

Report on the Sons of Italy's 75th Grand Convention in Burbank

The delegates that you selected to represent Shasta Lodge at the convention were President Jim Nobili, Vice President John Tasello, Recording Secretary Sharon Roberts, Treasurer Rose Nobili and Immediate Past President Ken Carroll. Our flight from Sacramento arrived in Burbank at 12:30 pm Tues. June 21 and a very short shuttle trip had us checking in at our hotel. We had enough time to put our things in our rooms and take a quick tour of the facilities before the bocce ball tournament started. 5 hours and 7 games later Shasta Lodge finished in 1st place with our Brothers and Sisters from the Chico Lodge taking 2nd.

President Maria Pignati opened the convention on Wednesday at 8:30 am. By 10:35 am we had heard the message and the report from the State President, the reports from the Vice Presidents, the Immediate Past President, the State Orator, the State Recording Secretary, the Media Committee and the State Financial Secretary. The financial report showed a net gain of approximately \$5,300. This was only accomplished by reducing staff hours and other measures to reduce expenses. Our Financial Secretary, Ugo Pignati, indicated that even this modest gain will be hard to duplicate next year without a continuing effort to keep expenses down. After the break, we reviewed the reports from the State Treasurer, Head State Trustee and the Media Committee. In discussing our newsletter, the Il Leone, Media Chair and Editor Andy Pampuro suggested that the Grand Lodge could save money on printing and mailing expenses if members ceased to have the newsletter mailed to them but viewed it on line instead. The afternoon session included reports from the Western Foundation, the Grand Lodge Building Committee, the Hall Rental Manager, the Social Justice Committee, the Italian Language & Culture Committee, the Judiciary Committee, the Royal Court and Golden Lion Committee, the Medical Charities Committee, the History Committee and the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum.

Jim Nobili presented our proposed by-law change that would allow for the reduction in the number of delegates that are required to send to the convention. There was much discussion regarding this change with speakers both for and against the change taking the podium. The proposal was voted down but Ugo Pignati offered to write up a request to the Convention Resolution Committee to review this issue and options that would allow for some of the larger lodges to reduce the number of delegates if they so desired. Additionally the Committee should review the possibility of smaller lodges to increase their delegation or, at the least, not to see a reduction.

During the Judiciary Committee report, an incident was reviewed in which a State Representative made inappropriate remarks about Italians while conducting official business. In reviewing this incident your delegates concurred that the remarks made were, in fact, very inappropriate and supported the idea that the Grand Lodge communicate this to the representative. President Maria Pignati adjourned the convention for the day at 4:25 pm. Your delegates attended an event dinner, "Theme Night", that evening.

The Convention was reopened the next morning, Thursday, June 23, at 8:30 am. The following committees gave reports: Ritual and Protocol, Membership, Scholarship Students to Italy and the Webmaster Chair. During the Membership report, awards were presented to the 3 lodges that had the

most new members signed up during the year. Shasta Lodge was first with 38 new members, Modesto second with 34 and Monterey third with 32. After lunch, Public Relations Committee Chair, Jay Minchilli, gave us the details of the Feast of San Gennaro Celebration to be held in Los Angeles on Sept. 25, 2011. There was a long discussion regarding some members having issues with the mortuary insurance. One of the main points of the discussion was whether any of the lodges were experiencing similar issues. We have not and stated so during the discussion. Nominations of State Officers for 2001-2013 were conducted from 2:35 pm – 4:15 pm. The following nominees were selected by acclamation:

Maria Pignati - State President, Lynn Lawrence Murphy - Vice President for the North, Joe Simoni - Vice President for the Central, Pauline Richmond - Vice President for the South, Janet Capello – Orator, Arlene Nunziati - Recording Secretary, Ugo Pagnati - Financial Secretary, John Costa and Jeff Lowe – Trustees for the North and Robert Gattinella and Ted Seibel Trustees for the South.

A general election was scheduled for Friday morning for the positions of Treasurer between Joy Bruno and Sadie Tamburine and for Trustees for the Central between Frank Locicero, Hazelann Christin and Lori Rossi. 7 National Delegates had to be elected from 13 nominees. 5 Arbitrators and 5 Alternates must also be elected. The convention was adjourned for the day at 4:35 pm.

That night your delegates had dessert with the other delegates and State Officers. We were also subjected to the worst Elvis impersonation ever!

The election was held at 7:30 am. Mike Carroll, Chair of the Medical Charities Committee gave his report and introduced a mother and her son, James, who are from the Thalassemia Foundation. James suffers from the disease. His mother gave testimony as how they cope with the disease and how the Foundation has benefitted them and others. Youth Committee Chair brought in his group of kids and spoke of their activities. The Kids all introduced themselves and said thanks for the support.

At 10:30 the following awards were presented: Chris Lotito was recognized as the Distinguished Member. The La Famiglia Award was given to both the Lotito and the Romanazzi families. The Enrico Caruso Lodge was selected as the most distinguished lodge. After lunch our State Recording Secretary, Arlene Nunziatti, and State Financial Secretary, Ugo Pignati gave a presentation on the duties and responsibilities of the Recording Secretary and Financial Secretary positions at the local lodges. They emphasized the need to submit quarterly reports and file income tax returns. They also stressed that lodges should not make changes to the amount stated on the per diem payment statement.

The last presentation of the day was by Nickolas Marinelli on Italian Genealogy and Dual Citizenship. It was very interesting showing that some of you may actually be Italian citizens and not even know it. We adjourned for the day at 4:15.

That evening we all attended the Queen's Dinner and Pageant. This event highlighted the efforts of all of the young ladies of our local lodges that participated in the Queen Contest. The ladies compete by selling raffle tickets with the proceeds going to the many charitable causes that the lodge participates in. Their efforts generated \$107,000. Even more importantly, this program allows these young ladies to experience and promote their Italian heritage, which many of them did during the evening's event.

On Saturday starting at 8:50 am speakers from Cooley's Anemia Foundation and the Alzheimer's Society spoke. These were excellent presentations made by people who know firsthand the effects of these diseases on individuals and their families. We were then given the election results. Joy Bruno was elected Treasurer. Lynn Lawrence-Murphy was elected First Vice President, Pauline Richmond Second Vice President and Joseph Simoni Third Vice President. Hazelann Christin and Lori Rossi were elected as State Trustees of the Central. Ugo Pignati, Arlene Nunziati, Janet Capello, Pauline Richmond, Joy Bruno, Jeff Lowe and Lyn Lawrence Murphy were elected as National Delegates. Our President Maria Fassio Pignati will also represent us as a delegate. Hugh Ricci, Andy Pampuro, Mary Lotito, June Passerelli and Donna Romanazzi Grist were elected as Arbiters.

Next delegates and individuals came forward to make donations to our charities. Shasta Lodge made the following donations:

Colley's Anemia	\$200.00
American Heart Assoc.	\$200.00
Birth Defects Library/UC Davis	\$200.00
Garibaldi/Meucci Museum	\$100.00
Youth Programs	\$100.00
Italian Language and Culture	\$100.00
Scholarship	\$100.00
IL Leone	\$100.00

In addition we took the \$200.00 we received for the most new members and added \$50.00 to purchase an 8"X8" brick paver to be placed and the Garibaldi/Meucci Museum with the inscription, OSIA, Shasta Lodge, #2453, Redding, CA.

We installed our new officers at 12:30, went into the Good of the Order and President Maria officially closed the Convention at 1:05.