



LA SOTTO VOCE

The Official Newsletter of the

FIRE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

Columbia Association

Volume 34, No. 1

1st Quarter 2003

Columbia Association Brotherhood

The brotherhood of the fire service extends from city to city, shore to shore and country to country. There is no better example of this than the story of Chief Francesco LaMaestra, Assistant Chief of Department, City of Messina, Sicily. The Columbia Association met Chief Francesco last December when a contingent of Columbia Associations members toured Italy. During this trip the City of Messina honored us and awarded our Association the world famous "Colapesce Award". Messina firefighters were warm and opened their hearts to our members and made them feel welcome. Since then our Association has been in touch with them as well as Chief LaMaestra and when we found out that the Chief was coming to America for medical reasons we rolled out the red carpet.

He arrived in December with his wife Anna Maria and daughter Ombretta and for the past 2 months has been receiving special medical care from the medical team of the Staten Island University Hospital.

President Tummino and Ted Forlenza as well as other Columbia Association members has assisted our Italian friend and family by providing transportation and treated them to sight seeing tours around New York.

We are happy to report that his treatments went very well and the Chief and his family have safely returned to Messina. It was a pleasure to see Francesco again and assist him in his time of need. We once again had an opportunity to share our love and friendship. We all send our best wishes to his family and our thoughts to him for a full and speedy recovery.



A tour of New York would not be complete without a stop at the 8th Division. Pictured above (left to right) Staten Island Borough Commander Chief John Casey, Messina Fire Chief Francesco LaMaestra, Columbia Association President Vincent Tummino, Chief LaMaestro's daughter Obretta and wife Anna Maria.



Chief Francesco and President Tummino in front of Staten Island University Hospital. Where the Chief received First Class medical procedures.

The President's Corner

Vincent Tummino

Thank you to our members and friends who supported us last year, and to all who already sent in their 2003 dues. Our Association increased by 150 new members making our overall title the highest in the past 10 years.

Everyone should have gotten a newsletter with their dues renewal package enclosed last December; which was mailed by 1st class mail.

Spring is just around the corner, the Columbia Association is arranging some short trips for the family this spring and summer, (read enclosed articles).

The lottery tickets are on sale and are going fast, please get your ticket and payment in as soon as possible the

first 300 tickets sold are in the lottery where we will award \$20,000. All proceeds go to our scholarship fund to help our children in better education.

I am still working very close with our friends in Italy, as most of you are aware that the people of Italy has been there supporting us and the entire fire department since 9/11/01, and more then one year later they are still supporting us in various ways. Last December I traveled to Italy and visited 8 cities, where I thanked each town for all that they have done.

Please remember in your prayers Joe Donatelli's wife Olga and for John Sineno both who are recovering from their illnesses.

Boscoreale, Italy Friends



Recently President Tummino visited Boscoreale, Italy which is a half-hour south of Naples, where he met with Association friends who are planning a trip during this Easter vacation for some of the widows and children of 9/11/01.

This small town which is next to the town Pompeii, has open their hearts and their doors to there homes to President Tummino and now to some of families of September 11th. Once again this shows how much and how kind our friends from Italy really are.

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.



More Columbia Association Friends (left to right) Robert Rampino, Sam Pepper and Nick Chiarriano.

Winter Weekend Get-A-Way

On January 10, 2003, The Columbia Association once again set out on yet another Annual "Weekend Get-A-Way" at the Pocmont Resort located in Bushkill PA. A resort that we have been using for the last 4 years, but an event that we have been doing for over 30 years.

A trip we always hold at the beginning of January, one that family, friends and everyone is welcome. It is one of the many events we hold during the year that promotes bringing your FAMILY. It's our chance to get away from the city and have a great time and start our own New Year. We have many of our members come up every year and support our trip. We even get retired members that live in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and the New York region that stay the weekend with us.

As always, we had a great time and with many laughs. The shows on Friday and Saturday night were terrific. The Columbia Association presented a "Maltese Cross" Plaque to the Pocmont Resort for their excellent service and hospitality. It was presented to Greg Artzt, the owner and friend of the Columbia Association, at our Cocktail Party we held on Saturday night.

I would like to thank those that came on the trip with us. Some special THANKS to Sam Pepper, Joe Smithwick, Arnold Basile and Ralph Gismonde just to name a few, that help make the weekend great with the groups they bring up.

For more information on any of our trips or to learn more about the Association come visit our web site at www.fdnycolumbia.com, while there sign our guest book.



1st Vice President Buddy Santangelo along with President Tummino present the owners of the Pocmont Resort with a token of appreciation from the Columbia Association.



Just a Click Away

Visit our Website:

www.fdnycolumbia.com

Email the Columbia Association
FDItaly@aol.com

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.

MOHEGAN SUN

COME JOIN US AT THE LUXURIOUS NEW HOTEL
& CASINO

WEEKEND OF APRIL 5TH

CALL CRAIG SILVINO 718-965-0434 OR
VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION



Columbia Association

New York City Fire Department

Sixty Ninth Annual

Dinner Dance

Thursday, June 19, 2003

7 pm

At Russo's on the Bay

Howard Beach, Queens

All proceeds to benefit Future Scholarships With This Years Award Over \$12,000

Featuring Frank Russo's World Famous

1½-Hour Cocktail Party "– Open Bar All Night

Choice of 7 Dinners

Live Entertainment Provided by The Chris Michaels Band

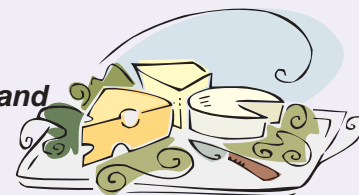
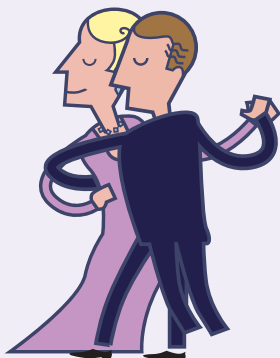
\$75 Donation per Person

Reserve early, only 600 seats available; we have SOLD-OUT for the past 4 years!

For Reservation Contact:

Craig Silvino, Home H (631) 271-2928 W (718) 965-0434

or your Borough Trustee



Annual Raffle to Benefit Future Scholarship 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,

WhitestoneNY 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 tickets 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 made 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) 460-0657.

SUMMER WEEKEND

At

HERSHEY PARK

DESIGNA VACATION TO MAXIMIZE YOUR ENJOYMENT OF THE AREA

DATES: WEDNESDAY July 23, 2003 to SUNDAY July 27, 2003

LODGING: FOUR POINTS SHERATON Harrisburg, PA
 Hotel price is \$ 89 per room / per night. Up to four people in a room.
 Short drive to Hershey Park phone (800) 644-3144

PARK ADMISSION: PAY ONE PRICE PARK PASS
 Admits Holder to all attractions for the day. (Food & parking not Included)
 web-HersheyPA.com phone 1-800-HERSHEY

NAME		Travelers Name	Age
ADDRESS			
CITY		STATE	
ZIP	PHONE: () -		
E-Mail			

Use back if needed
Worksheet

	# of ROOMS		# of passes			
			Kids (3-8)	Adult (9-54)	Senior (55-69)	70 Plus
Thursday						
Friday						
Saturday						
Sunday	XXXXX					
Total						

PRICE:

\$89 X (# of Rooms _____) = _____ Special Requests
\$17 X (# of Kid Passes _____) = _____
\$24 X (# of Adult Passes _____) = _____ **Double Beds:** _____
\$20 X (# of Senior Passes _____) = _____ **Adjoining Rms:** _____
\$16 X (# of 70 Plus Passes _____) = _____ **Other:** _____
TOTAL _____

Payment in FULL due: **June 1, 2003**

Make Checks Payable to: "Columbia Association"

Mail to: Paul Cresci 17 Birch St. Floral Park, N.Y. 11001 cALL 516-358-5135

No refunds after June 1

All Welcomed (proceeds benefit Columbia Association Scholarships)

**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	Brooklyn Boro Command
3rd Vice President	Joseph Donatelli	Retired
Treasurer	Eugene D'Auria	Battalion 51 (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	Ladder Co. 50
EMS Trustee	Anthony Vanaria	Bureau of EMS
Webmaster	Frank D'Amato	EMS/Hdqtrs.
Chaplain	Mmgr. Marc Filacchione	Archdioese of N.Y.
Legal Council	Stuart Salles, Esq.	

Committee Chairs:

		<u>Home Phone</u>	<u>Work Phone</u>
Membership/Trips:	Paul Cresci	516-358-5135	212-5701544
Lottery:	Keith Tanico	718-460-0657	718-965-8290
Parade:	Joseph Governale	718-767-1612	718-999-1818
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	718-965-0434

**2003 Columbia Association
Scholarship Award Applications
High School Awards:**

Applicants must be in the eight grade and applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2003. The exam will be administered on March 29, 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) 965-0434 or your Borough Trustee for applications, or check our website for more information.



**Visit our Website:
www.fdnycolumbia.com**

**Email the Columbia Association
FDItaly@aol.com**

2003 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.

Long Island: May 13, 2003

Elks Lodge, Lynbrook, 52 Hempstead Ave.

Bronx: February 11, September 9, 2003

Guiding Star Council Hall, 3243 Ampere Ave.

December: Proposed Christmas Party

Brooklyn: March 11, October 14, 2003

VFW Post, 2414 Gerritsen 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.

Queens: April 8, November 11, 2003

Cephalos, 20-41 Steinway St.



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FDNY Columbia Association
**La Sotto Voce is published
four times annually.**

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Lawrence Petrillo
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

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