



**Triangle Italian-American Heritage Association**  
**PO Box 20266**  
**Raleigh, NC 27619** [www.theitalianclub.com](http://www.theitalianclub.com)

## Newsletter



**January/Gennaio 2009**

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

Dear TIAHA Brothers,

2008 was a great year that saw TIAHA donate and provide to more charities and worthy causes than ever before in our history from all I can gather. Our fundraising efforts were fruitful. We welcomed a bunch of new members. We lost some loved ones. But overall we all had a pretty damn good time accomplishing what we did. (And of course...we beat the Irish in softball!) You should all take pride in what we accomplished last year.

Let's work together in 2009 to make this year as fruitful as, if not more than, last year. Let's commit early to events so rosters can be filled and we're not scrambling the couple of days before. Let's commit right now to selling a record number of tickets to this year's raffle. Let's make sure that every event has more people than we need.

Let's try to make as many meetings as possible. They are an excellent way to find out what's going on and, even better, a time to get together with your TIAHA Brothers. And of course there is the great food.

We are a family. We laugh, we work, we argue, we eat, we drink, we enjoy. Let's do as many of these things together as we can in 2009.

Fraternally yours,

Frank

## TIAHA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 6th, 2009 at Knights of Columbus, New Hope Road and Columbus Road, Raleigh, NC

Frank F., Capi, John B., Dave B., Dale M.

1. After a discussion it was decided that there is not really a need to have a Christmas Party at a restaurant and then have the Christmas Dinner meeting as well. So we decided to not have the restaurant dinner.
  - We can get more people to celebrate Christmas together by combining the two into just the Christmas Dinner meeting.
  - This also will save \$70 or so per couple.
  - The important thing will be to get as many members as possible to attend
2. Adopt-A-Highway will be rescheduled to Saturday Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>
3. We, as Board members need to do a better job with our call lists to make sure that all members are aware of everything that's happening.
4. Good and Welfare was discussed. There are a number of members that have need mention. The most recent would be:
  - Ron & Rita Venezia's son Tony passed way from complications as a result of a car accident.
  - Jon Ferrante's wife undergoing many major surgeries
  - Claudio Rossini has been diagnosed with cancer of the liver (Not an active member any more but still a friend/brother to many
5. Frank got a check from St. Raphael's for \$822 that covers what we made in the food booth. We will also get \$800 for trash pick up
6. We will have a "Spring into Spring" raffle. Prizes will be cash
7. We need to go feed the folks at Healing Place for Women for all the help, and use of their facilities, for our USO dinners.
  - Victor and Dale to chair this
8. No one has stepped up to cook for the January meeting (wow what a surprise) so Frank will cook again with assistance from Dale and Sal
9. Frank will be checking the freezers to get an inventory of what we have

## TIAHA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

December 17th, 2008 at Knights of Columbus, New Hope Road and Columbus Road, Raleigh, NC

**Board Members Present: Frank Ferraro, Victor Cononi, Bob Caprioli, Sal Notarmaso, Jim Frederici, David Baron, John Bono.**

**Meeting Called To Order: 7:15pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.**

- **TIAHA ANNUAL MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS DINNER:** This was the annual Christmas dinner at the Knights of Columbus meeting hall, with spouses, girlfriends and significant others invited. President Frank and Dale Mancuso did a fantastic job of decorating the hall and preparing the main courses for the meal. There was a Christmas tree in one corner and wreaths hanging on the walls. The tables were nicely decorated with white table cloths. There were bottles of that wonderful Pellegrino sparkling water and vino on the tables. Members and their guests brought appetizers, side dishes and desserts to share. It was very festive and very nice. The main courses and hall preparation were all done by President Frank, Dale Mancuso, Sal Notarmaso, Ron Venezia and Al Cellini. The main courses were fantastic!! We all dined on three different veal dishes, two different pasta dishes and meatballs. These guys deserve a big "Thank you" from all the members of TIAHA, especially from those who attended. Outstanding job, guys. Grazie mille!!! NOTE: (The turnout was disappointing. By my head count there were either 35 or 36 people in attendance. With half of those being guests, that means only 17 or 18 of the people present were TIAHA members).
- **GUESTS INTRODUCED AND WELCOMED:**
  1. **Frank's Mother-in-Law, Mary:** I had the good fortune of sitting at the table with President Frank's lovely wife and her mother, Mary (Frank's mother-in-law). Mary was a great lady to talk with. Mary told me she taught Frank everything he knows about cooking. Maybe we could get Mary to join TIAHA? With her and Frank as a cooking duo, we'd all gain weight.
  2. **Nick and Cynthia Quarantello from New York City:** Nick and Cynthia are recent arrivals from NYC, and were guests of Frank's. Nick is a former New York City and Long Island police officer with 12 years on the job. He's working for a security firm here in the area. Nick's father is from Naples. We hope Nick will join TIAHA.
- **SPECIAL NOTES:**
  1. President Frank once again used his old standby, the infamous gelato scoop, as his gavel for the meeting.
  2. At the start of the meeting, Victor Cononi threw his shoe at Frank (think President Bush in Iraq). It was hilarious!! It was a Boston Red Sox fan showing great disrespect for a Yankees fan.
- **GOOD & WELFARE:**
  1. Brother Peter Cari is currently going through Chemo sessions for his cancer. We all wish Peter well.
  2. Former member, and former owner of Claudio's restaurant, Claudio Rossini, has been diagnosed with cancer of the liver. Please all say a prayer for Claudio.
- 1. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  1. **Oxford House:** President Frank said there was a great turnout for the annual pilgrimage to the Oxford House. John Bono was Santa. Ho Ho Ho. Frank was Numbhead the Elf. Frank said when the children opened their gifts the looks on their faces were great. It's what Christmas is all about. This was TIAHA's tenth year of going to the Oxford House, taking gifts and making monetary donations. In recognition, while at the Oxford House, President Frank was presented with a plaque, recognizing TIAHA for ten years of generosity and giving to the kids.
  2. **Adopt-A-Highway:** The rescheduled trash pick-up day for Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> was a great disappointment. Only 4 people showed up. That's not enough for the stretch of road that's assigned to TIAHA. Mark Aliano's wife had prepared breakfast for twice that many people. This will be rescheduled (again) for January. No new date has been set yet.
  3. **Slate of Officers Needed For Election:** Al Cellini is the elections chairman for the upcoming vote for board members for 2009. Al is asking anyone who is interested in running for a board position to contact him so your name can be put on the ballot. All board positions, from President to Members at Large are up for election.

- **NEW BUSINESS:**
  1. No new business was brought up.
- **50-50 RAFFLE:**
  1. Guest Cynthia Quarantello was asked to pick the winning number. Joan Baron (David Baron's wife) held the winning ticket of #192891 and won the 50-50. Her share of the pot was a whopping \$52.00! Merry Christmas, Joan.

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:25pm**

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## Warning for drivers!!!!

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# Ticket writing rises in a slump, study finds

*Long-suspected practice affirmed*

By STEVE HARRISON  
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

The economy is in the toilet. So do yourself a favor and ease up on the accelerator.

That's the indirect message of a recent study by two economists, who found that when government revenues dry up, police write more speeding tickets. After analyzing 14 years of data in North Carolina, the pair found that for every 1 percent drop in government revenue, the number of traffic tickets issued per

capita increases by 30 percent the following year.

"It's significant," said University of Arkansas-Little Rock economics professor Gary A. Wagner, who co-wrote Red Ink in the Rearview Mirror: Local Fiscal Conditions and the Issuance of Traffic Tickets. "If there was no revenue for issuing tickets, I wouldn't expect the unemployment rate and revenue to be related."

The study, which analyzed data from 1989 to 2003, found the fewest number of tickets issued in North Carolina was in 2000, after nearly a decade of economic growth. Roughly 645,000 tickets were written that year. The

highest number of tickets came two years later, when governments were trying to recover from the post-9/11 recession, and issued roughly 768,000.

Wagner said the study reinforced an accepted theory among economists: Incentives matter.

"If local governments are somehow involved in the revenue that gets generated, there's an incentive to get more revenue," Wagner said.

For some, the idea of government relying on lead-footed drivers to balance the budget isn't new. Drivers warn one another about small-town speed traps, and it's widely assumed that tickets are being written with more

than public safety in mind.

Wagner said there are numerous anecdotes nationwide of such practices, such as the mayor of Nashville, Tenn., proposing two years ago a 33 percent increase in ticket revenue in his budget.

Wagner's co-author, Thomas Garrett, is an assistant vice president at the St. Louis Federal Reserve. North Carolina was chosen as a case study simply because the state had good data.

During the study period, the state issued 11 tickets for every 100 residents. Dare County had the highest rate, at 29 per 100. Caldwell County was the lowest, at 6 per 100.

## TIAHA 2008 Board Members



Frank Ferraro  
President



Sal Nortarmasso  
Vice President



Bob "Capi" Caprioli  
Treasurer



Jim Frederici  
Secretary



Victor Cononi  
Sgt. At Arms



Bob Vetrano  
Past President



Dave Baron  
Member at Large

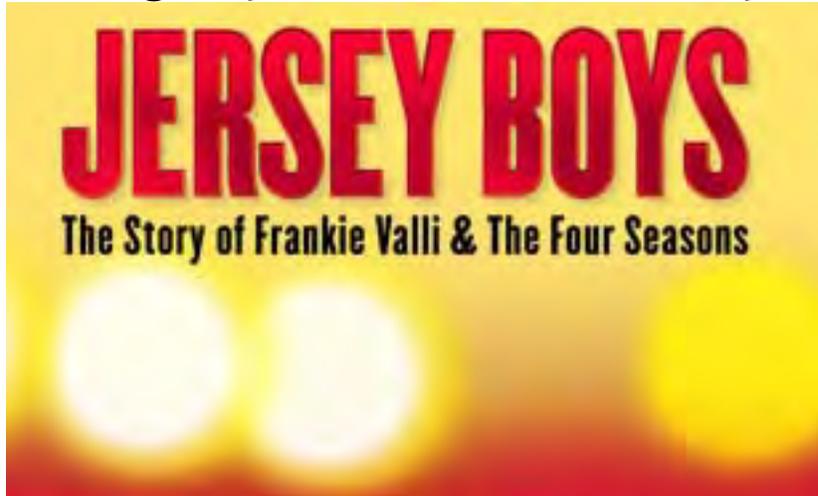


John Bono  
Member at Large



Dale Mancuso  
Member at Large

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Playing at the Progress energy  
June 24<sup>th</sup> through July 18<sup>th</sup>

If we go on Wed. June 24<sup>th</sup> or Thur. June 25<sup>th</sup> at 8PM  
The tickets are \$50.50 each

All other dates are \$79, or \$84  
unless we want to sit in the rear balcony for \$59.50

We need to order tickets soon and they will bill TIAHA,  
which means you don't need the money right now  
BUT

**I need a commitment ASAP**

Once you commit to going,  
you are responsible for the cost of the tickets

Contact Frank via e-mail at [fferrar@bellsouth.net](mailto:fferrar@bellsouth.net)  
Or phone at 349-5854

In the 1890-1920 period Italian Americans were often stereotyped as being "violent" and "controlled by the Mafia". In the 1920s, many Americans used the [Sacco and Vanzetti](#) trial, in which two Italian anarchists were wrongly sentenced to death, to denounce Italian immigrants as anarchists and criminals. During the 1800s and early 20th century, Italian Americans were one of the most likely groups to be lynched. In 1891, eleven Italian immigrants in New Orleans were lynched due to their ethnicity and suspicion of being involved in the Mafia. This was the largest mass lynching in US history.

According to Census Bureau data, Italian Americans have a higher high school graduation rate than the national average, and a greater than or equal rate of advanced degrees compared to the national average. Italian Americans throughout the United States are well represented in a wide variety of occupations and professions, from skilled trades, to the arts, to engineering, science, mathematics, law, and medicine, and include numerous [Nobel prize winners](#).

The internment of Italian Americans during World War II has often been overshadowed by the Japanese American experience. Recently, however, books such as *Una storia segreta* by Lawrence DiStasi and *Uncivil Liberties* by Stephen Fox have been published, and movies, such as [Prisoners Among Us](#) have been made. These efforts reveal that during World War II, roughly 600,000 Italians were required to carry identity cards that labeled them "resident aliens." Some 10,000 people in war zones on the West Coast of the United States were required to move inland, while hundreds of others were held in military camps for up to two years. Lawrence DiStasi claims that these wartime restrictions and internments contributed more than anything else to the loss of spoken Italian in the United States. After Italy declared war on the U.S., the U.S. government forced many Italian language papers and schools to close, almost overnight, because of their past support for an enemy government.

A few photos of Santa, Numble Head (aka Frank Ferraro), children, et al. at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford





8/2008

## Senior Citizens Annoy Post Office into Staying Open

Genoa - December 30, 2008 - Officially, Gaetano Malia is a building worker who has been unemployed since February. Luciana is a housewife with a minimum pension and serious diabetes issues. Nicol Catania is a retired factory worker. Pensioner Antonio Pertichini's wife is an invalid. Maria Grazia Licheri is a full-time granny to three grandchildren.

Yesterday, they met as arranged outside the Via Airaghi post office in Pr , a district in the west of Genoa, at a quarter to one. In all, there were thirty of them with an average age of about seventy. They are the anti-Post Office pensioners' hit squad, the oldies from the CEP, the Italian acronym for social housing units. One of the districts that were put up in the 1970s or thereabouts, CEP is a wasteland of low-quality concrete tower blocks with no services, no shops and potholed roads. It has had problems since it was built.

On 12 December, the postal service shut the only office serving CEP's 6,000 residents. A sign appeared on the door to announce that it had been closed after a "criminal event", a robbery on 11 December. The nearest post office is five kilometers, and two bus rides, away in Via Airaghi, where yesterday the CEP pensioners staged their protest. They called it Operation Tortoise, partly because the protest hinges on slowness and partly because tortoises have faces as lined and wrinkly as those of the demonstrators. The plan was for thirty protesters to turn up every day at closing time and keep the counter staff busy by asking all sorts of questions.

From one o'clock to three, under the eyes of watching police and Carabinieri officers, the protest continued as the smiles on the three counter clerks' faces began to slip. Maria Grazia says: "We fought to get a post office ten years ago and we aren't about to lose it now. The robbery was just a pretext".

Each protester was equipped with a sheet of instructions, printed by the CEP district's former chemist Carlo Besana, explaining how to waste counter staff's time. Questions to ask included: "What will happen to my post office account when I die?" One or two protesters touched wood just in case but why not? Everything went as planned, with a little bit of extemporization: "My son works abroad. Can he withdraw money with the Bancoposta ATM card?" "How much will it cost him?" "And if he worked in China?" "Is there a Post Office in China?" First into the breach was Nicol Catania, 70, a former steelworker and CGIL trade unionist. He asked to speak to the manager: "I've got 100,000 euros and I want to open an account. What interest will you give me? Is that all? It isn't small change. And what if I'm not happy and want to close the account. How much will it cost?"

Pensioner and manager looked each other in the eyes. Both knew there was no 100,000 euros but they kept up the charade. It was good fun for a while. Mr Catania's contribution lasted eighteen minutes but Susanna beat his record, spending twenty-three minutes at the counter before she took pity on the clerk and left. Given the average age and infirmity of the protesters, some had brought with them a folding chair, a bottle of water and paper cups. They lingered at the counters, making one-euro contributions to the postal account of Emergency or the Gigi Ghirotti hospice, being careful to ask for the discounted rate of commission: "I'm over 70. I'm entitled to a discount". They even had a slogan to chant: "I haven't got a knife or a gun at my hip. My offensive weapon is a pay-in slip". In the afternoon, the Post Office admitted defeat. The CEP post office will re-open on 12 January "after work to make it secure".

The president of the regional authority who had written to the minister, Claudio Scajola, and to the Post Office management, expressed satisfaction: "Closure of the office is unacceptable". Mr Burlando went on: "It's a victory for ordinary people. It makes no sense for the regional authority, the municipality and voluntary associations to expend their energies on CEP if the only signal from central government is the closure of an essential service". The pensioners' hit squad was all set to descend on the post office again on 2 January but now that won't be necessary.

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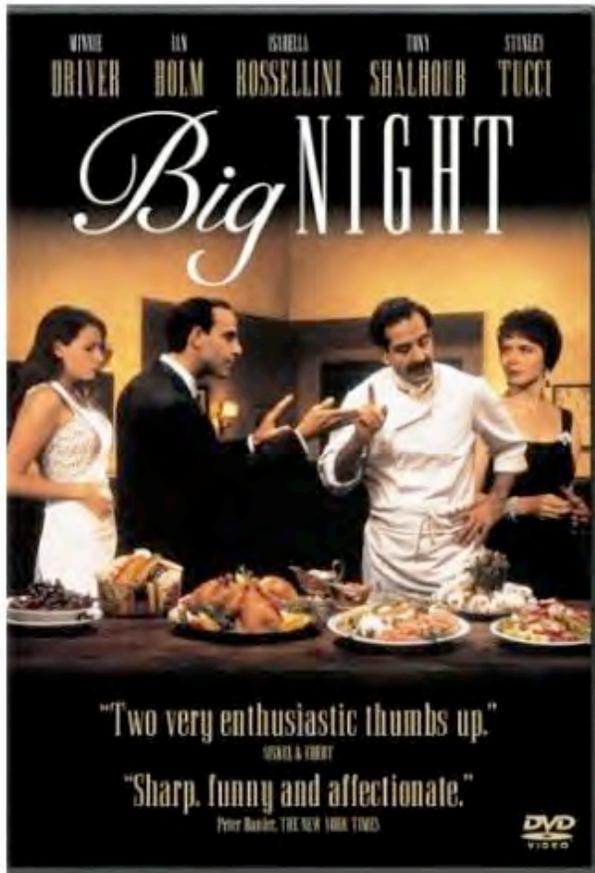
TRIANGLE SONS OF ITALY LODGE 2817 PRESENTS...

# Italian Movie Night

Featuring The Box Office Hit

## “BIG NIGHT”

Sunday, January 25, 2009



*Big Night is one of the great movies about food and family.*

**WHEN:** Sunday, January 25, 2009  
**TIME:** 4:00 PM  
**WHERE:** Carey C. Jones Community Center  
309 Holleman St. Apex, NC  
**COST:** \*\$10 per person  
\$5 per child under 12 yrs old  
**TICKETS:** [trianglesonsofitaly.org](http://trianglesonsofitaly.org)

**MOVIE SYNOPSIS:** The story of two Italian brothers, Primo (Tony Shalhoub) and Secondo (Stanley Tucci), who immigrated to America with the dream of running a successful restaurant. As their business struggles in the 1950's, they pin all of their hopes on a lavish banquet honoring star vocalist Louis Prima, who a friend has promised to bring to the restaurant. (A drama, rated R for language, 107 min.)

**Please register early,  
This is a popular event!**

**Purchase Tickets at: [trianglesonsofitaly.org](http://trianglesonsofitaly.org)**

**\*\$10.00 ADMISSION INCLUDES:** popcorn, pizza, salad, desserts and many special surprises during the evening . . .

**50/50 raffles, door prize drawings, cookbooks and aprons for sale and much more fun things planned.**

**In love and life, one BIG NIGHT can change everything!**

After retiring, I went to the Social Security office to apply for Social Security.

The woman behind the counter asked me for my driver's license to verify my age.

I looked in my pockets and realized I had left my wallet at home.

I told the woman that I was very sorry, but I would have to go home

The woman said, "Unbutton your shirt."

So I opened my shirt, revealing my curly silver hair.

She said, "That silver hair on your chest is proof enough for me"

And she processed my Social Security application.

When I got home, I excitedly told my wife about my experience at the Social Security office.

She said, "You should have dropped your pants. You might have gotten disability too"

**And then the fight was on.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday morning I got up early, quietly dressed, made my lunch, grabbed the dog, and slipped quietly into the garage.

I hooked the boat up to the truck, and proceeded to back out into a torrential downpour.

The wind was blowing 50 mph, so I pulled back into the garage, turned on the radio,  
and discovered that the weather would be bad all day.

I went back into the house, quietly undressed, and slipped back into bed.

I cuddled up to my wife's back, now with a different anticipation, and whispered,  
'The weather out there is terrible'.

My loving wife of 10 years replied, "Can you believe my stupid husband  
is out fishing in that?"

**And then the fight was on.**

\*\*\*\*\*

My wife and I were sitting at a table at my high school reunion,  
and I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone  
at a nearby table.

My wife asked, "Do you know her?"

"Yes," I sighed, "she's my old girlfriend. I understand she took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago,  
and I hear she hasn't been sober since."

"My God!" says my wife, "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?"

**And then the fight was on.**

\*\*\*\*\*

I rear-ended a car this morning. So, there we were alongside the road and slowly the other driver got out of his car.

You know how sometimes you just get soooo stressed and little things just seem funny?

Yeah, well I couldn't believe it.. He was a DWARF!

He stormed over to my car, looked up at me, and shouted, "I AM NOT HAPPY!"

So, I looked down at him and said, "Well, then which one are you?"

**And then the fight was on.**

\*\*\*\*\*

A woman is standing nude, looking in the bedroom mirror.

She is not happy with what she sees and says to her husband, "I feel horrible;  
I look old, fat and ugly. I really need you to pay me a compliment."

The husband replies, "Your eyesight's darn near perfect."

**And then the fight was on.**

\*\*\*\*\*

# MARK A. LA MANTIA

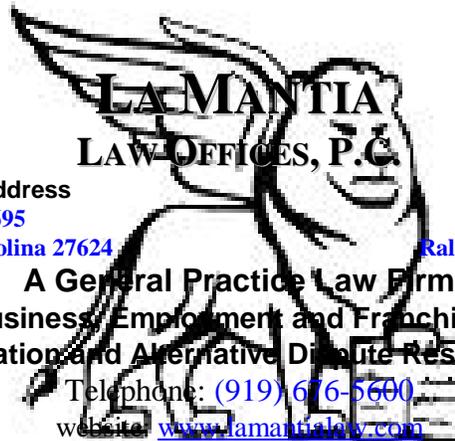
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10/2008

**ON A PERSONAL NOTE:**



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:**

No member anniversaries this month



**BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:**

**MEMBERS**

John Colombo  
Vince Salvaggio

**SIGNIFICANT OTHERS**

Vickie Christofaro  
Rosa D'Arduini  
Ann Marie Doria  
Katerine Fabrizio  
Carole Frangiosa  
Sherry Salvaggio

**CONDOLENCES:**

**Ron and Rita Venezia's son, Ronald Anthony "Tony" Venezia, Jr.**, 43, died January 6, 2009, as the result of an automobile accident. Our deepest condolences go out to the Venezia family. Please remember them in your prayers.

**GET WELL**

**Jon Ferrante's** wife, **Vickie**, has undergone serious medical procedures and she has more scheduled the end of January. She is recuperating at home. Please pray for Vickie's quick and total recovery.

**Claudio Rossini** has been diagnosed with cancer of the liver. Please remember Claudio in your prayers.



**EDITOR:**

Is something newsworthy?  
Let us know, send it to

**Neal Caliendo:** [nealcali@yahoo.com](mailto:nealcali@yahoo.com)

If you know of an illness, birth, death, marriage, etc., of a TIAHA member or member's family, please contact:

**Neal Caliendo:** [nealcali@yahoo.com](mailto:nealcali@yahoo.com)  
(919)846-2747

and/or

**Tony Aiello:** [taiello1@nc.rr.com](mailto:taiello1@nc.rr.com)  
(919)554-4676

If your e-mail and/or home address changes, please notify **Bob Petrolino**, at (919) 760-9039, [bobbypet@earthlink.net](mailto:bobbypet@earthlink.net) .

The **deadline** for submitting input to the newsletter is 9:00 PM the **second Wednesday of the month.**

**Newsletter Advertisement Rates:**

Business card	\$40	per year
1/4 page	\$60	per year
1/2 page	\$80	per year
Full Page	\$100	per year



**Triangle Italian-American Heritage Association  
P.O. Box 20266, Raleigh, North Carolina 27619**

**TIAHA UPCOMING EVENTS**

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**January 21st (Wednesday), 6:30 PM - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** Knights of Columbus, New Hope and Columbus Roads, Raleigh.

**January 24<sup>th</sup> (Saturday), 8:30 AM - ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY** Brassfield Elementary School, intersection of Brassfield Rd. and Honeycutt Rd., Raleigh.

**February 3rd (Tuesday), 6:30 PM – EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:** Knights of Columbus, New Hope and Columbus Roads, Raleigh.

**February 18th (Wednesday), 6:30 PM - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** Knights of Columbus, New Hope and Columbus Roads, Raleigh.