



OCTOBER MEETING

Riunione ottobre

Our October Membership Meeting was our annual Club Clam Bake at Pine Ridge Country Club. As usual, the clams were good, the chicken was good, and the steaks were good. The entire event was great and everyone had a terrific time. Thanks to Vince Pona for doing all the coordination to make this event a success.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER novembre

7 November, Wednesday

AIH Executive Committee Meeting at The Mentor Firefighter's Museum @ 7:00p.

14 November, Wednesday:

AIH Membership Meeting at Pine Ridge Country Club @ 6:30p. This will be our club's Annual Italian Trivia Night, hosted by Tom Fioritto. See attached flyer.

24 November, Saturday:

The annual AIHC OSU v. U of M Football Game Party at Longo's Whiskey A-Go-Go. These two teams have met in the fall every year since 1987. This event is Co-Chaired by Ron Wassum and Tony Munaretto. The doors will open at 11:00a with the kickoff scheduled for 12:00 noon. See attached flyer.

Reservations are required

DECEMBER dicembre

Note: There will be no Executive Committee Meeting and no Membership Meeting in December.

9 December, Sunday:

AIH Family Christmas Party at LaMalfa. This event is Co-Chaired by Mike LaMalfa and Bill Petrello. See attached flyers

Reservations are required

JANUARY gennaio

16 January, Wednesday

AIHC Executive Committee Meeting at LaMalfa @ 5:30p.

23 January, Wednesday

AIH Executive Committee Meeting at The Mentor Firefighter's Museum @ 7:00p.

30 January, Wednesday:

AIH Membership Meeting at Pine Ridge Country Club @ 6:30p. The speaker will be Tim Kehres, the Executive Director of Big Brothers and Sisters of Northeast Ohio.

FEBRUARY febbraio

20 February, Wednesday

AIH Executive Committee Meeting at The Mentor Firefighter's Museum @ 7:00p.

27 February, Wednesday:

AIH Membership Meeting at Pine Ridge Country Club @ 6:30p. The speaker will be Steve Legerski, Show Manager of the Summit Racing Equipment I-X Piston Power Auto-Rama.

MARCH marzo

20 March, Wednesday

AIH Executive Committee Meeting at The Mentor Firefighter's Museum @ 7:00p.

27 March, Wednesday:

AIH Membership Meeting at Pine Ridge Country Club @ 6:30p. The speaker will be A.J. Petitti, President of Petitti Garden Centers.

APRIL aprile

13 April, Saturday:

AIHC Italian Night at LaMalfa @ 6:30p. The event is coordinated by Bill Petrello and Mike LaMalfa. This is the second of our Charities three annual fund raisers.

Reservations are required

17 April, Wednesday

AIHC Executive Committee Meeting at LaMalfa @ 5:30p.

17 April, Wednesday

AIH Executive Committee Meeting at The Mentor Firefighter's Museum @ 7:00p.

24 April, Wednesday:

AIH Membership Meeting at Pine Ridge Country Club @ 6:30p. The speaker will be Bob DiBiasio, Senior Vice President, Public Relations for the Cleveland Indians.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Compleanni di novembre

Table listing members and their birth dates in November: Matt Gambatese (6), Bill Gaglione (7), Joe Dardis (11), Mario Fioritto Jr. (11), Frank DeCapua (15), Jerry Cirino (20), Dominic Rufo Sr. (26), Joe Vitale (26), Joe Oliveri (28), Judge Gene Lucci (29).

When you see these members this month, be sure to wish them buon compleanno.

And a special Happy Birthday to Joe Dardis who turns 104 this month.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

salute e benessere

Mike LaMalfa's wife Loretta is recuperating from shoulder surgery. Please keep Loretta in your prayers this month.

ITALIAN REGIONS AND PROVINCES

This month we will continue with our Italian Region information sheets. As we said last month, because Sicily has so much history, we are only going to include one region again this month. See attachment.

NOVEMBER FESTIVAL AND HOLIDAYS IN ITALY

All Saints Day, celebrated November 1, is a national holiday in Italy so many shops will be closed, but most top tourist attractions and museums remain open. Some churches that are not usually open to the public may be open on All Saints Day. On All Souls Day, November 2, Italians bring flowers to the cemeteries to honor their deceased relatives.

The Feast of Our Lady of Good Health is one of Venice's most important celebrations. The festival is held on November 21 at Madonna Della Salute Church to commemorate Venice's deliverance from the plague in 1621. A temporary bridge is erected across the Grand Canal and thousands of pilgrims cross over to the church in a very beautiful procession.

Oberdrauburg Christmas Market usually occurs on the last weekend in November in the town of Signa, about 15 minutes' drive from Florence. The twin cities of Maromme, France, and Oberdrauburg, Austria, participate to offer traditional products and buy early Christmas presents.

ELECTION DAY

In the United States, Election Day is the day set by law for the general elections of federal public officials. It is statutorily set as "the Tuesday after the first Monday in the month of November" or "the first Tuesday after November 1". The earliest possible date is November 2, and the latest possible date is November 8 (as it was for the 2016 election).



November 6th is Election Day this year. Be sure to take part in one of our most fundamental rights and responsibilities.

VETERANS DAY

Perhaps some of you noticed that Joe Dardis celebrates his birthday on Veteran's Day. Below is a reprinted article from the Plain Dealer from Veteran's Day 2014, when Joe turned 100. Once you read this article you'll see how fitting is that Joe was born on November 11th.

*By Brian Albrecht
The Plain Dealer, November 11, 2014*

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Joe Dardis, born 100 years ago on Nov. 11 -- five years before it became Armistice Day -- is no hero. That's the first thing this World War II Navy veteran will tell you today on this year's birthday, on what is now known as Veterans Day. "I'm nowhere near being a World War hero, you know what I mean?" he said.

The Chester Township resident may be hard of hearing and legally blind, but he's got a firm grasp on his memories of the past century, and how his military service gave him a second reason to celebrate this day.

He grew up in Cleveland's Little Italy, part of a family that included his two brothers and seven sisters. During the Prohibition days of the 1920s, he watched police smash homemade stills and dump the booze on the street. The neighborhood also was where he met the love of his life, Christine, at a soda fountain. He and "Tina" married in 1942.

Dardis went to work at the Cleveland Tractor Co., earning \$18 a week. He used part of that money to take flying lessons and earn his pilot's license at an airport in Willoughby.

So when the military draft loomed during World War II, Dardis opted to enlist in the only service branch that would promise him aviation duty -- the Navy. He wound up as a gunner/radio operator, sitting behind the pilot, aboard a Helldiver SB2C dive bomber.

It was a slow plane, but when it went into an attack dive -- dropping from 10,000 to 1,900 feet -- it felt "like my stomach's coming up to meet my head," Dardis said.

Joe Dardis, remembers duty as a gunner/radio operator on Navy dive bombers during World

War II. He was assigned to a dive bomber squadron aboard the aircraft carrier USS Ranger. The ship's mission was to patrol the shipping lanes between the U.S and Europe, protecting convoys of Allied ships from German submarines and bombers.

"At that time the Nazis were having a picnic with their submarines," Dardis said. "It was our duty to keep those lanes safe."

Asked if he had ever spotted an enemy sub, Dardis smiled and said, "Well, yes and no." Once, while on one of their usual patrol surveillance flights, he and his pilot saw what looked like the shape of a German submarine. "So the pilot dropped a bomb," Dardis said. "It was a whale."

Another time the ship got word that a German sub commander was getting a medal for supposedly sinking the USS Ranger. Dardis said a torpedo had, in fact, once been fired at their ship, but missed. He noted that the carrier's commander made sure the crew's families were notified that the sailors and airmen were still safe and sound, in case they'd heard other news from Germany.

Safety was always a relative term, however. Dardis said the fliers were mindful of the fact that their carrier was one big, fat target for enemy attacks. "We felt safe when we were up in the air, instead of on the ship itself," he said.

And there were risks other than enemy attack. Dardis said they often practiced night landings on the carrier, sometimes resulting in crashes. The challenges were daunting. "You're up there and you look down, and the deck reminds you of a postage stamp, and you come in," he said.

Once, during a daytime landing, Dardis said his plane's tailhook grabbed the cable stretched across the deck to slow planes coming in. But his aircraft skidded over the side and dangled over the water, held only by that tailhook, until he and the pilot could be rescued.

Another time the engine of their dive bomber sprung an oil leak shortly after take-off, and their windshield was covered with black liquid as they made a frantic dash back to the carrier, hoping the engine wouldn't quit. "They cleared the deck for us and the pilot

told them to be ready for a ditching," Dardis recalled. "We just barely made it back."

The fliers eventually developed a dark sense of humor to cope with the risks. Dardis said they'd joke to other aviators, "What're you shaving for? You're not going to come back."

They got a chance to relieve some of the strain with shore leaves to London, England, or Scotland. "The first thing you looked for was a black-market restaurant, because everything was rationed," Dardis remembered.

He made it through the war unscathed and now looks back on that duty as a learning experience. When asked what he learned, Dardis thought for a moment and said, "I learned to be a survivor, for one thing. How to be a survivor."

He returned to Cleveland and went into the food vending machine business through his firm, the Halo Food Service Co.

He and Christine raised three children, and the family now includes eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Dardis credits his longevity to staying physically active -- "my wealth is my health" -- and still golfs despite his limited vision. "I can just barely see the ball when I tee off," he said. "And when I ask them (his golf buddies) where it went, they'll say, 'It's in the middle.' They don't tell me it's in the middle of the woods."

Dardis laughs, with the understanding that comes with having lived through two World Wars, 17 presidents, nine popes, a Depression and a Recession. And on the day this year that represents both his 100th birthday and bygone military service, Dardis has no regrets.

As he said, "I consider myself the luckiest person in the world. I look back, and I don't think I'd change anything at all if I could."

THANKSGIVING

On October 3, 1863, expressing gratitude for a pivotal Union Army victory at Gettysburg, President Abraham Lincoln announced that the nation would celebrate an official Thanksgiving holiday on November 26, 1863. The speech, which was actually written by Secretary of State



William Seward, declared that the fourth Thursday of every November thereafter would be considered the official U.S. holiday of Thanksgiving.

This announcement harkened back to when George Washington was in his first term as the first President in 1789 and the young American nation had only a few years earlier emerged from the American Revolution. At that time, George Washington called for an official celebratory "day of public thanksgiving and prayer." While Congress overwhelmingly agreed to Washington's suggestion, the holiday did not yet become an annual event.

Thomas Jefferson, the third President, felt that public demonstrations of piety to a higher power, like that celebrated at Thanksgiving, were inappropriate in a nation based in part on the separation of church and state. Subsequent Presidents agreed with him. In fact, no official Thanksgiving proclamation was issued by any President between 1815 and the day Lincoln took the opportunity to thank the Union Army and God for a shift in the country's fortunes on October 3rd in 1863.

The fourth Thursday of November remained the annual day of Thanksgiving from 1863 until 1939. Then, at the tail-end of the Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, hoping to boost the economy by providing shoppers and merchants a few extra days to conduct business between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, moved Thanksgiving to November's third Thursday. In 1941, however, Roosevelt bowed to Congress' insistence that the fourth Thursday of November be re-set permanently, without alteration, as the official Thanksgiving holiday.

THIS AND THAT

questo e quello

Member Dennis Rosa also belongs to the "Hi Rise Ski & Sports Club." That group is planning an overnight wine tasting tour to Niagara-on-the-Lake in November, which they are calling Wine Trip XIII. He has opened up to members and spouses of AIH. If you're interested let Dennis know. See attached flyer.

DID YOU KNOW?

Lo sapevate?

The first eyeglasses were made in Northern Italy, most likely in [Pisa](#), by about 1290. In a

sermon delivered on 23 February 1306, the Dominican friar, [Giordano da Pisa](#) (ca. 1255–1311) wrote: "It is not yet twenty years since there was found the art of making eyeglasses, which make for good vision; and it is so short a time that this new art, never before extant, was discovered; I saw the one who first discovered and practiced it, and I talked to him."

Giordano's colleague Friar Alessandro della Spina of Pisa (d. 1313) was soon making eyeglasses. The *Ancient Chronicle of the Dominican Monastery of St. Catherine in Pisa* records: "Eyeglasses, having first been made by someone else, who was unwilling to share them, he [Spina] made them and shared them with everyone with a cheerful and willing heart." By 1301, there were guild regulations in Venice governing the sale of eyeglasses.

The earliest pictorial evidence for the use of eyeglasses is [Tommaso da Modena's](#) 1352 portrait of the cardinal Hugh de Provence reading in a *scriptorium*. Another early example would be a depiction of eyeglasses found north of the Alps in an altarpiece of the church of [Bad Wildungen, Germany](#), in 1403. These early glasses had *convex lenses* that could correct both *hyperopia* (farsightedness), and the *presbyopia* that commonly develops as a symptom of *aging*. It was not until 1604 that [Johannes Kepler](#) published the first correct explanation as to why convex and concave lenses could correct presbyopia and *myopia*.

Early frames for glasses consisted of two magnifying glasses *riveted* together by the handles so that they could grip the nose. These are referred to as "rivet spectacles." The earliest surviving examples were found under the floorboards at [Kloster Wienhausen](#), a *convent* near [Celle](#) in Germany; they have been dated to *circa* 1400.

PROPOSED CHANGE TO OUR BYLAWS

Currently our Bylaws only allows for the Executive Committee to move a member over 100 years of age into the permanent status of "Member in Good Standing Emeritus." For that reason the Executive Committee has reviewed and approved an amendment to the Bylaws that would allow them the latitude to include others in the emeritus status who have not yet reached the age of 100, at their discretion, if they feel it is appropriate. That proposed

amendment was reviewed at the October 25th Membership Meeting (the Clam Bake) and the members will be asked to vote on accepting that amendment at the November 21st Membership Meeting.

"BUSINESS CARD ADS" ON OUR WEBSITE

The club would like to extend the opportunity to its members to have a "Business Card ad" on our AIH Website. There would be no cost to the member. If you're interested, send one of your business cards and a brief write up about your company to Dave Vegh, 8688 Applewood Court, Mentor, Ohio 44060, ph: 440-255-8944 email: DJVegh@gmail.com

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of this Association is to promote the moral, social and civic advancement of its membership, and to perpetuate the customs and cultural aspects of Italian Heritage.

Article II, Section 1 of the AIH Bylaws

AMERICANS of ITALIAN HERITAGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1 July 2018 – 30 June 2020

- President Gus Paolucci
- Vice President Ronald Wassum
- Secretary Glenn Pizzuti
- Treasurer William Petrello
- Trustee Mario Fioritto
- Trustee Rio DeGennaro Jr.
- Trustee James Federico Sr.
- Trustee Michael LaMalfa
- Trustee Anthony Munaretto
- Trustee Donald Rapposelli
- Trustee John Perrotti
- Trustee-Immediate Past Pres..... David Vegh

ATTACHMENTS

1. Italian Trivia Game Night Flyer
2. Christmas Party Registration Flyer
3. Christmas Party Gift Flyer
4. Sicily Region Text
5. "Wine Trip XIII" Flyer