

Attack on Columbus Day and his statues

The fight for Columbus Day and the statue continues. With regard to the Columbus statue in New York City we are continuing to find way to fight any attempts to place a marker or plaque on or near the statue that tells a negative story of Columbus and his courage's voyages.

The Columbus Heritage Coalition is now working with the State of New York to have the Columbus statue to be included in the National Registry. We believe this will add a layer of protection to the statue. This application will be filed in the coming weeks.

Regarding the Columbus holiday being removed from the Southampton School District Calendar we are continuing our efforts to get it restored. CSJ has been working with Rocco Corriero at Southampton to organize the voters in the town and get them to support candidates supporting the Columbus holiday. This year was our first attempt to fill an empty seat on the School Board and the candidate supported by Rocco and his community was elected. Next year, two seats are up for grabs, both being held by members opposed to Columbus Day. Rocco is working on finding candidates to run that will support Columbus Day. I am sure that by next year the Columbus holiday will be back on the books in Southampton. I have to stress that CSJ is not engaged in any political activity.

Blue Bloods

In February the CBS episode of Blue Bloods identified Italian Americans as guidos. There was no possible reason for this terminology to be used in this show. CSJ send a letter to CBS officials informing them of our objection to using that word. CBS has not responded to my letter objecting to this derogatory term

New Orleans Lynching

I have been in contact with National CSJ Chairman Keven Chiara and discussed with him the fact the there was never an apology from the State of Louisiana and

New Orleans for the largest lynching in America. I told him that we should pursue this issue and demand an apology and a marker to be placed at the location of the old Parish Prison. He agreed and asked me to spearhead this nationally with the help of our Brothers and sisters in New Orleans.

In the past I was in touch with Joseph Maselli regarding this issue before he passed away. He sent me a lot of information on this lynching. I will be in touch with his son and let him know what our plans are and ask him to join us.

Positive Image

“John Dabbene Immigrant Essay Contest”

Now that our first contest is over we are now moving forward to begin the process for next year’s contest. We are going to change the timing of next year’s contest due to the confusion caused by it being so close to the Bela Lingua Program. We will also be working with all our lodge presidents, District chairs, deputies and trustees to assure that each district has two applicants and recipients. Both President Ferrito and myself made every attempt to be present at the awards ceremonies that took place.

Charlie Lucie and his committee did a great job with this program and I appreciate all their hard work.

La Bella Lingua Award

This year was the first time in a few years that the CSJ implemented the LaBella Lingua Program. We look forward to continue implementing this very vital program.

I want to take this time to thank, Mary Ann Rispoli and Jean Gagliardo and the committee for implementing this program.

CSJ Purchases 120 copies of La Storia

The CSJ purchased 120 copies of the book La Storia, Five Centuries of the Italian American Experience written by Jerre Mangione and Ben Morreale. These books were distributed to each scholarship, essay contest and LaBela Lingua recipient this year. We have been asked to purchase more of these books to make them available to our members. This will be discussed at our next CSJ Executive Board meeting.

2019 Positive Image Calendar

This calendar was a very sort off item at the convention. I want to thank Eleanor Jobbagy and her committee who worked very hard in a short time frame to have these available by our convention in June. We still have more calendars available. The price is \$10.00 each. I also want to thank Joe and Lisa Velotti of the Roslyn Heights Funeral Home who donated \$500.00 towards their printing.

I want to close by saying how grateful I am to have such a fantastic team on the CSJ. They all work extremely hard and are dedicated to preserving our heritage.

Again, my Brothers and Sisters, I want to thank you all for the support and encouragement for moving CSJ forward.