



July 2025
Volume 43 No. 7

The News

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE



FESTA 2025

Labor Day Weekend !!

The Palazzo - 132nd & Fort St. Rain or Shine!

DANCE UNDER THE STARS
Outside & Inside Entertainment

Friday, August 29th

6:00 PM - 11 PM, **The 70's Band** at 8:00 PM
Santa Lucia Marching Band & Local Entertainers

Saturday, August 30th

5:00 PM - 11 PM, **High Heel** at 8:00 PM

Sunday, August 31st

Noon - 11 PM, **Taxi Driver** at 8:00 PM
Santa Lucia Marching Band & Local Entertainers

\$6.00 Advance - \$7.50 Door

Children 14 and under are free with an adult

Festa tickets will be mailed to all members in July. Please sell to family, friends and co-workers. The success of the Festa counts on ticket sales.



Bellino Fireworks **Friday & Sunday**

More details to come in August Newsletter

The News is a monthly publication of the American Italian Heritage Society, an independent, nonprofit organization, legally incorporated in Nebraska. The deadline for submissions is the second Wednesday of the month. Correspondence and articles can be sent to secretary@omahaitaly.com.



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

UPCOMING EVENTS**July Membership Meeting**

Monday, July 14th Social Hour 6:30 PM
Meeting 7:30 PM

FESTA Food Prep—See Schedule

FESTA Captains Meeting:

Wednesday, July 30th at 7:00 PM

*Captain Packets will be distributed at the meeting.

FESTA—August 29, 30, and 31st

FESTA Tear-down—Monday, September 1st

JUNE MEMBERSHIP MEETING REPORT

Prior to the meeting a social hour was held. Several members brought side dishes and desserts to enjoy. Sausage and peppers were also served. The food was good and members enjoyed the social interactions.

The Membership Meeting was held on June 9, 2025 and called to order by President Dr. Terry Bolamperti with 20 members in attendance. It was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with veterans John Portera and Vinny Romano as flag bearers. There was a moment of prayer for ill members and for members who have recently passed away. The May meeting minutes were read and approved. The Treasury Report was given by President Terry Bolamperti. Issues were discussed concerning possible problems with our rental bookings. There are a lot of showing for the rental facility and there have been several news booking in the last month.

Old Business was discussed. The May 9th Friday Pizza night was a success again. We had a good crowd and the offering of Pizza to Go was very popular. All members were reminded to send in their dues as soon as possible as well as trying to enroll a new member. Membership payments were due June 1, 2025. The Members' Summer Picnic was held June 1st on the Festa grounds. The weather was a little warm beautiful but most all attending enjoyed the shade with tables under pop-up tents. We had a very nice crowd of 85 or more members attending, which included 18 children. Members enjoyed playing corn hole toss, frisbee, wiffle ball, bocce ball, and horseshoes. The children especially had fun throwing water balloons at each other and at many adults that would run away from them. We must announce that Mary Kay Ford, undefeated since 2014 was finally dethroned as the Picnic Horseshoe Champion. It was a close game but she was defeated by Terry Bolamperti. She let us know that day that she was getting physical therapy for a sore shoulder for the last few weeks. Tom Clark and Tom Morinelli chaired this event and they were thanked for a great picnic. Sausage and pepper sandwiches, hotdogs and beverages were provided by the Society and members brought side dishes and desserts to share. It was very rewarding having the members enjoy a relaxing time at the picnic in our Festa grounds. We want to thank Tom Clark and Tom Morinelli for all their help with the Picnic.

New Business was discussed including the upcoming Sausage Fundraiser on June 28th. Much help is needed for this event and all were asked to sell more sausage and peppers. Since we also sell meatballs, thanks goes out to all of the crew that made the mixture and made all the meatballs.

The Festa was briefly discussed and Dr Terry noted that we are still in need of Festa Captains for several booths. The Festa Food preparation schedule was also briefly discussed and the schedule will be published in the July newsletter. We always need a lot of help to prepare the food for the Festa. Bellino Fireworks will once again do our Festa fireworks display. We are currently working on Festa entertainment. Most all Festa Captains from last year will be contacted soon. Festa committee organizational meetings are being held to organize the this years Festa.

It was also announced that the Santa Lucia Festival will celebrate their 101st Anniversary in the first week of August. Their first one in Omaha started in 1924. We congratulated them at our meeting for their longtime celebration of Italian heritage. Please plan on attending Santa Lucia festivities.

The Meeting was adjourned. The Piece of the Pie winners drawn were Terry Bolamperti and Emma Mueller. Hope to see you all at the July 14th Membership Meeting. Ciao!

Submitted by Dr. Terry Bolamperti



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

2025 AIHS MEMBER'S SUMMER PICNIC

The Members' Summer Picnic was held on Sunday, June 1st on the Festa grounds. The weather was beautiful for this year's event. We had a very nice crowd of 80 or more members attending, which included 18 children. Those in attendance enjoyed playing corn hole toss, frisbee, wiffle ball, bocce ball, and horseshoes. Tom Clark and Tom Morinelli chaired this event and they and their crew planned a good time for all. Sausage and pepper sandwiches, hotdogs and beverages were provided by the Society. Members brought side dishes and desserts to share. It was very rewarding having the members enjoy a relaxing time at the picnic on our Festa grounds. The children had the most fun throwing over 200 water balloons at each other and adults. It was a fun time at the picnic for all those that attended.

We want to thank the chairmen Tom Clark and Tom Morinelli for all of their hard work in organizing and running this yearly event. Thanks also goes out to the others that helped, Wayne Moore, Tracy Bittleston and Tyler Youde. Special thanks to Lou Rotella from Rotella's Italian Bakery for donating all the sausage and hotdog buns. Thanks to anyone else who helped in any way. You all did a great job! See you all at next year's Members' Summer Picnic.

Millie Grazie!

Submitted by Dr. Terry Bolamperti





THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

FESTA FOOD PREPARATION SCHEDULE 2025

Volunteers are needed! Please call Captains below or Beth at the AIHS Office at (402) 493-8888 x 1 or email Secretary@Omahaitaly.com if you can help.

Item	Date	Captain	Phone Number
Spaghetti Sauce	Saturday, July 5th	Bob Rodino	402.571.7751
Pepper Sauce Cut & Sauté Onion	Thursday, July 10th	Larry Pence Mary Kay Ford	402.740.4031
Meatball Mixture	Wednesday, July 16th	Larry Pence Jimmy Mazzei	402.740.4031 402.203.3530
Meatballs Roll/Bake/Bag	Thursday, July 17th 8 AM—4 PM	Terry Bolamperti Larry Pence	402.616.5077 402.740.4031
Gelato	Week of July 21st	John Portera	402.850.4483
Sausage Cut & Meat	Thursday, July 31st	Terry Bolamperti Larry Pence	402.616.5077 402.740.4031
Sausage Stuff, Link & Pkg	Saturday, August 2nd	Larry Pence Jimmy Mazzei	402.740.4031 402.203.3530
Biscotti Cut & Bake	Thursday, August 7th	Rose Koch Mary Kay Ford	402.312.7127 402.510.3002
Crack Olives	Thursday, August 7th	Larry Belfiore Terry Bolamperti	402.960.6011 402.616.5077
Biscotti Finish, Frost & Pkg	Friday, August 8th	Rose Koch Mary Kay Ford	402.312.7127 402.510.3002
Falso Magro Braciole	Friday, August 8th	Terry Bolamperti Lou Buda	402.616.5077 402.290.0867
Salad Dressing Grate Cheese	Thursday, August 14th	Terry Bolamperti	402.616.5077

We need FESTA Booth Volunteers.

**Call Beth at (402) 493-8888 x 1 or
email Secretary@Omahaitaly.com**



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

AIHS Sausage Fundraiser

A huge thank you to all our AIHS Volunteers for participating in the 4th of July Sausage Fundraiser. These volunteers cut pork butts, made the peppers for the pepper sauce, mixed, rolled, baked, and bagged meatballs, made the cracked olives, prepared the pasta sauce and salad dressing. The huge crew also stuffed the Sausage on Saturday morning and manned the customer pick-up line. We appreciate all the volunteers who helped in any way to make this sale a success.

**FESTA FOOD PREP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Please see page 4 for all the dates for the food preparation. Extra hands make light work and we have lots of fun working together. Call (402) 493-8888 x 1 if you like to have fun volunteering!

Biscotti Baking Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for baking Biscotti's on Thursday, August 7th and Friday, August 8th from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Please call Rose Koch at (402) 312-7127 to volunteer. Thank you!

Booth Volunteers Needed

Festa Volunteers are needed for this year's FESTA 2025 which will be held on August 29, 30, 31st at The Palazzo. Booth Volunteers are needed to work and man the various booths during all 3 days of FESTA. The success of FESTA depends on all our wonderful Volunteers. So, grab your AIHS Members, Friends and Family and Volunteer today. Please call Beth at the AIHS Office at . (402) 493-8888 x 1 to or email her at secretary@omahaitaly.com to Volunteer. We appreciate all your help!

Children's Festa Dancing Group

We are looking for children ages 7-14 to perform the Italian dance, The Tarantella! This performance will take place on stage at this year's Festa. If interested, please call the office at (402) 493-8888.





THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers our members who are ill, including Ted Bolamperti, George Grillo, Cookie Mascarello-Ladwig, Geno Crisafulli, Maria Leo, Margo Pirruccello, Ann Marie Falco-Marr, Judge Joe Troia, Tara & Tim Virgilito, Cecilia Bellinghiere, Sam & Lucy Marasco, Lou Buda, Joan Gentzler and Kathy Eichelberg.

PROMOTE MEMBERSHIP

In order to preserve our Society it is important for all members to get new members to join. Membership forms can be obtained from the AIHS office or found on our website: Omahaitaly.com under the tab "About AIHS."

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Thank you to all the AIHS members who have mailed in their membership dues. If you have not mailed yours in yet, there is still time! When you mail your form in, it is very important that you complete and mail the information form with your current phone numbers and email addresses back to us with your check or credit card information. Additionally you will find on the back side a **"Volunteer/Participation form"**.

Please mail dues and form to the AIHS Office at 5110 N. 132nd Street, Omaha, NE 68164 or contact Beth at the office to renew over the phone at (402) 493-8888 X 1

SANTA LUCIA FESTIVAL OMAHA

The Santa Lucia Festival will be held July 31st—August 3rd at 10th and William Streets, Little Italy in Omaha. This year, the Italian community commemorates the 101st Annual Santa Lucia Festival.

**Church Youth Groups or Students
Needing Service Hours**

If you have church youth groups needing projects or students needing service hours, please consider signing them up to volunteer at this year's FESTA event. There is a week long of set up and also tear down. Many Scout troops have assisted us in years past. Please contact the office at (402) 493-8888 x 1 if you have a youth group that can help. Thank you!

ADVERTISE WITH US!

We are looking for additional businesses to advertise in our monthly newsletter. If you have a business or know of one that would like to advertise in our newsletter, we encourage you to call the office at 402-493-8888 x1 or email Secretary@Omahaitaly.com.

facebook.com/AIHSOmahawww.omahaitaly.com

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THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Alfred LaMontia Memorial

Longtime member of the Society, Alfred LaMontia, passed away on May 23, 2025. He was preceded in death by his wife of nearly 59 years, Marilyn, who died nine months earlier in August of 2024. Al and his wife Marilyn were very active members of the American Italian Heritage Society. In the past, they both volunteered at most all events at the Society when our home was on 14th and Pine Street. They helped at the game feeds, spaghetti dinners and many other Society events. The LaMontia's were members of the popular AIHS Folk Dancers Group for over 20 years and have performed at many of the Italian festivals. Al and Marilyn, along with their family, volunteered for over 15 years for the pizza crew, making all the pizza's sold at the Festa. Al was a skilled upholsterer and he recovered all the stools that volunteers still to this day use to sit while volunteering in the AIHS kitchen. Al was a great conversationist and always had a story to share. It was a pleasure to volunteer with him. We will miss Al LaMontia dearly. He is survived by his children, Jennifer (Bobby) Clark and John (Kristen) LaMontia and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Please keep Al LaMontia and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

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THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

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