



ORDER  
Sons and  
Daughters  
of Italy  
IN AMERICA®

# Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

February-2025

## World Ag Expo!

**Michael DePaoli, Melissa Watkins and Maci Daramy** have been gearing up for the upcoming World Ag Expo February 11-13th!

We will be having our February meeting along with sauce making on **Sunday, February 9th at 7 a.m.** followed cutting onions at **9 a.m.** with our February meeting at **10 a.m.** and lunch afterwards. If you plan to assist at the farm show this year you will need to come on Sunday to get your daily passes.

Hopefully, you will be allowed to enter through Gate 6 and tell them you are attending the Roma Lodge meeting without having a pass.

If you cannot attend on the 9th you need to contact **Melissa Watkins @ 559-361-0811 to get your pass.**

We want to encourage everyone who can attend the show to come to the booth and help in whatever capacity you can. For the past 57-years Roma Lodge has had a booth at the show. Of all the activities we do each year the farm show allows us to showcase our organization and promote the Italian Culture to the community and to our world visitors.



## Doing your part!

There are a lot of members who because of age, health, work schedule or other responsibilities during the WAE can't help out during the show.

Well, now is your chance. If you can't help during the show you can still support our booth in one of two ways. First, you can become a sponsor of Roma Lodge by donating \$100 or more to the lodge. We will proudly display your name or business on a sign at the booth.

Second, if you have a business or would just like to treat your friends to a great meal you can purchase Roma Lodge chits for \$15 each.



Simply contact **Melissa Watkins at 559-361-0811** before the start of the show and she will give you the number of chits you would like. You can give these chits to your employees, customers or friends. All you have to do is put your information on a label and attach it on the back of the card and we will honor your request. We will contact you after the show and let you know how many chits were used and what your donation is. These two options are a great way to support Roma Lodge in their fundraising efforts.

## February Meeting Sunday-February 9th

WAE Food Booth

We will make sauce at 7 AM

Cut Onions-9 AM-Bring Your Knife/Cutting Board

Meeting at 10 AM -Followed by Lunch  
Enter Gate #6-Hope to see you there!

# Passing the Torch



## President's Message

**I**wish I had a dollar for every time one of our long time Roma Lodge members has said to me, ***"I have put in my time for Roma Lodge and I'm too old and tired to do that anymore!" I would be rich!***

I joined Roma Lodge on March 2, 1956 at the ripe old age of 9. Now, some 68 years later I will be entering my **5th term** as your president, if so duly elected at our March meeting. **Mario Bruno** was elected the first president of Roma Lodge back in 1930 and the lodge has had 35 members who have served as



president of which only 8 are still with us. Of these 35 presidents only two have been women. **Olivia Lerda-Goni** who served 3 terms (1987-1992) and **Kathy Briano** who served in 1995-1996.



If you look at the Grand Lodge and Roma Lodge bylaws it states **a president shall not serve more than 3 consecutive 2-year terms**. The caveat of this bylaw is that one can serve more than three consecutive terms if no one else wishes to take over the position of president.

So, I guess you are stuck with me for the next two years, if I live that long. However, unlike my previous terms of office, this will definitely be my last. **It is time to pass the torch** to others who would like to take a leadership role in carrying on our Italian Culture.

America's new president has been accused of being a threat to democracy and instituting an oligarchy form of government where a small group of people control a country, organization or institution. It has been suggested this is the way I choose to conduct Roma Lodge activities. It is time to pass some of these duties on to others. During my next term I plan to pass many of these activities on to those who choose to help.

## In 2025 the lodge has these major activities:

- **February**-WAE food booth which is one of our major fundraising activities. Thankfully, **Michael DePaoli, Melissa Watkins and Maci Daramy** serve as our chairs. It is time for someone to step forward and take over as chairs for this event next year and learn from them this year.
- **May**-95th Anniversary of the Lodge. Unless we have someone volunteer to serve as chair for the anniversary, select a committee to organize the event and select a date and venue we will continue with our usual celebration at our May meeting like we do every year.
- **June**-We have not had a formal declaration in writing from the Grand Council concerning our designation as a lodge in default so we will have to decide if we will send representation to the Grand Lodge Convention.
- **July**-Since we did not have our traditional **Columbus Day Celebration** in October do we want to have a bocce tournament and BBQ in July? We do not have a meeting in July. We need a chair who would like to take on this activity.
- **October**-Our ravioli dinner drive-thru during Columbus Day weekend. We need a chairperson to organize and conduct this event. We had a great start this past year and should build on this tradition of letting the public know about Roma Lodge and our Italian Culture.
- **December**-Our annual XMAS party is always a big event and great for our Junior members. **Leslie DePaoli** has done a wonderful job of serving as our chair. If you would like to help, contact Leslie.



I'm always pleased with the number of members who step forward and help with our various activities. However, we need more individuals who want to take more of a leadership role and become chairs of these events. I'm here to help transition to others and assist them to organize and conduct these events.

## ***Election of Officers-March 10, 2025***

**A**s outlined in the Grand Lodge bylaws a local lodge shall have nominations for local officers at the November meeting in even years and election of officers in December and installation of officers at the January meeting.

Unfortunately, we have missed both of those calendar dates and since we have already had our January meeting and our February meeting will be at the farm show, we will not have our nominations, elections and installation of our 2025-2026 slate of officers until our March meeting.

Another issue is that our meeting place, the WAE Social Hall, will not be available on March 3rd **so our March meeting will**



**be March 10th.** If we have multiple candidates for a particular office we will have open nominations from the floor of potential candidates and have a written ballot voting process. I will be asking former past presidents who are present at the meeting to count the ballots. If you plan to run for office you will need someone at the meeting to nominate you for the office you are seeking.

If we do not have multiple candidates for any office we will ask for a motion to accept the slate of officers and cast a unanimous ballot. **See you March 10th.**

## ***Paying Your Dues for 2025!***

Roma Lodge dues were due starting January 1, 2024. At the January meeting the lodge members voted to keep our dues at \$85 per year.

You must pay your dues by the end of the first quarter or else Roma Lodge will be forced to drop you from our membership roster. Make your check to Roma Lodge. Checks only. No cash. **Mail them to Roma Lodge, PO Box 1337, Tulare, California, 93275.**

## ***Roma Lodge Scholarships***

At the January meeting lodge members voted to have both lodge member and Merit Scholarships this year. Merit Scholarships will be available to Tulare County high school graduates. Lodge scholarships will be in the amount of \$1,000 and Merit scholarships are for \$500.

Applications for the 2025 Roma Lodge Scholarships are available on the Roma Lodge website. You can also contact **Melissa Watkins** by email at [mdepaoliwat@gmail.com](mailto:mdepaoliwat@gmail.com) or calling 559-361-0811.

**Roma Lodge scholarship applications will be due on March 1, 2025.**

## ***Sunshine News!***

**Joanne Beecher** showed up at our January meeting with bumps and bruises all over her face after taking a serious trip and fall earlier in the day. Joanne is our Sunshine Chair and does a great job each month sending cards to those members who have had health issues, been married or need a thank you from the lodge. I asked her to send herself a get well card to herself. At least we saved a postage stamp! If you know someone who is dealing with health issues contact **Joann Beecher at 559-260-4156 so she can send them a card from the lodge.**



## ***Tickets for the Farm Show!***

We need everyone's help at the WAE food booth this year. If you can help in the booth please do so. You can pickup your pass for the show at the February meeting. For those who cannot attend the February meeting on **Sunday, February 9th at 10 a.m.** you can contact Melissa Watkins at **559-361-0811** to make arrangements to get your pass before the show.





**ORDER  
Sons and  
Daughters  
of Italy  
IN AMERICA®**

Roma Lodge  
PO Box 1337  
Tulare, California 93275  
[www.romalodge1573.org](http://www.romalodge1573.org)

### LeNotizie Sponsors

**Vincent Sola Partnership /  
VSP Custom Inc.**  
Farming & Farm Management



**Vincent Sola**  
PO Box 190  
Tulare, CA 93272  
Cell: 559-901-1780  
Office / Fax: 559-752-0234  
Email: [farmers@aol.com](mailto:farmers@aol.com)

**Pine  
Pedroncelli  
& Aguilar  
Inc.**

Certified Public Accountants

**Karen C. Pedroncelli, CPA**  
3924 W. Caldwell Avenue, Ste. B  
P.O. Box 5100  
Visalia, CA 93278  
Tel: 559-625-1860  
Fax: 559-625-9812  
625 N. Main Street  
Porterville, CA 93257  
Tel: 559-784-9090  
Fax: 559-784-9092  
[karen@pincpas.com](mailto:karen@pincpas.com)  
[www.pincpas.com](http://www.pincpas.com)

**Pitigliano Farms**

11586 Avenue 120 • P. O. Box 9  
Tipton, California 93272

**CHARLIE PITIGLIANO**  
Off: (559) 752-4319  
FAX: (559) 752-3230

Mobile: (559) 284-6797  
Res: (559) 752-4632



**Sparlin Hoof Trimming**  
Brent Sparlin  
Owner and Operator  
Specializing in Dairy Animal Hoof Care

Over 30 years experience

559-287-8279  
559-685-8857  
[TSHOOF@aol.com](mailto:TSHOOF@aol.com)



**Bassett Farms, Inc.**  
Pistachios & Almonds  
Jon Bassett

P. O. Box 6069  
Visalia, CA 93290  
[bfarmsinc@yahoo.com](mailto:bfarmsinc@yahoo.com)

Cell: 559-972-5716  
Office: 559-635-8776  
Fax: 559-739-8402

**CURTICO ENT.**



**CURTI TERRA INC.**  
DIVERSIFIED FARMING

**Ken Curti**  
Owner  
Mobile: 559-288-2144  
Office: 559-888-3444  
Fax: 559-888-0448  
[kcurti@curtical.net](mailto:kcurti@curtical.net)  
Mailing Address  
3847 W. Elynn  
Visalia, California 93291  
Physical Address  
6656 Avenue 192  
Tulare, California 93275



**Dutto-Cleek LLC**  
1804 South Tamarack  
Visalia, California 93277

Larry 559-901-4683

Donald 559-730-8176

**DAMCO  
Investments**  
*Dennis Mederos*



**Benjamin (Ben) Curti**  
Cell: (559) 288-0587  
Personal Email  
[bencurti@aol.com](mailto:bencurti@aol.com)

18337 Road 24  
Tulare, California 93274  
Business Email: [bencurtifarms@yahoo.com](mailto:bencurtifarms@yahoo.com)

Phone: (559) 992-5866  
Fax: (559) 992-4842

**BANK OF SIERRA**

**LARRY DUTTO, PH.D.**  
Director

[ldutto@bankofthesierra.com](mailto:ldutto@bankofthesierra.com)  
85 N. Main Street  
Porterville, CA 93257  
559-791-4900  
559-901-4683 c

## 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**  
**February 9, 2025**  
**10 AM-WAE**  
**Food booth**



**Joyce Hofstee & Karen DeGroot**  
**Refreshment Chairs**