



# Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

June-2023

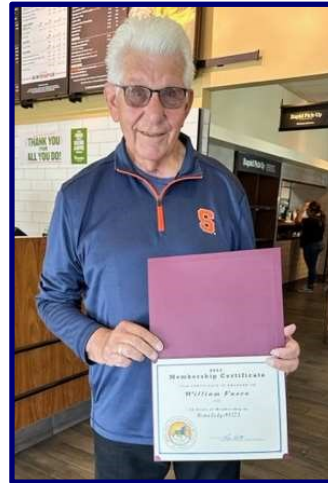
## Roma Lodge 93rd Anniversary Celebration!

May 25, 1930 Roma Lodge #1573 was established at the Woman's Clubhouse in Tulare. For the past 93 years the lodge has maintained prominence in Tulare County for promoting the Italian Culture in the valley. Over the years the lodge has welcomed in members from the **Porterville Lodge** and the **Santa Barbara Lodge**.



**50-year Members**  
*David DePaoli, Nick Milanesio, Angie Milanesio Ed Milanesio*

Thanks to **Michael DePaoli, Dominic Pitigliano** and **Joseph Goni** for the Italian sausage and risotto enjoyed by all. **Melissa Watkins** made the salad and **Lorraine Cleek and Maryann Luis** supplied the anniversary cake.



**55-year Member**  
*Bill Fusco*



**Milestone Memberships**  
*(l-r) Jordyn Dutto-15, Austin Gentry-10, Daniel Daramy-10, Anica Gentry & Aaron Dutto-30 years.*

**June Meeting-Monday-June 5th -6:30 PM**  
**Agri-Center Social Hall**  
**RSVP by June 2nd!**  
**Email-[larrydutto@yahoo.com](mailto:larrydutto@yahoo.com)**  
**Text-901-4683**  
**Sola Family-Chairmans Choice**

**T**ransparency is defined by Webster as: *“the quality or state of being transparent; free from pretense or deceit”* I'm sure we have taken our vehicle to an auto repair shop and insisted on seeing an itemized bill of the parts used, the labor cost, additional charges or taxes applied before we paid the bill. It is required by law for the auto shop to show you what everything cost. **That's transparency!**

When Grand Lodge President **Barbara Wisniewski** was elected president she promised open communication with local lodges. To her word, she has held monthly zoom meetings with local lodge presidents to discuss what activities their lodges were doing.



However, there is a difference between transparency and communication. Communication is the exchanging of information regardless of whether or not you are telling everyone everything.

Roma Lodge will be hosting the United Lodges meeting on June 11th. At a previous meeting president **Pauline Richmond** indicated, *“those of us on the Grand Council are told we cannot discuss anything that goes on at the Grand Council meetings”* **WHAT?**



Many of us serve that on boards and even non-profits utilize *“closed sessions”* of the board to discuss personnel issues. However, the Grand Council needs to publish **all** their meeting minutes so members can determine if our dues are being expended for the best use.

At our June 11th meeting I will be asking for a detailed accounting of both the fall and spring Grand Council meetings. Along with any actions taken by the council and what has been happening with the sale of the building, with a detailed accounting of what was spent and where is the money.

## Local Control!

I have spent the last month reading and re-reading the Grand Lodge bylaws. I will go into details at the June meeting, however, the bylaws have not been updated since 2015. *Did you know a local lodge has to charge a minimum of \$12 for local dues? (Article-74-B) Did you know that a local lodge cannot spend over \$250 without sending out a notice at least 5-days before the meeting? (Article-35-C) REALLY!*

The Grand Lodge is nothing without the local lodges. We grow membership, conduct monthly meetings, provide Italian Culture activities, and create funding for our local charities. However, if you look at the bylaws it is all about control being applied by the Grand Lodge over the local lodge. You must have so many State Delegates, you must provide financial reports to the Grand Lodge and if you are suspended all your paraphernalia and money goes to the Grand Lodge!

The Central Region is the second largest region in the state and we have not had a Grand Lodge President since 1985! This is why, as a State Delegate, I will be supporting **Louise Silacci** of the Hanford Lodge for president. You will see her many qualifications in the IL Leone this month and she promises to make changes reflecting how the Grand Lodge needs to function and return the control of the organization back to the local lodges.



Roma Lodge has tried for the past several years to get bylaw changes to improve the Grand Lodge, made suggestions for the queen contest, and asked delegates to consider changes to the convention to reduce costs for local lodges. With the exception of the *“fines”* bylaw these changes have fallen on deaf ears.

The Grand Lodge continues to lose membership, money on conventions and relies on a *“punitive versus positive”* approach to make changes. I have no ill will against any of the Grand Council members because they are all volunteers and good people. Unfortunately, they are misguided in their actions of trying to keep things the same, when they no longer work!





**5-year Members**  
*Ava Clark-Ariel Maness*



**10-Year Members**  
(l-r) Giulia Watkins,  
Adelyn Watkins, Elisabeth Curti

## Sharp Shooter!

*Giulia Watkins* won her division in the 4-H Shooting Sports division of a recent competition. This was her first ever event shooting at targets with a .22 caliber rifle. Giulia attends Sundale School and is active in several school and community activities.



## Just Married!

Twenty-one year member of Roma Lodge *Annalisa McLafferty* was married to *Ruben Cuellar* in beautiful Santa Barbara on May 6th. Annalisa is the daughter of long time member *Carol McLafferty* and the late *Bill McLafferty*.



## Violin Virtuoso

For the second year in a row, Roma Lodge member *Taylor Dutto* of Caesar Chavez school in Bakersfield auditioned and was selected to play



in the honor orchestra for Kern County at the Merchant Bank Theater. Playing with over 800 grammar school students and in front of over 3,000 attendees she received a gold medal for her performance.

*Wessel and Isaac Piti-gliano* also play the violin and were featured in a concert at St. Paul's School. Our future is bright!



Roma Lodge member *Garrett Costa* was married on May 20th to *Araceli Ojeda* in Hanford. Garrett is the son of *Krisi and Eddie Costa* of Yokuts Valley. He is also the grandson of 67-year member *Johnnie Kay Costa and Clarence Costa* also of Yokuts Valley. Garrett attended Reedley College and is employed by Oxbo

## Pickleball!



Roma Lodge member *Elisabeth Curti* is very active on the pickleball circuit. She recently competed in a 3-day tournament in Templeton, California where she won two **Gold Medals** in team and doubles competition. She regularly plays in Visalia and Hanford. **Great Job!**

## International. Sunshine News!

Get well wishes goes to *Louie Benedetti* as he recovers from surgery, *Joann Beecher* who had a short hospital stay and *Lorraine Cleek* who also had minor surgery.





Roma Lodge  
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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)

**June Meeting**  
**June 5, 2023**  
**6:30 pm**  
**RSVP by June 2nd**  
**Text-559-901-4683**  
**Email-larrydutto@yahoo.com**



**Dinner Hosts  
 The Sola Family**