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Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

March-2025



Italian Pride!

For nearly 95 years Roma Lodge has carried on the Italian Culture in Tulare County starting with those Italian Immigrants who came from Italy in the early 1900's. The World Ag Expo was started in 1968 to showcase agriculture as the leading economic driver in the fertile San Joaquin Valley. The show attracts visitors from all over the world and Roma Lodge has been part of the show since its inception 57 years ago.

Our chairs **Michael DePaoli, Melissa DePaoli-Watkins and Maci DePaoli-Daramy** have just completed their 12th year of serving as our show booth chairs and did a wonderful job in organizing, managing and working with lodge members in offering show visitors a great meal showcasing our Italian Culture.

We started the week on Sunday with making sauce and cutting onions and celebrating **Charlie Pitigliano's** 75th birthday.



Special thanks goes to our chairs and our junior members who helped out. **Nick and Ed Milanese** along with **David DePaoli** who arrived early each day and cooked onions for us. **Ben Filiponi, Nick Serafin and Joseph Goni** who boiled and barbecued the Italian Sausage and **Karen DeGroot and Joyce Hofstee** who prepared a great lunch on Sunday and worked the front counter each and everyday. **Frank Marinelli and Giovanna DePaoli** who made sandwiches or dished out pasta each day. **Dominic and Josh Pitigliano** setup the burners and cooked pasta or ravioli each day.

More great photos on the Roma Lodge website:

[Home | roma-lodge \(romalodge1573.org\)](http://roma-lodge.com)



Show Chairs

Maci Daramy, Michael DePaoli and Melissa Watkins.

Making it a priority!

Presidents Message

It is that time of the year when we take stock in where we have been and where we are headed as an organization. I thought it would be a good time to do some analysis of our membership.

				Live Outside
	Percent			of Tulare
Age	Members	Active	Inactive	County
>80	8%	22%	78%	28%
70-79	13%	49%	51%	0%
60-69	9%	33%	67%	0%
50-59	11%	33%	67%	45%
40-49	11%	49%	51%	25%
30-39	7%	60%	40%	88%
20-29	13%	8%	92%	82%
<19	21%	76%	24%	29%
Total	100%	45%	55%	21%

As shown in the chart above about 8% of our membership are 80 or over in age. While our largest group of members are from the age of 40-60. We have the largest group of junior members of any lodge in the state so we have a bright future.

The two columns in the middle illustrate whether these age groups are “Active” or “Inactive” in the lodge. So what does that mean? If you have attended a meeting, Christmas Party, worked at the food booth at the World Ag Expo or helped out at the ravioli dinner drive-thru you are considered an active member. If you paid your dues and never attended a meeting or activity you are considered an inactive member.

So lets look a little deeper. To begin with we cannot expect those members 80 or over to be at every meeting, make sausage sandwiches at the farm show or stir sauce at the ravioli dinner. Many suffer from health issues and nearly 1/3 don't even live in Tulare County!

Of our 20-40 age group over 85% of them live outside of Tulare County with some living in other states, Kern County or Fresno County. It makes it difficult for them to participate in monthly activities. Why do we have so many members who live outside of Tulare County? These our members who parents or grandparents our long time members who have continued their membership. These young members have gone to college or moved out of state and con-

tinue their membership in the lodge.

So what is the point? Last week at the WAE food booth we had over 50 members who either showed up on Sunday to cook onions, cooked sausage or pasta, made sandwiches or served ravioli or waited on customers. We had plenty of help on Sunday and Wednesday, however, we could have used more help on Tuesday and Thursday.

We have about 275 members of Roma Lodge and with over 20% of them living outside of Tulare County having a 45% participation rate is pretty good. However, we would like more help during the farm show or we are going to have to partner with another group to continue our participation at the show.

It is once again time to pay your dues for the year. All of us have to assess whether or not we want to continue our membership in the lodge. For the past 95 years the lodge has continued to represent our Italian Culture and continue to show the community we are very proud of that culture.

I know each of us will have to prioritize our participation in lodge activities when I know our young parents have a lot on their schedule and it is often difficult to make time for our monthly meetings or participate in lodge activities like the WAE food booth or ravioli dinner drive through.

The best return on your investment for your dues is to attend monthly meetings and participate in lodge activities. ***We need to all make these activities a priority in the future!***

Bill Benedetti and Nick Milanesio

were at the show each and every day showing their support of Roma Lodge. It is members like these who

make your membership in Roma Lodge special because ***Fraternity*** is what the lodge is all about. Thanks Bill and Nick!



March Potluck!

We will have our traditional March potluck meeting on **March 10th**. (Because the power will be off on March 3rd at the Social Hall)

Bring your favorite main dish and salad or dessert. The lodge will provide plates, utensils, bread and drinks. We have some great cooks in the lodge so bring your favorite dish to share with everyone. **Joanne Beecher** is our chair for the potluck. Call her and ask if you can help.



Dues are Due!

We will have nominations, elections and installation of officers for the 2025-2027 terms at our March meeting. This means we will have a financial secretary who will be at the meeting to take your 2025 dues. Listed below are where your \$85 dues go:

Roma Lodge Dues	2025
Grand Lodge Per Capita	\$ 32.51
Supreme Lodge Per Capita	\$ 21.52
Il Leone	\$ 4.98
Scholarship Assessment	\$ 0.74
Life Insurance	\$ 15.00
Local Dues	\$ 10.25
Total	\$ 85.00
Junior Member-Insurance	\$ 7.00

Please note, the Grand Lodge bylaws indicate junior members who are 18 years of age on January 1, 2025 can choose to become a Regular member and will need to decide if they would like to continue as a Regular member or an Associate member if they do not want the Mortuary Benefit.

*A Junior Member can continue as a Junior Member if they are attending college **full-time** up to and including the age of 26.*

*If you do not want to continue your membership, please send an email to larrydutto@yahoo.com and let us know or send us a note to our PO Box .
Thanks You.*

Roma Lodge Scholarships

Roma Lodge Scholarship applications are due and must be postmarked by March 1, 2025. The applications are on the Roma Lodge website romalodge1573.org or by contacting chair **Melissa Watkins** at **559-361-0811**. Late applications will not be accepted so make sure you get yours in before the due date of March 1st.

WAE Food Booth Recap

Chair, **Michael DePaoli** will give a full recap of the finances of the WAE food booth at the March 10th meeting. The rain on Thursday reduced sales, however, the leftover food items were delivered to the Salt +Light facility in Visalia. They were very appreciative of our donation from Roma Lodge. We also want to thank **Jackie Giacomazzi, Dutto-Cleek LLC, E.M. Tharp Company** and other organizations and visitors who supported our booth at the show.



We need to remember that these donations go directly to Roma Lodge as we do not have to pay the 17% commission we pay the farm show and then 8% sales tax to the state. Next year, make plans to be a sponsor of the booth by giving a direct donation or handing out meal tickets to your employees or friends and give them a great meal.

March Meeting

Monday-March 10, 2024

WAE Social Hall
6:00 PM

Potluck!

Roma Lodge Scholarships

Due-March 1st

Contact Melissa Watkins

559-361-0811



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Certified Public Accountants

Karen C. Pedroncelli, CPA
3924 W. Caldwell Avenue, Ste. B
P.O. Box 5100
Visalia, CA 93275
Tel: 559-625-9800
Fax: 559-625-9812
625 N. Main Street
Porterville, CA 93257
Tel: 559-784-9090
Fax: 559-784-9092
karen@pinecpas.com
www.pinecpas.com

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Ken Curti
Owner
Mobile: 559-288-2144
Office: 559-688-0444
Fax: 559-688-0448
kcurti@abglobal.net
Mailing Address
2845 W. Elwood
Visalia, California 93291
Physical Address
6856 Avenue 122
Tulare, California 93274



Dutto-Cleek LLC
1804 South Tamarack
Visalia, California 93277

Larry-559-901-4683

Donald-559-730-8176

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Dennis A. Mederos
Cathy M. Mederos



Benjamin (Ben) Curti
Cell: (559) 288-0587
Personal Email: bacurti@aol.com

18337 Road 24
Tulare, California 93274
Business Email: bencurtifarms@yahoo.com

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LARRY DUTTO, PH.D.
Director

larrydutto@bankofthesierra.com

86 N. Main Street
Porterville, CA 93257
559-791-4900
559-901-4683 c.

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Your Roma Lodge Officers 2023-2024

President	Larry Dutto (901-4683)
Vice President	Justin Curti (906-9109)
Treasurer	Karen Pedroncelli (732-1591)
Recording Sec.	Renee Marinelli (732-8258)
Financial Sec.	Tina Sparlin (741-3642)
Orator	Anthony Chiaramonte (217-4055)
Historian	Melissa Watkins (361-0811)
Guard	Frank Marinelli (802-0611)
Past President	David DePaoli (804-5443)
Chaplain	Nicole Taylor (804-7056)
Junior Members	Pam Sola (901-1781)

Trustees

Matt Watkins-Chair	(647-7161)
Louis Benedetti	(827-1492)
Mike Saltzman	(686-4340)
Dominic Pitigliano	(359-1907)
Michael DePaoli	(730-1168)

Mistress of Ceremony

Joann Beecher (260-4156)

Next Meeting

March 10, 2024

6:00 PM

WAE-Social Hall

Potluck

