

February 15, 1962: Judge Frank Gullota signed the charter to create the Nassau County Police Columbia Association. Patrolman Henry Tirone and Patrolman Sam DiGuiseppe tried to form the Association under the command of then Commissioner John Beckmann. Commissioner Beckmann refused to let them form the club. When Beckmann disappeared under unusual strange circumstances, Francis Looney was appointed Commissioner and one of his duties was to approve the forming of the Columbia Police Association of Nassau County.

December 17, 1962: First Columbian Christmas party was held at the Garden City Hotel.

May 19, 1963: The First Anniversary celebration was held at the Alitalia Restaurant in Mineola. Hugo Mutz, Jr., a Suffolk County detective was given the Association's Citation award.

June 4, 1964: A Stag Spaghetti Dinner was held at the Wheatley Hills Tavern in Westbury.

October 12, 1964: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scholarship Dinner & Dance was held at Carl Hoppl's in Baldwin.

October 3, 1965: "Italian Day" was held at Salisbury Park by order of the County Executive, Eugene Nickerson. A variety of Columbian Chapters merged at this point.

October 9, 1965: The Scholarship Dance was held at Carl Hoppl's in Baldwin. Awards were given for achievement in entertainment. The first one went to Salvatore Baccolini of the Metropolitan Opera (a gracious recipient) and Anna Marie Albergetti (a not gracious recipient).

December 11, 1965: Christmas Party held at the Levittown Hotel. 350 people attended.

October 7, 1966: The 5<sup>th</sup> Scholarship Dinner Dance was held at Leonard's of Great Neck. 4 scholarships were awarded and 850 people attended.

**\*\*Break in the Columbia Association\*\***

In Early 1974 8<sup>th</sup> Precinct Patrol Sergeants Anthony Bassolino and Phil Settepani decided to try again and start up the Columbia Association. They talked with P.B.A. President Cliff Schmidt and placed an article in the P.B.A Newsletter announcing the reformation of the Association. One of the first responses was from James DeStephano, a clerk in the 6<sup>th</sup> Precinct. The three decided to hold the first meeting in the Second Precinct with the approval of Second Precinct C.O., Daniel Campbell. This was the meeting where officers and delegates were nominated. James DeStephano was retiring and requested to be president. Jim had a friend who was a lawyer, Julius Scavuzzo who had a small office on Old Country Road just west of Franklin Avenue in Mineola. Julius agreed to help the association out at no charge. Also present at this meeting and instrumental of the re-birth of the association was Roger Paganuzzi, Ralph Giardina, John LaBarbera, Nick Marolda,

Orlando Prevedello, and Richie Malandro. Roger Paganuzzi suggested the Association get a Chaplain. The first Chaplain was a new priest in St. Aiden's, Father Daniel Picciano. There was no place to hold meetings. Therefore meetings were held in the basement of Anthony Bassolino's home.

The Columbia Association together with the Patrolman's Benevolent Association, under the direction of Edward Lecci, formed a union to help appoint an Italian Police Commissioner. This resulted in the appointment of Samuel J. Rozzi as Police Commissioner in 1974.

October 17, 1974: Columbian Association's First Installation Dinner-Dance is held at Leonard's of Great Neck.

1974 – 1975: A monthly newsletter was published. Anthony Bassolino was the editor. The newsletter was printed in a small print shop in Hicksville. The name of the newsletter was the Centurion and was usually four (4) pages long. The name was used because the Roman Centurion was the world's first policeman. This is the reason the Helmut was used as the first insignia.

April 18, 1975: 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Educational Assistance Dinner Dance is held at the Huntington Town House. \$500.00 was raised for the scholarship fund and a presentation of a gold gavel was given to President J DiStefano to celebrate his retirement. DiStefano is considered to be one of the founders and 1<sup>st</sup> president of the Columbians.

May 19, 1975: The First Annual Golf Tournament is held at the Lido Beach Club.

August 12, 1975: 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Mini-Golf Tournament is held at Nassau County Hempstead Harbor Park in Port Washington. 1<sup>st</sup> place went to Laureen and Tom Romano; 2<sup>nd</sup> place to Ron and Diane Crowe; and 3<sup>rd</sup> place to John and Theresa Welenruether.

August 17, 1975: 1<sup>st</sup> Columbian Picnic is held at Nassau Beach in Lido. 17 families attend.

August of 1975: The Columbian Board recognizes the original officers who organized the Association: James DiStefano, first president, John LaBarbera, organizer of the scholarship fund (up to \$700.00 at this point) and Mario Gallusci, initiated the first financial plan and Philip Settepani who helped with the original by-laws. The organization had 180 members at this point.

April 9, 1976: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Installation of Officers was held at Leonard's of Great Neck. 473 people attended. A refurbished 1966 T-bird was raffled off. The winner was Mrs. Joseph Flynn, wife of a Deputy Chief Clerk for the Supreme Court in Mineola.

January, 1976: 218 members. \$6.00/annual dues.

April, 1976: 276 members.

August 12, 1976: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mini-Golf Tournament is held in Port Washington.

October 14, 1977: Installation Dinner-Dance is held at the Diplomat on Franklin Avenue in Franklin Square. The dinner dance was called "Fiesta Italiano." The favor was a coffee mug emblazoned with the association logo. Commissioner of Police, Danny Guido and his wife Jeannie attended.

April 1979: Anthony G. Cavagnaro, Sr. begins the "Numero Uno Award" in his column in the PBA newsletter. The award was designed to acknowledge a person of Italian heritage whom we could look to with pride. The first recipient was Samuel J. Rozzi.

October 10, 1980: The Annual Dinner-Dance is held at Gigi's.

September 28, 1983: Annual Golf Outing is held at the Hauppauge Country Club.

1984 Membership Drive: \$6.00/year entitles a member to a free picnic in June, free Christmas party in December, discounts on social events, a dental plan and a complimentary present.

October/November, 1983: Past president Rocky Caggiano dies.

May 20, 1984: Annual Brunch and Installation is held at Katie Daly's in Massapequa.

July 1984: Columbian Association lawyer, Salvatore A. Lecci, is appointed Attorney for the NY State Retired Police Association.

May 19, 1985: At the annual brunch, JoAnne Passaretti, daughter of D/Sgt. Anthony Passaretti of the Legal Bureau is the 1<sup>st</sup> recipient of the newly formed scholarship fund.

November 1, 1985: Annual Dinner-Dance is held at Nassau Police Post 1050.

October 17, 1986: Annual Installation Dinner-Dance is held at Gigi's. Ray McGrath is the Man of the Year.

October 7, 1988: Annual Installation Dinner-Dance is held at Gigi's. Samuel Rozzi is the man of the year. Awards are given to Robert J. Cannataro for Distinguished Service and Carmine E. Soldano for Life Saving.

1987: The Moonlight Bowl begins.

1989: President Robert J. Cannataro appoints Carmine E. Soldano as the first Historian of the Columbia Police Association of Nassau County and adds this position to the Executive Board of Officers.

September 15-17, 1989: Dude Ranch Weekend at Roseland.

October 22, 1989: Annual brunch is held at the Courtyard restaurant. Chief Yaccarino is the Man of the Year. Lou Forte is the Officer of the Year.

October 12, 1990, Installation Dinner-Dance is held at the Pompeii Restaurant in West Hempstead. The Distinguished Service Award is given to Michel Marino. Lifesaving award is given to Carmine E. Soldano.

October 16, 1991: Annual brunch is held at the Courtyard Restaurant. The Man of the Year is Joseph Bosco and the Police Officer of the Year is John Speelman, Jr.

July 18, 1991: Moonlight cruise on the 50's styled "Moonchaser."

October 16, 1992: Installation Dinner Dance is held at the Suffolk Manor. The Life Saving Award is given to Philip Greco and the Distinguished Service Award is given to John Azzata. 1st edition of the Commemorative Scholarship Journal was published in conjunction with this dance.

October 10, 1993: Annual Brunch is held at No Bananas. The Man of the Year is Lou Forte.

December 09, 1993: Annual Christmas party at Tony Roma's, 140 Jericho Turnpike in Syosset.

June 08, 1994: Golf Outing at Eisenhower Park, Blue Course.

October 13, 1994: The Annual Installation Dinner -Dance is held at the Westbury Manor. The Man of the Year was Nassau County Comptroller, Fredrick E. Parola. Police Officer of the Year was Detective Stephen Farco. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Commemorative Scholarship Journal was published in conjunction with this dance.

April 29, 1995: Moonlight Bowl at Syosset Lanes, 111 Eileen Way, Syosset.

June 08, 1995: President Frederick Penna receives permission from Police Commissioner Donald F. Kane to incorporate a portion of the Nassau County Seal into the revised logo of the association.

July 26, 1995: Moonlight Cruise on the Thomas Jefferson from Glen Cove Marina.

October 08, 1995: Annual Brunch is held at South Street Restaurant Café, 3883 Sunrise Highway, Seaford. The Man of the Year was Past President Robert J. Cannataro. Police Officer of the Year was Detective Antonio S. Graziano. Past Commissioner Daniel

Guido was made an Honorary Member. His daughter, Sergeant Lucy Guido was presented with a plaque to commemorate the honor.

October 23, 1995: Golf Outing at Marriott's Wind Watch Hotel & Golf Club, 1717 Vanderbilt Motor Parkway, Hauppauge.

December 11, 1995: Annual Christmas Party at Charles Avenue Café, 120 Woodbury Road Hicksville.

May 04, 1996: Moonlight Bowl at Syosset Lanes, 111 Eileen Way, Syosset.

July 18, 1996: Joint Moonlight Cruise held with the Police Emerald Society on the Nautical Princess, Woodcleft Canal, Freeport.

October 17, 1996: Golf Outing at Marriott's Wind Watch Hotel & Golf Club, 1717 Vanderbilt Motor Parkway, Hauppauge.

October 25, 1996: Biennial Installation Dinner Dance is held at Manor East Caterers, 201 Jerusalem Avenue, Massapequa. The Man of the Year was Congressman Daniel Frisa. Police Officer of the Year was Police Officer Salvatore A. Dinolfo – Distinguished Service Award. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Commemorative Scholarship Journal was published in conjunction with this dance.

December 09, 1996: Annual Christmas Party at C.J. Maples, 242 Maple Avenue, Westbury

April 04, 1997: Joint 50's & 60's Dinner Dance held with the Police Steuben Association at the Bellmore Knights Of Columbus, Bellmore Avenue, Bellmore.

October 09, 1997: Golf Outing at Hauppauge Country Club, Route 347 Hauppauge.

October 12, 1997: Annual Brunch is held at the Hauppauge Country Club, Route 347 Hauppauge. The Man of the Year was Inspector Anthony W. Rocco. Police Officer of the Year was Police Officer Anthony Raymond – Distinguished Service Award, and Police Officers Michael Cario and Anthony Sica – Lifesaving Award.

July 30, 1998: Moonlight Cruise on the Thomas Jefferson from Glen Cove Marina.

September 01, 1998: Golf Outing at Hauppauge Country Club, Route 347 Hauppauge.

October 16, 1998: Biennial Installation Dinner Dance is held at Imperial Manor Caterers, 345 Hicksville Road, Bethpage. The Man of the Year was State Senator, Michael Balboni. Police Officer of the Year was Police Officer Anthony Sica – Distinguished Service Award. 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Commemorative Scholarship Journal was published in conjunction with this dance.

August 23, 1999: Golf Outing at Bellport Country Club, 5 South Country Road, Bellport.

November 07, 1999: Annual Brunch is held at the Vanderbilt, 1600 Round Swamp Road, Plainview. The Man of the Year was Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor, John Venditto. Police Officer of the Year was Police Officer Stephen Casesse and Police Officer Michael Marsala – Distinguished Service Award

August 21, 2000: Golf Outing at Bellport Country Club, 5 South Country Road, Bellport.

October 27, 2000: Biennial Installation Dinner Dance is held at the Vanderbilt, 1600 Round Swamp Road, Plainview. The Man of the Year was Businessman Edward Restivo of Peppercorns Restaurant in Hicksville. Police Officer of the Year was Detective Sergeant Albert A. Ciaccio Jr. – Distinguished Service Award. 5<sup>Th</sup> edition of the Commemorative Scholarship Journal was published in conjunction with this dance.

April 21, 2001: Moonlight Bowl at Syosset Lanes, 111 Eileen Way, Syosset

September 30, 2001: Annual Brunch is scheduled to be held at the Vanderbilt, 1600 Round Swamp Road, Plainview. Police Officer of the Year was Police Officer John Ventre – Distinguished Service Award, and Sergeant Carmine E. Soldano – Lifesaving Award. The Brunch was cancelled due to lack of participation. Chief Raymond Crawford made presentations to the honorees at the October 2001 regular meeting.

July 29, 2002: Treasurer, Thomas J. Esposito runs for the first time an Atlantis Marine World Trip to Riverhead. Sleep with the Fish. Children get a private tour and sleep overnight. Trip was a big success.

February 13, 2003: Biennial Installation Dinner/Valentine's Day Dance is held at the North Ritz Club, 7150 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset. Executive Board was sworn in by Commissioner James Lawrence. Dance was delayed from November due to problems at the Vanderbilt in Plainview. Police Officer of the Year was Sergeant Neil S. Marconi – Lifesaving Award. 6<sup>Th</sup> edition of the Commemorative Scholarship Journal was published in conjunction with this dance.

July 28, 2003: Sleep with the Fish Trip to Atlantis Marine World Trip in Riverhead.

April 24, 2004: Rock & Roll Bowl at Syosset Lanes, 111 Eileen Way, Syosset

2003: President Lou Sposato decides to cancel the biennial brunches due to lack of participation.

2004: President Carmine E. Soldano removes the positions of Assistant Treasurer and Historian from the Executive Board. The Historian duties are now to be handled by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

November 04, 2004: Biennial Installation Dinner Dance is held at the North Ritz Club, 7150 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset. The Executive Board was sworn in by Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor, John Venditto. Man of the Year was John W. Caracciolo. 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Commemorative Scholarship Journal was published in conjunction with this dance.

March 05, 2005: President Carmine E. Soldano initiates the creation of the Association's first official website, [www.pdncolumbiaassoc.org](http://www.pdncolumbiaassoc.org) He also creates informational notes on past history, meeting locations, honorees, and many other facts on the association.

April 2005: President Carmine E. Soldano re-establishes a relationship with the Suffolk Police Columbia Association.

April 09, 2005: Rock & Roll Bowl scheduled to be held at Syosset Lanes, 111 Eileen Way, Syosset. Cancelled due to lack of participation.

November 2005: President Carmine E. Soldano initiates having a guest speaker at each monthly meeting from different organizations/businesses to draw more members to meetings.

December 05, 2005: Christmas party held on the first floor of Peppercorns.

March 25, 2006: Rock & Roll Bowl at Syosset Lanes, 111 Eileen Way, Syosset

April 29, 2006: Treasurer, Thomas J. Esposito is responsible for sponsoring an Association event to see the Dragons at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Uniondale. This was a family event.

July 2006: President Carmine E. Soldano meets with Chief of Department, Anthony W. Rocco regarding an Honorary Membership Chairman position. Chief Anthony W. Rocco agrees to be the Association's Honorary Membership Chairman.

October 13th, 2006: Biennial Installation Dinner Dance is held at the North Ritz Club, 7150 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset. The Executive Board was sworn in by Honorary Membership Chairman, Chief of Department, Anthony W. Rocco. Man of the Year was Town of Oyster Bay Councilman, Chris J. Coschignano. Police Officers of the year were Valerie F. Troise and John J. Visconte. 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Commemorative Scholarship Journal was published in conjunction with this dance.

December 11, 2006: Christmas party held at the regular meeting at Peppercorns

April 09, 2007: President Carmine E. Soldano distributes a bound edition of the Association By-Laws to the membership after much preparation. The By-Laws are also put on a CD and given to attorney, Salvatore A. Lecci.

June 06, 2007: President Carmine E. Soldano meets with Chief of Department, Anthony W. Rocco requesting a committee be formed to help the Fraternal Organizations with membership and morale.

June 06, 2007: President Carmine E. Soldano requests a meeting with Chief of Department, Anthony W. Rocco. The topic of the meeting was to set up a possible Fraternal Organization Committee to help improve moral and help the declining membership of each of the fraternal organizations. Chief Rocco is in full agreement and promises another meeting in the future to discuss the idea further.

June 27, 2007: Chief of Department, Anthony W. Rocco draws the annual Scholarship winners for 2007 in the presence of President Carmine E. Soldano, and Treasurer Thomas J. Esposito.

July 2007: The Columbia Police Association works out a deal with the Police Tutorial Service, Inc. in Scarsdale, New York to give member's children and grandchildren a \$40.00 discount on the Police Entrance Examination Cram Course. These courses were held on July 14, 2007 and August 04, 2007.

August 20 – 21, 2007: Treasurer, Thomas J. Esposito organizes and runs the second, Sleep with the Fish Trip to Atlantis Marine World Trip in Riverhead.

November 12, 2007: President Carmine E. Soldano organizes and presents a guest lecturer, Dr. Mario Macaluso. His lecture, "Travel Log of Sicily" was a slide presentation and actual artifacts from Sicily.

December 04, 2007: Christmas party held at Café Testarossa, 499 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset. 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Chocolate Favors presented by Patricia O'Neil of Port Washington P.D. Event Organized by Carmine Soldano.

February 06, 2008: President Carmine E. Soldano meets with Chief of Department, Anthony W. Rocco and presents him with a list of suggestions/ideas to help the fraternal organizations. The two of them then meet with the presidents of the fraternal organizations at 1500 hours in the Police Academy conference room. It is agreed that an official committee will be set up and Chief Rocco will chair the committee.

March 31, 2008: The Fraternal Organization Committee is hereby established on Department Personnel Order N0.08-041 effective, March 31, 2008. The purpose of the committee is to exchange information, coordinate events and enhance the viability of each department organization to foster improved morale and spirit de corps in the department. The committee Chairperson was Chief of Department Anthony W. Rocco. The Committee Coordinator was D/Sgt. Carmine E. Soldano. The rest of the committee consisted of the President from each of the Fraternal Organizations.

June 09, 2008: The Association hosts guest speaker, Chief of Department, Anthony W. Rocco. Chief Rocco addressed the membership on the role Italians play in the Nassau

County Police Department, Italian Heritage in general, and the direction the department was going in with positive morale issues.

June 18, 2008: Commissioner Lawrence W. Mulvey, and Chief Anthony W. Rocco pick out the 2008 Scholarship winners in the commissioner's office with President, Carmine Soldano and 2nd Vice President, Frank A. Ruvolo.

June 29, 2008: 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fraternal Organization Picnic is held at Marjorie Post Park on Unqua Road in Massapequa Park from 12:00 noon to 6:00pm. Picnic committee was formed by the Police Emerald Society consisting of a member from each organization.

September 08, 2008: Meeting location change to Verona Restorante, 1255 Melville Road in Farmingdale, New York. Change was made for a more Italian atmosphere and to accommodate members that reside in Suffolk County.