

## IAHS GENERAL MEETING

JULY 10, 2016

OLS FAMILY LIFE CENTER, HOMEWO

Vice President Catherine Sperando opened the meeting.

Jeanette Alexander offered prayer and led Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Catherine Sperando asked for the membership to take a few minutes to introduce themselves to someone they did not know. This seemed to bring about a comfortable and friendlier atmosphere.

Secretary, Christina Kemp, read the minutes of the previous meeting. Mary Jo Fritts made a motion to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Andy Graffeo, motion passed.

Treasurer, Rosa Marie Sacco, reported the balance in the IAHS account to be \$35,714.52. Funds raised this year include \$1624.00 from the Belk Sale, \$1642.00 from the St. Mark's Festival, \$3300.00 from the Golf Tournament and \$5800.00 from pledges to the Building Fund. Jeanette Alexander made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Mary Jo Fritts, motion passed.

Mary Jo Fritts suggested that we remember that the building, including a museum, would be for all Italians in the area; so offer pledge cards to any non-members. This drive must be taken seriously and great effort is needed.

Jean Muro reported that the membership directory had been sent to all members with e-mail and mailed to all members without e-mail. Please let her know if it was not received. Jean suggested that a new directory would be issued only as new members were added. Membership now numbers 245, but a few have not paid this year's dues at this time.

Jean Muro also checked the post office box and found thank you notes from the Portante brothers who won the scholarships. These were read.

Jeanette Alexander announced that plans are going well for the July Event. Between 80 and 100 tickets have been sold, leaving many more available from the total of 600. Any group wishing to reserve a table can pay the \$320.00 for 8 tickets and let her know to make the reservation. There will be a booth to sell t-shirts, etc. The food will be served from 7:00 – 9:00. Joe Lovoy and Don Meadows have been asked to "patrol" and take tickets for food service. A member asked the cost of the band and location. This is \$3000.00 for the band plus \$500.00 for the lighting. The finger foods will be catered by Jim & Nicks. We will also be paying \$450.00 for 3 police officers to be present. There is no fee for Old Car Heaven but they will be providing the cash bar. Old Car Heaven has insurance, but Leon Chiarella will check with our agent to be sure we are fully covered.

Mr. P's has volunteered to put our poster in a prominent spot in his restaurant.

Mary Jo Fritts asked if members would put the flyers for the July Event in their churches, give them to friends and make every effort to promote this event.

Joe Lovoy asked all to save the date, February 25, 2017, for a Casino Night. He has reserved the Bessemer Civic Center which is conveniently right off the interstate, well guarded, and in the past has been a profitable venue for this type event. They provide all the gaming needs. This will include a silent auction. Table sponsors at \$250.00 each will be needed. This amount would include two tickets. Tickets should probably be about \$30.00 each which will include 1000.00 of play money. Items will need to be donated for prizes and the silent auction. Joe is to check with Bob Sykes Bar-b-que for food. The last time IAHS held an event like this it netted \$8200.00. The gaming will include Texas Holdum.

Joe Lovoy said that the men's group at St. Aloysius will be selling Boston butts for Labor Day. Please give them an order. They can be picked up at Bob Sykes Bar-B-Que on August 29 or 30<sup>th</sup>.

Anthony Brooklere read a response that he received concerning an article he had written about Fr. Canepa. That response is included with these minutes, as it presents some good information about our history in this area. This again brings up our necessity to have a place for a museum and for a historian for this association. A new member, Mr. Morris Ross, was an altar boy for Fr. Canepa.

Mary Jo Fritts would like to have more testimonies from the few remaining original immigrants.

Dr. Cerfolio had to cancel his speaking engagement for the August meeting, but will be able to speak at the September, 2016, meeting.

Catherine Sperando asked that we all stand and say an Our Father for our country, which is in such turmoil at this time. We followed this with a blessing for our food.

Meeting dismissed to play another 50/50 and eat.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Vella Kemp

Secretary