

# Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

April-2021

## Retiring!

Frank and Renee Marinelli will be retiring from the teaching profession in June. Renee taught 12 years at Tulare High School and 29 years at College of the Sequoias in the Business Division. Frank has taught 37 years for the Tulare Joint Union High School District.



Frank and Renee are 28 year members of Roma Lodge. Our lodge members wish them health and happiness for a long and well deserved retirement. The Tulare and Visalia communities have greatly benefited from the many years of service and the countless number of lives they have changed of students in their classrooms.

## Happy #80!

Joann Beecher will be celebrating her 80th birthday on April 1, 2021.



She is a 67 year member of Roma Lodge and has done more for the lodge than just about anyone. She can always be counted upon to show up and help in whatever capacity is needed.

Along with husband Leroy she has attended more Grand



Lodge Conventions than anyone else and does more than her fair share. Call her and wish her a Happy Birthday, post on her Facebook page or send her a text!



## Mark Your Calendar!



Tulare County has moved into the **Red Tier** in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is time that Roma Lodge begins meeting again. Therefore we are planning on having an official meeting on **Monday, May 3rd** at the World Ag Expo Social Hall at 6:30 p.m. Dinner

will be provided. Depending on what happens with the any changes in the counties tier designation we will plan on providing you with that information in our May newsletter. In the event the county goes back to the Purple Tier we will still plan on meeting only we will do so in the WAE park and dine outside practicing social distancing. If we have to provide a box lunch we can do that also. In any event we will have our meeting and conduct business on several very important items. **We hope to see you then!**

## Tri-Fold

For those of you who receive your news-

letter through the mail there seems to be a problem with the post office sorting machines. Many of you have received the LeNotizie in a mangled mess. We will be using a tri-fold system to see if that will alleviate the problem. Stay Tuned!



# Update on the Grand Lodge

Presidents Message

I'm sure many of you awaken each morning and wonder what the Grand Lodge of California is doing for you each day. On March 20th, I decided to tune in to the Grand Council meeting held on Zoom. I thought I would give you an update on what is happening at the state level.

Most concerning is total membership has dropped to about 3,300 members with 5 lodges closing during the past year. I remember when there used to be about 20,000 members so the drop in membership is alarming.

Because of the pandemic the Grand Lodge has suffered financially with fewer donations, fundraisers, lack of a 2020 and 2021 convention, losses with the IL Leone, no Royal Pageant and a building which could not be rented for events because of the pandemic and social distancing requirements.

In reviewing past convention financial reports it appears that over the past four years the Grand Lodge has shown deficits of over \$20,000 (2017-\$7,171, 2018-\$2,774, 2018-\$6,482 and 2020-\$4,255). There may be questions about these numbers, but few can argue with decreasing membership, increased costs and dropping revenues something will need to happen to reverse these trends.

## 2021 State Convention

Roma Lodge will have 6 delegates to the Grand Lodge convention this year. We have not submitted our list of delegates as of yet because of our inability to have our regular meetings.

*Tentatively the Grand Council has decided to move to an online, one day, convention this year scheduled for Saturday, June 26th.*

This change will enable Roma Lodge



members to participate in the convention without leaving home, taking time away from work or family time. The current plan is to equip the Grand Lodge building

with the technology to allow more participation online. There will be a few council members onsite to conduct the council meeting and business sessions for participants. Under current circumstances the officers are to be commended for ensuring business can be conducted in safe and efficient manner.

Roma Lodge will have our two resolutions presented and acted upon at this year's convention. First, is our proposal to reduce the number of delegates to **two** per lodge versus delegate numbers being determined by lodge membership. Our current number of delegates costs the lodge between \$3,500-\$6,500 per year depending on where the convention is held. Utilizing the Senate versus House model we would be able to save a lot of funding each year for our other charitable activities.

The second resolution proposes to have the convention every other year versus every year. Again, this would eliminate much of the financial burden for the lodge. If the online format works well this year, maybe that could be an option for the off years, if we go to the every other year format.

There are a lot of challenges facing the Grand Lodge of California in the coming years. As I mentioned in my IL Leone article, Roma Lodge has one Italian American and the rest of us are American Italians. We all must honor and respect the past contributions to our organization, however, we must make changes to ensure the lodge continues to carry on the Italian Culture.

## Final Call!

Roma Lodge voted a couple of years ago to drop members who had not paid their yearly dues by April 1st. We know a lot of you pay your dues at our January or February meeting. However, since we have not met, since early last year, many of you have not paid your dues.

Those of you who have not paid, Pam Sola-Financial Secretary, has sent you invoices for your dues. We understand that only 25 cents of your \$75 dues goes to Roma Lodge, unfortunately the lodge has to pay your state and national dues if you continue your membership. Please let Pam know if you plan to continue your membership in the lodge and submit your dues. If you do not plan to keep your membership let her know that as well.

## Sunshine News

**Ron Pedroncelli** continues to rehab from his broken leg on Christmas Eve.

**Giovanna DePaoli** is still recovering from recent surgery.

**David Milanesio** is recovering from a recent surgery.

**Carol McLafferty** is continuing her treatments at the City of Hope.

If you know someone who has had health issues contact **Joann Beecher (688-8380)** so she can send them a card.

*Listed below are Roma Lodge members who will be celebrating milestone membership in 2021. Those years highlighted in red will receive certificates at the May meeting.*

### **5 Year Members**

Gianna Daramy, Harper DePaoli

### **20 Year Members**

Kylee Cleek, Clint Curti, Alex Galvan, Shaun Pedroncelli, Amanda Warren

### **25 Year Members**

Jim Chavez, Kathy Chavez, Nicole Clark, Kathryn Cleek, Patrick Marinelli, Cathy Mederos, Dennis Mederos, Megan Mederos, Michael Mederos, Melissa Semeos-Mederos

### **30 Year Members**

Michael DePaoli, Larry Dutto, Tessa Hall

### **35 Year Member**

Bill Benedetti

### **52 Year Members**

Ben Curti, Ken Curti, Frances Della, Linda Della, Giovanna DePaoli, Diane Jordan, Dave Milanesio, Steve Milanesio, Nick Serafin and Vincent Sola

### **53 Year Members**

Philip Curti and William Fusco

### **54 Year Members**

Dennis Burner, James Costa, Carol McLafferty

### **55 Year Members**

Clarence Costa, John Greco and Maryann Luis

### **56 Year Members**

Mary Jean Kronbetter Marlene Peterson

### **57 Year Members**

Rosalie Milanesio, Agnes Pelous

### **58 Year Member**

Leroy Beecher

### **63 Year Members**

Connie Spagnuolo, Catherine Romero

### **64 Year Member**

Ronnie Pedroncelli

### **65 Year Members**

Carole Burner, Janet Cabral, Johnnie Kaye Costa, Betty Pratt, Lorraine Cleek, George Rinaldi

### **67 Year Members**

Sharon Barreto, Joann Beecher, Gary Dutto, Barbara Maraist

### **68 Year Member**

Lillian Cotta

### **72 Year Member**

Catherine Atkinson

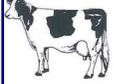
### **85 Year Member**

Joe Signorelli



Roma Lodge  
PO Box 1337  
Tulare, California 93275  
[www.romalodge1573.org](http://www.romalodge1573.org)

### LeNotizie Sponsors

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## Your Roma Lodge Officers 2021-2022

President	Larry Dutto (901-4683)
Vice President	Louie Benedetti (827-1492)
Treasurer	Karen Pedroncelli (732-1591)
Recording Sec.	Kathryn Gomes (331-0025)
Financial Sec.	Pam Sola (901-1781)
Orator	Anthony Chiaramonte (217-4055)
Historian	Melissa Watkins (361-0811)
Guard	Ken Bertorelli (788-8496)
Past President	David DePaoli (804-5443)
Chaplain	Nicole Taylor (804-7056)

### Trustees

Danny Dutto	(686-1348)
Mike Saltzman	(686-4340)
Matt Watkins-Chair	(647-7161)
Dominic Pitigliano	(359-1907)
Rob Pinkerton	(331-3183)

### Mistress of Ceremony

Frances Della	(784-7653)
Toni Pinkerton	(331-3183)

**Don't Forget To Pay Your  
2021 Roma Lodge Dues  
\$75-Adult Members  
\$6.36-Junior Members  
Who Want Insurance**



**Mail To:  
Roma Lodge #1573  
PO Box 1337  
Tulare, CA 93274**