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# VERDI VOICE

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Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #315

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## President's Message



Do you ever sit back in your favorite chair, think about your day, week, month, family and friends then talk with God thanking Him for all things big and small?

Though not November, this past month, weeks, days, and hours have been my Thanksgiving!

First, to all of GVL members who care about our brothers and sisters within GVL during times of illness and reach out to them with phone calls and cards. I know, from the feedback I get, how important a simple card or short call received along with receiving the newsletter each month means to them.

Second, much thanks to David for hanging in as Chair on the BoD Committee. At times with a few hiccups, it may seem like an unappreciated position to hold but it is a vital position for the good of our lodge. To all who continue to come out on workdays sprucing up the grounds and aged building. More to come from David concerning workday.

Third, to our members who took a day off from work and weekend to represent Giuseppe Verdi as a delegate at the Grand Lodge of Virginia's 39<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention. I believe they were proud to do so. Good times we shared in enjoying music, raffle items, meeting new folks and socializing. And thanks to our members who contributed to our Pizza Raffle Bag! A member of the PIAL lodge won it.

Of course, after the all-day Friday and Saturday meetings and evening events, upon returning to the hotel, the unwinding, socializing with each other, along with members and friends of our sister lodges, is one of our highlights.

More regarding the convention will be shared at our May meeting.

## THANK YOU, DELEGATES,

Mike Bonelli  
Virginia Lee Bowe  
David Gragnani  
John Howarth  
Virginia Hudert

Tia Kirschner  
Lucie Martucci  
Joe McGowan  
Ann Sayles  
Arthur Smith

Also representing Verdi Lodge was;  
Aldo Funai, Verdi Past President and Grand Lodge President  
Kathy Drummond, VA OSDIA Foundation Chairperson  
Betty McGowan, GLVA Trustee  
Mary Louise Smith, Verdi President and GLVA Trustee

Submitted by,  
Mary Louise Smith  
Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #315  
President

## Buon Compleanno

Steven Angely  
Robin Baugh  
Stephen Crescioli  
Tony Grappone  
Antonella Johnson  
Jo Ann Cato Miles  
Charlotte Oliver  
Angie Wilderman

## Happy Anniversary

Robin & Doug Baugh  
Angelo & Carol Cisternino  
Chris & Patricia Coursey  
Mary Kathryn & Phil Duffer  
Ted & Mary Anne Fighera  
Tony & Gordon Grappone  
John & Cynthia Howarth  
Tony & Cecelia Peay  
Arthur & Mary Louise Smith  
William & Nancy Sykes

## Upcoming Meetings

May 4th  
June 1st  
July 13  
August 3rd  
September 7th  
October 5th  
November 2nd  
December 7th

## Verdi Members Attend the State Convention



## Rosettas Ladies Luncheon

**The Rosettas - "Little Rose"- Roses, while beautiful, have thorns and are often symbols of strength in adversity"**

Please join us for our May luncheon:

Red Lobster Restaurant  
8009 West Broad Street  
Richmond, Va. 23294

Date: May 15, 2025

Time: 12:00pm





## Leadership

### Officers 2025 - 2026

President: Mary Louise Smith

Vice President: Jerry Scaglione

Recording Secretary: Norma Marrin

Financial Secretary: Arthur Smith

Treasurer: Jean Whiteside

Orator: Daniel Martucci

Mistresses of Ceremony: Lucie Martucci & Bea Sykes

Guard: Joseph Betzala

### Board of Trustees

Mike Bonelli (Chair)

MaryAnn DeVincentis

Mike Matassa

Dexter Oliver

Anne Marie Vaughan

### Board of Directors

David Whiteside (Chair)

Andrew Biondi (Vice-Chair)

Mike Bonelli

Freddy Corritone

Aldo Funai

Jay Gragnani

Tony Grappone

John Howarth

Joe McGowan

JoAnn Miles

Pete Poli

Arthur Smith

## Board of Directors Update

Our annual clean up day was held on April 19th. We had a great group of folks who came to help out and make less work.

We had some of the usual suspects, like Arther, Mary Louise, Tony & Gordon Grappone, Mike Bonelli, Joann Miles, Norma Marrin, Andrew Biondi, Jack Boles, Joe McGowan, and Freddy along with his 4 young whippersnappers! Some new(er) faces were Jimmy (I just live down the street) Mason, Lin 'Weedwhacker' Sykes, Joe 'did you know I did Casinos?' Massino, and finally John & Tia Howarth.

You can thank John and Tia for our new pavers out front. They look fantastic and should help keeping some of the dirt/gravel outside. They worked long and hard on this and I cannot say enough about how it looks!!

Mary Louise and Norma went full OCD on the inside and scrubbed every nook and cranny in there so none of needed to. Not sure any of us would have wanted to get in the middle of that anyway!

The rest of us worked on nuking the other row of trees and hauling everything off to the dump. Thanks to Tony & Gordon for bringing their trailer. They were hauling it off as fast as we could cut it. It was really a good system. I need to shout out to Virginia Lee on this...she started this several years ago and was the impetus for the rest of it. I hope everyone agrees that it makes the yard look a little nicer overall, and it doesn't hurt anyone's feelings when cutting the grass!!

There's probably one more tree I'd like to get on that end, but that'll be for another day. We did plenty that day for sure. Andrew was this nice enough to run up to Mimmo's to grab some pizza for everyone for lunch. If you haven't had their pizza, it's definitely worth a try!!

I wish I had pictures to show (come on!! I'm a guy...I don't think of these things!!), but you'll be able to see next time you come to lunch.

Thanks,

- David Whiteside

## Mother's Day in Italy

In Italy, *la mamma* is the cornerstone of the home and celebrated by her family all year round. Still, every second Sunday of May, we *bambini* and adults alike jump to lavish our mothers with flowers and gifts for ***La Festa della Mamma***.

Mother's Day was first celebrated in Italy in May 1957, about 50 years after it was founded in the United States. A parish priest began the tradition in Assisi, a beautiful hillside town in Umbria, with great festivities. Many in the surrounding cities got word and joined the appreciation of the women whose unconditional love and hard work helped them become who they are. The day was so successful that just one year later, the holiday was adopted across Italy's 20 regions.



Today, Mother's Day is more widely celebrated than ever. Young or old, children strive to visit their family home in time for *La Festa della Mamma*. As more of us move further away, though, Italians send gifts and make long-distance calls. (In fact, urban legend has it that our phone companies record their highest volume of calls on Mother's Day.) But, beyond cards, we value quality time, whether we send the mothers (or mother figures!) in our lives something that we know she'll love or whether we're able to enjoy a meal with her.

Source: *eataly.com*