

# WISITALIA

May 30, 2009

## Summary Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 10:10AM

**Members present:** F. Alfano, R. Annina, T. Bruno, D. Cicero, J. Dentice, P. Feira, L. Godding, G. Miceli Jeffries, P. Pingitore, R. Prigioni, V. Ruffalo.

### **Board members reports:**

Pete Feira reported on the progress of the Italian classes at Green Bay Preble High, and on the activities of the Green Bay Italian American Club, especially the “passeggiata” where members get together once a month to stroll around town and then go for a meal afterwards.

Peter Pingitore and Vince Ruffalo reported on the Kenosha Schools with Italian language classes, and spoke about the development of a new, private elementary school, Mt. Carmel/St. Therese, and the need to recruit a teacher as soon as possible. Also discussed was the possibility of starting an after school program at Nash Elementary School this Fall. They have applied for a NIAF grant for start-up funds. Ralph Annina, Rina Pignone and Joanna Stenson may be teaching in this program. This after school program would replace the program currently offered at Somers Elementary School. Their objective in Kenosha is to foster Italian at the elementary level by creating a “travelling” program that offers Italian at a different elementary school every few years.

Don Cicero reported on the efforts in developing a committee to promote Italian language classes in the Racine Schools. They will survey district students to determine how many are interested in enrolling.

Giovanna Miceli Jeffries reported on the middle and elementary school classes in Madison. Italeida (a non-profit organization based in Chicago that receives funds from the Italian government) provides financial support for the two middle schools in Madison, Spring Harbor and Wright, including the salaries of the teachers. Giovanna indicated that although the amount of Italian government funds is being reduced, Eleonora Cammareri, Director of the Education Office for the Consulate General of Italy in Chicago, has assured them that these funds will be granted to keep these programs operational.

Giovanna also distributed a children’s Italian immersion summer camp curriculum that she will be using this summer. She indicated it could be used as a model for WisItalia area representatives and teachers to use in their towns/cities.

Frank Alfano raised the subject of exploring the possibility of providing Italian instruction through the use of distance learning technology. This is an area that needs more discussion, as it could benefit many school districts in Wisconsin.

Joe Dentice spoke about the Milwaukee programs, and the need to recruit two teachers for the Victory School Immersion Program. The program is expanding to second grade in the Fall.

Vince Ruffalo recommended the development of a feedback instrument to be filled out by all school personnel and students about their experiences in learning Italian. These testimonials would be posted on the WisItalia website.

Giovanna reported on the upcoming Foreign Language Teacher Conferences, and the national conference to develop strategies for the continuation of the AP certification for Wisconsin high school students taking Italian classes.

Kenosha has invited us to hold the 2010 Teacher of the Year Dinner at the Italian American Society clubhouse in Kenosha. This event will be held around the middle of May 2010. Motion by P. Feira to accept, seconded by R. Annina. Motion passed.

Web Master, Rita Prigioni, was nominated for an award to be given at the 2010 Teacher of the Year Dinner. Approved by consensus.

The next meeting will be on June 20, 2009, in Kenosha from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. Peter Pingitore will provide directions to be posted on the website.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15PM.

Minutes by T.Bruno, R.Annina, and R.Prigioni