



Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

February-2023

It's That Time Again!

Michael DePaoli, Melissa Watkins and Maci Daramy have been gearing up for the upcoming World Ag Expo February 14-16th!

We will be having our February meeting along with sauce making on **Sunday, February 12th at 8 a.m.** followed by 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 12th you need to contact **Melissa Watkins @ 559-361-0811 to get your pass.**

Our original plan of having the meeting on February 6th was not possible as the Social Hall was not available due to the WAE.



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 55-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.

Last year we surveyed lodge members as to why they worked every year at the booth. This was our favorite.

"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."

That pretty much sums it up. I guess if you want to go to heaven you need to come and work at the farm show food booth. For those of you who have never been apart of the farm show experience we hope you try it. We think you will enjoy the fraternity we have working at the booth and all the people you get to see at the show. **See you at the show!**



February Meeting

Sunday-February 12th

WAE Food Booth

We will make sauce at 8 AM

Meeting at 10 AM -Followed by Lunch

Hope to see you there!

Transparency!

President's Message

Roma Lodge will be celebrating our 93rd anniversary this year. In 2022 we had a very successful year having 22 new members join the lodge. We also had the largest attendance at our annual Christmas party with nearly 150 members attending and we had over 50 junior members attend our Junior Member Night in August as well. Attendance at monthly meetings was excellent and participation in lodge activities has been good as well.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to have a major fundraiser with the exception of the World Ag Expo food booth. Our *"Dinner for Two"* was very successful, however, since we have had to cancel our annual ravioli dinner, which used to net \$8-\$10K each year it has been difficult to finance the lodge.

In every effort to be transparent I have shown the actual budget for 2022 below. As you can see we had a net operating loss of **\$4,353.71** for the year. Thankfully we started doing our 50/50 raffle at our meetings and that helps offset some of our dinner costs.

As your president I would hope we try to show a net balance at the end of each year to carry forward to the following year. Looking at the budget I think the dollars we spend on dinner at our meetings are dollars well spent because it encourages members to attend as a family and enjoy dinner together. Our hall rental is dirt cheap thanks to [Charlie Pitigliano](#) and our Christmas party is an event we need to support because it is great for our juniors and guests to attend.

This year under chair [Leslie DePaoli](#) the meal was great, junior activity by [Pam Sola](#) was wonderful and the stockings by [Joann Beecher](#) was great for the Juniors.

If we have a goal of showing a balance at the end of 2023 of \$1,500 what must we do? We spent about \$3,200 on the Grand Lodge convention by sending only 3 delegates instead of 6. The Grand Council has notified us they are fining us \$1,800 for not having full representation at the convention. Our bylaw change was passed eliminating fines in the future so we will decide at our February meeting if

we are going to pay the fine.

We can increase our dues. There are about 200 or so members who pay dues, leaving about 80 junior members who do not have to pay dues at this time. If we increased our dues as shown in the chart below it would generate the following:

As you can see we would need a \$25 increase to generate enough revenue to show a profit at the end of the year. We can also do another fundraiser to generate \$3-\$4K so we would not have to increase our dues. There are those who may argue when you increase dues everyone pays. When you have fundraisers those who participate bear the brunt of the work necessary to be successful.

With an increase of dues we may lose members. We will discuss these issues at our next few meetings and decide the best approach to take on our budget.

Increase	\$ 5.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00
Total	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,000.00

Roma Lodge is solvent and in no way am I sounding the alarm about our lodge finances. However, we need to plan accordingly to ensure we have a positive balance at the end of the year. We need to have another fundraiser before the end of this fiscal year. We will not make any rash decisions and if you have an opinion email me at larrydutto@yahoo.com when you feel compelled to do so. We shall see what members want to do.

Roma Lodge Budget	2022		
Activity-Event	Revenue	Expense	Net
Dinner Refreshments	\$ -	\$ 2,373.34	(\$2,373.34)
Social Hall Rental	\$ -	\$ 2,475.00	(\$2,475.00)
LeNotizie Newsletter	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,712.51	(\$812.51)
Donations	\$ -	\$ 650.00	(\$650.00)
WAE-Foodbooth	\$ 18,514.35	\$ 11,482.43	\$7,031.92
Columbus Day Picnic	\$ 419.00	\$ 722.91	(\$303.91)
Fundraiser Activity	\$ -	\$ -	
Sunshine Committee	\$ -	\$ 23.20	(\$23.20)
Meeting Raffles	\$ 721.00	\$ 55.00	\$666.00
Grand Lodge	\$ -	\$ 3,201.54	(\$3,201.54)
Christmas Party	\$ 737.00	\$ 1,960.09	(\$1,223.09)
Miscellaneous	\$ 127.66	\$ 1,116.70	(\$989.04)
Net Income	\$ 21,419.01	\$ 25,772.72	(\$4,353.71)

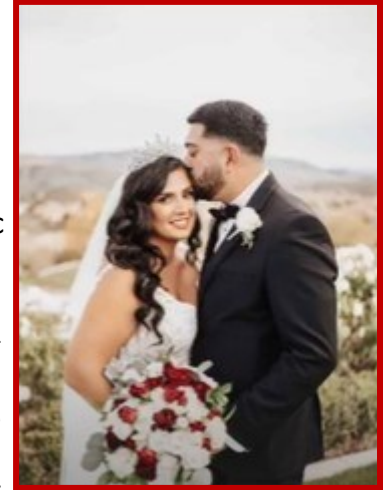
Lorraine Clarot

Roma Lodge members gave their final tribute to **Lorraine Clarot** who passed away on December 22nd. Lorraine was a 43-year member of the Order and was very active in the Tulare community. Born in Tulare just six months after the lodge was formed in 1930, she was a long-time member of the community. She married Mateus Sozinho at the young age of 16 and they owned a dairy operation. Unfortunately, Mateus passed away at the age of 42 leaving Lorraine to raise four children on her own. She married **Louis Clarot**, who was a 63-year member of the lodge, in 1969. For many years they were regulars at lodge meetings, annual ravioli dinner and helped at the World Ag Expo food booth. **Lorraine may you rest in peace.**



Members in the News!

Kathryn Cleek is a 27-year member of Roma Lodge and was married on December 17, 2022 to **Jacob Geha** in Corona, California. Kathryn is a teacher and Head Athletic Trainer at Irvine Unified School District in Irvine. Jacob is in charge of security for the district. She is the daughter of long-time member **Donald Cleek** and the granddaughter of **Lorraine Cleek** a 67-year member of the lodge. **Congratulations to all!**



Roma Lodge Scholarships

Applications for the 2023 Roma Lodge Scholarships are available on the Roma Lodge website. You can also contact **Melissa Watkins** by email at mdepaoli-wat@gmail.com or calling **559-361-0811**.

Roma Lodge scholarship applications will be due on **March 1, 2023**.

Your Dues are Due!

Roma Lodge dues were due starting January 1, 2023. Here is your breakdown of where your dues go:

Roma Lodge Dues	2024
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 \$0.25 Cents	\$ 0.25
Total	\$ 75.00
Junior Member-Insurance	\$ 6.36

Camden Taylor, far left, was on the championship indoor soccer team. Camden is the son of lodge members **Nicole and Brian Taylor** and grandson of **Karen and Ron Pedroncelli**.



Also on the team is **Mason Moffett** (back row-second from the right) and is the son of **Clay and Joanna Moffett** also Roma Lodge members.

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 12th at 10 a.m.** you can contact Melissa Watkins at **559-361-0811** to make arrangements to get your pass before the show.





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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 Chiamonte (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 12, 2023
 10 AM-WAE
 Food booth**



**Joyce Hofstee & Karen DeGroot
 Refreshment Chairs**