

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Norwood Italian Lodge #1235

Steven J. Eosco, President 14 Endicott St. Norwood MA
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Dear Lodge Members,

- ◆ Welcome everyone to our May lodge meeting being held on Wednesday, May 6th at 7 pm. We have a lot to catch up on this spring as the board allowed the April meeting to be canceled.
- ◆ Our thanks to Juli Giambanco who provided me with some graphics assistance to design our lodge's new banner with updated logo. It's beautiful and Signarama in Walpole will be printing it. I am still researching a 10 x 10 ft pop-up tent for our lodge's use at events.
- ◆ We will get updates on future fundraising at the meeting.
- ◆ Norwood Day is earlier this year and scheduled for Saturday, August 29th. This was a most successful event last year because of the efforts of many member volunteers. We have updated our solicitation letter for use by members when seeking gift cards for raffle prizes for our booth. More info at the meeting.
- ◆ At the March meeting, we voted to change the scholarship award recognition format from a formal dinner held at a restaurant to a social gathering which will be held at the June 3rd meeting at the VFW Post. The Lodge will cover a nice modest buffet/desserts. This format will be more affordable for family members or guests of the awardees to attend the presentation of the scholarships. We'll discuss this event at the meeting. Several lodge members have already come forward to assist with the event.
- ◆ Scholarship awardees this year are: Allegra Franco, granddaughter of lodge members George and Diana Franco and daughter of lodge member Melanie Franco and her husband, Darren Franco; and Bella Coras, who is the daughter of lodge member Gina Coras and her husband, Jason Coras. More information about our awardees at the meeting.
- ◆ Donation to the Food Pantry always accepted at meetings.
- ◆ We thank **Chris & Maryellen Bartucca** for their generosity in bringing their decaf coffee and treats from HONEY DEW to our meetings. It is so very much appreciated!!
- ◆ If you know of any member who is in need of cheer please inform Sunshine Lady, Fran Ailinger, at 781-769-3692.

Steve Eosco, President



OFFICERS 2025—2027

President: Steven J. Eosco
Vice-pres.: Nick Campagna, Jr.
Past president: George Franco
Orator: Toni Eosco
Secretary: Juli Giambanco
Fin. Secretary: Andy Ciarletta
Financial Treasurer: Karen Cavanaugh
Trustee: Chris Bartucca
Trustee: Barbara Connolly
Trustee: Marie DiFraia
Trustee: Pat Russo
Trustee: Tony Scavotto
Master of Ceremonies: Gregg Giambanco
Mistresses of Ceremonies: Bettie Lasden
Sentinel: James Lore
Chaplain: Toni Ciarletta

Wednesday, May 6th.
Meeting @ 7:00 PM
VFW POST 193 Dean St.
Norwood, MA 02062



Order Sons and Daughters of Italy | Norwood Lodge #1235

Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2026

Roll Call: (Juli Giambanco, Recording Secretary) All officers present apart from Immediate Past President George Franco; Trustees Barbara Connolly (proxy Phyllis Sabatini) and Anthony Scavotto (proxy Denise Furnani); and Mistress of Ceremonies Betty Lasden.

Meeting called to order: 7:20pm by President Steve Eosco following the principles of the Order, opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Member Initiation: Four new applicants sworn in: Janice Mullen, Carlo Petrosino, Stephen Venditti, Tracy Young.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes: Minutes of January 7th meeting were accepted as read and were distributed via President's email.

Financial Secretary Report: Andy Ciarletta reported the following bills to pay: Hall rental: \$60.00 and money given to Maria DiFraia for stamps. Motion to pay bills was made and approved.

Financial Treasurer Report: Karen Cavanaugh reported the combined checking and savings balance as of March 4th is \$22,337.91. This includes payouts for our two \$1,000.00 scholarships from 2025.

COMMITTEE / EVENT REPORTS

Lodge Communication: Member resignation: Annette Casale O'Shea; Carol Coffey; Carolyn Pannes

Sunshine Report: Cards were sent and condolences were paid to families of former members Frank Malacaria and Parma Ciolfi who recently passed.

Food Pantry: (Nick Campagna) Nick will be walking in Project Bread's Walk for Hunger on May 3. Motion was made and approved to sponsor \$100 towards Nick's fundraising with Norwood Pantry team. Members are reminded to bring food donations to future meetings for collection.

Fundraising Update: (Gregg Giambanco) provided an update on Trivia held on January 24th. Excellent turnout, selling 13 tables resulting in a sold-out event. Trivia profited \$3,300 and Superbowl Squares profited \$1,000. He feels there is an appetite to do it again.

NEW BUSINESS

Scholarship news: Scholarship application: Notice was sent via email with newsletter. Deadline for applications is April 15. Two \$1,000 scholarships will be given out, as well as, a new \$500 scholarship for a trade vocational or 2-year accredited program. Donation: Andrew Minton from Consumers Plus Credit Union will attend May meeting, with Tony Scavotto, to present the Lodge with a \$500 donation towards the trade scholarship. The president noted we are really showing our strength this past year with raising funds.

Submitted by Juli Giambanco, Recording Secretary

February Council Meeting: Meeting was held on February 15 with council and other members attending. Discussion items and updates to Lodge members:

- **Alternative Scholarship Dinner:** Suggestion was made to forgo having scholarship dinner at a local restaurant and recognize scholarship winners at a lodge meeting with a small reception. This will allow recipient family members to attend, for lodge members to interact with recipients and will cut back on expenses. At the end of the Lodge meeting, we will present the scholarship awards then enjoy desserts/treats over conversation. Denise Furnani indicated most lodges do this type of ceremony. Motion was made and approved to have scholarship ceremony at a Lodge meeting and for Lodge to acquire costs for light fare/refreshments. Volunteers signed up to join Toni on Scholarship Events Committee.
- **Reorder Cookbooks** previously sold for \$15 each at a past Norwood Day. Proceeds went toward Lodge scholarships. Tony Scavotto will provide an update on reorder price at next meeting.
- **Fundraising Proposal:** Marie Ryan and Juli Giambanco submitted a letter of proposal to have another Music Bingo fundraiser on October 3. Request for venue to be held at Norwood Elks vs VFW Hall. New venue will hold more seating and generate more revenue. Motion was made and approved.
- **Norwood Day - August 29, 2026.** Solicitation letters will be sent out early this year. Marie DiFraia is leading this effort and is requesting assistance with distributing letters. Please reach out to Marie if you can help. Merchandise to be sold at Norwood Day will be Italian pins, cookbooks and Italian Mustang t-shirts.
- **Italian Lodge T-Shirts:** If interested in purchasing a t-shirt please see Judy Thibeau. Cost is \$10.
- **Italian Lodge Branded Canopy:** Steve Eosco mentioned purchasing a 10x10 canopy with the Norwood Lodge Logo displayed on top. Will provide good visibility and exposure at events. To be used at Norwood Day and other events. Steve will research prices and will present at next meeting.
- **Farmer's Market:** Marie DiFraia is working on obtaining correct permits, regulations and requirements to have a Lodge table there. She will sell t-shirts, Italian pins and cookbooks (under the new canopy).

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Denise Furnani again welcomed newest members. She mentioned the overall membership is growing. Steve mentioned the Norwood Lodge had a 2% increase in membership over the past year.

Chris Bartucca thanked Steve and Lodge members for sending Delia Bartucca birthday cards.

CLOSING

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 6th. There will not be a meeting in April due to conflicting schedules and that it is Holy Week. Motion made and approved.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:24pm by President Steve Eosco following the closing prayer. Judy Thibault won \$46 in the 50/50 raffle and donated it back to the Lodge. All enjoyed coffee and dessert provided by Chris and Caroline Bartucca.

Submitted by Juli Giambanco, Recording Secretary