



LA SOTTO VOCE

The Official Newsletter of the

FIRE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

Columbia Association

Volume 33, No. 3

3rd Quarter 2002

Columbia Association Honors Friends of the Fire Department

On June 20th nearly 600 guests filled Russo's on the Bay for an incredible night. The number one suggestion after the amazing cocktail party, "Can we come back tomorrow night for the dinner"? The selection of Italian delicacies was enormous, plus there is no party unless a freshly carved roast pig is one of over 20 different appetizers.

This year the Columbia Association honored a select few that dropped their daily routine and assisted the Fire Department post 9/11. Our 2002 man of the year Antonio "NINO" Vendome closed his doors of his family owned restaurant on September 11, and reopened them on September 12 to provide hot meals 24/7 to thousands of ground zero workers. With well over a half million meals served in 6 months, Nino had to close his doors again, but only to the dining area, he continued to deliver his meals without any interruption. Mr. Vendome we salute you.

Our 2002 Special Recognition Award was presented to Pelco. Nearly everyone across this great nation felt compelled to do whatever he or she could to express the newfound patriotism and help in any way possible. At Pelco, this call to action meant building the California Memorial-a permanent monument in memory of all the victims. The December 8th dedication Ceremony included over 1000 Firefighters and family. Pelco continues their friendship with the NYFD each and everyday with letters, phone calls and e-mail. Dave McDonald and his amazing staff adopted the Fire Department as family. The night of June 20th was only a tip of the iceberg; we could never repay our thanks.



Chief Dan Nigro, Vice President Buddy Santanaelo, Honoree Vincenzo Mara, and President Tummino during the awards portion of the Dinner Dance

The 2002 Humanitarian Award was presented to Vincenzo Marra. Vincenzo, along with his family, has created a non-for-profit foundation, which focuses on the needs of education, especially for talented students at the High School and collegiate levels who are dependant on financial aid to continue their studies. The Marra Foundations has joined the family of friends that are helping the children of the Columbia Association. We are still unable to ask Vincenzo a question where the answer was not – "no problem, done, next".

We also honored our 2002 Scholarship winner. Over \$1100 was presented to our children. We would also like to thank The Gerard Barbara Scholarship Fund, the Rosina Marie Tornetta Higgins family, Jennifer Marcello-Murphy Family for their generosity.

Buy the end of the night our bellies we stuffed and our shoes were off. If you did not have a great time, it was your own fault. Mark your calendar- June 19, 2003. Start your diet now!

The President's Corner

Vincent Tummino

As summer comes to an end, and you get your children ready for school, your executive board is working hard to finish the few remaining events for 2002.

RECAP

Our annual Dinner/Dance was a huge success with almost 600 people in attendance, and with the 3 honorees that were most deserving of their awards, this was an event to remember.

Many groups, organizations, and most of all our friends from Italy honored us. I was especially honored in July to be a guest speaker for a group of people at **Arlington National Cemetery**. We were also the guest of **Mohegan Sun Casino and Hotel** to judge a barbecue contest. We received many donations to help increase our scholarship fund.

Congratulations to our 2002 scholarship winners, and thank you for supporting us in our annual lottery raffle, this year we were able to sell the 300 tickets early, and had to return many checks of others. So I suggest you buy early for next year, tickets go on sale in December. A special Thank you to the chairman Dennis DiTucci.

The Italian Consul General has been very helpful in arranging the many events in NYC with officials from Italy that Chief Nigro and I have attended.

Our summer trip to Hershey Park in Pa. was sold out, thanks to Chairman Paul Cresci.

FUTURE

Some time in the near future, we will have all of our awards and plaques we received on display, hopefully in the Italian American museum.

Our friends in Italy continue to honor us and on September 10, 2002 at 7pm we will have a candle light ceremony in memory of 9/11/01 at Engine/Ladder 10 quarters. There will be top officials from Italy present. You are all welcome to attend, members are asked to wear their dress uniforms.

Our next most important event is the annual Columbus Day Parade, on October 14, starts at 10 am. Chaired by Eugene D'Auria. We will have a few surprises this year. So mark your calendar now.

Check our website at www.fdnycolumbia.com all of our events are listed, view our picture albums from the past events, and much more.



Members of our Executive Board judged the national Barbecue Contest at the Mohegan Sun Resort & Casino. Here they are with some of the contestant Chefs.

Line Up! Parade Update

by Eugene D'Auria

The Autumn winds will soon be upon us and that means the Columbus Day Parade is around the corner. This year it will kick off on 5th Avenue and 43rd Street on October 14, promptly at 9:30 am. Once again proud Americans of Italian decent will have the opportunity to march up 5th Avenue with their families and celebrate their heritage's unity and strength.

This year's celebration is particularly special as the world will be watching due to events of September 11th. We strongly encourage all members to attend. Retirees may also march in uniform as this will increase or presence and demonstrate respect for fallen brothers.

Our collation will be held immediately after the parade on the 4th floor of the 7th regiment Mess Restaurant which is located at 643 Park Avenue, between 66th & 67th Streets.

We have extended invitations to many celebrities and hope they will come out and show their support. The parade flyer and or the Department Orders will have additional information on this.

Mr. Ralph Schroer and the New Paltz High School Marching Band will lead us down the Avenue keeping us in step with their infectious enthusiasm.

Columbus Day is an exceptional opportunity to march and be counted as well as meet these students and stars. In order to make this most important day a tremendous success we need your participation, the participation of our Columbia Association members, your family's and your friends. Please turn out for this fun-filled day, celebrate your heritage and show the world that you are proud to be an Italian-American.

Columbia Association Annual Get-A-Way

As we say good-bye to what I hope was an enjoyable summer, the Columbia Association has been working on plans for this season.

One of my responsibilities is the Winter Weekend. The dates are January 10th to the 12th, 2003, at the Pocmont Resort in Bushkill PA. The date was moved because New Years Day is Wednesday, which was close to the weekend. I was able to negotiate a fair price. There is discount skiing available with more great things to do, to numerous to list. Those of you that have a group of friends, please call me so I can reserve the rooms together, and then forward your reservations together in one envelope. This will help me keep your rooms together. Rooms will go fast so get those reservations in early. For your convenience you can fill out and return the registration form below.

Thanks and we are looking forward to have some great fun with great people. Any questions at all please contact me in the evening at (718) 376-8388.

Pocmont Welcomes Columbia Association Annual Getaway Weekend January 10 - 12, 2003

Plan today for your escape to the tranquil beauty of the Pocono Mountains. Our modern facilities and competent staff will help in making your stay at POCMONT a "Reunion to Remember" for years to come. All this and more in a package priced to include...

- ***Two (2) nights lodging Accommodations
- ***Two (2) Meals Daily the Weekend (starting with our Grand Pocmont Buffet, Featuring Alaskan King Crab Legs and
- ***Jumbo Shrimp, an All You Can Eat Buffet on Friday night through Breakfast on Sunday)
- ***Nightly Entertainment
- ***Use of all facilities
- ***Planned Activities Daily
- ***Indoor Pool, Outdoor Pool and Health Club

RATES FOR 3 DAYS/2 NIGHTS

(All rooms, two (2) double beds, full bath, color cable TV)

- \$324.00 per person, Single Occupancy, including tax and gratuities
- \$215.00 per person, Double Occupancy, including tax and gratuities
- \$199.00 per person, Triple Occupancy, including tax and gratuities
- \$180.00 per person, Quad Occupancy, including tax and gratuities

Children's Rates: \$80.00 per child, between the ages of 3-17 provided in the same room with two (2) paid adults

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ABOVE RATES INCLUDE 6% TAX AND 18% GRATUITY

DEPOSIT of \$100.00, due no later than December 1, 2002

NO PETS please...kennels nearby!

Make Checks Payable To: POCMONT RESORT
Mail To: c/o Buddy Santangelo (718) 376-8388
 2024 Gerritsen Avenue
 Brooklyn, NY 11229

Columbia Association.....January 4-6, 2002

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

CHILDREN (LIST NAME/AGES): _____

TOT. NO. PERSONS IN ROOM: _____ AMT. ENCLOSED: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY: ROOM NUMBER: _____ INITIALS: _____



September 11th One Year Later but...

NEVER FORGOTTEN



We honor our members and our other Brothers who gave their lives on that tragic day one year ago



Chief of Department
Peter J. Ganci, Jr.



Assistant Chief Gerard Barbara
Citywide Tour Commander

5 - 5 - 5 - 5



FF Joseph Agnello
Ladder 118



FF Louis Arena
Ladder 5



FF Carl Bini
Rescue 5



FF Salvatore B. Calabro
Ladder 5



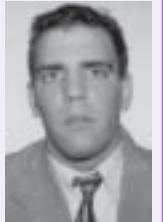
FF Michael Cammarata
Ladder 11



FF Brian Cannizzaro
Ladder 101



FF Michael S. Carlo
Engine 230



FF James A. Coyle
Division of Training



LT John A. Crisci
Haz-Mat 1



FF David P. DeRubbio
Engine 226



LT Andrew J. Desperito
Engine 1



FF Francis Esposito
Ladder 79



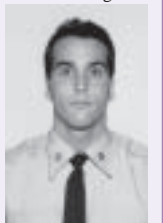
FF Michael C. Fiore
Rescue 5



FF Daniel F. Libretti
Rescue 2



LT Charles Margiotta
Battalion 22



FF Thomas Mingione
Ladder 132



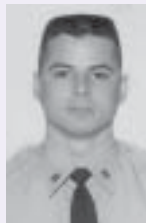
CP Louis J. Modafferi
Rescue 5



FF Vincent S. Morello
Engine 283



FF John D. Napolitano
Engine 5



FF Jeffery A. Palazzo
Rescue 5



LT Phillip S. Petti
Division 1



FF Leonard Ragaglia
Engine 54



FF Nicholas E. Rossomando
Rescue 5



FF Thomas E. Sabella
Ladder 13



Retirees Corner

by Joseph Donatelli

Most retirees, who are 65 and have been in Medicare since the year 2000, should have received a check for \$80.40 for the balance of the Medicare Part "B" for 2000. Later in August or sometime in September we should be receiving a check for \$600 for the year 2001. This is based on retirees who have reached age 64 before the year 2000. If you have not received anything, call the Employees Medicare Reimbursement Program at 212-513-0470 and they will determine what your status is. Starting in 2003 we should get \$600 usually in the month of August for Medicare Part "B". If the cost of living goes up we should get a proportional increase.

You should have received a notice from the City of New York Health Benefits Program on changes in rates starting July 1, 2002. Check with your Health Provider, to see if your rates have increased.

On a very somber note, we have received notification that John Sineno is starting treatment because his medical condition has returned. John, who authored two books on Firehouse recipes, has been a true giant and his loyal Columbian for many years. He has donated his time and money, not only to the Columbia Association but to every ethnic organization in the Fire Department. He is being honored by the Steuben Association on October 26, 2002 as "Man of the Year". He is truly man of the Fire Department for his many benefits to the Department. We wish him a speedy recovery and would urge all members to send get well notices. I'm including his name and address: John Sineno, 247-15 87 Drive, Bellerose, New York 11426. If I can be of assistance, please call me. 718-591-4282.



President Tummino, Fire Commissioner Scarpetta, Dave DeCarlo and Columbia Association Trustee Andy Isolano, take time for a photo during our Annual Dinner



President Tummino reflecting on the events of September during a ceremony host by teh Professional Lawn Care Association of America at Arlington National Cemetery

FDNY Columbia Association On-line Store (www.fdnycolumbia.com)

Visit our on-line store and shop at for official FDNY Columbia Association materials.

The store features embroidered jackets, golf, "T" and sweat shirts as well as hats and much more.

All proceeds benefit the Columbia Association Scholarship Fund.



Just a Click Away

Visit our Website:

www.fdnycolumbia.com

Email the Columbia Association
FDItaly@aol.com

**Columbia Association:
Executive Board & Committee Members**

Executive Board:

Board President	Vincent A. Tummino	Battalion 22
1st Vice President	Bernard Santangelo	Bureau of Investigations
2nd Vice President	Craig Silvino	Engine 283
3rd Vice President	Joseph Donatelli	Retired
Treasurer	Thomas Rivicci	Engine Co. 248
Financial Secretary	Paul Cresci	Division 13
Recording Secretary	Keith Tanico	Ladder Co. 103
Sergeant-At-Arms	Eugene D'Auria	Battalion 53 (Cov)
Manhattan Trustee	Dan Volpe	DISCO/Hdqtrs.
Queens Trustee	Michael Smithwick	Squad 270
Staten Island Trustee	Teddy Forlenza	Rescue 5
Brooklyn Trustee	Andy Isolano	Ladder Co. 108
Bronx Trustee	Joseph Governale	Division 13
EMS Trustee	Anthony Vanaria	Bureau of EMS
Public Relations	Angelo D'Agostino	Retired
Webmaster	Frank D'Amato	EMS/Hdqtrs.
Chaplain	Msgr. Marc Filacchione	Archdiocese of N.Y.
Legal Council	Stuart Salles, Esq.	

Committee Chairs:

		<u>Home Phone</u>	<u>Work Phone</u>
Membership:	Paul Cresci	516-358-5135	
Lottery:	Dennis DiTucci	516-794-7699	
Parade:	Eugene D'Auria	516-352-3676	
Pocono Mountains:	Buddy Santangelo	718-376-8388	718 896-6548
Good & Welfare:	Joseph Donatelli	718-591-4282	Retired
Scholarship/Dinner Dance	Craig Silvino	631-271-2928	718-965-8283
Vacation:	Andy Isolano	516-314-0254	718-965-8216

**Become A Member of the FDNY
Columbia Association and Show
Your Italian - American Pride**

Members are encouraged to pass along information on becoming a members to prospective individuals. Visit our apply on-line via our website or contact Paul Cresci, 516-358-5135 to request an application.

To be eligible for a regular membership the applicant must be of Italian descent. (Definition of Italian Descent- defined as either parent having had Italian lineage, with final acceptance of said applicant being determined by the Board of Directors).

Become an Associate Member

Any person who is not otherwise eligible to be a member of this association shall be eligible for associate membership in the association. There shall be issued to all associate members an associate membership card.

Associate members shall be entitled to receive the association's newspaper, shall be permitted to attend all weekend and vacation trips sponsored by the association.

Associate members are not eligible for the death benefit and scholarships.

The associate members shall not be permitted in attendance at the business portion of the meeting. Dues \$10 per year.

2002 Columbia Association Borough Meetings

ALL BOROUGH MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

THERE ARE NO MEETINGS IN JULY & AUGUST. MEETINGS BEGIN AT 8:00 PM FOOD & REFRESHMENTS ARE ALWAYS SERVED.

Brooklyn: April 9, November 12, 2002

VFW Post, 2414 Gerritsen Ave.

Bronx: March 12, October 8, 2002

Guiding Star Council Hall, 3243 Ampere Ave.

Staten Island: February 12, September 10, 2002

Hillside Swim Club, 151 Signs Rd.

Dues & Membership Reminder

Dues are still outstanding from some members. If you have not yet paid, please send them in to our PO Box Number listed below. Anyone wishing to join the Columbia Association may do so by either contacting their respective borough trustee, or writing directly to Membership Committee Chair, Paul Cresci.



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P.O. Box 20328

Staten Island, NY 10302

All members are strongly
encouraged to submit articles or
items of interest. Please submit
two months in advance of
publication date.



Columbia Association

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Staten Island, New York 10302

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