**ST ANN NEWSLETTER JAN FEB MAR 2019**

**FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT**

I have finished my final term and want to wish Mike Gabriele the best of luck. “Per La mia Seconda Famiglia (Sant’ Anna)

 My dearest members and Women’s Auxiliary “Grazie-Grazie”-Thank you-“Grazie-grazie” In this season of happy celebrations, most of us are fortunate to be in good health. Using this precious opportunity, we gather with family and friends “Buon Natle e Felice Anno Nuovo”. Let us not forget our members that have passed away, our beloved Veterans and the brave men and women who were wounded or lost their lives defending our great country. “Grazei” E….Per tutti preghiamo insieme….Thank you all.

 I can not compete with the ever-advancing technology and the youth know how. “Viva i Giovani” and the willingness to be involved. “Congratulazioni” and good luck.

As you know by now, of my own free will, this is my last Presidency, but I’m not going anywhere. I leave my position with no regrets or antagonisms, but only love, grateful for all of you. You will always have my respect as you have respected me and my position.

 Together we have reached goals above and beyond the expectations of our forefathers honoring their memories; for this we are very well recognized in the Greater Norwalk community. We work with satisfaction in our city with various departments as well as with many non-profit organizations and clubs. We associate with and have created reciprocal respect and cooperation with the Norwalk Knights of Columbus and work in harmony with local Italian Police Organizations. We have a strong scholarship program and many initiatives to raise money (Golf Tournament and monthly dinners and dances). Our own Feast with the ever popular “Pizza Fritta” is the crowning glory for the Italian community as well as our participation in the Oyster Festival. Our marina has been renewed and with the hard work of the Marina Committee and members will continue to do very well. The finances are in good condition and well cared for. The board of Directors and officers are very active and efficient. The Women’s Auxiliary are “Travolgenti” in what they achieve and are “Un Eccellente Assetto” for the Saint Ann Club. E….Chi piu` ne Sa`, Piu’ne Dica” .

 Now…”Scusatemi`”…Together let us applaud KENNY PRINCE AND HIS KITCHEN CREW for what they do and accomplish “Grazie Speciali e di Cuore”

I’m satisfied in all our achievements under my 25 year administration. I would like to think my drastic, or less drastic decisions, with your understanding and support, have contributed to all our advancements and realizations. All of my appointed positions were well thought out based on observation and knowing individuals personally. I always kept in mind the sensibility of these appointees and their concern for the welfare of members and those who have the best interest of our beloved club at heart.

 I am proud of the many accomplishments we have worked for. I am happy knowing you and what you have taught me. I learned from you to be humble, patient and attentive. You have made me a better man. Keep up “Buon Lavoro” and congratulations to everyone. We have created a club with a very bright future and great potential for tremendous growth.

 I love you all. “E vi Abbraccio Con Vigore ed affetto Felicissimo di esseve stato il vostro Presidente”.

 Let us all stand with and support Mike Gabriele as he becomes our next President.

 Sincerely and from my heart, Nicandro “Nick”

**FROM THE LADIES AUXILIARY**

We approached the holidays the Auxiliary held another successful Holiday Fair thanks to all our donors and volunteers.

Now, as we close the Christmas season and welcome 2019, the ladies look forward to another lucrative year.  Our dinners, fund raisers and community events are becoming bigger and better than ever because of our faithful volunteers.  Whether you help in the hall, in the kitchen or behind the scene, you bring triumph to St. Ann Club.  My heartfelt gratitude to all of you.

This is my last message as Auxiliary President and it is my parting wish that all our members will continue to work together for the benefit of the club.  May you all have a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

 Camille Andreozzi

**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**

On December 11th, for the fourth consecutive year, our club hosted a dinner for the Wreaths Across America convoy. Each year, the convoy travels from Columbia Falls, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. Over 175 people made the trip this year regardless of weather conditions in cars, trucks and motorcycles to escort eleven eighteen wheel semis carrying almost 250,000 wreaths to be place on the markers of deceased veterans of our military in Arlington on December 15th. The club volunteers were presented with a beautiful wreath at the dinner that is being proudly displayed throughout the holiday season at the club.

On December 15th, while the ceremony is commencing in Arlington, ceremonies are held simultaneously at noon at over 1,200 cemeteries across the United States and a total of over 1.8 million wreaths are placed on markers across the U.S. Additionally, for the first time 9,387 wreaths were placed on markers in Normandy, France.

For those wanting to know more about the organization you can visit their website and lastly, we thank each and every person who took the time to volunteer for this event.

**HOMES FOR THE BRAVE**

On December 17th, volunteers drove to Bridgeport to cook and serve a holiday dinner to the residents of Homes for the Brave and Female Soldiers, Forgotten Heroes. The event was joyful with many residents commenting on the efforts of our members. A special thanks to Il Palio restaurant in Shelton for providing the lasagna for the residents and an extra special thanks to those volunteers who continue to keep our military in our thoughts and prayers over the holidays.

**SECOND ANNUAL SAUCE CONTEST WINNERS**

Held November 17th First place: Vickie Sabol. Second Place JB Deli. 15 Tierney St.

**SAINT ANN CHAIRTY GOLF CLASSIC**

This very popular event will take place on June 17, 2019. Make sure to save the date.

***Sunday*** To many non-Italians, Sunday might be a contender for least favorite day of the week. But, say the word "Sunday" to an Italian, and it's likely he or she will identify it as a favorite. You see, Sundays are dedicated to one thing and one thing only: family. Not one Sunday goes by where you don't have at least 20 family members, friends and neighbors crowded around a table full of every yummy Italian food imaginable. There is nothing, and I mean nothing, in this world that compares to Mom or Grandma's famous sauce and meatballs. The smell, the taste, the flavor, the all-around perfection and deliciousness...Like, come on, how could you not go for two, sometimes three, servings of dinner that night? ***The Cousins*** Let's just talk about the cousins for a minute. First of all, there are so many of them, it is impossible to remember all of their names, which kid belongs to who, who's blood-related and who just married in. Then, when you finally think you know everyone, there comes along more cousins you never even knew you had. A reality show called, "Keeping Up with the Cousins," would put those Kardashians to shame. I mean, you can't write half of the stuff that happens in an Italian family. Seriously, you can't. ***The Parties*** We Italians will do just about anything to throw a party. All the holidays, birthdays, baptisms, confirmations, weddings, first birthdays — the list goes on and on. You could pass your road test after failing three times and there would still be a party. Or, how about at graduation when you look out in the audience and see that your family takes up a full section of the stands, and they're louder than everyone else combined? Meanwhile, the person standing next to you has two, maybe three people at most, and guess what? They're quiet! But, hold on; let's just bring it back a minute to the weddings. There is nothing quite like a big Italian wedding. What more can you ask for at a wedding than the finest Italian food and endless dancing with those crazy cousins? And, how can we forget about a little family sing along to the famous Dean Martin, "That's Amore"? ***What language are they even speaking?*** How about those relatives who walk around, mumbling Italian words all the time? Yes, you all know the ones I'm talking about. What are they even saying? Actually, we probably don't even want to know what they're saying because most of the time, they're just rambling off a bunch of F-bombs. Also, there is never a point in time when an Italian's hands aren't in full motion during a conversation. What can I say? We like to spruce things up by adding in a few hand gestures here and there. In-between all the mumbling and the hand gestures come the real Italian voices, and I'm talking about the loudness, my friends. We are loud, and we are proud! Try sitting down to have a conversation with a big group, I dare you. The chances of you being heard are slim to none. ***You know somebody who knows somebody who***...It is a small world out there, my friends, and even smaller when you have such a large family. There will always be a time when you talk to somebody who winds up knowing someone in your family. Or, this is my favorite: "Oh, yes, I know someone who knows someone who is best friends with your cousin." Or the famous, "Your cousin just so happens to be best friends with your best friend's cousins. Like, oh-em-gee, you guys were like totally meant to be best friends!!" ***The Traditions*** Everything, and I mean every single thing, we do has a reason behind it and at least a 10-minute story to go along with it, too. We are all about the traditions, making sure we keep up with those traditions, and then, making sure we keep them within the family. For example, that Sunday sauce is so good because everyone has a special ingredient Grandma asks us to throw in. And, of course, we can't give that secret ingredient away, so don't ask for it. How about all those weird traditions your older relatives feel the need to STILL follow, even though they make no sense in today's world? Like, when your nose is itchy, you have to slap someone's hand; otherwise, you'll get into a fight. Also, don't cut a baby's hair before his or her first birthday because it's bad luck. I mean, seriously, where do we come up with these things? Yet, 10 minutes after making fun of someone for doing those things, you find yourself doing them, too. Why? Because, duh, it's tradition!! ***The Love*** At the end of the day, there is one thing that remains constant: your family and all the outpouring love that comes along with them. Through thick and thin and for better or worse, your family will always be there for you. Remember that blood is thicker than water. When it all boils down, your family knows you better than you know yourself, whether you'll admit it or not. Along with all the craziness comes the unconditional love. There is not one person who would miss the opportunity to squeeze you a little tighter and kiss you just one time. The love we have for each other is endless, and I would not trade it for the world.

**AGNONE ITALY….BELLS BELLS and BELLS** In the northern portion of [Molise](http://www.italymagazine.com/molise), Agnone stands out as a pleasant surprise: this town of 5,400 inhabitants, famous for its historic factory producing bells, one of the few allowed to display the papal coat of arms, has been able in the past few years to develop a number of resources to attract more tourism in the area: agriturismi have opened, horse-riding is a popular activity, special events - among them, the ‘Ndocciata on Christmas Eve and the Fiera delle Arti e Mestieri Antichi in August - and archeology-focused tours are among its main draws.

Located on a rocky spur in the mountainous area of Alto Molise, Agnone has a long history; it is thought to have developed on the ruins of the ancient Samnite city of Aquilonia, which was razed to the ground by the Romans when they conquered Samnium. The Samnites spoke Oscan and it is in Agnone that the most important ancient document of the region was found: the "Oscan Tablet", or “Tabula Osca”, a 3rd century BC bronze inscription written in the Oscan alphabet now kept in the British Museum.

Remnants of Agnone’s past are everywhere, beginning with the town's medieval-style architecture, visible in the 19 churches, among them the 12th-century Church of San Marco, embellished with a Renaissance portal, and the 14th-century Church of San Francesco, with a Gothic portal surmounted by an elegant rose window.

In the 11th century, the cult of Saint Mark was introduced to Agnone and artists from Venice were brought in to decorate the homes of the local residents with sculptures of the lion of Saint Mark's, still visible today.

Agnone’s major and most fascinating attraction remains the [Pontificia Fonderia Marinelli](http://campanemarinelli.com/), a bell foundry founded in 1040 deemed Italy's oldest family business and possibly among the oldest family businesses in the world, still run by the Marinelli family (who took it over in 1339). The factory includes the Marinelli Bell Museum, where 1,000-year-old bells as well as more recent ones are on display. Visitors can see the artisans at work making bells still using the same technique employed 1,000 years ago. The entire process is handcrafted. Among the museum’s most illustrious visitors was Pope John Paul II in 1995; many of the foundry’s bells can in fact be found at the Vatican and the Roman Catholic Church accounts for a large portion of the orders placed for the company. Fun fact: The last bell to be hung in the bell tower of the Leaning Tower of Pisa was made by Marinelli to replace a 600-kg, 17th-century bell damaged during bombings during World War II.

**LIFETIME MEMBERS MEN**

Frederick J. Bonhage Joseph V. Ceci Luigi Cenatiempo John L. Connelly Eric Fleisch Emilio Granata Louis G. Imperato Jr. Albert Latte Louis C. Salcito Carmine A Spinelli

 **LIFETIME MEMBERS LADIES AUXILIARY**

Josephine Colabella Jane Emro Tina Granata Suanne Latte Kay Martino Betty Minasian Connie Peters JoAnn Piacentini Lucy Princi Gayle Radshaw Anna Ruggiero Catherine Verda Virginia Yost

**NEW MEMBERS MEN DATE SPONSOR**

William Palumbo 11-7-18 Tony Cappuccia Nick Kantzas 11-7-18 Louis Caruso Michael Stromandinoli 11-7-18 Louis Caruso Frank Verdone 11-7-18 Walter Cerretani Dominick Bruni 12-5-18 Tony Guaglione

**NEW MEMBERS LADIES AUXILIARY DATE SPONSOR**

Carol Andreoli 11-1-18 JoAnn Guaglione Kim Buccheri 10-4-18 Virginia Tartaglia Andrea Caruso 11-1-18 Toni Wallace Maureen DeSantie 11-1-18 Anna Mastrolillo Diane Ezzo 11-1-18 Carolyn Shannahan Denise Fretina 10-4-18 Virginia Tartaglia Susan Kousidis 10-4-18 Christina Kantzas Grace McDonald 11-1-18 Patricia Pratt Gina Schlitt 11-1-18 Virginia Tartaglia Heidi Spinols 10-4-18 Virginia Tartaglia

**CLUB CARDS**

The current debit card can be used up until March 1, 2019 if you still have a balance on them. After March 1, 2019 all existing cards will have a zero balance on them. Upon payment of your dues and annual minimum, $75 for men, $25 for women, will be added to your card to spend at the club bar or Mother of Mary functions. (Exceptions are the Game dinner, Raffle tickets, Saint Ann Feast, Oyster Festival or yearly dues.) March 15, 2019 will start the new balance on your card. As you now know, your card is permanent which will be used every year. **You will not be allowed to carry over the minimum fee to the next year.** The new debit card amount must be used by March 1, 2020. For all Life Members if you would like to purchase monies on you Saint Ann Club debit card please contact Ken Romano.  This is an option for Life members who are exempt from dues and the annual minimum. Ken Romano, Financial Secretary

**ADDDRESS CHANGES AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

In an effort to bring the club more into the electronic age we are asking that anyone with an e-mail address, who hasn’t done so already, to please send it to Ken Romano. His e-mail address is rmyken@aol.com. We will use these addresses to update events and schedules as well as save postage and be able to keep members informed on a timely basis.

If you move and need to change your physical address contact Carol Shannahan at 203-846-2140 or email her at Shannahan776@gmail.com.

**PLEASE READ**

Anyone wishing to contribute to this newsletter is encouraged to do so. Please contact Eric Fleisch at 847-7669 or by e-mail at bige101@ optonline.net. The next edition will be sent on or about April 1, 2019

If you know any member that is sick or hospitalized please bring it to the attention of the Board of Directors or Eric Fleisch at 847-7669 or by e-mail at BIGE101@ optonline.net. For the ladies contact Barbara Antonelli at (203) 866-3953. A gift basket and card will be sent. If anyone knows of an Auxiliary member who has been permanently placed in a nursing home please contact Betty Brink with the information at (203) 847-8133. We would like to keep in touch with them by sending a card.

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Vice President Mike Gabriele

Financial Secretary Ken Romano

Assistant Financial Sect’ Ralph Allegretta

Treasurer Mike Tolla

Assistant Treasurer Steve Sabol

Recording Secretary Vincent Scicchitano

Bar Manager James O’Brien

Assistant Bar Manager John Vozzo

Public Relations Eric Fleisch

Sergeant at Arms Ken Prince

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Darren Winter

Andrew Troetti

Joseph Buffone

Treasurer Frank Felicissimo

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Sergeant at Arms                        Mary Ann Cappuccia

Public Relations                           Maria Vozzo

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Vice Chairman                             Vicki Raymond

Members                           Joanne Guaglione, Lisa Prince, Arlene Peterson

**Jan 2** Joint Meeting

**Jan 5** DJ Dom

**Jan 10** Game Dinner Joe

Tamburro 203 515 2163

**Jan 12**. Outside Chance Band 7:45

Maria Flora Dance Lesson Disco and Hustle $20 7:00

**Jan 17.** Women’s dinner

**Jan 19** Family Dinner contact Maria Vozzo $15

 **Jan 27** Private Party

 **Jan 30** Men’s Dinner

**Feb 2** Private Party

 **Feb 6** Men’s Meeting

 **Feb 7** Women’s Meeting

**Feb 9** Valentines Dance.

 Leigh Henry Band. $35

**Feb 16** Karaoke Leigh Henry

**Feb 21** Women’s Dinner

**Feb 23** Mystery Band.

**Feb27** Men’s Dinner

**March 2**  DJ Dom

**Mar 6**  Men’s Meeting

**Mar. 7** Women’s Meeting

**Mar 9** Straightjackets Band

**MAR 14** Painting N Vino. Contact Tony Cappuccia.

 203 515 7706 Limited to 30 people

**Mar 16** St Patricks Dance. Gunsmoke Band.

 Corned Beef and Cabbage. $35

**Mar 21** Women’s Dinner

**Mar 22** Private Party

**Mar 23**. Old School Band

**Mar 27** Men’s Dinner

**Mar 30** Private Party