to the 2nd term rule at this 1989

convention.

In November of 1989 a new lodge was organized at Longview/Kelso by 1st V.P. Wayne Harkness and Past State President Harold Jackson, named the Monte Santa Elena Lodge ##2627, and was sponsored by Aberdeen's Amerigo Vespucci Lodge #1814. First Scholarship Fundraiser held 6/90, Rosemary Fries, Chair.

A group of Italians in Bothell was organized largely by Concetta Migliore which was named the Lorenzo de Medici Lodge #2630 and was sponsored by the Fedele Lodge #1469 in the spring of 1990. Another lodge was organized and initiated in Feb. 1991. This lodge was organized and brought to initiation by First State Vice Pres. Wayne Harkness and was located in Beaverton, OR. The name Herman Petrella Lodge, #2645, was sponsored by the Tacoma Lodge #1175.

In June 1991, in convention at Seattle, WA, the delegation elected Wayne Harkness, State President. Membership and unity immediately became the top priority, as well as fundraising, which was a necessity.

November 1991 a lodge was formed and initiated in Burien. This lodge was organized by their 1st President, Alfredo Martiniello and is called Piccola Italia Lodge #2657, and was sponsored by Auburn Lodge #1955.

Official Grand Lodge visitations and our Sports Program were actively resumed. On February 23, 1992 another lodge was initiated & installed into the OSIA, Grand Lodge of the NW, called the Mille Cugini Lodge #2659. State President Wayne Harkness and Louise Branch, their first President also primarily organized this lodge. They were sponsored by Sno-King Lodge #2611.

In May 1993, Wayne Harkness was elected for a second term as State President at the Convention held in Bremerton, WA hosted by Cataldo Lodge of Bremerton. This convention was honored with the presence of our National President, Peter Zuzolo from Long Island, New York. This was the first time a National President attended a Grand Lodge of the Northwest State Convention.

In early 1995, Barbara Blair, Frank Faruolo, Quinto

& Dawn Forlini, Dan & Donna Goode, Yvonne Lee, Catherine McClary, Michele Nigro, Lou & Patricia Russo, Leonard & Marie Simeone and Angelo & Dorothy Trimbich got together, with the help of Wayne Harkness formed the Vancouver USA Lodge #2690 which was installed on March 5, 1995. (Insert by Don Schmidt 6/5/09)

Eugene Mancini was elected State President at the May 1995 Convention held in Lynwood, WA hosted by Sno-King Lodge. He immediately appointed a very hard working Membership Committee chaired by 1st State President Vic Spino of Seattle Lodge. The efforts of this committee over the next few years resulted in the formation of 5 new Local Lodges. Eugene Mancini was re-elected as State President at Convention in Ocean Shores, WA. The following lodges were installed in the next couple of years:

Portland Lodge #2734 (Portland, OR) ? Dec. 1998, Donna Elia ? President (Lodge dissolved in 19??)

Yakima Lodge #2732 (Yakima, WA) ? March 1999, Margo Perrotti ? President

Capitale Lodge #2739 (Salem, OR) ? April 1999, Gary Herter ? President (Lodge dissolved in 19??)

Bella Porto Lodge #2740 (Bellingham, WA) ? April 1999, Dennis D'Amelio ? President (Lodge dissolved in 19??)

Olympic Peninsula Lodge #2733 (Port Angeles-Sequim, WA) ? April 1999, Frank Romeo ? President.

In May of 1999 Jim Severino of Seattle Lodge was elected State President at Convention in Spokane, WA hosted by American Italian Club Lodge #2172 of Spokane, WA. The State lodges' efforts at fundraising and membership have continued.

In November of 2002, the North Central Washington Lodge in Wenatchee was formed. This lodge was disbanded in March of 2017.

In May of 2003, Dorothy Santelli of Tacoma Lodge was elected the first woman State President of the GLNW at Convention in Pasco, WA hosted by Vancouver USA Lodge #2690.

Bonaventura Lodge #2814 - June 12, 2004 - Tina Marie Schultz, President (renamed as North Idaho American-Italian Lodge). This lodge was disbanded in December of 2016.

In June of 2007, Diane Scillo of Sno-King Lodge was elected State President at Convention in Pasco, WA hosted by the Grand Lodge of the Northwest. Diane was re-elected for a second term in 2009 when the Convention was held in Pasco, WA.

In May of 2011, Tony Anderson of Bella Vita Lodge was elected State President at Convention in Lynwood, WA hosted by the Grand Lodge of the Northwest. Tony was re-elected President at the 2013 Convention in Ocean Shores, WA. Tony was re-elected for a third term at the 2015 Convention in Richland, WA.

Renton Lodge #1967 merged with Piccola Italia Lodge #2657 in 2009 to form the renamed lodge as Nuova Piccola Italia Lodge #1967. This merged/combined lodge was dissolved December 31, 2011. Most members transferred to the Auburn, Black Diamond, Seattle Fedele and Sno-King lodges.

On October 27, 2013 the Tri-Cities Lodge (Kennewick, Richland and Pasco, WA) was formed under the name of Tre Città Lodge #2281. Lodge Charter signers were Leonardo Luzi, Jack Barnaby and LJ Da Corsi. It's first elected President was Jack Barnaby.

2013-2015 State Officers for Grand Lodge of the Northwest

State President: Tony Anderson

State 1st Vice President: Rosetta Beyersdorf

State 2nd Vice President: Doug Chiechi

State 3rd Vice President: Paul Zanobelli

State 4th Vice President: Jim Fasano

State Imm. Past President, Diane Scillo

State Orator: Joanne Spino Marchese

State Recording Secretary: Janet Rosi Fritz

State Financial Secretary: Paul Pioli

State Treasurer: Dorothy Miori Whitney

State Trustees: Jeff D'Amelio, Jeanne Fasano, Nick DeGidio, Cathy Lembo, Lisa Cimino Stauffer

State Director of Publications: Joe Jacobin



2019-2021 State Officers for Grand Lodge of the Northwest

National Delegates: Joanne Spino Marchese, Diane Scillo, Lisa Cimino Stauffer

2015-2017 State Officers for Grand Lodge of the Northwest

State President: Tony Anderson
 State First Vice President, Nick DeGidio
 State Second Vice President, Doug Chiechi
 State Third Vice President, Linda Buccini-Anderson
 State Fourth Vice President, Ansano Giuntini
 State Imm. Past President, Tony Anderson
 State Orator, Joanne Spino Marchese
 State Recording Secretary, Janet Rosi Fritz
 State Financial Secretary, Paul Pioli
 State Treasurer, Dorothy Miori Whitney
 State Trustees: Jeff D'Amelio, Dot Chicketti, Brock Ricci, Lisa Stauffer, Kristi Thorn
 State Director of Publications, Joe Jacobin

In May of 2017, Rosetta Stella Beyersdorf was elected as State President. Rosetta is the first Italian "immigrant" State President of the Grand Lodge of the Northwest and possibly for the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America.

2017-2019 State Officers for Grand Lodge of the Northwest

State President: Rosetta Stella Beyersdorf
 State 1st Vice President: Linda Buccini Anderson
 State 2nd Vice President: Douglas Chiechi
 State 3rd Vice President: Lisa Cimino Stauffer

State 4th Vice President: Ansano Giuntini
 State Imm. Past President, Tony Anderson
 State Orator: Joanne Spino Marchese
 State Recording Secretary: Janet Rosi Fritz
 State Financial Secretary: Kristi Branze Thorn
 State Treasurer: Dorothy Miori Whitney
 State Trustees: Cathy Lembo, Janice Cimino Stauffer, Brock Ricci, Dot Chicketti, Jeff D'Amelio
 State Director of Publications: Joe Jacobin

In August of 2017, Tony Anderson was elected at the National Convention as National Financial Secretary, becoming the first member from the Grand Lodge of the Northwest to hold a National Office.

2019-2021 State Officers for Grand Lodge of the Northwest

State President: Rosetta Stella Beyersdorf
 State 1st Vice President: Douglas Chiechi
 State 2nd Vice President: Kathi Flinner
 State 3rd Vice President: Pier Angela Dimico
 State 4th Vice President: Lenny Folino
 State Imm. Past President, Tony Anderson
 State Orator: Nick DeGidio
 State Recording Secretary: Gina Natucci
 State Financial Secretary: Dot Chicketti
 State Treasurer: Dorothy Miori Whitney
 State Trustees: Jeff D'Amelio, Cathy Lembo, Brock Ricci, Darrell Vacca, Jim Flinner
 State Director of Publications: Joe Jacobin