

JCCIA Journal

Hall of Presidents

PARENT ORGANIZATION

Joseph Barbera* 1954-1960
 Peter R. Scalise* 1961-1962
 Anthony J. Paterno* 1963-1964
 Vincent E. Ferrara* 1965-1966
 Dr. Mario O. Rubinelli* 1967-1968
 Victor J. Failla* 1969
 Anthony Bottalla* 1970-1971
 Charles C. Porcelli* 1972-1973
 Anthony J. Fornelli 1974-1975
 James E. Coli* 1976-1977
 Dr. James F. Greco* 1978
 Joseph Tolitano* 1979-1980
 James L. Coli 1981-1982
 Jerome N. Zurla 1983-1984
 Charles C. Porcelli* 1985-1986
 Carl DeMoon 1987-1989
 Dominic DiFrisco 1990-1994
 Stephen Fiorentino 1995-1996
 Louis H. Rago 1997-1998
 Joseph M. Gagliardo 1999-2000
 Vito P. Cali 2001-2002
 Joanne Spata 2003-2004
 JO ANN SERPICO, PRESIDENT

WOMEN'S DIVISION

Carolyn Lucchese
 Ann Sorrentino*
 Elena Frigoletti
 Ann Yelmini*
 Gene Bruno*
 Norma Battisti*
 Phyllis Schoene
 Josephine L. Ortale*
 Angeline Tufano
 Jeannine Riotto
 Marie Davino
 Marion Ortale*
 Judy Guzaldo
 Joanne Spata
 Mary Ann Ciolfi
 Frances Passaglia
 Tomasina Perry
 Helen Andolino
 Gina Sclafani
 Velda L. Davino
 Lilia Leonardi Juarez
 ROSEMARY RANALLO, PRESIDENT

WEST SUBURBAN WOMEN'S DIVISION

Ann Sorrentino*
 Marion Fritscher
 Lil Mastro
 Louise DeBartolo
 Aurelia Tornabene
 Lilia Leonardi Juarez
 Leonora LiPuma
 Libby Hannigan
 Tena Amico
 NAOMI SERPICO, PRESIDENT

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

John Peter Curielli
 Michael Galgano
 Jeff Garzonetti
 Anthony Morizzo
 Joseph Rio
 Jo Ann Wilson
 Regina Panarese
 Gino Pisani
 Joseph Mollica
 Ange Passarella
 Patti De Bella
 Norman Boccio
 Ron Onesti
 Mark Farina
 Phil Sciaqua
 Laurie Ardito
 Andrienne Rubino
 Joanne Spata
 Robert Carrozza
 Joe Papavero
 Dr. Jim Bruno Lago
 JOHN GALLUZZI, PRESIDENT

*Deceased

The Joint Civic Committee
of Italian Americans

3800 Division St. • Stone Park, IL 60165
708.450.9050 www.jccia.com



The sum is great because of its parts

by Jo Ann Serpico, President

As we begin the New Year, January is the appropriate time to share with our readers a short history of our beginning of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans.

Our movement of collaboration among Italians began in 1952. At that time, leaders representing 40 Italian organizations came together. These leaders all worked on a volunteer basis. They had the foresight and determination to form a vehicle to deal with the issues of hundreds of thousands of Americans of Italian extraction.

Civic leaders from every walk of life organized the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans. The name of the organization reflected the joint efforts of Italian Americans to come together as one umbrella organization.

Our early goals were clear. Anti-defamation, immigration, Columbus Day Parade, social services and broader representation in government and industry. We continue with this participation in affairs of city, county, state and country as we contribute to the democratic way of life.

Our past 57 years have been filled with charitable, civic, cultural and educational programs, the Columbus Day Parade and a source of social and civic life for Italian Americans. The Joint Civic Committee spearheads the Dante Awards to honor a member of the media who fosters a positive image of our community; the Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Humanitarian of the Year Award to honor a person whose life exemplifies the virtues of caring and humility that were the hallmark of Cardinal Bernardin's tenure as archbishop of Chicago; the Peacemaker Award to recognize a person of good will and agreement; the Columbus Day Parade; the Annual Camminata Del Biscotti and the Scholarship Program.

In the early years, the JCCIA was under the leadership of Italian-American men. As the years went on, more and more women attended meetings with their husbands. The women were called on for increased participation in Columbus Day and other activities of the JCCIA. In 1966, a Women's Division was organized.

Since its inception, the Women's Division has been the cornerstone on which the parent organization depends for engineering and enduring prosperity for our remarkable umbrella organization. The major endeavors of this group are the Italian Heritage Ball and Cotillion, the annual Scholarship Fashion Show and the Impresa Awards that pays tribute to Italian-American women and their distinctive contributions to the community and society at large.

In 1968, an effort was made to involve Italian-American women from the suburbs. These women decided to organize their own division. The West Suburban Women's Divisions is our assemblage of volunteers. In the name of the Joint Civic Committee, they offer their services to the Columbus Day Parade, Fra Noi, Casa Italia and other groups.

The year 1975 saw the beginning of the Young Adults Division, now the Young Professionals. This organization is an important unit of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans. The rationale for organizing this Division was that young adults had their own social interests and desires to interact with their peers and focus on the concerns and issues affecting its age group. Every year the group selects one of its male members to portray Columbus in the Columbus Day Parade.

The Young Professional Division is also an integral part of the Queen Contest and the parade, plus offering their services for the St. Joseph Day Table sponsored by the Shrine of our Lady of Pompeii.

For the past 57 years, the Joint Civic Committee of Italian

Americans has performed the basic function of electing presidents. Obviously that person must have a compelling requirement to work with the community, sharing our values and principles. I have the advantage of building on the success achieved by the presidents before me.

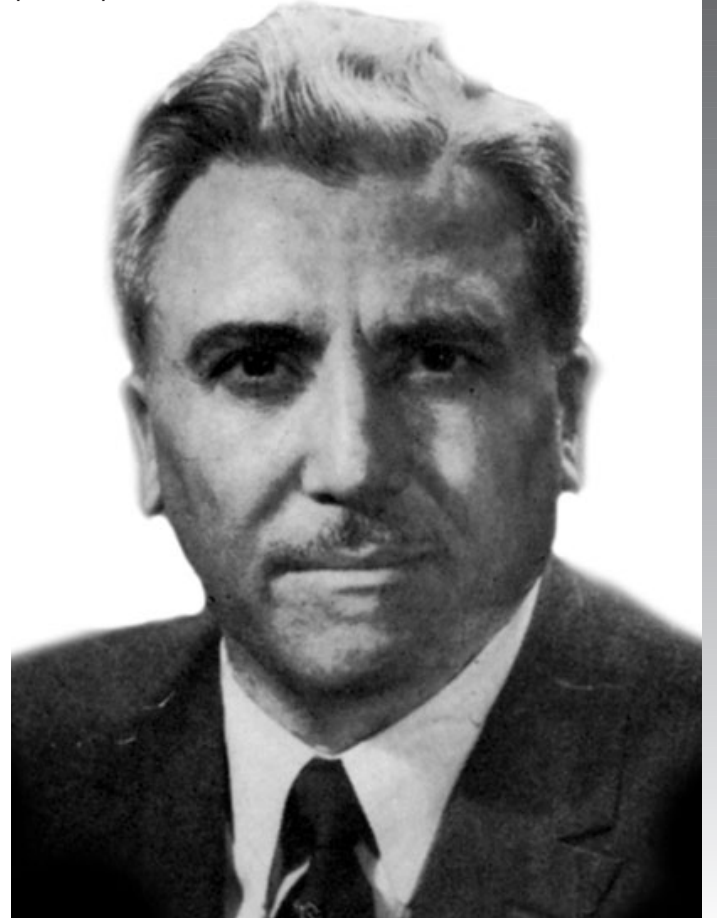
I stand proud and honored to list all of the presidents of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans, the Women's Division, the West Suburban Women's Division and the Young Professional Division, which you will find to the left of this column. All of these dedicated persons had the vision, commitment and desire to lead the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans.

I express my thanks and true appreciation for their outstanding contributions to our community and our country. Today we are 70 organizations strong.

What a tribute to the past presidents who have worked so hard to make the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans what we are today.

I am grateful to Anthony Sorrentino, who served as the executive director of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans from 1952 until his retirement in 1989, and who had the foresight to compile a book on the history of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans. It was truly a joy and revelation for me to read this interesting history of our organization.

I am also grateful to Marie Palelo, who has served as the secretary of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans for the past 57 years and continues to do so.



JOSEPH BARBERA
First President of the JCCIA
1954-1960