



Portland Italian Businessmen's Club Newsletter

July 2009

L'angolo Della Cultura

Until this year's earthquake, the city of L'Aquila was not much known beyond Italy. Yet, it is a fascinating, old, and lively college town which is the capital of both the region of Abruzzo and L'Aquila province.

Situated on a hillside, its geography gives it a cooler and less humid climate than the rest of Italy south of Rome, only one and a half hours away. The area, with its mountains, rivers and forests provides an escape from the summer's swelter for Romans. Nearby Gran Sasso provides for skiing and winter sports.

L'Aquila began as a city in the thirteenth century and has had an interesting history, alternating religious fervor and ruinous invasions by the Spanish and French with centuries of peace. The flip side of geographical benefits is that the area is earthquake prone, with many having occurred over the centuries. Still, the city and surrounding villages have many historic and interesting sites making tourism an important industry.

After this year's tragic earthquake, it will take many years for the rebuilding of the area, including its beautiful cathedral and the homes of thousands of families. An Italian tragedy 57 years ago brought us together as a club, so please, help once again by giving to IBC's L'Aquila relief fund. A special account has been set up, so checks should be made to: IBC Account #7579631412 and mailed to:

IBC

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Frank Genovese, President

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IBC Scholarship awarded at June meeting



The June IBC general meeting hosted PSU was a time for both giving and receiving with Portland State University. This year's scholarship was presented to Alina Reyes-Plavitskaia (shown on left). The IBC was also presented with an award of appreciation for providing the Italian Language Department with scholarships. Shown on the right are Frank Genovese being presented with the award by last year's scholarship recipient, Angelina Bressan. Professor Silvia Boero spoke about PSU's Italian language program and the new minor in Italian language.

July Meeting Notice

Our next general meeting will be on July 14 at 6:00 at Caro Amico on Barbur Blvd in Portland. This restaurant has proved popular for recent meetings and is centrally located with parking. So, if you haven't been to a meeting recently, please plan to attend for a good dinner as well as friendship. Our guest will be Shireen Farahi of the Festa Italiana board who will discuss the Festa and volunteer opportunities. Jim Zuffrea will be selling shirts and bocce (golf) towels at the meeting at great prices so bring your checkbook or cash.

All members are also invited to attend IBC's board meetings, which are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at Ron Milio's *Port City Pasta* in LO. The next meeting will be on July 28 at 6:30. Ron's hosting us is much appreciated, as is his culinary skill in providing us with a wonderful meal each time. Ron has also donated a really good Sicilian wine for our July raffle.

Bocce

After five weeks of tournament play, our bocce team is on a streak (losing). However, we are improving and there is still room for additional IBC members to play... or just come to have a great evening outdoors. We play at the Club Paesano's Cedarville Park, off SE 182 Avenue on Mondays at 6:30

Membership Roster

We have our membership roster in a good format for reference. Please ensure that your information is correct, current and complete, even for minor errors such as missing a zip code. Proof copies are available at all meetings and if you wish, an EXCEL format can be sent to you. A hard copy will be given to all paid members and, as in past years, we will include a page of member's ads, so you can include your business card or advertisement for \$25.

New Members

Since the May meeting, we have two new members and others who have expressed interest in joining. The new members are Andrea Spella and Patrick Sirianni. Please introduce yourself and help to make them feel welcome at our meetings. We are continually looking for new members and have plans in place to get the word out. Thanks to Frank, the business meeting column in the Oregonian with our meeting information has already brought us interested prospects. For new members, the \$65 initiation fee includes the year's dues and one of our black logo shirts. Get a new member to join and you both will have the evening's dinner on Frank.

Renewal of Topic: Membership for Women?

At recent board meetings, an old topic has come up for consideration and discussion; that is, the inclusion of business women into the IBC. Many of us are fairly new to the club and therefore, not present nor wise to the decisions and discussions on this topic in past years. We realize that there are strong feelings about this issue and want to bring it up for discussion at our general IBC meeting in September. We will not vote on it at that time, just wish to discuss feelings and ideas; pros and cons. Therefore, it is important that you attend to have your thoughts and ideas heard. The board's current thinking is that women's roles have evolved over the past 50 plus years of our club and other service organizations have changed to reflect that, especially within the business community. One example is ROTARY, which many years ago changed to include business and professional women as equal members. Other groups have included women in other roles within the group, such as an auxiliary. Should professional and business women be full and equal members? Some of us believe that the answer is yes, but we need your input. If you can't make the meeting or wish to register your ideas and concerns before then, send or call Frank at: fgenovese@comcast.net - 503-697-6254.

Condolences

Please keep in your prayers past member Joe Colasuonno, who recently passed. Joe was an early member through the 90's, a retired USAF Colonel who is fondly remembered by many in the IBC.

IBC Newsletter

As IBC Secretary in past years, Joe Cavalli has graciously written and distributed the IBC newsletter. His work is much appreciated and he has continued to do it even after his tenure as secretary ended. However, since Joe is gainfully employed and I am the current secretary and 80% retired, I volunteered to do the newsletter. Several members have expressed that they prefer a hard copy of the newsletter rather than email, which frequently gets overlooked. So, beginning with this newsletter, it will be mailed it to all members and will try my best to keep it current, accurate and relevant. However, I need your assistance, so if you would like to see something in the newsletter or have any suggestions for content or improvement, please contact me. We are looking for things of interest to our members. Thank you. Bob Iannacone: robert202@comcast.net — 971-255-0420