



Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

January-2019

Was This The Best Ever?

With all the fake news and negativity in the world today sometimes it is important we all take a step back, when something good happens, smile and say, **"you know that was really special."**



The annual lodge Christmas party was a prime example of the way lodge members came together as a fraternal organization and put on a great event. **Many say the best ever!**

Chairs for the event **Cathy Mederos** and **Ken Curti** did a great job in setup, cooking and clean up for the event. Lodge members **Ben Curti, Charlie Pitigliano, Vince Sola, Clint and Caleb Curti** shared cooking duties with chef **Kenny Curti. Nancy Pitigliano, Shurene Curti and Elisabeth Curti.**

Joann Beecher took care of the XMAS stockings for the children. The highlight of the event was **Pam Sola** who conducted a great talent show for all the attendees and program with the junior members.

Santa was on hand (**A.K.A. Dennis Mederos**) to hand out goodies to the junior member who were there to have a great time. If you were unable to attend this years lodge Christmas party make sure you are there next year.

Happy Holidays!



Junior members assisted representatives of the Tulare Lighthouse Mission load donations from Roma Lodge Members at the Christmas Party!

Pam Sola did a wonderful job in leading the junior members in organizing the talent show and getting them ready for a visit by Santa



Claus. Pam is to be congratulated for her ingenious ideas for getting junior members involved with different projects throughout the year. Special thanks



Wessel and Isaac Pitigliano with Santa.

Checkout more great pictures of the XMAS Party on the Roma Lodge Website.

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

January Meeting-Installation of New Officers
Monday
January 7, 2019
6:30 PM

Charting the Course!

President Elect Message

I last served as Roma Lodge President in 1999-2000. I guess history does repeat itself. As with Christopher Columbus we need to chart a new course for the upcoming year. Looking through my telescope this is what I see!



Special Thanks-For those officers who are ending their terms in 2018 we want to thank you for your service to the lodge. Especially our president and first lady **David and Giovanna DePaoli** who have provided leadership to the lodge for the past 4 years. David holds the record of serving as Roma Lodge as president for 8 years. Both are recovering from a traffic accident back in the Boston area in October. We wish them a happy and healthy 2019.



2019-Meetings-The tenets of Roma Lodge are **Liberty, Equality and Fraternity**. We need to focus on fraternity for 2019. We have over 300 members of Roma Lodge. If we get 10-20% of our members attending a monthly meeting we are lucky. My goal is to increase monthly attendance whenever possible and to provide meetings focused on fraternity giving us each an opportunity each month to visit with one another.

There are three things monthly meetings should be:

1. **Provide members with a good meal.**
2. **Provide members with a short business meeting.**
3. **Provide junior members with an educational activity. Pam Sola does a great job with this.**

Family Refreshments-Many of our long time Roma Lodge families go back several generations in the nearly 90 years of the organization. The founding families of our lodge worked and lived in Tulare County. Now, we have members scattered all over the country. We know it is difficult for them to attend monthly meetings. I have reached out to some of these families and have asked them to take refreshments for a month and invite their children and grandchildren to assist them in providing refreshments for a meeting. They may wish to cook their favorite family meal or keep it simple so the entire family can be involved. We will introduce all of the family members at the meeting so we can get to know those members we may not see that often. I have reached out to those families and we have filled next years monthly meeting refreshment schedule.

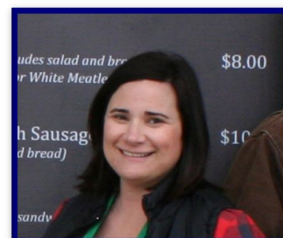
January 7th-Louie Benedetti Family
February 4th-Karen DeGroot-Joyce Hofstee
March 4th-Joann Beecher-Gary Dutto Family
April 1st-Nancy and Charlie Pitigliano Family
May 6th-Chiaramonte Family
June 3rd-Janis & Philip Curti Family
August 5th-Larry Dutto-Cleek-Luis Families
September 9th-Kathy and Nick Canata Family
October 7th-Pam and Vince Sola Families
November 4th-David and Giovanna DePaoli Family
December 8th-Ken Curti-Cathy Mederos Family

Please feel free to contact these families if you would like your family to join them one month to assist with refreshments. Thanks to these families for stepping forward to take on this important leadership role. **Pictured right is Clint and Caleb Curti helping dad and grandpa Ken Curti cook for the XMAS Party!**



World Ag Expo Food Booth-Special thanks goes to **Michael DePaoli** for committing to chairing the WAE food for the next two years. We have lamented for several years our location and lack of foot traffic. **So how do we increase our business?** Simple. We all do business with local vendors who are involved in the WAE. Bring the contact information for 5 of your vendors to the January meeting. We will send them a letter asking if they would like to treat their customers to a free sausage sandwich or yogurt. We will furnish them with a coupon and only charge them for the ones their customers use. It is a win for them and a win for the lodge. Think about it.

Social Media-Thirty percent of our members (103 to be exact) are between the ages of 20 and 45. To that end we must communicate with them more effectively by utilizing social media. For you older members that means websites, Facebook, email, etc., etc. To that end I have asked Historian **Melissa Watkins** to be in charge of our social media by managing our webpage and Facebook account starting in 2019. We want to thank Melissa for taking on this important task.



Members in the news!

Roma Lodge member **Dennis Mederos** was officially sworn in as the representative of Area 4 for the **Tulare City Council** at the Council Chambers on December 11th.

Dennis was also elected Vice Mayor for the council.



Josh Pitigliano was also elected to the **Lower Tule River Irrigation District Division 5** in the November election. Josh will now be heavily involved in the planning for the district to meet new sustainable ground water planning and implementation in the years to come.

Lorraine Cleek was the top vote getter and was re-elected to the **Palo Verde Elementary School District**. Congratulations to all of our Roma Lodge members who continue to serve our community in a variety of elected positions in Tulare County.



Sunshine Committee

Get well wishes are extended to **Philip Curti, Steve Milanese, Leroy Beecher and Ben Curti**.

Juniors Update

The lodge is planning a junior activity (roller or ice skating, amusement park, movies, etc.) for our junior members. Pam Sola did such a great job with over 30 junior members at the Christmas party we want to do a fun activity for them. If you have ideas contact **Melissa Watkins** to help plan an event.



Dues and Don't!

Each year in January your Roma Lodge dues are due. 15 years ago we voted to increase the dues to \$50 of which Roma Lodge received \$3.20. Since then we have increased the dues 50% to \$75 and our lodge gets **25 cents**! The rest is passed on to the Grand Lodge and OSIA.

Before you write out that check for yourself, maybe your children, perhaps your grandchildren you may want to decide if you are getting your money's worth.



From the local lodge you are getting a great deal for your 25 cents. If you attend 11 meetings, Columbus Day, Ravioli Dinner, Farm Show and Christmas Party you are getting over \$200 worth of meals alone. Pretty good return on your investment.

We have numerous members who live out of state, live more than an hour from our lodge meeting sites, elderly or having health issues who just cannot attend.

Please do not interpret these comments as if we want you to dropout of the lodge because you cannot participate in lodge activities. We just want you to realize you are not financially supporting the local lodge a great deal with your 25 cents. It costs the lodge \$20 a year just to send you this newsletter each month. You will have to decide on your own what benefits you get from the Grand Lodge and OSIA for the other \$74.75 you pay in dues each year.

Speaking of dues this year we have 15 members who still had not paid their 2018 dues by December. This means that the lodge had to pay \$56 to keep them on the membership rolls for the Grand Lodge. If those members do not pay for their dues and dropout in December then the lodge would be out \$840 for these members.

We will be considering whether or not to carry members who have not paid their dues by the end of the first quarter so they can be dropped and it will not cost the lodge for Grand Lodge and OSIA dues.

As individuals we all need to weigh the benefits of being a Roma Lodge member. Many of our families have been part of the lodge for 89 years. **We all have to decide if we pay our dues or don't!**



Roma Lodge
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Tulare, California 93275
www.romalodge1573.org

Membership Dues

Your lodge dues are due on **January 1, 2019**. Regular member dues are **\$75** with the mortuary (\$60 without) per year. Social members are the same. Juniors with benefits are \$6.36. Junior members who choose not to select the benefit option are free. College students up to the age of 26 are also free if they verify they are in college by sending a letter to the lodge. Bring your dues to the meeting in January or mail to **Pam Sola, Roma Lodge, PO Box 1337, Tulare, California 93275**.

Meeting
January 7, 2019

6:30 P.M.

Installation of Officers



Refreshments

Louie Benedetti Family