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DIVISIONS

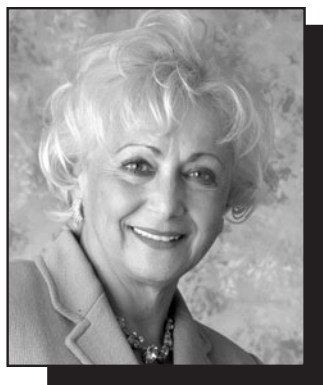
Women's Division
 Rosemary Ranallo, President

West Suburban Women's Division
 Naomi Serpico, President

Young Professionals Division
 John Galluzzi, President

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

AIDA • Alpine Country Club • Amici d'Italia
 • Amici Naperville Area Italian American Club • ARPA
 • Calabresi in America Organization • Casa Italia • CIACO
 • Columbian Club of Chicago • Elk Grove Village Sister
 Cities Inc. • FIERI-Chicago • Flowers of Italy Club • Fra Noi
 • IANU Foundation, ISDA Midwest District • IANU, James E.
 Coli Chapter #15 • IANU, Club Calascibetta Chapter #75
 • IANU, St. Anthony Chapter #10 • IANU, St. Joseph
 Chapter #319 • Italian American Chamber of Commerce
 • Italian American Civic Organization of Berwyn
 • I-A Executives of Transportation • I-A Human Relations
 Found. of Chicago • Italian American Labor Council
 • Italian American Police Association • Italian American
 Political Coalition • Italian American Society (Springfield)
 • Italian American Women's Club of Chicagoland
 • Italian American Women's Organization • Italian Catholic
 Federation • Italian Catholic Federation #392
 • Italian Cultural Center • Italo-American Soccer Club
 "Maroons" • Italo-American "Maroons" Ladies Club
 • ITAM Vets, Illinois • ITAM, Illinois Ladies Auxiliary
 • ITAM, Filippo Mazzei Post #1 • ITAM, Filippo Mazzei Post
 #1 Ladies • ITAM, Joseph Gentile Post #2 • ITAM, Joseph
 Gentile Post #2 Ladies • ITAM James Cuzzone Post #5
 Ladies • ITAM, Guido Belmonte Post #4 Ladies
 • Justinian Society of Lawyers • Marchegiana Society of
 Chicago Heights • Maria SS Della Croce Di Triggiano
 • Maria SS Lauretana Society • Mazzini Verdi Club, Inc.
 • Mazzini Verdi Club, Ladies Social Club
 • Old Neighborhood Italian American Club • Panormus
 Club • San Rocco di Modugno Society • Shrine of Our Lady
 of Mt. Carmel • Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii • Sicilian
 American Cultural Association • Società Beato Giovanni
 Liccio • Società San Biagio Platani • Società San Francesco
 di Paola • Società San Giovanni Bosco di Ciminna
 • Società San Leoluca da Corleone • Società SS Crocifisso
 di Ciminna • Società SS Crocifisso di Rutigliano, Bari
 • Society of Santa Fara di Cinisi • UNICO, Chicago Amerital
 Chapter • UNICO, Chicago West Suburban Chpt.
 • UNICO, Greater Chicago Chapter
 • Veneti del Nordamerica



Recalling the past, embracing the future

by Jo Ann Serpico, President

As we enter our 56th year of providing service to the Italian-American community, we remember the past and look toward the future.

In 1952, a group of dedicated Italian-American leaders from all walks of life met to deal with the problems of discrimination and to carry on charitable, educational and cultural activities that would best serve the interests and welfare of our ethnic group. Among these early leaders were Joseph Barbera, Anthony Paterno, Peter R. Scalise, Carl Cipolla, Vincent E. Ferrara, and Anthony Sorrentino, who became the executive director.

The purposes then were to take appropriate action in those instances where persons of Italian heritage were the objects of discriminatory practices or when acts of prejudicial nature were directed against us; to serve as a clearing house for Italians in need of assistance dealing with personal, family or community problems, either by assisting them directly or referring them to appropriate resources; to encourage and sponsor a program of lectures, conferences and study groups; to carry on the Columbus Day Parade; to grant scholarships to Italian-American students; and more.

The name of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans was decided on, as it would involve the joint efforts of all Italian-American organizations to join together as one umbrella organization.

In those days, you could rent "desk-and-telephone" space in many office building downtown, and thus the Joint Civic Committee Of Italian Americans was born. Space was rented in the 127 N. Dearborn St. building with the office work being done from Anthony Sorrentino's and Marie Palello's homes.

We are indeed indebted to the early leaders who had the insight and determination to lead us to where we are today. We are also indebted to Congressman Frank Annunzio, who worked tirelessly on behalf of the Italian-American community. We were fortunate to also have a Women's Division which, through the foresight of Vincent E. Ferrara, was organized in 1966, followed by the West Suburban Women's Division in 1968, and then by the Young Adults Division (changed to the Young Professionals Division) in 1975.

We continue in their footsteps, granting scholarships yearly to Italian-American students who are majoring in journalism with the John Fischetti Scholarship, presented through the Human Relations Committee at the Dante Award luncheon; scholarships are awarded yearly to students entering college for the first time, through the Joint Civic Committee Of Italian American's parent organization and the Women's Division. Over the years, we have granted hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarship grants. The Columbus Day Parade is a wonderful expression of projecting the best image of our heritage; the theme of the parade reflects the monumental contributions and influences of our heritage, covering arts, music, science, entertainment, medicine, education, and best of all, food; the Italian Heritage Ball And Cotillion, sponsored by the Women's Division; the Christmas Around the World exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry, which is an annual event; and a host of cultural exhibits, including the Balbo exhibit, which was done in cooperation with the Italian Consulate, Institute of Italian Culture, Fra Noi and Casa Italia.

We give tribute to all who have passed away and who left their footsteps for us to follow.

We thank all of the Italian-American organizations that are under our umbrella and continue to support the JCCIA with their annual contribution.

We look to the future with the leaders of our affiliated organizations, which are all listed on this page.

We thank all of our present supporters and friends as we work together for the best interests of our community. Fifty-six years of continued service to our community is a milestone.

I look forward to serving our community to the best of my abilities. It is most gratifying to me to be president of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans. I cherish and value this wonderful opportunity and experience.