



# Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

March-2022

## World Ag Expo-2022

If you helped out at the 54th World Ag Expo Roma Lodge food booth we hope your back is no longer hurting, your feet are not swollen anymore and you can sit back and relax knowing that you have done your part to make the show a success.

Special thanks to our co-chairs for **Michael DePaoli** and **Melissa Watkins** who have just completed their 9th year serving as food booth chairs. They took on extra work involved this year because their past co-chairs **Matt Watkins and Maci Daramy** were unable to assist this year and hope to be back next year.

Roma Lodge may be the only non-profit group who has been at every show since 1968 when the California Farm Equipment Show was started at the Tulare Fair Grounds.

We had over 40 members who help at the booth this year with many helping all three days of the show plus cutting onions or making sauce on Sunday. None of this would have been possible without the leadership and hard work of our chairs and all the effort they put forth in making the booth a success.



Michael and Melissa preparing ingredients for the antipasto salads.

**March Meeting**  
**Monday-March 7th**  
**Agri-Center Social Hall**  
**RSVP by March 4th!**  
**Email-[larrydutto@yahoo.com](mailto:larrydutto@yahoo.com)**  
**Text-901-4683**  
**Rigatoni-Chicken-Salad**  
**No Potluck-COVID**



# Grateful!

## Presidents Message

California Governor **Gavin Newsom** has proposed spending \$146 million dollars of taxpayers money to pay college students \$10,000 each for 450 hours of community service. It is in the budget approved by our elected California legislators. **WHAT ARE THEY THINKING?**

Over 40 lodge members volunteered to assist with making the WAE food booth a success. They were not compensated, no one paid for their vehicle costs to get to and from the show, some were required to take vacation days from work to participate and many had to shuffle school schedules, childcare and other activities associated with being a parent.

As your Roma Lodge President I'm extremely grateful of all those who made the booth a success. Take for instance **Charlie Pitigliano** who celebrated his 72nd birthday on Wednesday. He allowed his three sons, **Dominic, Josh and Michael** along with brother-in-law **Al Ybarra** to all assist in the booth cooking sauce and rigatoni while on the payroll at Pitigliano Farms.



**Cris and Julie Clark** are members who live in Colorado Springs, Colorado and traveled to the show to spend a few hours dishing up pasta and sausage in the booth.



**Joseph Goni, Ben Filiponi and Nick Serafin** have been boiling and barbecuing the Italian sausage for years and continue to do a great job!



**David DePaoli and Ed Milanesio** who have taken over cooking the peppers and onions during the show.



Of course there is **Joann Beecher** who was there early in the morning each day and worked all day and served as the booth taskmaster keeping everyone serving our customers during the show.

Sisters **Karen DeGroot and Joyce Hofstee** along with son **Kevin** worked tirelessly all three days of the show waiting on customers and Joyce was in a boot after recent foot sur-



gery!  
**Karen and Shaun Pedroncelli** along with daughter-in-law **Sylvia** and daughter **Nicole Taylor** waited on customers, made salads and enjoyed their time at the food booth.



Retirement allowed **Frank and Renee Marinelli** to volunteer in the booth for the first time in a long time and they assisted in a variety of ways.



**Arlene Parreira and Tina Sparlin** helped make sandwiches and dish up some delicious pasta served during the show.



**Nick Serafin, Mike Saltzman, Frances Della, Rose Della Frank and Pam Solo** cut onions to kick off the show on Sunday.



*"I'm a people person, I love waiting on people in the booth and seeing old friends, I have not seen in years."*

*"I love working in the booth, it is a lot of fun."*

*"I work in the booth in memory of my mom. I learned to do math when I was just a kid at 8 years old. My mom would hand me a \$10 bill and ask me how much change I needed to give the customer back."*

*"Because no one else will do it."*

*"I love volunteering at the booth, I have done it for many years and it is fun seeing other members and friends who attend the show."*

*"Roma Lodge has been around for 92 years and I'm carrying on the Italian traditions"*

As you can see there numerous members who work the booth at the farm show. They do so for a variety of reasons and we had several members who were able to work this year who have not done so in the past. We also had those members who have worked many years in the past and because of health issues, work schedules, vacation trips or other reasons could not do so. We hope they will be able to do so in the future.

Although, it is one of our major fundraisers for the year, the importance of having the booth is to let the community and the world know Roma Lodge is carrying on our Italian traditions by serving great Italian food at the show. We have customers who visit our booth year after year and have come to enjoy the great menu items we serve.

**Thanks again to everyone who helped out this year!**

## Lodge Scholarships Are Due

**March 1st** is the deadline for Roma Lodge and Grand Lodge Scholarships. The Roma Lodge Scholarship application packet can also be found on the Roma Lodge website at : <https://www.romalodge1573.org/>

The Grand Lodge applications are online at <http://www.sonsofitalyca.org/> If you have questions contact our scholarship chair **Melissa Watkins** at 559-361-0811.



**Sal and Pam Chiaramonte along with son Anthony** worked the booth by waiting on customers during the week.

**Adelyn and Giulia Watkins** attended each day since Sundale school cancels school for the week of the farm show. **They worked hard!**



**Wessel Pitigliano** conducts a fire sale of sausage sandwiches the last day of the show.

There is always a little down time during the show for some training on how to play the Italian card game **Pedro**.



I'm sure we have left off a few pictures and names of folks who helped in the booth. I apologize. I did take a survey of some of those who worked and asked them, **"Why do you work in the Roma Lodge food booth?"** Here are some of the replies. I'm keeping the respondents names anonymous.

**"Guilt, I work every year so when I get to heaven someday they won't turn me away because I didn't volunteer at the Roma Lodge booth at the farm show."**



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**PNP**  
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**Dominic Pitigliano**  
 Protecting a Longterm Investment in Pistachios  
 See Story on Page 4

Congratulations are in order for one of our Roma Lodge families, **Dominic, Amie, Giada and Camilla Pitigliano** are featured in this months edition of the **Pacific Nut Producer**. For those of you who are not in the nut business Dominic is an up and coming leader in the pistachio industry.

**March Meeting**  
**March 7, 2022**  
 6:30 PM-Dinner

**Joann Beecher-Chair**  
 Michael DePaoli and Dominic Pitigliano will be cooking pasta and chicken for the dinner. We will not be doing potluck until after covid is over.

**RSVP**  
 Email-[larrydutto@yahoo.com](mailto:larrydutto@yahoo.com)  
 Text-559-901-4683