

**Italian Society of Savannah
General Membership Meeting
September 8, 2014
Minutes**

1. Opening Remarks

- a. After waiting out the monsoon, the Meeting was called to order at 6:45.
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Opening Prayer
- d. It was announced that, at the request of the Membership, the meeting will have less business.

2. Induction/Introduction of New Members

- a. *The Membership application of the following new Member was duly approved:*
 - i. Bryan Schivera, who was introduced by his father, Bob Schivera.

3. Attendees

- a. See attached sign-in sheet.
- b. Four guests were in attendance.
- c. A breakout session took place whereby Members got to know a little more about other Members.

4. Business

- a. The minutes of the July 14, 2014 meeting were duly approved.
- b. *Budget*
 - i. It was announced that the budget was approved by the Executive Committee, and it was distributed.
 - ii. The budget projects a deficit for the year but the EC is working hard to reduce expenses and has not increased dues.
 - iii. The Members approved the budget.
- c. *The Frank Finocchiaro Memorial Scholarship*
 - i. The Community Relations Committee members (Tom Colasanto, Peter Chiofalo, O.C. Welch and Peter Paolucci) were recognized and thanked.
 - ii. A summary of the scholarship requirements and other information was distributed.
 - iii. O.C. Welch agreed to fund \$1,000 for each school (St. Vincent's and Benedictine) for the next 10 years.
- d. *Brief Overview of Columbus Day Banquet*
 - i. Joe Lombardo, the CEO of Gulfstream, will be the speaker.
 - ii. There will be performances by VOICEexperience in celebration of the 200th anniversary of Giuseppe Verdi's birth.
 - iii. The golf tournament is scheduled for the Saturday following the banquet.
 - iv. High mass will be on the following Sunday at 10:00 am at the Cathedral, which will also have a memorial for Frank Finacchiaro.
- e. *Stewards*
 - i. A discussion took place regarding vacancies on the committee. The committee consists of 5 Stewards that plan the Society's events. Traditionally, one new Steward is selected each year to fill a vacancy created by the end of the term of service by the then Chief Steward; therefore, each Steward serves 5 years.

- ii. In addition to the one vacancy to be filled each year, 2 additional vacancies exist as the result of the resignation of 2 Stewards.
- iii. Jason Cerbone and O.C. Welch were selected to fill the 2 vacancies created by the resignations and Matthew Schivera was selected to fill the remaining vacancy.

5. Old/New Business

- a. None.

6. The Program

- a. The fun commenced at approximately 7:33 with a wine tasting led by Sommelier Kylie Pittman.
- b. Dinner was had.
- c. Dr. David Gobel, a SCAD professor, gave a presentation entitled “Searching for Slowness.”
- d. The Members enjoyed a making their own cannolis, which were provided by The Florence.

7. Meeting adjourned.

Member Comments collected after the Meeting:

- a. *What went well?*
 - i. The wine tasting and Program were great.
 - ii. The cannoli do-it-yourself was innovative and fun.
 - iii. Great show. Love the wine program – do again.
 - iv. Best meeting in 4 years since I joined. (J. Poggioli).
 - v. Greatly enjoyed the new format.
 - vi. The lecture on slow architecture.
 - vii. Everything. Like the format – keep it up. The presentation was excellent.
 - viii. Meeting was good. The know your partner should be a regular feature – great way to know each other.
- b. *What ideas do you have on how we could further improve the meetings?*
 - i. A little shorter.
 - ii. Would enjoy a cash bar for liquor or beer, also maybe some apps during the cocktail/social hour.
 - iii. Wine tasting – have 2 types; 4 is too many to hold the attention of the group. Too big a group for wine tasting.
 - iv. Keep up the cultural presentations.
 - v. This was a great change. Executive Committee is to do heavy lifting.
- c. *What other suggestions do you have overall for the Society?*
 - i. On the right track for success.
 - ii. Find an Italian comedian.
 - iii. Lose the speaker.
 - iv. Too much for one meeting – spread out over several meetings.
 - v. Get the food out a little earlier (bread, salad, etc.).

The sign-in information for the website is as follows:

- Website: www.italiansocietysavannah.org
- Username: member1
- Password: ciao1