

Meet the Board

Maria Cusano-Sanzo is starting her first term as President after serving as Vice President for one year. Her parents and grandparents were born in Sepino and a visit last May reaffirmed her love of her Italian heritage. Both her grandfathers and her dad were founding members of the St. Cristina Society in Montreal where she grew up. She is looking forward to serving as your President and welcoming her first grandson in March!

Frank Sanzo served as VP and President and is currently an assistant director of investments. Like his wife, his parents and grandparents were born in Sepino and he still has first cousins there. When he's not volunteering for the Society, he's playing hide and seek and "fixing things" with his three granddaughters!

Cathy Torcia is in her 3rd year as Corresponding Secretary, prior to this position she was Assistant Corresponding Secretary. Her paternal grandparents were from the Naples area and her maternal grandparents were from Poland. She enjoys learning Italian through the Duolingo app along with her twin granddaughters Ava and Grace.

Steve Vendetta is starting his first year as Treasurer. He was introduced to the Society 25 years ago by his dear friend, Marcello Brini. Steve also worked with Moe Chirico during his career at Pratt & Whitney. Steve served on the Strategic Committee for the last two years, where the committee provided a roadmap for the financial health of the Society. Steve is 3rd generation US born Italian/Irish and is still exploring his ancestry. His maternal great grandparents are from Potenza and Emilia-Romagna provinces respectively, while his paternal great grandparents are from Piemonte and Basilicata regions. Steve looks forward to working with the Board and explore new ways to improve the Society.

Steve Marquis has been a dedicated member of the Mt. Carmel-St. Cristina Society for 24 years, bringing passion and leadership to every role he's held. Over the years, Steve has been an active and integral part of the society, contributing to its continued success through his involvement in a wide range of activities and initiatives.

He is credited with resurrecting the beloved Children's Christmas party, a cherished tradition within the Society. Additionally, Steve played a pivotal role in launching and expanding the society's annual golf tournament, helping to grow this event into a signature fundraiser. His commitment to education is also reflected in his time serving on the scholarship committee, ensuring that the society's support reaches deserving students.

Steve's leadership experience includes serving as Vice President and President of the society, where he worked to further the organization's mission and foster member engagement. Now, as he takes on the role of Trustee, Steve is eager to continue his contributions, helping the society thrive and grow in the years to come.

Pat Pires is currently the Assistant Treasurer and chairs the annual Christmas toy and food drive. She has also served as the Corresponding Secretary in the past. She joined Mt. Carmel-St. Cristina Society over 20 years ago and has remained actively involved while enjoying our club very much.

Her paternal Grandma migrated to the US from Naples, Italy and Grandpa from Sicily. They purchased a parcel of farmland in East Hartford, built their home, raised 4 children, farmed the land and Grandpa was also a barber on Front Street in Hartford.

Marcello Brini was born in Sepino Italy, has been a member for over 50 years. He is committed to the longevity and success of the society so it will be here for his 7-grandchildren and his three kids which all have been members for over 15 years. Marcello served on the board of directors in various capacity for over 30 years and currently Chairs the Strategic Committee and is one of the two Assistant Directors of Investments.

Maria Cosentino has been a member of the Society for 50+ years and has served on many committees and held multiple officer positions. She feels her greatest contribution was the sale of the hall in East Hartford when she was president. This gave the Society the finances necessary to continue its existence and activities and she looks forward to her new position as Director of Investments to ensure that the Society will have the financial resources necessary to function for generations to come.

Joseph Cosentino has been a member for over 50 years and has held multiple officer positions including Treasurer, President and Director of Investments. Some of his fondest memories are designing and overseeing the addition to the Mt. Carmel-St. Cristina Hall in East Hartford and the creation and growth of the Fidelity investment account which he established with some of the proceeds from the sale of the hall. He will continue to monitor and ensure the financial health of the Society in his new position as Trustee.

Filomena Gaetani Marinelli begins her first term in January 2025 as Vice President. She has been a proud member of the society for fourteen years along with her husband. Her mother Emilia was a long-time member and her uncles Luigi and Donato Gaetani were part of the founding Fathers of the St. Cristina Society in 1960 and were involved on the Board of Directors for many years. Filomena has been the chairperson for all of the society's annual Masses since 2019. Along with her society commitments, she is actively involved in several of the Italian organizations and events throughout the Greater Hartford area. She looks forward to continuing to bring her love for the Italian language and culture, her Catholic faith, and her family's hometown of Sepino to the membership in the years ahead!

Susan Brini has been a member for almost 20 years. She is in her third year as financial secretary. She has had many hats starting with chairing various social events, her favorite being the bocce picnic tournament. In addition to collecting dues, she sends greeting cards to members for many occasions. She is looking forward to a trip to Sepino in the fall.