



Order Sons & Daughters of Italy  
in America (OSDIA)

**New Member Package**

American Italian Club #2172

**Benvenuto!**

Facebook: American Italian Club #2172



# History

Established in 1905 as a mutual aid society for the early Italian immigrants, today OSDIA has 30,000 members.

The organization's mission includes **encouraging the study of Italian language and culture** in American schools and universities; **preserving Italian American traditions, culture, history and heritage**; and **promoting closer cultural relations between the United States and Italy.**

The Sons of Italy Foundation, established by OSDIA, is a **private, philanthropic institution** that has contributed millions of dollars for scholarships, medical research, cultural preservation and disaster relief.

The Commission for Social Justice (CSJ) is the **anti-defamation arm of OSDIA.**

## The History of OSDIA

Nineteenth century America saw the rapid growth of mutual aid societies throughout the land. In the tradition of volunteering and cooperation, thousands of community organizations were formed. The mutual aid society was a source of great comfort for the immigrants because it provided a familiar setting in which a native language was spoken and old world customs practiced.

The Italian American societies were characterized by the provincial and village ties that were present in Italy. While many of the Italian immigrants had belonged to such organizations in their native land, there the focus was on providing sick and death benefits. However, in America these mutual aid societies had a greater focus on social interaction and were indispensable in assisting rural immigrants in adjusting to urban and industrial life. They were found in virtually every Italian community in America. Eventually, feelings of Italianity began to emerge as Italian American needs and interests transcended the traditional regional and paese bonds. The development of this ethnic identity by Italians led to the formation of L'Ordine figli d'Italia in America, Order Sons of Italy in America.

Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro (1868-1932) developed the idea of uniting the Italians into one great organization which would enable them to become the authors of their own destinies. Dr. Sellaro was born in Polizza Generosa, Palermo, Sicily and came to the United States in 1897. Recognizing the need to unite the multitude of Italian mutual aid societies into a single federation, Dr. Sellaro and five other Italian immigrants founded The Supreme Lodge, Order Sons of Italy in America on **June 22, 1905.**



# Creed & Principles

## The Creed of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America

- ▶ We believe in the Government of the United States of America as the Government of the people, by the people, and for the people and promise to obey and uphold its Constitution and Laws.
- ▶ We believe in Government by orderly process and reject any doctrine that tends to subvert constituted government and authority.
- ▶ We Believe in filial affection and respect for the Land of our Forefathers whose heritage is our highest contribution to America's progress.
- ▶ We believe in the brotherhood of man and promise to assist our fellow members, to care for the orphans, to extend our helping hand to the widows and to comfort all those in distress.
- ▶ We believe in equal rights and duties for all; in equality of opportunity in the enjoyment of the benefits of human association extended to all without discrimination.
- ▶ We believe in freedom of thought, conscience and education and stand for individual liberty in the performance of duties and in the exercise of rights under the Constitution and laws of our Country and State.
- ▶ We believe in the future progress and expansion of the Order Sons of Italy in America as the beneficial agent of all Americans of Italian birth or descent for their recognition and welfare, and promise to contribute to the moral, intellectual and material progress of our fellow members, and to support the programs of the Order and all its activities for the welfare of our Country, our Order and the Community in which we live.

## The principles of OSDIA are:

- **Liberty:** We want freedom of assembly, of speech, of opportunity - and above all economic freedom. We want individual freedom of thought, of conscience, and of religion. Liberty is the most essential and precious prerogative.
- **Equality:** We believe that all people were created equal without distinction as to race, color, creed, caste or class.
- **Fraternity:** We affectionately offer a hand to all and keep alive the traditions of our ancestors.
- The emblem of the Order is a *Golden Lion* in a field of white signifying strength.
- The color of the Order is *purple*.



# Structure

OSDIA is organized within three levels:

- ▶ The National Lodge (Supreme) sets goals and coordinates activities in 17 Grand and Subordinate Lodges and 425 Local Lodges.
- ▶ The State Lodge (Grand Lodge) informs all Local Lodges of activities and goals of the National and State Lodge. Each state has its own Grand Lodge.
- ▶ The Local Lodges are based in various communities and carry through the various programs of National and State OSDIA. They work diligently to also support their own communities. There are 21 Local Lodges in Ohio.
- ▶ The flower of the Order is *purple Aster*.



# American Italian Club Officers/Contacts

## Officers

- ▶ President- Judy Anselmo
- ▶ Vice President- John Lucassen
- ▶ Immediate Past President- Ron Anselmo
- ▶ Orator- John Caputo
- ▶ Recording Secretary- Linda Marcus
- ▶ Financial Secretary- JoAnn Giuntini
- ▶ Treasurer- Ansano Giuntini
- ▶ Guard- Tina Santorsola
- ▶ Mistress of Ceremony- Georgia Seeberger
- ▶ Mistress of Ceremony- Donna Clark

## Chaplain

- ▶ Donna Clark

## Trustees

- ▶ Susan Riley
- ▶ Kim Assay
- ▶ Phyllis Wardle

## Sunshine Member

- ▶ Beverly Mancini

## Member Ambassadors

- ▶ Georgia Seeberger
- ▶ Donna Clark



# Local Benefits & Annual Events

Meet, socialize, & develop personal/professional relationships with other Italian Americans

## Annual Events

- ▶ Annual member picnic(Summer)      Wine Tasting Party (May/June)
- ▶ Annual Spaghetti Dinner (November)      Christmas Party (December)

## Opportunity to Serve and/or Contribute:

- ▶ Annual Spaghetti dinners (100+ year tradition) supporting local charities.
- ▶ Italian festivals & various fundraisers
- ▶ Scholarship programs
- ▶ Raffles



## National & State - Some Member Benefits

### Ohio - Grand Lodge Benefits (not all-inclusive)

- ▶ [Facebook page](#) for connecting with other members, events, & photos (Grand Lodge of Ohio)
- ▶ Annual educational scholarships for members & members' children
- ▶ Financial support for various charitable organizations

### National - [Supreme Lodge Benefits](#) (not all-inclusive)

- ▶ HQ in Washington, D.C. with building on Capitol Hill and dedicated staff of professionals
- ▶ Free subscription to *Italian America* magazine
- ▶ *Questo Mese* (monthly newsletter distributed via email - sign up at [osia.org](http://osia.org))
- ▶ Member access to [osia.org](http://osia.org) with member profiles to connect to other members and more!
- ▶ **National Book Club** that showcases books that OSDIA members around the world published
- ▶ **OSDIA Interviews LIVE** Facebook series has 500,000+ views after 3 seasons and is now a **TV show** in the New York tri-state area!
- ▶ Eligibility for various OSDIA **scholarships**
- ▶ **Discounts** on services/Italian specialty items, examples: **Office Depot** up to 30% off / \$0.025 copies; **Avis** car rental up to 20% off; Budget Rent a Car up to 25% off; **Lenovo Computers** up to 30% off, and many more!



## National Foundation (SIF) & National CSJ

### Sons of Italy Foundation

- ▶ Charitable arm of OSDIA (501(c)3)
- ▶ **Tens of millions of dollars donated** since inception (1959)
- ▶ 2021: **\$10,000** to Ronald McDonald House
- ▶ **Eight custom vans** for combat wounded veterans

### Commission for Social Justice

- ▶ Serves a **greater purpose**
- ▶ **Confronts bias & bigotry**
- ▶ Advocates for **Columbus Day**
- ▶ **Protects** Columbus statues
- ▶ Promotes a **positive image** of Italians and Italian Americans
- ▶ **Ensures our heritage is part of the American culture and is not lost, forgotten, or canceled**





## amazon smile benefits our Lodge!

1. Go to: [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and log in to your Amazon account
2. Select: Order Sons of Italy Cincinnati Lodge 1191 Charitable Foundation
3. Make your purchase and Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to our Lodge!



## American Italian Club - Details

- ▶ Membership Dues
  - ▶ \$36 paid upon membership; \$10 one-time initiation fee
  - ▶ Paid annually every subsequent January
  
- ▶ Monthly Meetings
  - ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, 6:00 p.m.
  - ▶ O'Malley Hall at St. Aloysius Parish
  - ▶ Potluck dinner served after every meeting

