



LA SOTTO VOCE

The Official Newsletter of the

Columbia Association

FIRE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

Volume 33, No. 4

4th Quarter 2002

2002 Columbus Day Parade... A Very Special Day

by Eugene D'Auria

Once again another Columbus Day Parade has come and gone and this year, as in the past, the Columbia Association of the FDNY marched up Fifth Avenue in a fine demonstration of pride and solidarity.

This year, as expected, was special. The events and the loss we have all experienced as a result of September 11, 2001 made for a larger attendance as well as an emotional intensity, not often seen in previous parades.

In honor of the members lost on 9/11/01 the brothers carried 346 American flags being led in march by Chief of Operations Sal Cassano. The immensity of their number and the brilliance of their red, white and blue colors created a presence that caught the public's attention and filled our contingent with pride for who we are and sorrow for who we've lost.



FDNY Columbia Association Members Proudly Hold High our Banner and Lead the Rest of Members Down Fifth Avenue.

We were accompanied, once again, by the New Paltz High School Marching Band under the direction of Mr. Ralph Schroer. Their performance was spectacular and we wish to extend a special thank you to them for their support. They were with us in sympathy last year when we did not march and they returned this year managing all aspects of their participation.

We were also joined by brother firefighters from Italy, Canada, France as well as our brothers from the New Jersey State Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association who carried some of the 346 flags. The apparatus accompanying our marchers included a pumper, rear mount aerial ladder, ambulance and an antique fire engine provided most graciously by retired member Pat Blanchard.

Commissioner Scopetta and your Columbia Association Executive Board followed the color guard in this march from 44th Street to 79th Street and all hands enjoyed a fine lunch at the 7th Regiment Armory on Park Avenue between 66th and 67th Street.

The President's Corner

Vincent Tummino

As this year comes to an end, I wish to thank all of our members and friends who supported us through a very demanding and stressful year. Your executive board has worked very hard to make this association what it is today.

We have met all of our goals, and have made the Columbia Association of the New York City Fire Department world renown.

We were able to increase our scholarship fund reserves, we ran a very successful trip last winter to the pocono mountains, and this summer to hershey park. We were successful with our scholarship lottery, and this past Columbus Day Parade was a huge success in that we marched with the largest amount of uniforms in many years, we marched with 346 american flags to represent all of our Fallen brothers of 9/11/01.

Please read about our Board highlights, special events and ceremonies in this newsletter.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all."

Federation of Italian Americans in Florida selected President Tummino as their 2002 Man-of-the-Year

President Tummino was selected as the Man-of-the-Year by the F.I.A.F. at their annual convention in beautiful Boca Raton last September.



President Tummino spoke about 9/11/01, support from people from all over the world and how thankful New Yorkers were for the help.

He also discussed Italian Americans and the Columbia Association. Vinny said that the Italian Americans in Florida are very strong and continue to move Italian Heritage forward. He also mention that he was treated liked one of their family members, and will remember his weekend for a long time to come.

Association News

On Oct.13th President Tummino participated as a Honory Grand Marshal in the oldest Columbus Day Parade in America, he was greeted by the fire chief, police chief, and the police commissioner of San Francisco. He was a guest at the annual gala ball, and Columbus Day Celebration



Association President Michael Denunzio and Chairman Donald Casper. Vinny also met with actor Dennis Farina who was also a Honory Grand Marshal.

On October 16th the Columbia Association met with the family of the Italian sculptor Ivan Altamura who presented the Columbia Association with a life size bronze statue of a firefighter carrying a baby. The statue was donated to the Staten Island Botanical Gardens, where a building is being preserved for the victims of 9/11/01. Firefighters from Staten Island will be doing the volunteer work to restore the building. This statue is the 1st of many items to be placed in the building in memory of all the victims from S.I.

Our Executive Officers were guest of honor of the Italian Consul General of New York and received on behalf of our NY firefighters the "il fuoco francescano della pace" award. Mr. Gabriele Laurenzi, President of the Center for Peace in Gubbio. This is one of the most prestigious award given to firefighters by the people of Italy.

Other important events attended by the Columbia Association include the flagpole and monument dedication by the people of Hazleton, PA's Holy Rosary Church and the Hazelton Fire Dept.



President Tummino and President Carsini of Italy's Parliament enjoy New Yorks Historical Sites During his visit to the United States.

The Newsletter of the
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Publisher & Editor
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P.O. Box 20328
Staten Island, NY 10302

La Sotto Voce

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

Health Connections - Important Information for Retirees

Retired members who were on active duty and exposed to WTC are eligible for WTC Medical or WTC follow-up Medical. This can be arranged by appointment anytime over the next 12 months. Please call 718 999-1938 to schedule an appointment. This is being funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control.

FDNY Tobacco Free. BHS has received support from Chest Foundation and Pharmacia to offer a free tobacco cessation program. All FDNY members and their spouses are eligible. This program has an extremely high success rate. We have already treated nearly 500 members with outstanding feedback. For appointment call 718 999-1942

FDNY Counseling Service Unit provides services to personnel and to family members of deceased and active firefighters and EMS. Appointment for individual, couples, family, and phone counseling are available Monday-Friday 8am-6pm and Saturday 10am-4pm. The CSU also referrals to other areas. (212) 570-1693

2002 Columbus Day Parade



Chief of Operations Salvatore Cassano just one of many proud FDNY Columbia Association members.



Remembering our brothers. One flag for each fallen 9/11 member, a total of 346 flags.



A sea of red, white and blue streaming down 5th Avenue.



Former Chief of Department Daniel A. Nigro joining his Columbia Association brothers on the parade route.

Columbia Association Accepts Associone Nazionale Famile Emgrante Award

Craig Silvino, 2nd Vice President, accepts silver plaque from the National President of ANFE and Senator of the Consulate General, Learco Saporito. Also in attendance was



Senator Press Secretary Consulate for Sardegna Francesco Grehi, Secretary for foreign Affairs Alessandro Gustatane, Honorary Consulate of Italy Antonio Tufano, and Lena Bounauro, National Delegate for the region of Campania. This Beautiful plaque was presented to the Columbia Association during a mass at Our Lady of Pompei in Greenwich Village.

ANFE is a worldwide association that has help millions of Italians assimilate into other countries throughout the world. But on September 11th the members of ANFE opened their hearts to console Italian Americans. On December 21, 2001, ANFE donated over \$5000 to 18 Italian American families that perished at the World Trade Center. Four families from FDNY, four from NYPD, two from Port Authority, and eight civilian families.

December Membership Meeting Cancelled

All members are invited to
Join the Board of Directors for Holiday Cheer
December 18th , 2002 6:30 – 9:30 pm
At Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn
Reservations & Proper Attire Required
Due to Security on the Army Base
RSVP is REQUIRED
Contact Craig Silvino (631) 425-1596

FDNY Columbia Association Membership

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 an 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). Dues \$20 per year.

Associate Member

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. The associate members are not permitted to attend the business portion of the Association's meeting. Dues \$10 per year. Associate members are not eligible for the death benefit and scholarships.

Annual Raffle to Benefit Future Schol- arship Winners

- 1st prize \$12,000
- 2nd prize \$5,000
- 3rd prize \$3,000
(3 Winners)

Official Rules

Prizes are based on the sale of 300 tickets.

If all tickets are not sold prizes will be a total of two-thirds of tickets sold.

**Drawing June 10,
2003**

At the Staten Island Borough Meeting

For Tickets Contact:
Keith Tanico
13-22 147 St. Apt. C1,
Whitestone NY 11357
Make Checks Payable
To:

**Columbia Association
Scholarship Raffle**

Columbia Association Scholarship Fund



The Columbia Association is pleased to announce its annual High School & College Scholarship Fund raffle to benefit the sons and daughters of New York City Firefighters.

Founded in 1934, the NYC Fire Department Columbia Association has proudly served its general membership for 69 years. Once again, 2003 will see the occasion of the award of scholarships in time for the Fall 2003 semester. Currently, some 2500 New York City Firefighters are enrolled as members of this agency wide trade and mutual aid association.

Each year ten scholarships are open to children of the general membership of the Columbia Association. Four scholarships are offered to graduation High School Seniors to be applied toward higher education studies, with six scholarships offered to Middle Grade Students entering High School.

Scholarships are awarded exclusively on merit. Determination is made in the early Spring based on a combination of academic achievement and testing results.

Raffles are now being sold to benefit Scholarship Fund.

In order to insure that the 2003 scholarship fund raising campaign is as successful as those in prior years, We ask that you or your organization please purchase a raffle. As mentioned in this flyer, a limited amount of tickers are offered for sale each year in order to increase the odds of winning. 1st prize is \$12,000. 2nd prize \$5,000 and 3rd prize \$3,000.

We are attempting to sell 300 tickets by no later than June 10, 2003. Awarding of the scholarships will be determined in June 2003 with award presentations to be make at the Columbia Association's Annual Dinner Dance scheduled to be held at Russo's On the Bay Restaurant on June 19, 2003.

If you would like to "take a chance" or need any further information, please call Keith Tanico at (718) 357-2077.

Columbia Association Attends National Memorial Service

Members of the Columbia Association traveled to Washington DC for the weekend of October 5-6 to represent the fallen brothers of the Columbia Association.

On Saturday, October 5, 2002 the members attended a beautiful service at the Shrine of Immaculate Conception. The service featured musical selections by members of the fire service and survivors of fallen firefighters. Fire service Honor Guards commenced the Candlelight Service as a video featured each honored hero.

On Sunday morning, in a visual show of support, an unprecedented number of honor guard units and bagpipes lead a procession to the MCI Center, the site of the National Memorial Service.

Firefighters from across the world created a "Sea of Blue" on Constitution Ave. and up 7th Ave to the MCI Center.



Lieutenant Joe Rammaso, FF (President) Vincent Tummino and Lieutenant (2nd Vice President) Craig Silvino at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

"The Procession of Honor" which included families and company members of fallen firefighter, marched through this "Sea of Blue" with great pride. Members of the Columbia Association carried our colors to symbolize the fallen members of the Columbia Association FDNY.



Members of the Belluno, Italy Fire Department crossed the Atlantic Ocean and joined our members and marched in the Columbus Day Parade.

How's Your Heart Doing?

Vascular Diagnostic's Comprehensive series of tests will help answer this question. Members of the Columbia Association can take advantage of this service by experts, for experts. *It might just save your life.*

If you are experiencing any cardiovascular symptoms Call (718) 886-0600 and identify yourself as a member of the Columbia Association of the NYC Fire Department. A professional will ask you medical questions to determine if any of the more specialized tests are required. They will advise you about what is covered by your Health insurance. They participate in GHI-CBP, Aetna/Us Healthcare (with authorization from your primary care physician), Medicare (requires a test order from the private physician), and discount fees are available from HIP participants. Other insurances or coverage through spouse can be discussed.

So Call Today (718) 886-0600

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	Eugene D'Auria	Battalion 53 (Cov)
Financial Secretary	Paul Cresci	Manhattan Boro Command
Recording Secretary	Keith Tanico	Ladder Co. 103
Sergeant-At-Arms	Michael Smithwick	Battalion 26 (Cov)
Manhattan Trustee	Dan Volpe	DISCO/Hdqtrs.
Queens Trustee	Joseph Governale	Bureau of Operations
Staten Island Trustee	Teddy Forlenza	Rescue 5
Brooklyn Trustee	Andy Isolano	Ladder Co. 108
Bronx Trustee	Chris Reginella	Battalion 27 (Cov)
EMS Trustee	Anthony Vanaria	Bureau of EMS
Webmaster	Frank D'Amato	EMS/Hdqtrs.
Chaplain	Msr. Marc Filacchione	Archdioese 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:	Keith Tanico	718-357-2077	
Parade:	Joseph Governale	718-767-1612	
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

2003 Scholarship Award Applications

High School Awards:

Applicants must be in the eight grade and applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2003. The High School placement exam will be administered in March. Check the Department Orders for date and location.

College Awards:

SAT Exam taken between September of Junior year to March of Senior year of high school. Only applications in the graduating year are acceptable. Applications must be post marked by April 1, 2003.

Contact Craig Silvino, (718) 985-0434 or your Borough Trustee for applications, or check our website for more information.

Eligibility:

(Per Columbia Assoc. NYFD Constitution and By-Laws Article VI Sec 6.6)

The son or daughter (step or foster included) of a member in good standing or of a deceased member if said member was in good standing at time of his death, are eligible and must file an application and statement in order to participate.

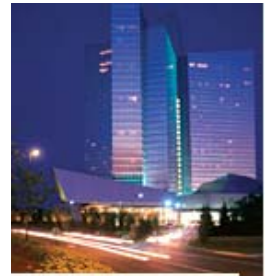
MOHEGAN SUN

COME JOIN US AT THE LUXURIOUS NEW

HOTEL & CASINO

WEEKEND OF APRIL 5TH

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON



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.

Staten Island: January 14, June 10, 2003

Hillside Swim Club, 151 Sign Rd.

Bronx: Feburary 11, September 9, 2003

Guiding Star Council Hall, 3243 Ampere Ave.

Brooklyn: March 11, October 14, 2003

VFW Post, 2414 Gerritsen Ave.

Queens: April 8, November 11, 2003

Cephalos, 20-41 Steinway St.

Long Island: May 13, 2003

Elks Lodge, Lynbrook, 52 Hempstead Ave.

Dues & Membership Reminder

Dues are still outstanding from some members. If you have not yet paid your \$20 dues 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.

ENCLOSED IN
THIS
NEWSLETTER
IS YOUR 2003
MEMBERSHIP
CARD AND
RENEWAL
FORM



Columbia Association

Fire Department City of New York
PO Box 20328
Staten Island, New York 10302