



Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

September 2014

September Meeting Changed to Monday, September 8th!

Due to the Labor Day Holiday the September meeting will be on **Monday, September 8th at 6:30 p.m.** at the farm show social hall. Members are asked to bring a main dish and their choice of a salad. September birthdays are asked to bring a dessert as well. The lodge will supply the plates, utensils and drinks for the dinner. Potluck is always a great night with a lot of great food and raffle prizes.

Speaking of raffles the winner last month was Maci Daramy who was unable to be present therefore the drawing this month will be \$75 so don't miss the meeting.

Juniors Take Charge!

The August meeting is devoted to scholarship night and junior member night as the lodge had over 50 members and guests present to enjoy a great summer BBQ and presentation of scholarships to deserving junior members.

Roma Lodge Queen, **Isabella Benedetti** served as lodge president along with several junior members filling in as officers.



Scholarship Night!

Roma Lodge Scholarship winners for the year were honored at the August meeting.

Those who could attend were **Garrett Costa from Reedley High School and Isabella Benedetti of Tulare Western.** Unfortunately several of our recipients had already left for college prompting the lodge to consider having scholarship night in May before school ends.

Once again **Frances Della** and her committee needs to be thanked for all the hours she puts forth in organizing, selecting and presenting lodge scholarships each year to deserving high school students.



No Report!

Junior members (top) **Adelyn Watkins** and (below l-r) **Jordyn Dutto, Aiden Gentry and Taylor Dutto** served as trustees at the August meeting. When asked for their report they responded "no report" which prompted the audience to quip that they did as good a job as the regular trustees!



*September Meeting
Monday, September 8th!*

“Does it really matter?”

Heralds Message

At the August meeting the Grand Lodge Convention report was given. During the discussion David DePaoli mentioned that the dues were going to be raised by the Grand Lodge. The increase is going to be about \$12 per regular member pushing our Roma Lodge Dues to probably \$75 per person. Unfortunately, \$72.50 will go to the Grand Lodge for regular members and Associate and Social members will increase to probably \$60 with \$57.75 going to the Grand Lodge.

So let's do the math. If Roma Lodge decides to increase the dues to \$75 that will leave a minuscule amount of \$2.50 per regular member to support a Columbus Day Celebration, annual Christmas party, and 8-10 dinner meetings held during the year. In the past, Associate and Social members were about \$25 per person. Now, they will be almost triple that for the privilege of voting. It is getting more and more expensive to be an *Italian!*

I had visions of converting to an associate or social member when the dues were only \$25. However, I have been told that if I want to switch to either of those memberships I would have to drop out of the lodge and then rejoin and my years of membership would revert back to zero. So that brings up another issue.

Does it really matter that the Grand Lodge lists me as a 1 year member after I have been in Roma Lodge for 25?

For your years of membership the Grand Lodge will send you a 25, 35 or 50 year pin, if Roma Lodge pays \$5 for it, so you can be recognized at the anniversary meeting. I think we as Roma Lodge members can keep track of our own membership and present our own milestones of membership to our members. When you are a 25 year member you have to wait 10 years to be recognized as a 35 year member and then 15 years more to get a \$5 pin indicating you have been a member for 50 years. You wouldn't celebrate your wedding anniversary every 10 or 15 years would you?

So now let's get back to the money issue.

Each of us as regular members will be giving \$72.50 to the Grand Lodge out of our potential \$75.00 dues. **For What?** If you go to the Grand Lodge website and look up the section on benefits of membership the section is filled with words like opportunity, information, participation, invitation and with the exception of the subscription to the IL LEONE, you have a lot of opportunities to get benefits versus actually getting a benefit.

The website also emphasizes the fact that preserving the Italian Culture is primarily in the hands of the local lodges who hold the events and meetings to invite community members to become members of the lodge. It appears that local lodges are doing all the work and the Grand Lodge is getting all the benefits.

Since Roma Lodge has gone to great meals at every meeting you are certainly getting your \$75 worth for your membership dues. The point to remember is simply that what Roma Lodge is giving you, the lodge is only getting \$2.50 out of your dues to support the activities they do for your lodge membership!

Roma Lodge has 62 of its 306 members over the age of 70 which equals about 20% of our lodge membership. Many of these individuals cannot attend meetings and are on fixed income. Another 86 have been members over 35 years and 51 of those will have to wait 10 to 15 years to get their \$5, 50 year membership pin! Do the math. If you are a 35 year member this year and have to pay \$75 for the next 15 years to get your \$5 pin it will cost you \$1,125.

It is time that the Grand Lodge of California puts their financial house in order and stop raising dues to cover their costs. We have seen time and time again over the years they have shifted the financial burden of the organization to the local lodges through increases in the dues structure.

Does it really matter that the Grand Lodge recognizes my years of membership based on their records or is it more important that Roma Lodge know how long I have been an active member contributing on the local level. I think NOT!

Roma Lodge Website

The Roma Lodge website is up and running with a lot of important information being included on the site. You can access the website at:

<http://www.romalodge1573.org/>

Currently the home page will consist of pictures of our most current events, upcoming events and general contact information about the lodge. There are also pages for the calendar, lodge history, scholarships, current events, newsletter sponsorships, past editions of the *LeNotizie* and contact information including the lodge directory of members.

The calendar features everyone in the lodge and their birthdays. With the sponsorship and calendar pages we are saving the lodge about 40 cents per issue of the *LeNotizie*. If you are used to having a hardcopy of the calendar so you can hang current month birthdays on your refrigerator you can simply print it off the webpage.

Another cost saving measure would be to have more members get their newsletter online through email or print it off the website. If you would like to get your newsletter by email or be on the list of contacts for lodge announcements simply send your email contact information to:

larryd@cos.edu

Unlike the Grand Lodge we can find ways to save our \$2.50 we get from our \$75 dues!

Sunshine Committee

Faye Taylor on her recent surgery and *Leroy Beecher* for his injured finger.

Hanford Lodge 85th Anniversary Celebration

Several Roma Lodge members were on hand to assist the Hanford Lodge in their 85th Anniversary celebration at the Tachi Palace in Lemoore. It was a great event with over 200 people



in attendance. Everyone was treated to a great meal, entertainment, raffle and gambling if they wanted. *George Christin* was honored for his work with the lodge. We got a lot of great ideas as we will be hosting our 85th celebration next April at the TDES Hall in Tulare.

Never Too Old To Wear A Birthday Hat!



Roma Lodge member *Anna Dutto* celebrated her 95th birthday on August 20th along with her sister, *Louise Belezouli* who celebrated her 91st birthday on August 23rd. They proved that you are never too old to wear a birthday hat and celebrate on your birthday. Congratulations to the both of them for celebrating in such grand style with birthday cake and all the trimmings.

Got News!

Do you have a family member celebrating a milestone birthday or a child or grandchild getting married? How about a picture of a family event showing Roma Lodge members celebrating a special occasion? If you do and would like to have it appear in the *LeNotizie* simply email a picture and appropriate information to larryd@cos.edu by the 20th of each month and we will try to get it into the newsletter.



Roma Lodge
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www.romalodge1573.org

Your Roma Lodge Officers

President	Nick Canata (661-978-9331)
Vice President	David DePaoli (804-5443)
Treasurer	Karen Pedroncelli (732-1591)
Recording Sec.	Tina Sparlin (685-8857)
Financial Sec.	Cathy Mederos (687-1112)
Orator	Gary Dutto (686-6201)
Historian	Carole Burner (686-8419)
Guard	Ken Bertorelli (788-8496)
Past President	Ken Curti (288-2144)

Trustees

Danny Dutto	(686-1348)
Mike Saltzman	(686-4340)
Matt Watkins	(635-1699)
Dominic Pitigliano	(359-1907)
Michael DePaoli	(730-1168)

Mistress of Ceremony

Frances Della	(784-7653)
Shurene Curti	(740-0184)

Meeting
Monday
September 8, 2014
6:30 PM
Potluck Dinner

Dinner Menus

February-Stew & Polenta
March-Rigatoni
April-Sausage and Risotto
May-Pizza
June-Chairman's Choice
July-No Meeting
August-Hotdogs/Hamburgers
September-Potluck
October-Columbus Day/Meeting
December-Ham & Yams-XMAS Party