



Roma  
Lodge 1573  
ORDER  
Sons and Daughters of Italy  
IN AMERICA

# Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

April-2026

## Sausage and Risotto!



Nothing signifies the **"Italian Culture"** more than a great meal of Italian sausage and risotto. Our master chef, **Michael DePaoli** along with **Joseph Goni** will coordinate cooking duties with **Josh and Dominic Pitigliano** along with **David DePaoli** to make a great meal for lodge members on April 6th.

Yes, I know many of us will still be getting over our Easter Sunday meals, however, who can resist a great meal of sausage and risotto.



We must all remember these things just don't happen. As shown in the picture on the left taken back in 2003 this Italian tradition was being passed on from **Frank Goni, Charlie**

**Pitigliano and Tony Cabral**. As shown in the picture is a much younger **Joseph Goni** who continues in his fathers footsteps of making the **"secret"** sauce that makes the risotto divine.

## Lifetime Achievement

It was September 1, 1954 when **Carolyn Dutto** joined Roma Lodge which makes her the longest tenured Roma Lodge member of 72 years. Joanne Beecher as she is known today will celebrate her 85th birthday on April 1st. The picture on the right is when she was recognized by the United Lodges in May of 2003.



Along with husband Leroy she was the first recipient of the **Janet Capella Award** presented by the Grand Lodge at the convention in 2017. For many, many years, she and Leroy were always eager and excited to attend the conventions and represent Roma Lodge.

Now, at 85 she is still active in the lodge. Usually the first one at the meetings, sells raffle tickets, chairs the potluck dinner meeting, arrives early and stays late each day at the World Ag Expo food booth and works long and hard at our annual ravioli dinner drive-thru. She can always be counted upon to do her part for the lodge.

I can't think of a member who loves the lodge and her Italian Culture more than **Joanne Beecher**. The lodge owes her a lot for over 72 plus years of dedicated service to the lodge. So, on April 1st, give her a call or send her an email wishing her a Happy Birthday on her 85th!

**April Meeting**  
**Monday-April 6, 2026**  
WAE Social Hall  
6:00 PM  
**Sausage & Risotto**  
**Michael DePaoli-Joseph Goni**  
**Master Chefs**

# Decision Time

Presidents Message

Roma Lodge members find carrying on our Italian Culture pretty simple. Meet once a month, enjoy a great meal with other members and friends, have a short meeting and hold a couple of fundraisers each year. ***That's It! Pretty Simple! Life is good!***



To get the best return on your \$85 dues investment one needs to attend monthly meetings get a great meal and enjoy family and friends. Sometimes we need to make some important decisions that affect the future of the lodge which we will do at our April meeting.

## Decision #1

Roma Lodge has 57 junior members 18 years of age or younger. In the next 10 years about 50 of those members could apply for Roma Lodge scholarships. Each year the number to apply could be from 2-6 depending on the number of applications submitted.

In the last 5 years the lodge has only awarded 1 scholarship to a lodge member ***Kylee Filiponi*** who just graduated from Oklahoma University. Last year we awarded three merit scholarships to Tulare County high school graduates.



I have asked past president ***David DePaoli*** to meet with our scholarship committee to develop a Roma Lodge Scholarship protocol which we will use going forward to award scholarships. We will discuss their recommendations and codify in our minutes the memberships decision on awarding scholarships in the future.

As we discussed at our March meeting the financial standing of our scholarship funds is in good standing and we have enough funding to award scholarships in the future without a lot of fundraising needed.

## Decision #2

The Grand Lodge convention will be held June 24-27th in Sacramento. Although the delegate packets have not been received at this writing Roma Lodge should have 5 delegates based on bylaws.



Roma Lodge was successful in getting the by-law (Article 57-Section M) assessing a fine of \$200 per delegate per day local lodges without representation. The vote passed 84-0. This has resulted in fewer lodges and delegates attending the Grand Lodge Convention.

As shown in the chart on the right the number of lodges, membership and delegates has continued to drop. At the 2025 convention there were only 51 delegates in attendance at the convention.

Grand Lodge Membership/Delegates			
Year	Lodges	Members	Delegates
1999	73	8533	244
2014	59	5969	148
2015	53	5164	142
2016	53	4865	142
2017	51	4762	125
2018	49	4555	114
2021	42	3698	95
2022	40	3598	95
2023	38	2990	87
2024	37	2840	81
Losses	49%	67%	67%

At our April meeting we will decide how many delegates we want to send to the 2026 convention in Sacramento. Make sure you attend the meeting to voice your opinion at to the return on our investment to send 5 delegates. I have invited several of our Grand Lodge leadership to attend our meeting.

## Decision #3

On March 8th I attended the United Lodges meeting hosted by the Hanford Lodge. President ***Michael Leoni*** and Recording Secretary ***Jackie Giacomazzi***, along with chef ***Tony Tesoriere*** did a great job in hosting the event with St. Patrick decorations a delicious meal and good conversations. They did a lot of work for having only a few people who attended.



A motion was made and discussed about discontinuing the United Lodges and action as been postponed to our September meeting. We need to decide as a lodge if we want to continue our participation in the United Lodges.

## Dues are Past Due!

If you want to become a Roma Lodge officer in the future and you want to torture yourself with collecting dues and tracing down beneficiary information then become the Roma Lodge Financial Secretary!

**Giovanna DePaoli** took on this big responsibility last year and continues to contact members to get their dues in and correct beneficiary information.



She has already deposited dues that were mailed to the PO Box for Roma Lodge. Dues to the Grand Lodge are submitted by quarters so the first quarter dues are now scheduled to be paid for the first quarter of 2026 which ends on March 31st.

**Please note, the Grand Lodge bylaws indicate junior members who are 18 years of age on January 1, 2026 can choose to become a Regular member and will need to decide if they would like to continue as a Regular member or an Associate member if they do not want the Mortuary Benefit.**

**A Junior Member can continue as a Junior Member if they are attending college full-time up to and including the age of 26.**

**Dues are as follows:**

**Regular Members-\$85.00**  
**Associate Members-\$70.00**  
**Social Members-\$70.00**  
**Junior Members-\$7.00**

**If you do not want to continue your membership, please send an email to Giovanna DePaoli at [gdepaoli@ocsnet.net](mailto:gdepaoli@ocsnet.net) or call her at 1-559-361-0640 and let us know or send us a note to our lodge PO Box, PO Box 1337, Tulare, California 93275.**

**Please note if your dues are not paid by March 31, 2026 you will be dropped from lodge membership. Don't make the mistake of not paying by the deadline and then be forced to rejoin as a member after that. Save yourself and our financial secretary from going through this process.**



## Lauren Danielle Cuellar



**Lauren Danielle Cuellar** was born on March 15, 2026 to parents **Annalisa and Ruben Cuellar**. She weighed in at 8 lbs-8 oz and measured 21.46 inches. She is the first grandchild of **Bill and Carol McLafferty** who have both passed away, Carol just recently.

She has two aunts **Angela and Francesca McLafferty** and a uncle **John McLafferty**. She is doing very well and lives in Wildomar, California. Congratulations to Annalisa and Ruben and all the McLafferty Family.

## All Aboard!

It appears our Roma Lodge Past-President **David DePaoli** must have been drinking too much of the olive oil as he was sautéing onions in at the farm show.



He may be running for governor for he has installed a rail-car and tracks at his house. He has now laid down more track than **Gavin Newsom**. Come to the April 6th meeting for sausage and risotto and all the details.






# Roma Lodge 1573

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

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## Your Roma Lodge Officers 2025-2026

President	Larry Dutto (901-4683)
Vice President	Justin Curti-(906-9109)
Treasurer	Karen Pedroncelli (732-1591)
Recording Sec.	Renee Marinelli (732-8258)
Financial Sec.	Giovanna DePaoli (361-0640)
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)

## Trustees

Louie Benedetti	(827-1492)
Mike Saltzman	(686-4340)
Matt Watkins-Chair	(647-7161)
Dominic Pitigliano	(359-1907)
Michael DePaoli	(730-1168)

## Mistress of Ceremony

Joann Beecher (688-8380)

## Next Meeting

April 6, 2026

6:00 PM

WAE-Social Hall

*Sausage & Risotto*



Michael DePaoli, Joseph Goni, Dominic and Josh Pitigliano will be doing the cooking. Delicious!