



Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

July-2021

Agnes Manassero Pelous

Agnes Pelous, who celebrates her 99th birthday in July, has been a member of the Roma Lodge in Tulare since 1964. As a member she has enjoyed celebrating the Italian culture with new friends and old friends whose family acquaintances go all the way back to the same village in Italy. Agnes has been active as the Roma Lodge vice president and mistress of ceremonies, as well as serving on the scholarship, ravioli dinner, and Farm Show committees.

Agnes Margaret Manassero was born July 17, 1922 in La Puente, California after her parents John and Maria Manassero emigrated to the US in 1920. They came from Bene Vagienna, in the province of Cuneo, in the Piedmonte Region of northern Italy. The Manasseros then established a home in Yorba Linda, California, where Agnes grew up.

Agnes married **Alex Pelous** on October 28, 1944, establishing a home in Buena Park where they farmed property in the surrounding area. Daughter **Mary Jean** followed in 1947, **Joanne** in 1952, and **Cathy** in 1954. In Orange County, Agnes started her 75 year membership in the California Farm Bureau and Native Daughters of the Golden West, in which she also served as president.

In 1957 Agnes and Alex moved their family and farming operation to Lindsay, California, where Agnes continued her job as wife, mother, farm business partner and bookkeeper, as well as active volunteer in the community and county.

In her hometown of Lindsay, she volunteered as her daughters' room mother every year, helped start



and served as leader in the first Lindsay 4-H club, served on the Lindsay Recreation Commission for four years, was a member of the local election board for twenty-five years, and volunteered with the Lindsay Hospital Guild.

At the county level, Agnes presided over the Tulare County Cotton Wives as president and yearly volunteer, was part of the inaugural Tulare County Chapter of the California Women for Agriculture, and served in many capacities as an active member of the Las Madrinias Guild benefitting Valley Children's Hospital. Known by many for her wonderful cooking skills, Agnes represented the state of California in the 1976 National Beef Cook-off competition in Salt Lake City, Utah, where she placed second.

To recognize her years of volunteerism and exemplary representation of women in agriculture, Central Valley Common Threads, a part of the California Ag Leadership Foundation, honored Agnes in 2002. Agnes credits her Italian heritage for her primary traits of hard work and dedication to serving others.

Italian Heritage Month

Inspirational members like **Agnes Pelous** is one of the main reasons Roma Lodge will be asking Mayor **Dennis Mederos** and the **Tulare City Council** to designate a month (May or October) as **Italian Heritage Month for the City of Tulare**.

In 1930 a group of Italo-Americans from Tulare, Lindsay and Porterville districts met together and decided to form a Lodge to help preserve their heritage and customs of their land and also to encourage those who had not yet become naturalized citizens to do so.

The first meeting was held at the Tulare's woman's clubhouse on April 13, 1930, to organize nominate and elect new officers. They need to be remembered and recognized for their efforts.

Communication!

Convention Report

I would first like to thank Roma Lodge state delegates (alternates) **David DePaoli, Melissa Watkins, Karen Pedroncelli, Joanne Beecher, and Kathy Briano** who joined me on a ZOOM call for the Grand Lodge convention on June 26th. I will let them respond to any questions you may have at our August meeting.

As **Barbara Wisniewski**, new Grand Lodge president stated, as she took the gavel from retiring president **John Costa, the key to the Grand Lodge's success is COMMUNICATION!**

Well Barbara, you have been officially added to the Roma Lodge #1573 LeNotizie email distribution list. Because of technical difficulties there was not time in the zoom meeting to do a lot of discussion, so I will report on my interpretations of the meeting here.

If you would like a copy of the convention book I have placed it on the Roma Lodge website for your review. <https://www.romalodge1573.org/lenotizie>

Roma Lodge Bylaw Changes

We have talked for two years about our two proposed bylaw changes. First, to have each lodge represented by two delegates and second to hold conventions every other year. I moved to approve both resolutions and the motion was seconded. After a bit of discussion the delegates moved to Table the Motion, which does not allow for discussion. It passed. With the approval of the maker of the second I withdrew the second motion.

Membership

I put together the chart below to show Grand Lodge membership. As you can see in the last 20 years the number of lodges has declined 42% (73-42) and membership is down 55% (8533-3881). Everyone seems to understand membership is going down, the question is what is the Grand Lodge going to do about it?

Grand Lodge Lodges & Membership				
		Percent		Percent
Year	Lodges	Change	Membership	Change
1998	73	N/A	8533	N/A
2014	59	-19%	5969	-30%
2016	53	-10%	5164	-13%
2017	53	0%	4865	-6%
2018	51	-4%	4762	-2%
2019	49	-4%	4555	-4%
2020	42	-14%	3881	-15%
1998-2020		-42%		-55%

Budget

I would like to thank **David Lavezzari** and our own **Karen Pedroncelli** for putting together the financial statement and budget for the Grand Lodge. This is a lot of work and very time consuming. Because of the 2020 pandemic the 2020 budget is an anomaly. No convention, Royal Pageant, officer travel, full-time office manager, etc., etc. made the budget really difficult to use for planning. I will base my comments on the 2019 actual budget.

- **Membership**-As shown above membership continues to decline. What is the action plan of the Grand Lodge to turn this around?
- **IL Leone**-**\$14,571** loss in 2019, **\$24,740** loss in 2020. What is the action plan to solve this problem? Members are still being assessed \$4.98 of their dues to support the publication.
- **Officer Travel**-In 2019 the Grand Lodge spent **\$33,253.26** in officer travel. That is the equivalent of **945** members dues! In 2020 \$35.83 was spent. *I guess the pandemic taught us a few things about meetings and travel.*
- **Grand Lodge Building**-There was a **\$10,885** loss in 2020. *Yes, we had a pandemic. However, can we continue to have a \$3-6 million asset lose money?*
- **Royal Pageant Contest**-Roma Lodge submitted several suggestions on how to improve participation in the Royal Pageant Contest. None were accepted. In 1979 there were 24 contestants. In 2018 there were 7. *In the official contestant rules in part it states, "It is a monetary achievement contest", in other words, if your contestant and lodge raises the most money you are the queen!*

I have stated five issues the Grand Lodge council needs to address. I know there was not enough time or technology to adequately discuss much on the zoom call. However, our leadership seems to be ignoring some very significant concerns for the future of the organization and needs to take action to chart a new course or there may not be a Grand Lodge in the future! *As Roma Lodge members, we will draw the line if the council proposes any kind of dues increase.*

So Good!

Charlie Pitigliano and Ken Curti cooked up a great meal of ravioli and pasta for the Roma Lodge June gathering. About 65 members enjoyed a great meal.



Great Cooks!

(l-r) **Clint Curti, Josh Pitigliano, Ken Curti, Charlie Pitigliano, Caleb Curti, Joseph Goni and Dominic Pitigliano** (not pictured) did a great job in cooking sauce, ravioli, pasta and all the trimmings at the June gathering.

Friends of Roma Lodge

Roma Lodge members were saddened in June with the passing of Roma Lodge family members. Although, they were not members of the lodge their families are and we are grateful for their support.



Bernice Green passed away on June 27th at the age of 96. Bernice was **Janis Curti's** mother and was often seen at Roma Lodge dinners and celebrations. She was a delight to be around and was always upbeat and friendly whenever you saw her.

Evelyn Nunes passed away June

24th at the age of 101. She is the mother of Roma Lodge member **Janice Saltzman**. "Rest causes rust" were her mother's words and Evelyn lived by those words. No matter the task, she took it on with gusto. Evelyn was an inspiration to her large family, and to all who had the pleasure of knowing her.



Joe Rosa passed away on June 15th at 105 years of age. Joe was the brother of long time Roma Lodge member **Lupe Briano** who passed away at 99 years of age. He is also the uncle of **Giovanna DePaoli, Kathy Briano and Carol McLafferty**.

He was a WWII Veteran, entrepreneur, golfer and traveled the world. He lived in Summerlin west of Las Vegas.



Milestone Members

Randy and Arlene

Parreira received their 25-year membership certificates and pins, **Robert Pinkerton** his 5 year

membership certificate and **Louis Benedetti** his 40-year certificate at the June gathering.

Our State Deputy, **Jackie Giacomazzi** handed out the membership certificates.



Ravioli Dinner Scheduled

Mark your calendar for **October 30, 2021** for our annual ravioli dinner. The pandemic prevented the dinner from happening in 2020 and so far in 2021. The TDES Hall

has been reserved for the drive-thru event and we hope to make October our month to hold the dinner in the future. We felt it was important to get it away from Mother's Day weekend so members can enjoy the dinner without worrying about preparing for Mother's Day.





Roma Lodge
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Your Roma Lodge Officers 2020-2022

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	Gary Dutto (686-6201)
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)

August Meeting
August 2nd

6:30 PM-Dinner

Junior Member Night



**Dutto-Luis-Cleek-Gentry
 Summer BBQ**