

SUMMER 2005

OSIA CHAPTER NEWS

DELAWARE

Twenty years ago while still a student at St. Mark's High School in Wilmington, **Alex Meloro** helped launch his school's first blood drive. About 70 students and teachers signed up. This year more than 8,000 students from 67 high schools participated in the drive that to date has collected nearly 52,600 blood donations and saved an estimated 156,000 lives. Alex belongs to the *Prince of Piedmont Lodge #475* in Wilmington.

FLORIDA

A prize-winning cookbook of recipes from OSIA lodges all over Florida has sold more than 100,000 copies and is going into its ninth printing, reports former state president **Dennis Piasio**. *Preserving Our Italian Heritage* was first published in 1991, the year it also won second place in the Tabasco Community Cookbook National Division.

Its 222 pages include chapters on everything from *antipasti* to desserts and includes such favorites as Italian wedding soup, Italian cheese cake and cicoria con fagioli (greens and beans). Copies cost \$14.95 plus \$3.50 for postage and handling. To order send a check payable to *the Sons of Italy Florida Foundation* to: Sons of Italy Foundation, 87 NE 44th St. (#5); Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334. or call Christine Boniello at 954/771-2445.

NEW YORK

Celebrating its 18th anniversary this year, the *Coro Italiano* now boasts a repertory of 101 Italian songs and a track record of 1,000 concerts. Founded by Prof. Philip De Nova in 1987, its 26 members, all belonging to *Co-Ed Lodge #2054* in Utica, perform two concerts a month for nursing homes, schools, etc in their community.