

Grand Lodge of New York

Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

First Lady Mary and I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health and coping well with this highly unusual medical challenge that we are experiencing in our country. I was taught a long time ago to avoid the word "I" when writing a letter. However, in this letter, it's necessary to disregard that advice. Mary and I are at home and doing our best to cope. Working at home for me is not unusual, since I have been doing so since 1997. However, I also traveled a great deal, and this broke up the routine. Mary and I rarely stood still, since we like meeting people, and therefore we were out almost every night. Now, since I'm working from home (for both my business and for OSDIA), not traveling and being home all day long, I find it confining, but am resigned to it, since it is essential.

My friends, the paragraph above describes many of us at this very difficult time; we find it necessary to remain at home, in many instances away from our families, our friends, our business associates and our brothers and sisters from our filial lodges. It's difficult, especially since we are not certain of the length of this separation. While I can only offer you my regret for your separation from your family and friends, I can speak a little more in detail regarding your separation from your OSDIA family.

First, please heed the advice provided to you by your local authorities regarding the "social distancing" they recommend. I suspect most of you have been asked to remain at home if you can. However, some of you may not be able to remain at home, due to the nature of your jobs, but please take all necessary precautions and be safe.

For the time being, you should continue not to have any lodge meetings or social events. Hopefully, this will be over soon, and we can all return to enjoying each other's company. But for the time being, we must be responsive to the current conditions. I urge you to continue having telephonic monthly lodge and council meetings. There are many telephone conference call systems available for such meetings. In a prior correspondence, I recommended "Freeconferencecall.com", but there are other systems that you may utilize for a modest monthly fee, such as Zoom. The choice is yours.

Now I would like to relate to you the main reason for this letter. Brothers and sisters, your health and safety will always be our number one concern, when we decide how to proceed with events scheduled for the near and more distant future. While we hope that the current condition will run its course relatively quickly, we will be continually guided by the prevailing circumstances, each time we decide. If we believe that an event needs to be postponed or cancelled, it will be, without regard to convenience, past practices or financial considerations. Again, your safety will always be the deciding factor.

In the meantime, please rest assured that the Grand Lodge and its officers, along with the office staff, are continuing to work diligently on your behalf and that we are here for you if you need us. Our Executive Board/Foundation meetings will happen as scheduled telephonically, and all other routine business of the Order is being performed as required. The future of some upcoming events will be addressed at these meetings. I eagerly look forward to the time when we can all be together again.

Sincerely,

Anthony Naccarato, President

NYS Order Sons and Daughter of Italy in America