



Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

November-2023

Columbus Day!



2023 Bocce Champs!

Joe Scalia, Justin Curti, Sally Scalia, Albert Berra are presented the 2023 Roma Lodge Columbus Day bocce champions trophy by tournament director Matt Watkins.

Roma Lodge celebrated Columbus Day at Mooney's Grove Park on October 8th with about 50 members and guests attending.

Special thanks to **Melissa Watkins, Matt Watkins, Michael DePaoli, Joann Beecher, Renee and Frank Marinelli, Nicole Taylor, and Leslie DePaoli** who stepped forward and took on various activities to make the day a success. Roma Lodge had their first picnic at Mooney's Grove in May of 1930 and have celebrated many occasions at the park. There has been a lot of improvements at the park as Arbor #13 has been upgraded with new bench and table coverings, new roof and paint.

**November Meeting
Polenta and Stew Dinner**

Monday, November 6th

**IAC Social Hall-Dinner @ 6
DePaoli Family Dinner Hosts**



Dessert Contest Winners!

Giovanna DePaoli, Louis Benedetti and Harper and Leslie DePaoli. We want to thank all the members who brought all the salads and desserts to the Columbus Day celebration. Special thanks goes to **Frank Marinelli** who traveled to Porterville to get the pulled pork enjoyed by all.



Raffle Prizes

Joanne Beecher and Renee Marinelli handled the raffle and everyone needs to be thanked for bringing raffle prizes.

Not On My Watch!

Presidents Message

We all know that October is one of the busiest months of the year. For the children, school is back in session, football, soccer and baseball are in full swing, back-to-school events, Halloween, Fall Harvests and a variety of other events are going on. **Everyone is super busy!**

So why does Roma Lodge have a meeting, Columbus Day Celebration and a ravioli dinner fundraiser all in October?

Well let's start with **Christopher Columbus** himself. Mr. Columbus discovered America on October 12, 1492 when a sailor on board the Pinta sighted land. The rest is history. This is why America celebrates Columbus Day on the second Monday of October. It became a federal holiday in 1937 and since the 1990's has been replaced by many states as Indigenous People's Day. I will let all of you decide the merits of that decision.



October was also designated **National Italian-American Heritage** month by the United States Congress in 1989. Therefore, Italian immigrants were

designated a month when many other ethnic groups have not been so recognized.

In 2021 the Tulare City Council and Mayor Dennis Mederos designated Italian Heritage Month for the City of Tulare to commemorate the contributions of those of Italian descent to the Tulare community.



For the past 85 years nothing lets the community know more about Roma Lodge than our annual ravioli dinner. The pandemic of 2020 prevented the lodge from having a dinner through 2022 and now it is time to bring it back.



For over 20 years the dinner was held on Mother's Day weekend. As attendance waned for sit down dinners, and those who wanted to dance. The lodge adapted to changing times and decided to have a drive-thru only event. Members often complained about the Mother's Day weekend event because lodge mothers, who spent several hours working the dinner were often too tired to do much the next day. The weather was often hot and moving the event to the IAC Social Hall will make dinner preparation much easier.

Most of us know the mission of Roma Lodge is to carry on the Italian Culture of our community. It is important we continue such activities as our annual ravioli dinner, farm show booth, Columbus Day celebration and annual Christmas Party.

We need to ensure no matter how busy we may be, how old we may be getting or how many other activities are going on in October, we shall persevere!



It would be so much easier to do nothing than take on a big event like our ravioli dinner. However, we do so in memory of those lodge members who came before us as we pass on our traditions to the younger generations.

As your president, taking the easy way out, by doing nothing, will not occur on my watch!

Ravioli Dinner Details

At this writing we are all set for our ravioli dinner drive through. Here are the details in case you missed the last meeting.

When-Saturday, October 28th, 2023
Time-Drive-Thru-4-7 p.m.
Where-IAC Social Hall
Menu-Ravioli, Chicken, Green Beans, Salad, Bread, Biscotti.
Cost-\$50 for a dinner for two-\$30 Individuals

We need everyone to help especially our older junior members who can assist with serving lines and taking dinners to customers. If you want to help contact one of the members below:

Sauce-Ravioli Cooking-**Josh and Dominic Pitigliano**

Green Beans-**Vincent Sola**

Chicken BBQ-**Michael DePaoli**

Salads-**Melissa Watkins**

Serving Lines-**Nancy Pitigliano**

Drive-Thru-**Frank Marinelli**

We will plan on starting the sauce cooking at 8 a.m. and everyone who can help with dinner preparation needs to be at the social hall no later than 3 p.m. **Our members will not**

eat until after we finish serving our guests. Usually most everyone goes through the drive-thru from 4-6 p.m. so we will plan accordingly.

It looks like we will be serving between 500-600 meals so we need everyone's help. Just remember this is our 85th dinner and we can all share in showing the community the importance of how our Italian ancestors did so much for the community.



Something Different!



The Justin Curti Family

Amelia, Navin, Domenica, Justin and Enzo

As Roma Lodge members we sometime forget not all of our members are of Italian descent. To be a regular member one needs to be of Italian descent or married to someone who is. Such is the case of the Justin Curti family. **Navin Curti** is Cambodian and cooked a wonderful meal for lodge members at the October meeting.

Decision Time!

Before we know it January-2024 will be here and once again time to pay your Roma Lodge dues. We have discussed at our September and October meetings the need to increase our dues by \$10 for regular adult members and our Junior member dues to an even \$7.00 from the current \$6.37 they are currently paying for the benefit.

We vote at our November meeting as to whether or not to increase the dues. We have not had an increase since 2017 when the Grand Lodge increased their dues. If you have a strong opinion about this increase then we suggest you show up to our polenta and stew dinner and meeting on November 6th.





Roma Lodge
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LeNotizie Sponsors

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November birthdays are reminded to bring your raffle prizes to the meeting!

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)

November Meeting

November 6, 2023

6:00 PM-Dinner

Dinner Hosts-DePaoli Family

Polenta & Stew

