



# Augustus Society Forum

The Official News Letter of the Augustus Society

First Quarter 2010

[www.augustus.org](http://www.augustus.org)

## Mission Statement

Our Mission is to provide college scholarships to disadvantaged Italian-American students in Clark County with academic abilities; assist Italian-American families with personal hardships; and continuously promote a positive image of Italian-Americans.

Formed in 1983, the Society has awarded more than 475 scholarships, totaling about \$750,000 in funds awarded.

## Officers and Directors

### Board of Directors

Vince Ciminise - Chairman  
Mark DeStefano  
Joe Laiacona  
Jim Santor  
Kay Stroppiana  
Michael Tramontana  
Peter Vitale

### Officers

Greg Gemignani - President  
Peter Vitale - Vice President  
Joe Laiacona - Treasurer & Secretary

## Contact Information

**(702) 407-1380 or  
PO Box 230016  
Las Vegas, NV  
89015**

## AUGUSTAN OF THE YEAR 2010

### Vince Ciminise

Each year, the Augustus Society honors one of its members as the Augustan of the Year. The Augustan of the Year award is given to one of our members in good standing who has consistently demonstrated and exemplified citizenship, trustworthiness, self-discipline, respectability, and compassion. Vince has been an integral member of the Augustus Society for many years and currently serves as the Chairman of our Board of Directors. Vince has also served many other functions for the Augustus Society, including treasurer, officer, and general director. Additionally, Vince has been a driving force in many charitable organizations and charitable events. Most recently, Vince served as the treasurer and key member of the Las



## MINIMUM MEMBERSHIP DUES CUT IN HALF AND SIGNIFICANT MEETING CHANGES

While the Augustus Society has been a pillar of the Italian-American community in Clark County since 1983, the organization is not immune from feeling the effects of the current economic climate, the generational challenges of all Italian-American organizations, and the need to adapt to a new and changing environment. While recognizing the need to make significant changes to sustain the good work of the organization, the Board of Directors has remained focused on retaining the integrity of the core mission of the organization.

### KEY CHANGES

- Minimum dues are \$600 annually
- Dinner meetings are not paid from dues
- New meeting schedule

As many of our members know, the organization has been getting smaller. Over the last 26 years, our organization has had a fluctuating membership that until recently was generally trending up. However, over the last two years in particular, that trend has been primarily and noticeably down. In an effort to get a better understanding of the causes of the downward trend, the organization has been asking

## Events Calendar

### January Meeting

The January meeting will be at Las Vegas Rocks Cafe on January 27th. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Al Balboni, author of the book "Beyond The Mafia: Italian Americans And The Development Of Las Vegas." The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. A dinner package inclusive of a meal, a glass of wine or beer, soft drinks, parking and gratuity will be \$28.50 at the door. Please RSVP by January 22 to confirm your attendance

### February Meeting

The February meeting will be at Las Vegas Rocks Cafe on February 24th. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. A dinner package inclusive of a meal, a glass of wine or beer, soft drinks, parking and gratuity will be \$28.50 at the door. Please RSVP by February 19th to confirm your attendance.

### March Meeting

The March meeting will be at Las Vegas Rocks Cafe on March 24th. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. A dinner package inclusive of a meal, a glass of wine or beer, soft drinks, parking and gratuity will be \$28.50 at the door. Please RSVP by March 19 to confirm your attendance.

### April Scholarship Banquet

The Scholarship Banquet will be held on April 11, 2010 at the Si Redd Room at the Thomas & Mack Center (located on the North East side (campus side) of the Thomas & Mack Center). Cocktails begin at 4:30 and dinner is scheduled for 5:00.

Please confirm your attendance by April 2, 2010

## **AUGUSTAN OF THE YEAR 2010 Vince Ciminise...Continued**

Vegas Italian Earthquake Relief Fund, to provide aid to the victims of the earthquake that devastated the area of and surrounding L'Aquila Italy.

Vince is a graduate of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas (UNLV) with a BS in Business Administration. In addition, Mr. Ciminise is also a graduate of the National Commercial Lending School and the National Commercial Lending Graduate School.

Vince is a long time resident of Clark County, and currently serves at the President & CEO of the Bank of Las Vegas. Vince has been in the banking business for 25 years, and has served in senior management positions at many prominent banking institutions in Clark County. In 2001, he joined efforts to launch a campaign to raise capital to open the Bank of Las Vegas.

In addition to his business success and extensive community involvement, Vince has a wonderful family. He and his wife Carmen have two sons who are currently attending UNLV.

Please join us in honoring Vince Ciminise as our Augustan of the Year for 2010.

## **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ONLINE**

The Augustus Society scholarship forms are now available online at our Web site on the Forms Page tab, as illustrated below:



To be eligible for our scholarship, you must meet specific criteria:

- 1. You must be of Italian Descent**
- 2. You must be a Legal Resident of Clark County**
- 3. You must be a Full-Time Student.**

While all students who submit a completed application and meet the above criteria are candidates for an Augustus Society scholarship, our scholarship awards are based on financial need, community

## **MINIMUM MEMBERSHIP DUES CUT IN HALF AND SIGNIFICANT MEETING CHANGES *continued...***

former members about the decision to cease or suspend their membership. Overwhelmingly, the reason given for ending or suspending a membership has been the cost of the annual membership dues.

In response, the Board took a close look at the operation of the organization to assess the feasibility of lowering minimum dues while maintaining the core mission and principles of the organization. The Board determined that dues could be cut in half provided there was a corresponding cut in the expenses of the organization. The largest expense outside of charitable activities was the cost of meetings and functions. In the past, dues funded the provision of an inclusive dinner for members at various restaurants in town. Diligent efforts were made to control this cost while providing a high quality and convenient environment to host meetings. The upward pressure on this cost in the last four years has been getting more difficult to control each year. The Board, after cutting most other expenses, decided that in order to lower the minimum dues, the inclusive dinners should be decoupled from dues. This means members only pay for dinner meetings they attend, and the organization is able to reduce a significant cost.

In addition to the new financial arrangement for dinner meetings, the Board heard from many members who believed the meetings were too formal and too frequent. In response, the meeting schedule is being revised for the year to have fewer meetings and to have at least two meetings hosted at a member's home.

Please note, while these changes are designed to ensure the long-term viability of the organization, they will only be successful if we are able to grow the membership. Therefore, we ask our members to use the new minimum dues and meeting structure as tools in continuing efforts to recruit former and new members to join the organization so the Augustus Society can continue its charitable works for another quarter century.

### ***Scholarship Applications Online continued...***

involvement, academic ability, and grade point average. While we will consider all these factors in awarding our scholarships, financial need will receive the heaviest weighting in determining the award recipients.

Scholarship Parameters:                   \$1,000  
Scholarship award to be used for tuition, books, and school supplies.

Award Presentation:                   Scholarship awards will be presented at our Annual Scholarship Banquet in April 2010. ***Attendance at the banquet is mandatory to receive a scholarship award.***

The application and the required attachments must be postmarked on or before the deadline presented in the Application. Applications are to be mailed to the AUGUSTUS SOCIETY – SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE, P.O. BOX 230016, LAS VEGAS, NV 89015.

Every question must be answered and every requirement met for your application to be considered.

## **Articles for the Forum**

If you have any desire to contribute content for the Forum, please do not hesitate to send in articles by e-mail to **forum@augustus.org**. Articles may be submitted in Microsoft Word, .RTF or .TXT format. Illustrations and pictures may be submitted in .jpg and .png formats. Current plans are to produce the Forum on a quarterly basis. Current plans also are to primarily distribute the Forum electronically, though we are exploring methods for low cost print and mail distribution.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us at or send us an e-mail at **forum@augustus.org**.

# MEMBERS

## **Accountants**

Frank Campagna

## **Architects**

Jon Jannotta

## **Attorneys**

Mark Ricciardi

Dominic Gentile Esq.

Gregory R. Gemignani

## **Automobile**

Jim Marsh

Nick Montana

## **Banking**

Vincent Ciminise

Joseph Laiacona

Peter Vitale

## **Convenience Store**

Angelo Cassaro

Nick Montana

## **Education**

Jim Santor

Peter C. Paciolla

## **General Contractor**

Jim Donofrio Sr.

Angelo Cassaro

Jim Donofrio Jr.

Michael Fauci

## **Interior Design**

Kay Stroppiana

## **Lounge & Restaurant**

Nick Montana

Angelo Cassaro

Tony Sacca

## **Mini Storage**

Jim Donofrio Sr.

## **Music & Entertainment**

Michael Tramontana

Tony Sacca

## **Physicians**

Louis DiFrancesco

Dr. Joseph Quagliana

William A. Zamboni

## **Plumbing**

Angelo Cassaro

## **Psychotherapy**

Jim Santor

## **Real Estate**

Tony Tegano

## **Restaurant**

Lorraine Hunt-Bono

Nick Montana

Angelo Cassaro

Tony Sacca

## **Technology Specialist**

Frank Mathews

## **TV Programming/Production**

Tony Sacca

## **Wedding Gifts**

Kay Stroppiana

## **Additional Members**

George M. Gingerelli

Anthony Palmasano

Mark DeStefano

Sam Pizzo

To:

The Augustus Society  
PO Box 230016  
Las Vegas, NV 89015

