



# Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

June-2015

## *Research Needed!*

The Roma Lodge annual ravioli dinner was held on May 16th at the TDES Hall in Tulare. Was it the 80th, 81st, 79th annual dinner makes it a mystery. General chairman **Ken Curti** thought it might be the 81st or the 84th, but who knows? We best have some of our more mature members do some research to determine how many dinners we have actually had before we are accused of false advertising!

Whenever we put on an event there are several questions we ask ourselves about how to improve next years dinner. This year we had some unique circumstances we have not had in recent years. We certainly were down in numbers from previous years in the number of tickets sold and dinners served, especially inside the hall.

First, we moved the date off of the Mother's Day weekend. Second, we increased the price from \$20 to \$25. So, did we have reduced ticket sales because of the date change? Did some of our patrons use the dinner to treat their mothers and therefore decided not to attend this year? Did we have too many other meal fundraisers the same week we did not have to compete against last year? Did the increase in price adversely affect ticket sales? Should we go to an inside versus takeout price and sell two different colored tickets? Did the fact that it was on prom night for many of our junior members and their families did that cut down on our attendance?

These are all questions we need to ask lodge members for their input before we plan next years dinner. Come to the June meeting and voice your opinion while it is still fresh in your mind.

One thing for sure is that we had an outstanding turnout of lodge members to assist in putting on a great event. Special thanks goes to **Ken Curti** and **Cathy Mederos** for ticket sales and organizing the event, **Charlie Pitigliano** for making the delicious sauce, **Michael DePaoli, Dominic Pitigliano, Rob Pinkerton and Matt Watkins** for being there

all day and watching the sauce cook and working through the night to cook spaghetti, chicken and ravioli's. They had a lot of help too numerous to mention here but we need to thank everyone who helped.

**Kathy Briano** made all the wonderful table decorations and **Vince and his sons Vincent and Steven Sola** who improved on last years green beans celebrated as the best beans ever. **Maryann Luis and Danny Dutto** took over the duties of preparing the salad and **Nancy Pitigliano** organized the serving and takeout lines.



*Michael and Dominic Pitigliano cook ravioli and spaghetti at the annual dinner.*

**Dennis Mederos** served nearly 600 take outs and **Frances Della, Giovanna DePaoli, Maci Daramy, Leslie DePaoli and Melissa Watkins** took charge of seating people and organizing the dining room seating and serving.

**Ken Bertorelli, Sal Chiamonte, Nick Canata** and **Ron Pedroncelli** took care of wine and new member **Pam Chiamonte** handled the coffee and water service. **Megan and Aaron Dutto** organized busing service along with **Mark and Anica Gentry** who assisted with serving bread and ice cream.

Of course we can't forget about the crew that

stood for hours to marinate and cook the chicken like **Michael DePaoli, Matt Watkins, Michael Saltzman and Joseph Goni. David DePaoli & Kathy Canata** took over ticket sales at the door for Cathy Mederos who had to be out of town.

Other lodges in the state should try to emulate Roma Lodge when it comes to getting our young members involved. We have been very successful in getting our 25-35 year old members to turnout and assist in preparing such a great meal for our annual ravioli dinner. If lodges are to survive in the state it is going to take a lot of the younger generations to come out and support lodge activities. As Roma Lodge members we need to be thankful that our members see the importance of getting their children and grandchildren involved in learning how to take over these activities rather than continually doing it on their own. **Great Job Everyone!**



### Wedding Bells!

Roma Lodge member Courtney Curti was married on May 9<sup>th</sup> to Matthew Stornetta at the beautiful Mission San Carlos Borromeo De Carmelo Mission in Carmel, California with a reception at the Holman Ranch in Carmel Valley. Courtney is a former lodge queen and daughter of Ben and Elisabeth Curti and Mrs. Sally Ringer. The couple will make their new home in Sonoma, California.



### United Lodges

As part of the United Lodges meeting (l-r) Janis Curti, Joann Beecher and in the Center Roma Lodge President David DePaoli present the lodge's donation to Valley Children's Hospital and their doctors and researchers

### New Members!

**Kurt Andrew Sola** born to **Vince and Brittany Sola** joined brother, Reid and sister, Eloise, on April 29th. Grandparents are **Vince and Pam Sola.**



### Where is your family from?

At the June meeting be prepared to point out where your ancestors immigrated to America from Italy. A large map of Italy will be placed on the wall and each family is asked to indicate where they family is from in Italy. This should be a fun activity to determine where Roma Lodge members are from in Italy.



### Want Pictures!

There are some great pictures of the 85th anniversary on Shutterfly. If you would like access send Larry Dutto an email at [larryd@cos.edu](mailto:larryd@cos.edu) and we will get you access.

**Meeting  
Monday  
June 1, 2015  
6:30 P.M.**

**A**s editor in chief of the *LeNotizie* I have had the privilege of choosing each month what goes in the Roma Lodge newsletter. I'm often asked why they never see articles and pictures about myself in the newsletter? Simply put, "it's *not about me*" in regards to the content going into each newsletter.

However, I guess I will have to relent and write about me in my monthly Herald's Message. At the May meeting the word got out I had been selected at the **Educator of the Year** for the Tulare County Farm Bureau. After 43 years in education I will be retiring a second time come July 1, 2015. Coming from a small dairy and farming operation, located just a couple of miles west of the World Ag Expo grounds, my career has come full circle as I had the opportunity and privilege to open the COS Tulare College Center and serve as its first provost.

Although my passion is education, my soul is in agriculture, so it was an honor to have the Farm Bureau select me for this prestigious honor. As an educator I have been honored receiving just about every recognition possible in education, so having an organization from agriculture recognize my contributions to the industry is special.

As Roma Lodge members we all understand the importance of family to those of us of Italian culture and ancestry. When I look at the directory and see the names of the families, where we have generation after generation, of hard working people whose ancestors came from Italy, it is truly amazing. Just about all of our ancestors who settled in Tulare County were involved in agriculture and to see how they have become the leaders of our communities is remarkable.

As an example, my grandfather Vincent Ferrero (Frank) came to this country from a small village, Villa Falletto, Province of Cuneo, Italy in 1901 at the age of 20. He was only 9 years old when his father died and he was farmed out to work for another family for room and board and a pair of work boots each year in Italy. Many of our Roma Lodge families share similar stories as their ancestors came to this country with nothing more than the clothes on their backs to build a new life in America.

## Dutto Named Educator of the Year



My grandfather came to this country unable to read, write or speak English and yet like so many other Italian immigrants taught himself how to do these things. With each succeeding generation these families became leaders in their communities as business owners of dairy and farming operations. Several have been recognized as Farmers of the Year, serve on industry boards and committees and are looked to in their communities as a strong economic force contributing to the prosperity of their communities, the state and country.

With each new generation also came an increase in the level of the education achieved. Those early immigrants of the 1900's had to work so hard just to survive, they could afford only a few years of grammar school. It certainly was not about their ability to achieve success in school, they just did not have the opportunity to do so.

However, these families supported education and encouraged their children and children's children the value of education and made the necessary sacrifices to ensure they had every opportunity for achieving an education so important in today's business and farming world.

With education came diversification of careers. Simply look down the directory of our members and you will see members who, through the encouragement of their parents and grandparents have become CPA's, attorneys, educators, orthodontists and business owners in a wide variety of endeavors, far from the farm or dairy their immigrant Italian ancestors started.

We certainly owe them a great deal for the sacrifices they made on our behalf and their dream for future generations to have a better life and more importantly an easier life. My dad and his brother milked cows 7 days a week, 362 days a year for over 50 years (They each only took 3 days off per year as the other one took over the chores). There was no 40 hour per week jobs, two-week paid vacations, or sick days in their careers.

So having been selected as the **Educator of the Year** is not all about me. It is about having parents and grandparents who instilled in me the value of hard work, a desire to make a better and easier life for my children and grandchildren and instilling in them the importance of paying forward what has been giving to us from our Italian parents and grandparents. **So, it's not all about me!**



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### ***Your Roma Lodge Officers***

President	David DePaoli (804-5443)
Vice President	Michael DePaoli(730-1168)
Treasurer	Karen Pedroncelli (732-1591)
Recording Sec.	Giovanna DePaoli (361-0640)
Financial Sec.	Cathy Mederos (687-1112)
Orator	Gary Dutto (686-6201)
Historian	Elisabeth Curti (553-3151)
Guard	Ken Bertorelli (788-8496)
Past President	Nick Canata (661-978-9331)

### ***Trustees***

Danny Dutto	(686-1348)
Mike Saltzman	(686-4340)
Matt Watkins-Chair	(635-1699)
Dominic Pitigliano	(359-1907)
Rob Pinkerton	(331-3183)

### ***Mistress of Ceremony***

Frances Della	(784-7653)
Kathy Canata	(281-5294)

### ***Meeting***

**June 1, 2015**  
**6:30 PM-Dinner**

**May Dinner**

**RECAP**

**Grand Lodge**

**Convention**

**Refreshment Chairs**

**Nick and Kathy**

**Canata**

**Members having birthdays  
in June should call them and  
see how you can help and  
don't forget your raffle prizes.**

**Drawing \$100**