



LA SOTTO VOCE

The Official Newsletter of the *Columbia Association*

Fire Department, City of New York

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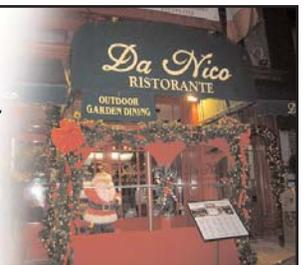
2011 COLUMBUS DAY PARADE

This year's Columbus Day Parade came together under sunny skies to turn 5th Avenue into a true celebration of Italian-American heritage. Beginning with a wonderful pre-parade breakfast, members and their families gathered for a day filled with food, drinks, and fun as we marched up New York City's 5th Avenue as a visible show of the FDNY's presence and pride. The Fire Department membership was led by our president, Keith Tanico, Commissioner Cassano, and Columbia Association Parade Chairman, Phil LaRocco, along with other officers, members, and friends of the Association, including the Fire Riders. We were joined by a contingent of Italian firefighters who traveled to NYC to participate in the parade, as well as champion gondoliers and an authentic Italian gondola, coordinated by the International Columbia Association. The excitement and celebration continued in full force at the after-party at a popular NYC bar and lounge, where food and drinks were definitely not in short supply. Toasts, cheers, and lots of laughs were shared and a great time was had by all who attended. Bigger and better with every passing year, many who joined us for the first time this year have already marked their calendars for the next one. We invite you to join us for this memorable day next October 2012 for what promises to be a fun-filled and exciting day that is not to be missed.



Christmas Party at DaNico Ristorante

164 Mulberry Street, Little Italy
December 6th, 6:30 - 9:30 PM
RSVP a must (516) 303-4209



Visit Our Online Store & Shop For Official FDNY Columbia Association Merchandise.
All Proceeds Benefit The Columbia Association Scholarship Fund.
www.fdnycolumbia.com





Cigar Night October 2011

We held our annual cigar night at Club Macanudo, which is becoming a regular fall classic in itself. Over 90 members and friends joined us for some fine cigars, good food and plenty of cocktails. Once again our gracious host, Mauricio Cordoba, went above and beyond his call of duty, donating many wonderful gifts for us to raffle off. Also, I think this was planned, but our event coincided with his birthday, AGAIN. Grace had picked up a nice big cake and we all celebrated with him. I would also like to thank Victoria McKee from General Cigar and our good friend Al (Butch) Guzzi from the Long Branch F.D. for supporting our event. I would also like to thank the members of the board who helped out all night long. Well if you missed this one, we will be having more of these events in the future, so please keep your eyes open and come join us for a great night out in the City.



Kieth, Joe and Craig visit the senior man, Joe Donateli is doing well in Tinton Falls.

Winter Weekend at VILLA ROMA

January 20 - 22

Double Occupancy - \$295 per person
Triple Occupancy - \$270 per person

Children ages 0 to 3 - FREE
4 to 10 - \$140
11 to 17 - \$190

Includes dinner Friday and Saturday night, breakfast Saturday and Sunday, cocktail party Saturday night
(All prices include taxes and gratuities)

Enjoy nightly music and entertainment, bocce, basketball, volleyball, tennis indoor pool, jacuzzi and a fully equipped fitness center

ALSO AVAILABLE AT ADDITIONAL COST:

Skiing, spa, ice skating, tubing, racquetball courts, bowling, and paintball

You do not have to be a member to attend

For more information call Joseph Smithwick 516-796-0975
Or online at <http://www.fdnycolumbia.com>



THREE QUARTERS & SPAN OF TIME

A firefighter who sustains a serious injury early on but wishes to continue working, advance their respective career and provide the fullest income for their families, may undergo legal challenges in establishing accident disability in a review conducted many years after that injury, especially if long periods of time elapse without documented steady and continuous medical care and prescription therapy.

The Medical Board's denial in these types of cases can be based upon their perception that the member's injury became progressively more painful and disabling, that the original injury was resolved through surgery; and or that the disability became disabling gradually through time, as a result of a degenerative or progressive process. Accordingly, the Medical Board may conclude the disability is no longer the result of the initial injury.

The Administrative Code requires that a disabling injury be the consequence of an accident, not the occurrence of an accident and the development of the disability over the passage of time, while the member is on full duty and not undergoing medical treatment.

Ultimately, injured members who sustain severe injuries are faced with a dilemma, retire on a severe injury at the time they are injured and forgo career opportunity, or continue working but diminish the chances of an accident disability retirement later on.

There are some measures a member can take to increase the likelihood that an injury will be treated as disabling, even if the member is returned to full-duty following an accidental injury. Those measures may include documenting steady and continuous medical treatment and medication prescribed for their injury. In cases where a fire officer is injured but is able to establish that the injury was continuously causing him or her to suffer, the Medical Board may accept the original accidental injury as the basis for awarding three-quarters. The prudent officer will steadily and continuously document their suffering by treating and medicating their injury. Of course, steady and continuous treatment does not guarantee that you will receive three-quarters based upon an old injury, but it does improve your chances. Other factors, including the length of time one is on full-duty, instances of less than full duty, medical leave, later injuries as well as your job assignment can also affect your chances.



COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION IS GOING GREEN!

**ACTIVE MEMBERS CAN NOW PAY
YOUR DUES WITH DIRECT DEPOSIT**

Sign in on Employee Self Service (ESS). Follow to Fraternal Organization Dues and click on Columbia Association Enroll and your dues will automatically be sent to us. For our retired members we are still working on the program. Once you sign up you will never have worry about your dues. Each year, your dues will be automatically deducted from the first check of the New Year.

We are also working on e-mailing the newspaper directly to your address. We will also be able to keep you up to date with all of our meetings, trips and gatherings with a blast e-mail. We will be able to keep everyone up to date without killing trees! Please stay tuned for more information.

The 2011 Golf Outing

A great time was had by all. This year the weather was perfect, the course like a big sponge mud bowl. Happy hour was also a big success with everyone getting just the right amount of happy. There were lots of great giveaways and many laughs. We're looking forward to next year and maybe seeing some new faces.

*Thanks to all that came and
have a merry Christmas
and happy New Year!*



2012 Annual Scholarship Lottery

\$10,000 1st PRIZE
ONLY 200 TICKETS SOLD

It is that time again. Our lottery tickets will be mailed out on December 15, 2011. If you are interested in a specific number, please call Sal Mirra at (516) 322-7588. We will only sell 200 tickets. We print 2000 tickets numbered 001-2000. The first 200 sold will be accepted. So hurry. Don't miss out.

First Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
\$10,000	\$2,000	\$1,000

Columbia Association's 2012 Scholarship Competition

CANDIDATES FOR COLLEGE AWARDS

(12th Grade Students)

Submit applications, along with a copy of the candidate's SAT scores, before April 1, 2012. These tests must have been taken in the candidates' junior or senior year of high school between September 2010 and March 2012. This must be the candidates' graduating year.

CANDIDATES FOR HIGH SCHOOL

(8th Grade Students)

Submit applications before March 1, 2012. The STS closed high school placement test will be given March 4, 2012 at Randal's Island, Building 11 (D.O.T.). Exam will begin at exactly 10am.

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates for these awards may compete if a parent (natural, step or foster) is a member in good standing with the Columbia Association.

Children of a deceased member, who were in good standing at time of death, may also compete. Grand Children are NOT eligible.

APPLICATIONS

Applications may be obtained from the internet at www.fdnycolumbia.com, your Borough Trustee, or by contacting the Scholarship Chairman, Craig Silvino, 14 Piermont Ct. Melville N.Y. 11747, (516) 303-4209.



It's That Time Again STUDYING FOR PROMOTION?

The Jerry Barbara Promotional Scholarship

The J. Barbara foundation will award 3 scholarships to Fire Tech.
(One for each rank; promotion to Lieutenant, Captain and Chief)

Jerry Barbara/FireTech Scholarship application for the January FireTech Promotional Course.

You must be a member in good standing to qualify.

Please mail before January 5, 2012 to:
Craig Silvino
14 Piermont Drive
Melville, NY 11747

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Assigned Unit Studying for the rank of _____



2011-12 NEW YORK ISLANDERS

F.D.N.Y. COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION

1ST ANNUAL

RANGERS VS. ISLANDERS GAME

AT THE NASSAU COLISEUM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2012 @ 7:00PM

\$100 INCLUDES:

- TICKET TO THE GAME
- A PREGAME ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT GOURMET BUFFET AT THE LI MARRIOTT*
- OPEN BAR - (BEER, WINE, AND COCKTAILS)
- POST-GAME GROUP PHOTO ON THE LOGO AT CENTER ICE

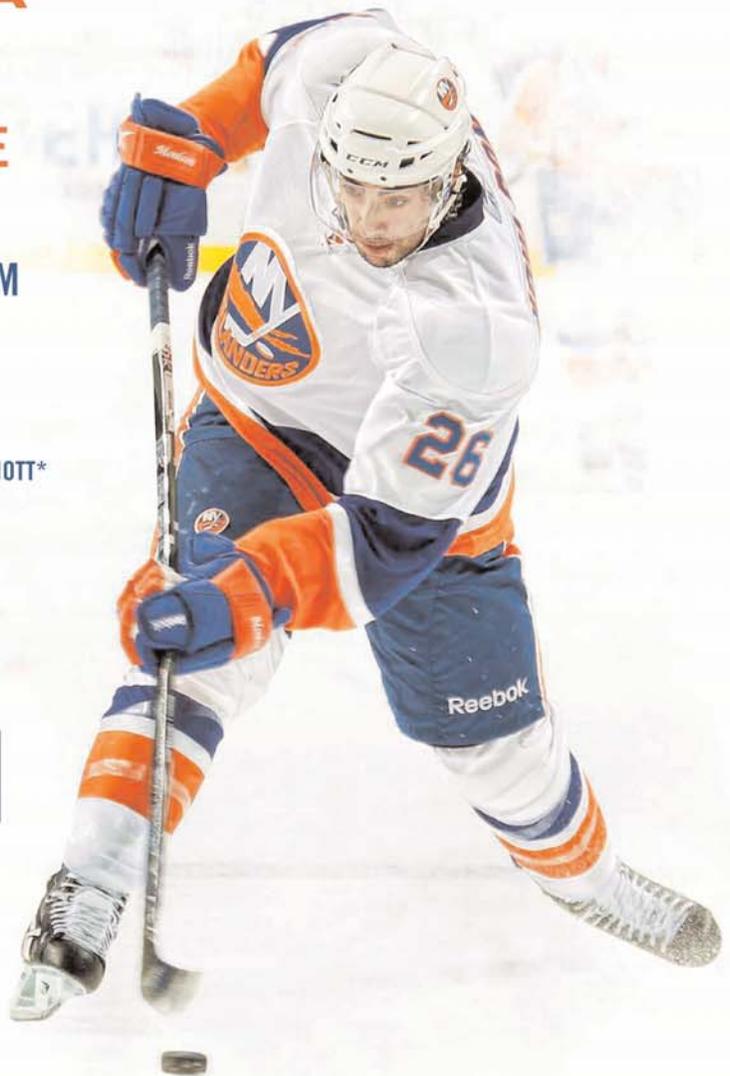
BUFFET WILL BEGIN AT 5:00PM

100 TICKETS AVAILABLE

ALL PROCEEDS OF EACH TICKET SOLD THROUGH THIS FLYER WILL BENEFIT COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND



DEADLINE FOR PURCHASE IS FEBRUARY 6, 2012.



METHOD OF PAYMENT

Make check or money order payable to: Columbia Association

- Cash Check

CASH OR CHECKS ONLY

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Number of Tickets: _____
 Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____



PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

SAL BELMONTE
 1616 STEVENS AVE.
 MERRICK, NY 11566

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT SAL BELMONTE:

516.233.8142

NO PAYMENT AT DOOR Any orders received within 7 days of the game will be held at the Islanders will call window for pick-up 60 minutes prior to game until the end of the first period. Tickets are subject to availability.



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Fire Department, City of New York
14 Ivanhoe Drive
Merrick, NY 11566

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BETHPAGE, NY

LA SOTTO VOCE

The Newsletter of the FDNY

Columbia Association

La Sotto Voce is published
four times annually.

What does the word DUES mean above your name on your address label mean?

We are updating our Membership program. One of our new features includes a Membership history located directly above your name on your address label. Please check the label. The numbers above your name indicate that we have not received your dues for that particular year. With any new system there are glitches. If your records vary with ours, please give us a call at (516) 303-4209. Our Financial Secretary Steve Forlenza will return your call.

Below indicates 2006 and 2008 dues have not been received.

DUES: 06 08

**Columbia Association
14 Ivanhoe Dr
Merrick, NY 11566**

SAMPLE

If you only see the word DUES above your name, this means you are up-to-date and no action is needed. We apologize for any confusion.

Columbia Association: Executive Board & Committee Members

Executive Board:

President	Keith Tanico	Division 13	917 337-7413
1st Vice President	Craig Silvino	Ladder 127	516 286-1796
2nd Vice President	Joseph Smithwick	Engine 303	516 662-3699
3rd Vice President	John Signorile	Ret-L126	516 782-5343
Treasurer	Teddy Forlenza	Ladder 8	718 213-7499
Financial Secretary	Stephen Forlenza	Division 8	347 266-8781
Recording Secretary	Sal Belmonte	Ladder 102	516 233-8142
Sergeant-At-Arms	Steve Lubrino	Ladder 162	631 300-5772
Manhattan Trustee	Nicholas DePiero	Ladder 24	917 648-9305
Queens Trustee	Sal Mirra	Ladder 138	516 322-7588
Staten Island Trustee	Ignazio Venezia	Engine 282	917 682-7991
Brooklyn Trustee	Phil LaRocco	Ladder 148	347 884-1169
Bronx Trustee	Joseph DePaola	Ladder 27	845 558-4410
EMS Trustee	Grace Cacciola	Division 5	516 852-3318
Legal Advisor	Stuart Salles, Esq.		
Spiritual Advisor	Msgr. Marc Filacchione	Archdiocese of NY	

Committee Chairs:

Trips	Keith Tanico/Joe Smithwick
Membership	Joseph Smithwick
Dues	Steve Forlenza
Lottery	Sal Mirra
Parade	Joe Triolo
Good & Welfare	John Signorile
Scholarship/Dinner Dance	Craig Silvino
Hershey Park Trip	Sal Belmonte
Dinner Journal	Grace Cacciola
Editor	Craig Silvino

❖ Visit our website: www.fdnycolumbia.com

❖ E-mail the Columbia Association: keith@fdnycolumbia.com

❖ Columbia Association Hotline: (516) 303-4209

2011 Columbia Association Borough Meetings

Brooklyn
April 10 & November 13
VFW Post, 2414 Geritsen Ave.

Queens
January 10 & June 12
VFW Post 19-12 149th St.
(between 19th & 20th Ave.)
Whitestone NY 11357
(718) 746-0540

Staten Island
February 14 & September 11
Hillside Swim Club
151 Signs Rd.

Bronx
March 13 & October 9
Maestro's Caterers
1703 Bronxdale Ave.

Long Island
May 8
American Legion
250 Franklin Ave.
Malverne, LI

2012 Christmas Party
To Be Announced

