JCCIA rings in the New Year with a new administration

by Jo Ann Serpico, Executive Director

Our new administration brings a wealth of experience to the JCCIA—new growth and new enthusiasm will be infused into all of our future endeavors.

Our umbrella organization has always represented the hopes and dreams of our Italian American community through a unified voice. At this time, I have the distinct privilege of presenting the 2011-2012 officers and leaders of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans.

ANTONIO M. (TONY) ROMANUCCI, PRESIDENT
Antonio is a founding principal and partner in Romanucci & Rearden, LLC. Mauro's niece one of the top lawyers in Illinois, he has frequently been included on the Top 100 Illinois Super Lawyers list. Tony works tirelessly as a member of numerous professional and civic organizations, including Public Justice, first vice president of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans, National Italian American Foundation, American Bar Association, Workers Compensation Lawyer’s Association, Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, Indonesian Society of Lawyers, Northwest Suburban Bar Association, Illinois State and Chicago Bar Associations. He is a governor of the American Association for Justice and serves as vice chair of its Motor Vehicles and Premises Litigation Group. Tony received his J.D. from the John Marshall Law School in 1985, and an A.B. from the University of Wisconsin in 1982. We look forward to Antonio’s expertise flourishing during his term of office.

JOSEPH L. RAGO, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
Joseph is a licensed funeral director and certified public accountant. He is a graduate of Loyola University in Chicago and Washburn College of Mortuary Science. Joseph also serves as the accounting inspector of the Illinois State Board of Mortuary Science and operates a small accounting and tax practice. A director of the Human Relations Foundation of Chicago, Joseph is following in the footsteps of his father, Louis H. Rago, by being involved with the JCCIA. Joseph and his brother Anthony work alongside their father in organizing the annual Columbus Day Parade, sitting after their grandfather, Marco D’Ambrosio, who was the parade marshal from 1952 until his death in 1983, when he passed away at age 94.

MAURO GIORGIO, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
Mauro is a graduate of the John Marshall Law School and serves on the JNALS Alumni Board. He earned his bachelor’s of arts in business finance from Saint Xavier College in Chicago, where he achieved a perfect GPA and was ranked first in his class. He was the president of the Italian Society of Lawyers in 2005-2006. Mauro’s other professional affiliations include the Illinois State Bar Association, where he sits on the prestigious Board of Governors. He is also a member of both the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association. Mauro is a member of the board of the Catholic Lawyers Guild and a member of the Archdiocese of Chicago’s Big Shakers Foundation. Mauro is a member of the Italian American community begins with the JCCIA. He was an active member of the JCCIA’s Young Adult Division, an organization committed to sustaining the parent organization.

CHRISTINE CALINDO CERAMI, THIRD VICE PRESIDENT
Christine is following in the footsteps of her father, Joseph DeSanto, who during the early years was the secretary of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans, working diligently on behalf of the Italian-American community as Christine is now doing. Christine is a real estate broker/owner and has been involved in real estate since 1977. She has devoted her time and energies to the JCCIA as a member of the Queen Pagnan and assistant chairman of Flora Italiana. Her great love is for the Italian Lady of Mt. Carmel in Melrose Park, where she has assisted prominently in the rebiult of the Shrine and most particularly in raising funds for the new gold crown for the incoronation of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in 2006. She assisted in making all the arrangements for the significant trip to Italy where the new crown was blessed by the pope.

ANGELA RINALDI, SECRETARY
Angela attended Dante Elementary School in Chicago and graduated from St. Patrick's Girls High School in Chicago. At the end of December 1995, Angela retired as a first vice president from the LeSalle Bank after over 51 years of dedicated service. Angela has also served on a number of boards, including, Chicago Boys and Girls Club, Friends Matrimonia, Hull House Association, Chicago Midwtr Credit Association, Metropolitan Club, Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii and Italian American Human Relations Foundation. She is active with the Chicago Italian American Veterans Auxiliary and has served as the state president for two years and national president for one year. Her connection to the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans began when she joined as a member in 1980, and she remains committed to their causes.

EUGENE RENDA, TREASURER
Eugene attended the University of California at Berkeley. He was then drafted into the United States Army, where he served for two years during the Korean War. He is a member of the Italian American Veterans, Department of Illinois, and past state commander of Illinois. Gene is past president of the San Giuseppe di Bagheria Society. He is retired from the city of Chicago, where he worked as a telecommunications dispatcher for 28 years. This is his second term as treasurer of the JCCIA, and he has been a delegate of the JCCIA since 1990.

RALPH J. IMBROGNO, SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
Ralph attended Our Lady of Pompeii Elementary School and Crane Technical High School. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1952 and served in the 7th Division, 13th Combat Engineers, during the Korean War. Ralph worked for Marshall Field’s for 40 years. In 1959, Ralph joined the Joseph G. Gentile Post #2 of the Italian American Veterans. He was elected state commander in 2004-2005 and national junior vice commander in 2006-2007, and currently holds the post of officer of the day. On Oct. 13, Ralph was installed as commander of the Combined Veterans Association of Illinois. Ralph has been a delegate to the JCCIA for many years.

I am honored to have worked alongside all of the exceptional people who have been so incredibly supportive. I will cherish the privilege of having served as president of the JCCIA. I thank Rosamaria Andolino, Jacqueline Mazza and James Cerami for giving unselfishly of themselves during my three terms of office. I look forward to continuing to serve the JCCIA as executive director in the new administration.