

Volume 6
Issue 2
**Special
Convention
Edition 2023**

Il Giornale

Newsletter for the Grand Lodge of Virginia
Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America

*A note from the
Editor:*

*Benvenuti
a tutti!*

*I am pleased to
bring to our
GLVA sisters and
brothers this
special 2023
edition of
Il Giornale,
celebrating its
100th Anniversary
and 38th Biennial
Convention. If
you attended or
even if you were
unable to attend, I
hope that you
enjoy these words,
pictures and
memories.*

*Contact your
editor at*

*[colette.sciscilo@
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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Glenn Youngkin
Governor

April 23, 2023

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the centennial celebration of The Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy Virginia Grand Lodge. What a special milestone for your members!

As the largest and oldest national organization for men and women of Italian heritage in the United States, we commend your chapter on its faithful efforts to preserve this invaluable legacy over the last one hundred years. Founded as a mutual aid society, The Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy Virginia Grand Lodge and its five Virginia local lodges uphold your founding mission by supporting local charities as well as supporting the Alzheimer's Association, Doug Flute's Autism Foundation, and Cooley's Anemia. The Commonwealth benefits from the great diversity of cultures that call Virginia home, and Italian Americans have and continue to make remarkable contributions.

The First Lady joins me in wishing your members and guests a historic centennial celebration. Thank you for strengthening the Spirit of Virginia and your 100 Years of preserving Italian American traditions, culture, history, and heritage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Glenn Youngkin'.

Glenn Youngkin

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*Grand Lodge of Virginia
38th Biennial Convention
And
100th Anniversary Celebration*



The Grand Lodge of Virginia, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, held its 38th Biennial Convention on the weekend of April 28-29, 2023. The convention and its 100th Anniversary celebration were hosted by the Grand Lodge of Virginia and held at the Roma Lodge #254 in Virginia Beach, VA.

Marie Siebeking (Roma Lodge), Amanda Hertzog (Italo-American Citizens Lodge), and Bev Amante (Peninsula Italian American Lodge) were the major coordinators for the convention with Jim DeLucia (Peninsula Italian American Lodge) painstakingly gathering information and presenting the program for the 100th Anniversary celebration. But, as witnessed, many hands, ideas, talents, and labor all joined in the efforts to make the weekend successful and most enjoyable.

A finely executed convention program, produced by Terry DeLucia, included congratulations from local lodges and community organizations, memorials to our deceased loved ones, and a heartfelt introduction from our then President Larry Brennan, stating “Every two years we gather to ensure the business of the Grand Lodge is done in accordance with our bi-laws, more importantly, it is time to gather with old friends (and new ones) throughout the state to share in our Italian heritage.”

An equally impressive Centennial program book was written and produced by Jim DeLucia who chronicled the Grand Lodge of Virginia from its inception in November 1922 to November 2022, thereby “creating a fantastic journey through memory lane of the Grand Lodge of Virginia’s first 100 years.” (Larry Brennan). Jim’s amazing video presentation showed our delegates, non-delegates and guests, old photographs of former officers, graphics from very old programs, and the like, generated from his research. His program and presentation were filled with many, many details of people and events from the past 100 years of GLVA’s existence and heritage. On display were the charters from all the local lodges.

Over the two days of meetings, our officers and delegates got down to official business with two-year reports from lodges and committees, informative breakout sessions, elections, presentations of awards, and the installation of new officers for 2023-2025. Not to worry, as much fun was had with fabulous auctions, raffles, 50/50s for charities, pasta bar, happy hour, dinner, drinks and dancing!

The 2025 GLVA 39th Biennial Convention will be hosted by Italian Heritage Lodge of Fairfax.

We are looking forward to seeing you all then!

*Roma Lodge, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Two days of meetings and official business ...*



Two evenings of enjoyment.....



*Larry Brennan and Bob Amante
oversaw the brown bag raffle and
got the bidding going!*

***Over \$2,000 was raised
from our raffle and auction
items over the two days, not
including our 50/50 raffles.***

*Amanda
Herzog
got the
crowd
excited!*



*This is only one
of our many
impressive
baskets and
other creative
and generous
items donated
by our local
lodges for the
auction.*

The DeLucia ladies presented a very impressive Charcuterie Board on Saturday evening.



Marianne Hallahan and Vivian Mott hit the dance floor. Who knew that Roma Lodge had a disco ball?



While convention goers were awaiting some intense voting results, Angela Tambone roused us with Italian singing, acapella.



John Gossner, William Wiegand, Stephen and Immacolata Pellegrino



Bob Mason, Angela Tambone and Mary Dolores Ciraulo





Italian Heritage Lodge



Roma Lodge



Giuseppe Verdi Lodge

2021-2023 Grand Lodge of Virginia Outgoing State Officers and Trustees

President – Larry Brennan
 First Vice President – Marie Siebiking
 Second Vice President – Theresa DeLucia
 Immediate Past President – Bob Amante
 Orator – Paul Siebeking
 Recording Secretary – Beverly Amante
 Financial Secretary – John Gossner
 Treasurer – Bob Mason

Trustees – Ellie Bove – Jim DeLucia – Maryanne DeVincentis – Marianne Hallahan –
 Amanda Hertzog – Mary Louise Smith – Linwood Sykes



Larry Brennan receives and accepts our sincerest thanks for leading the GLVA over the past two terms as President, while Kathy Drummond officiates and looks on with our new President, Aldo Funai.



2023 – 2025 Grand Lodge of Virginia State Officers & Trustees

President – Aldo Funai
 First Vice President – Thersa DeLucia
 Second Vice President – Marie Siebeking
 Immediate Past President – Larry Brennan
 Orator – Paul Siebeking
 Recording Secretary – Amanda Hertzog
 Financial Secretary – Beverly Amante
 Treasurer – Bob Mason

Trustees – Robert Amante – Jim DeLucia – John Gossner – Betty McGowan – Coletta Sciscilo
 – Linwood Sykes – Mary Louise Smith

Arbitration Committee – Marianne Hallahan – Stephen Pellegrino – Charles Romano – Anne Marie Vaughan – David Whiteside

Alternate Arbitration Committee – Joseph McGowan – Jo Ann Caito Miles – Immacolata Pellegrino – Rebecca Marchetti Reynolds – Angela Tambone



*Immediate
 Past
 President
 Larry
 Brennan
 passing on
 the torch
 to Aldo
 Funai.*



*Immediate
 Past President
 Larry Brennan
 officially
 installs Aldo
 Funai as the
 new President
 of GLVA, with
 Kathy
 Drummond
 officiating and
 looking on.*



*Newly
 installed
 officers take
 their oath of
 office.*

STATE APPRECIATION AWARDS

During lunch of our full day of convening, Ellie Bove, GLVA Trustee and State Awards Committee Chair, presented State Appreciation Award certificates to a member or members selected from each lodge.

*Peninsula Italian
American Lodge
#2145
Robert Amante*



*Italo-American Citizens
Lodge #1077
Joanne Robinson*



*Giuseppe Verdi
Lodge #315
David Whiteside*

*Italian Heritage Lodge
#2517
Roy Schender
and
Sandy Schender*



Roma Lodge #254
Florence Alfano



Roma Lodge #254
Paul Siebeking

MERIT POINT CONTEST AWARDS

Continuing our lunch break, Paul Siebeking, GLVA Orator and Merit Point Contest Chair, presented certificates to the 2021-2023 Merit Point Contest winners.

1st Place Winner

Roma Lodge #254



*Larry Brennan, Marie Siebeking,
and Paul Siebeking*

2nd Place Winner
Giuseppe Verdi Lodge
#315

*Larry Brennan, Mary Louise Smith,
and Paul Siebeking*



3rd Place Winner
Italo-American Citizens
Lodge #1077

*Larry Brennan, Amanda Hertzog,
and Paul Siebeking*

Celebrating the Inauguration of the Installation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia

(by Jim DeLucia, Centennial Committee Chair)

The Grand Lodge of Virginia convention was held in Virginia Beach at the Roma Lodge, where we also celebrated the Centennial of the start of the Lodge. There were presentations on both Friday and Saturday nights.

“It is my honor and privilege to present this commemorative Grand Lodge of Virginia Centennial Program. The history of the Lodge is rich in celebrating the culture and traditions of Italy while providing service to the community. It is shared here both to honor these endeavors and celebrate the many members that contributed to its numerous accomplishments.

The committee thanks those members that preceded us and had the foresight to document and record our history. Much of what is presented in the program came directly from previously published histories. Research by the committee filled several missing pieces.

We hope that the current members of the Grand Lodge and of all the subordinate lodges are proud of its history and that it will inspire them to continue on with this long tradition of service to the community and charitable works.

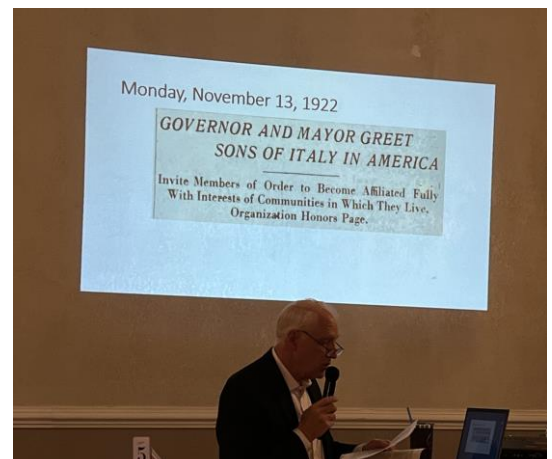
The next 100 years promises to be as exciting and noteworthy.”



Jim has a captive audience as he sets the stage with his diligent research.



Jim goes way back in time to showcase GLVA's history to our convention goers.





OSDIA National President Bob Bianchi sent a congratulatory video message to GLVA. Here are the highlights of his message to our convention goers:

“Hello, my name is Bob Bianchi and I am honored to be the National President of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, the oldest and largest national Italian American organization in the United States... It’s been a great year and a half of being the National President. I am very proud to represent you all. I want to thank all the Grand Lodges but particularly the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Virginia has been a beacon of individuals who have come forward to offer some amazing suggestions and help me, if nothing else the buy in we have received from Virginia but also the great suggestions.

I want to specifically also thank President Larry Brennan. Larry is a tremendous talent. He really represents you guys very well. I listen very intently to his advice and his suggestions; they are always spot on. I don’t think I have to tell you that he is a tremendous talent and represents you very well in the Grand Lodge of Virginia. And also Past President Bob Amante and his wife Beverly who have assisted greatly for many years especially with regard to our new IM program.

I have such a tremendous level of respect for what it is that you do in the Grand Lodge of Virginia and the people that you have brought forward to the National. And I also want to congratulate you on the 100-year anniversary that you guys are celebrating. That is really a tremendous milestone.”

I would like to acknowledge those who assisted and advised me, contributed articles, pictures and ideas for this special edition of *Il Giornale*:

Beverly Amante, Bob Bianchi, Ellie Bove, Larry Brennan, Jim DeLucia, and Paul Siebeking. - c.s.