

## **The Grandsons of Italy Newsletter**

**The Next Meeting of the Grandsons of Italy will take place on March 14, 2009 at the BLUE OX TAVERN, 5825 W. Sahara Avenue, southeast corner of Sahara & Jones in the shopping mall adjacent to the Burlington Coat Factory; Arrive at 11:30 AM; Lunch and Meeting from 12:00 to 2:00 PM. DUES ARE IN ORDER**

### **Agenda for the March 14, 2009 Meeting:**

- 1) Acceptance of the Minutes of February 14, 2009
- 2) Collection of 2009 GOI Dues (\$25)
- 3) Treasury Report & Committee Reports & Assignments
- 4) GOI Website & Upcoming Events
- 5) Adjournment

### **MINUTES OF THE GOI MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 14, 2009**

**PRESENT: J. Amato, L. Amoia, L. Cardone, M. Castranova, G. Colella, L. DePalma, R. Failla, D. Gaglione, C.B. Gallo, T. Giampa, J. Gianni, V. Lentini, F. Pormigiano, S. Rainone, E. Sagui, P. Scarletta, F. Scarlato, S. Sciolino, D. Scuderi, J. Zingale**

- 1) The meeting opened at 12:25pm with the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The minutes of the January 10 meeting were amended to reflect the attendance of C. Bruno Gallo. The minutes were then accepted and approved.
- 2) E. Sagui provided a reminder of the need to pay dues if not yet done.
- 3) D. Gaglione gave the Treasurers report. Current balance is \$969.94 after expense for stamps. In addition the County Clerk's Office charged \$21.00 for a "Fictitious Firm Name" Certificate necessary for a GOI checking account. Today's dues collection will increase the balance when next reported.
- 4) E. Sagui requested committee reports. In the absence of J. Faulis, D. Gaglione reported that the first picnic of 2009 is scheduled for May 16 at Garden Park in Summerlin. Map directions to the park and further info to follow from Dick.
- 5) D. Scuderi reported on events. On Tuesday, February 10th 4 club members attended the hockey game at the Orleans. The next game for group attendance is Friday, March 13th. Anyone planning to attend should meet at the bottom of the escalator between 6:30 and 6:45pm. Dan notes that the Plaza is resuming boxing events with tickets priced between \$5 and \$10. Dan will get more information about boxing from the Plaza and the Orleans for club members to plan on attending. D. Gaglione mentions the LV 51's opening home baseball game will take place on Friday, April 17th. Tickets for a GOI group attendance for these games need advance purchase. Dick is checking into the particulars with an eye on the weather. Commitments will be needed from anyone wishing to attend. D. Gaglione is also looking into the possibility of getting the LV Wranglers' Ferraro brothers as guest speakers at one of the GOI Meetings. D. Gaglione confirms that GOI will again have a booth at the Italian Fair to be held at the Sahara West library. This year's booth will be located inside the library and admittance is free. The date is not yet set. The chairperson for the event, Marcella Chiarandini, has themed the event Viva La Vita Bella.
- 6) E. Sagui has appointed Vito Lentini Chairman of the Speakers Committee.
- 7) G. Colella comments that divorce situations have an adverse impact on social security benefits. Anyone wishing info on this, food stamps or other available social services can contact George. Frank Scarlato needs a ride to and from club meetings from the Vegas Dr/Rampart area. If anyone can assist please contact Frank.
- 8) E. Sagui notes that eight people sat at a GOI table at the Blue Ox Super Bowl party. Food at half time was provided free, raffles were held throughout the day and drinks were available for purchase. The party provided club members with a way to support the Blue Ox which is a club benefactor. Ed advises that renovation of the bocce courts behind the Italian American Club (IAC) on E. Sahara is complete. A dedication ceremony is planned for Monday, February 23rd at the courts. Local politician Gary Reece and

possibly Oscar Goodman will be in attendance. Everyone is invited to attend. Sal Sciolino is forming a team and is seeking participants. If interested contact Sal. Team sign-ups will be conducted on Wednesday, February 25th at 7pm at the IAC. Team play begins Wednesday, March 13th and will take place every Wednesday and Thursday to the conclusion of the season.

9) E. Sagui remarks that anyone wishing to retake their club photo or have a photo taken for the first time can do so at the March meeting. P. Scarletta suggests that everyone complete a brief bio to accompany their photo. Bio could contain information such as, career profession, where from, how long in LV, where family is from in Italy, etc... . The subject will be up for discussion at the next executive meeting.

10) General Comment was made that many people may not have computers or computer access and that may limit use of the GOI Web Site. If anyone has unused or unwanted equipment they may wish to donate to club members who have an interest.

11) Everyone signed a get-well card for Frank LaDuca. We all wish Frank a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him at the March Meeting.

12) D. Gaglione notes that Sal Rainone and Mike Bari will be appearing every Wednesday at the IAC. They are no longer appearing at DeStefano's.

13) E. Sagui comments that the start time for Club meeting is 12:30pm. Anyone wishing to visit or have lunch should plan to arrive around 11:30 - 11:45am. Meetings are intended to run from 1 to 1 1/2 hours.

14) The 50/50 drawing was won by the holder of ticket #591008, Mike Castranova. The club and Mike each received \$43.00.

15) E. Sagui read an informational, humorous article provided by Len DePalma to the membership. The articles theme related to the "stolen" Italian language and the "Guido" syndrome.

16) There being no new business E. Sagui called for a motion to adjourn which was seconded closing the meeting at 1:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Failla

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## *GOI March News Items:*

### The President's Message

**The Month of March is going to be busy for the Grandsons of Italy. Remember, you can still help on any of our committees. The activities coming up in March are: the start of Bocce Play, the March 14 General Meeting, Poker Night and an Italian Fair. Check out the dates and details on the GOI web site.**

*Ciao,*

*Edward Sagui, President*

## GOI Web Site

Please visit our Web Site, <http://www.goily.com/> for the latest Newsletter and Meeting Notice, a calendar of upcoming events and a photo gallery of members, officers and past events.

## Viva la Vita Bella Italian Festival

*Benvenuti Amici!* The Sahara West Library, 9600 W. Sahara Ave. will hold an

Italian festival on March 28 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Enjoy the finer things in life and celebrate Italian culture with a day full of live entertainment, Italian films, games, gelato, children's activities and authentic food. Do it for the Italian in you! For more information, please call 507-3631.

GOI will also sponsor an exhibit booth at this event designed to inform all attendees of who we are and what we do. Photos of our events, samples of GOI logo hats and shirts and our new web site will all be displayed.

## Annual Spring 2009 Picnic

The annual GOI Spring 2009 Picnic will take place on Saturday, May 16, at Rainbow Family Park in Las Vegas which is situated on Oakey Blvd. west of Rainbow. More details will be forthcoming at the March Meeting and in upcoming April and May Newsletters. Mark your calendars.

## Sal Rainone at the Italian-American Club (IAC)

GOI member Sal Rainone will be appearing with Mike Bari at the IAC, 2333 East Sahara Avenue in Las Vegas, on Wednesday nights. For more information call the IAC at 457-3866.

## Singing at St. Francis

Those attending mass at St. Francis De Sales church are often treated to the voices of GOI member Richie Di Thomas and his wife Donna in choir. Richie and Donna sing there every other Sunday at the 9:30 AM mass.

## Mortgages

Louis Cordone, Sr. Loan Officer and Owner of Peachtree Home Loans, has indicated that the current mortgage crisis is partly responsible for the downturn in the US economy. Lou, a GOI member, offers his advice to fellow GOI members regarding this matter. If you need more information and possible strategies for dealing with your present and future mortgage finances, contact Lou at 702-777-4400 or via email at [lcordone@peachtreehomeloans.com](mailto:lcordone@peachtreehomeloans.com).

## Italian Cards Group

GOI Member Frank Scarlata would like to start an Italian Cards (Briscola) Group on Wednesdays from 12:00 Noon to 1:30 P.M. at his home in Summerlin. Anyone interested should contact Frank at 702-243-0305. The opening session is scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>. Up to 4 players can play each week. Frank will be the Host and provide the cards and lessons for anyone interested. Frank plans to be at the March 14<sup>th</sup> GOI Meeting and will answer any questions about this Card Group.

## Social Services

GOI Social Services Information Director, George Colella, suggests the following:

Almost all Social Security recipients should be eligible for an economic stimulus check of \$300 to \$1,200. But because the checks are tax rebates, you will need to file a 2007 tax return to receive the payment. This includes low-income Social Security recipients and other individuals whose income is so low that they are not normally required to file a tax return. Some 95% of all Social Security recipients are believed to be eligible for the stimulus checks based on Social Security Administration data. Single seniors are eligible for a tax rebate of \$300 to \$600 and couples filing jointly for \$600 to \$1,200. Seniors and the disabled, who have at least \$3,000 in qualified annual income which includes Social Security benefits, should file either a form 1040 or 1040A (but, if you need more time, make sure to file an extension). This includes seniors whose primary income is from untaxed sources such as Social Security, veterans receiving disability and pension income and spouses of deceased veterans who get survivors benefits, and retired railroad workers and survivors. The IRS will process the return and issue rebate checks starting in May. Seniors who have already filed a tax return and reported over \$3,000 in qualifying income don't need to do anything else in order to receive the rebate. If you have already filed a tax return reporting less than \$3,000 in qualifying income you may want to file an amended return if you have enough total income counting your benefits to qualify for the rebate.

If you are a lower-income senior, and require help to file, TSCL strongly recommends that you avoid tax preparation services that charge fees, and offer upfront "rapid rebates." The fees and interest you pay could take a significant chunk of your rebate check. TSCL recommends that you use FREE tax preparation services. The IRS has Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Programs in every community, often located in shopping malls, schools, libraries and other community centers. More information can be obtained by calling toll free at 1-800-906-9887. You may also get help by calling the IRS program called Tax Counseling for the Elderly at 1-800-829-1040.

In addition you can apply for energy assistance depending upon income and the money will be sent directly to the power company. For example, if your monthly income is under \$1000 (for 1 person), you could qualify and depending on housing expenses, could receive, \$400-700 per year. You can call "energy assist" directly at 702-486-1404. Renters (depending on monthly income and housing expenses) can also receive a rent rebate from the State of Nevada.

**GOI members who need further clarifications and explanations of the above services may call George Colella, GOI Social Services Information Director, at 702-456-8823 or 702-328-9781 (Cell).**