

2025 Casa Italia New Board Members Bios

Frank Di Piero is the podcast host of Italian American Life with Frankie D. at ItalianAmericanLife.com. He also is the author of five children's books that introduce Italian culture, traditions, and language. Frank is a co-editor of the book, Italian Women in Chicago, Volume II: Siamo Arrivate! We have arrived!, a Casa Italia publication. In addition, Frank serves as a board of education member for Ridgewood High School District 234 and a Norwood Park Township Trustee.

Michael Neri – President - Dynamic, creative and client-driven professional with proven experience in planning and facilitating all types of music, community and client special events. Develop client base and implement strategic marketing/sales initiatives. Serve as consultant to clients, trusted advisor and idea generator; highly creative and skilled at assessing client needs and achieving desired results. Exceedingly effective in handling logistics and culture of events within budgets and time lines. Polished presentation, communication and sales skills; able to explain concepts and promotional ideas clearly and concisely. Experience in interfacing with clientele, staff and professionals of all levels. Build top-performing, service-oriented teams and lead by example.

CORE COMPETENCIES:

Major Event Planning & Operations

Budgeting Development

Contract Negotiation

Strategic Market Analysis

Municipality Agreements

Project Coordination

Regulatory Compliance

Operational Analysis

Vendor Sourcing & Negotiation

Jonathan L. Zivojnovic was born and raised in Elmwood Park. Jonathan was appointed to the Elmwood Park Board of Trustees in 2013 and elected to a four-year term in 2015 and re-elected in 2019 and 2023. He is the liaison to the Elmwood Park Plan, Zoning and Development commission, the Senior Advisory Board, and Library Board. Jonathan is a past member of the Library Board of Trustees, past President of the St. Vincent Ferrer Parish Council, past President of the Columbian Club of Chicago, past Treasurer of the Columbian Club Charitable Foundation, Past President and a current Director of the Grand Chamber by O'Hare, a Director for the Italian American Political Coalition, Past President of the Oak Park Area Association of REALTORS, the current chairman of the Illinois REALTORS State RPAC Committee, member of the Illinois REALTORS Local Government Affairs Committee, a current trustee of the Triton College Foundation Board of Directors and Past President of the Mont Clare – Elmwood Park Lions Club. Jonathan also continues to serve as a mentor to the St. Patrick High School Business Incubator program since 2021. He owns and operates his own real estate company, River Elm Properties. He is a graduate of St. Vincent Ferrer School, St. Patrick High School, and DePaul University with a degree in Finance. In 2016, Jonathan was awarded the "Community Advancement Award" by the Grand Corridor Chamber of Commerce, in 2018 the Walter R. James Award for community service by the Oak Park Area Association of REALTORS and was named REALTOR of the year in 2019. In 2024, Jonathan was awarded the "Shamrock Pride Award" by St. Patrick High School. Jonathan has two sons, Dominic, age 16, and Carmine, age 14.