



***NYPD Columbia Association
September President's Message***

It feels so good to start events again and hopefully bring about some “normalcy,” although I’m strictly referring to Columbia Association events. For the rest of our world, I’m starting to wonder what "normal" is anymore. I trust you’ll find this particular newsletter very informative.

I would like start this message off by mentioning two dear friends of mine for making it to Life Membership this year. Yes, these two soon to be collecting social security gentlemen have helped make this Association what it is today. The two remarkable fellows I’m referring to are Past President Retired Sergeant Anthony Cesarano and Past Board Officer Inspector John Corbisiero. Oh, yes, and contrary to rumor, Life Members CAN actually buy raffle tickets and donate to the scholarship fund. Being a “life” member means you’re actually STILL alive and have paid dues for 35 years. Interestingly, Anthony and John both claim to be about 52, 53 years old, which means they were like in high school when they joined. Something wrong with the math??? Anyway, seriously, their support has always proved invaluable and I am quite grateful.

On a sad note, we lost three truly great guys this year. Many of our old timers remember the high profile and articulate past president Pasquale ‘Pat’ Cama, who served as our president in the 70’s. I would often visit Pat and look to him for guidance with running the organization. We also lost legendary former PBA President Phil Caruso. You can thank Phil every December when you receive the variable supplement. He was truly a credit to anyone who ever wore the blue and to our Italian-American heritage. And if you ever attended any of our meetings over the past FIVE DECADES, you probably saw former board officer Jimmy Milione standing around. He was always quick to assist us in every way from financial contributions to just giving of his time. I am truly blessed to call him a friend. God bless them all.

I would like to congratulate Assistant Chief Martine Materasso for being named the National Police Defense Woman of the Year. She is being honored on Thursday, September 16th at

Russo's on the Bay. Tickets are still available. Please see their website (<https://npdfl.org/>) for information. Please show our very own 2019 Lieutenant Joseph Petrosino Woman of the Year your support.

New features in the upcoming newsletter:

Italian Businesses

In this issue and going forward, I would like to highlight Italian owned business. For the first company I selected the Moto Guzzi Motorcycle company. This Italian company is celebrating its 100th anniversary in business this year. It was established in 1921 in Mandello Del Lario. All their motorcycles to this day are still produced in Italy. A motorcycle factory sits on the edge of Lake Como in a little town that proudly proclaims itself "La Citta della Moto Guzzi" – the city of Moto Guzzi.

Recipe Corner

I will start it off with a few of my own for this issue, but going forward I want YOUR recipes so we can share them with the Association. Yes, they can be your mother's or your spouse's or maybe any of the male chefs' in your family. Actually, I want your Nonna's recipes to share. Please email the Columbia Editor your family recipes and don't forget to include some photos of your family in the kitchen making these memorable meals. The older the photos the better.

Golf Outing:

We had our Annual Sgt. Paul Tuozzolo Golf Outing on Monday, June 21st and it was a major success.

This event was simply outstanding thanks to the hard work of Chairman Thomas Rao and Co-Chair Dyanne Marzano. I can't begin to tell you all what an amazing job they did. Due to COVID we had to move from the Pelham / Split Rock to the Douglaston Golf Course and Mansion. They truly rolled out the red carpet for us. This was a great time for all who attended. I once again would like to apologize to all who were unable to golf due to us selling out the event. This is the first time in over ten years since we have sold out the event. I guess members were just stir crazy and needed to get out of the house or they know that the Association runs the best events in the Police Department. My heart tells me it's the latter.

General Membership meetings:

We are back. Yes, you read that correctly. We are back. We will hold our first General Membership since February 2020 on Tuesday, September 28, 2021. I truly hope to see many of you there.

I have received many questions as to why we didn't return earlier. People have said to me, "Chris, other organizations are having general meetings in Long Island or Westchester" and "Chris, the XYZ had a meeting as well." The truth is I wanted to keep the membership and their families safe. We did not want to be the NYPD Fraternal Organization that holds a super spreader. Our general meetings are packed and we chose caution. Also, having meetings outside of the five boroughs places an extra burden on loyal attendees, especially to our many members who reside on Staten Island.

Motorcycle Run:

2021 is the 35th Anniversary of the murder of Detective Anthony J. Venditti. We are doing our best to find a venue. So far we have not had too much luck.

If you know of a Knights of Columbus, an American Legion Hall or a venue near Throggs Neck, Bronx please do not hesitate to contact P.O. Cody Petrucci at CPetrucci15@gmail.com. This event means so much to Anthony's mother Anna and his entire family, not to mention it is always a great time. Please help us to "Never Forget."

1st Major League Soccer Game:

We will be participating in Italian Heritage night at Yankee Stadium on Saturday, September 25th. Please join us for a great night of excitement. The New York City Football Club will be hosting the New York Red Bulls in an exhilarating game of soccer. Game time is 1930 hours and tickets are only \$60 per person. Please contact either Anthony M. Mattesi at 646-996-8410 or Anthony Guglielmo at 646-342-5352. It will be fun for the entire family.

San Gennaro First Responders Parade:

Just last week the organizers of the Feast of San Gennaro in Little Italy informed me that they want to honor first responders at the Feast. They asked if the NYPD Columbia Association would march in their annual parade. Yes, I know we already planned the NYFC vs. Red Bulls soccer game, but how could we say no to a Catholic celebration that is honoring police officers. I am reaching out to the entire membership to join us in this celebration. Police Commissioner Shea will be marching with us as well as the following Columbia Associations: Port Authority PD, White Plains PD, Nassau County PD, Nassau County Sheriffs and NYC Corrections to name a few. The parade is Saturday, September 25th and will kick off at 1400 hours. We ask that you muster up in full Summer Dress Uniform (Class A) by 1330 hours. The muster location for us will be on Mulberry St. between Canal St. & Bayard St. We will not have any festivities after the parade since many of us will be heading to the soccer game up at Yankee Stadium immediately after.

Up Coming Events:

"Cigars Under the Stars" will be returning on Monday, November 1st at Vetro's in Howard Beach. This event is ALWAYS a hit! More details to follow.

Children's Christmas Party will be on Sunday, December 12th at the Italian Charities of America building in Elmhurst. Family Mass begins at 1000 hours.

Mass will be said by one of our most dedicated chaplains Deputy Chief Chaplin Msgr. David L. Cassato. Msgr. Cassato was supposed to receive our 2020 Lieutenant Joseph Petrosino Man of the Year award at our Dinner Dance. Well our 2020 dinner dance had to be cancelled and we never had a 2021 dinner dance. I am happy to inform you all that we scheduled our next dinner dance for Friday, May 6, 2022. In addition, everyone that was supposed to be honored back in 2020 will be properly celebrated on that night.

Columbus Day Parade

Logistics, planning and preparations are still being finalized. There are so many conversations regarding COVID-19, the Delta variant and possible new variants that I am unable to give you exact details for the celebration and parade. Please continue to follow us on social media for updates.

The updated website and new application. Both are being worked on and we are excited to unveil them soon. The Columbia App will be available for both Android and IOS operating systems.

In closing, I am looking forward to seeing you all again in the next coming months. In the meantime, keep the faith and be very careful, not only with physical threats, but with political and administrative hazards that we are all facing right now.