



Roma
Lodge 1573

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Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

October-2025

Above and Beyond!



Lora Bunch-Berra, Sally Berra-Scalia and Al Berra

In the past 95 years I don't know how this tradition started but it seems like Roma Lodge has things a bit backwards. If it is your birthday month you are asked to bring a raffle item or dessert to the meeting. Many of us do the meal for the meeting on our birthday month as well. ***Gee, shouldn't it be the other way around?*** If it is your birthday, shouldn't you be getting raffle items and someone else providing you with dinner? Someone who has been in the lodge longer than I have been needs to explain how this tradition began. I digress.



Al Berra turned 85 on September 15th. As he has done in the past, since it was his birthday, he decided to make the dinner for the meeting. ***It was great.*** Pulled pork sandwiches, salads, bread, dessert it was wonderful. All he had to do was entice his daughter **Sally** to make a wonderful pot of

homemade beans and daughter-in-law **Lora** to help with all the other items that were needed. What he didn't know was that the two of them were planning a surprise birthday party for him the following Sunday and had all that preparation to do. Anyway, it all worked out and everyone was still raving about the meal a day or two later, especially the beans that Sally made. Thanks to the Berra's for stepping forward and providing a great meal for our meeting.

Ravioli Dinner Drive-Thru!

Our annual fundraiser, the ravioli dinner drive-thru will be held on **Saturday, October 11th from 4-6 p.m. at the IAC Social Hall.**

Renee Marinelli distributed over 450 tickets to members at the September meeting to sell. If you need more tickets to sell contact **Renee at 559-280-1491**



We have a meeting on October 6th so make plans to turn in your money or tickets that you have not sold so we have a better count of how many dinners we will need to prepare. If you can help sell tickets contact Renee. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we need to all help sell tickets.

Mark your calendar and make sure you are available to help that day. We want to get as many junior members there to help and start learning our system of serving a great meal and making the community aware of **Christopher Columbus and our Italian Heritage**. The City of Tulare has designated October as Italian Heritage month so let's show the community we have been providing the community with a great ravioli dinner for over 85 years!

October Meeting
Monday
October 6, 2025
IAC Social Hall
6 P.M.
Dinner Hosts
Chiaramonte Family

Building Our Future!

In the next 10 years Roma Lodge will have nearly 40 of our junior members who will be graduating from high school. In addition to Roma Lodge scholarships, the Grand Lodge of California and OSDIA offer thousands of dollars in scholarships to students who plan to attend college.

It has been 5 years since our own **Gianna Benedetti** was awarded the \$5,000 **Trinchero Perpetual Scholarship** by the Western Foundation of the Grand Lodge. In 2024 a Tulare student received a scholarship from the Grand Lodge who was not even a member of Roma Lodge or of Italian descent. **We need to encourage our junior members to apply for Grand Lodge Scholarships! It won't be long before these applications will be due so we need to encourage those who are graduating this year to apply.**

So how do we get our junior members to add to their resume for their scholarship applications?

One way is to have them active in our Roma Lodge Junior Ambassador program. Enter **Miss Calabria** **Giulia Watkins** who has taken on the leadership role of organizing and recruiting junior members into the ambassador program. Giulia is a sixth grader at Sundale Elementary school and is active in sports, school play performances and Roma Lodge.

Giulia takes her new responsibilities very seriously and has already sent letters to potential Roma Lodge junior members who would like to be part of the ambassador program. Since this is the first group we are going to allow our junior members, who want to become ambassadors, to decide what they want to do.



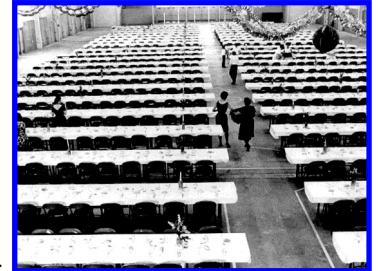
Getting Involved!

Can you put lettuce in a bowl? Can you put ravioli in a takeout container? Can you stir a pot of sauce? Can you season a chicken breast prior to putting it on the BBQ? Do any of these tasks seem too difficult to do? **Probably not.**

The picture on the right shows the preparation for the sit down Roma Lodge annual ravioli dinner back in the day when we served 1,250 people a delicious dinner, had an orchestra for dancing and each guest was served by members of the lodge. **All for only \$3.** In those days guests received a half of a chicken, the ravioli were made by hand and everyone in the lodge did their part to carry on our Italian Culture.

Now, some 85 years later times have changed. We have gone to a takeout dinner only, however, the community still supports the lodge and our Italian heritage in the Tulare community.

If you are new to the lodge or just not sure how you can help, show up on October 11th and just get involved and say I'm here to help!



Yes, we have had members like **Charlie Pitigliano** who have been around a long time and have made hundreds of gallons of sauce for ravioli or spaghetti. One thing for sure is if you come to help, just ask Charlie and he will give you something to do. **Get involved and promote our Italian Culture!**

So Good!

If you were at the September meeting you were treated to an outstanding meal provided by the **Berra Family**. It was also **Nick Notarnicola's** birthday. Nick provided delicious donuts for dessert. **Leslie DePaoli and Haydyn DePaoli** also had birthdays in September. A long standing tradition has been that members who have birthdays provide raffle prizes and desserts for the meeting. Unfortunately, as your president I have not requested birthday members bring raffle prizes or desserts, or that we do a raffle each month. At our October meeting we will discuss this long standing tradition and decide if we will continue it in the future. Stay tuned!



Lodge Directory

Thanks to our Financial Secretary, Giovanna DePaoli, our membership roster has been updated and we distributed directories to those members who were at the September meeting. We also mailed them to members who live outside the area.

There are a couple of corrections:

Outside Cover-Giovanna DePaoli's Phone Number is 559-361-0640.

Nick Notarnicola's phone number-559-690-9953

Clint, Caleb & Caitlin Curti-Address

2202 Chism Street

Tulare, California 93274

Make these changes in your directory!

Sunshine News!

Lorraine Cleek had back surgery and is recovering. **Anthony DeRose** is receiving treatment for his health issues. **Isabella Benedetti** is also having health issues and is currently living in Alaska. We want to wish these Roma Lodge members a rapid and full recovery and wish them all the best as they get their health back. If you know someone who is sick, had an accident or recent surgery, contact **Joann Beecher at 559-260-4156 so she can send them a card from the lodge.**

Hanford Lodge Drive-Thru

Hanford Lodge will hold their annual Spaghetti and Meatball drive-thru on **Sunday, October 26, Hanford Fraternal Hall 1015 N. 10th Avenue, Hanford, CA**



Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner and Sauce Sale. Pickup from 12 noon to 3 PM. Dinner-\$15 Sauce \$10/Qt. Call me 559-816-0707 for further details. (no meatballs for sale this time)

Is the tail wagging the Lion?

As president of Roma Lodge I attended my first Grand Lodge convention in 1999. There were 244 delegates and 19 state officers which would represent about **7%** of the total votes cast. Fast forward about 25 years and at one session there were only 56 delegates present with 19 state officers and others on the Grand Council which constitutes **33%** of the total vote.



So let's do the math. The bylaws state that a member of the Grand Council cannot represent the local lodge they are members of. **Correct?** So let's say that Local Lodge A gets one delegate and they decide not to send someone to convention because of the cost. Let's also assume that Local Lodge A has a member of their lodge on the Grand Council who gets a vote. So in essence their lodge is getting a vote without them spending the funds to send a delegate to the convention!

What if the Grand Council decides to raise our dues? What if they wanted to endorse a candidate for state office? The item would get on the ballot because they meet periodically throughout the year and make these decisions and most likely vote as a block. So, when you are already controlling **33%** of the vote the chances of winning greatly increase because very few lodges meet with other lodges in their district ever.

Maybe we need to have a bylaw change whereby Grand Council members who have delegates from their own lodges at the convention should not be allowed to vote unless their delegates are not there. Remember, if a lodge has a delegate and a Grand Council member they are probably getting two votes instead of one. **The tail could be wagging the Lion!**



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Owner

Mobile: 559-288-2144

Office: 559-688-0444

Fax: 559-688-0449

kcurti@siglobal.net

Mailing Address

2845 W. Brown

Visalia, California 93291

Physical Address

6656 Avenue 192

Tulare, California 93274



Dutto-Cleek LLC
1804 South Tamarack
Visalia, California 93277

Larry-559-901-4683

Donald-559-730-8176

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Cathy M. Mederos



Benjamin (Ben) Curti

Cell: (559) 288-0587

Personal Email

bacurti@aol.com

18537 Road 24
Tulare, California 93274
Business Email: bencurtifarms@yahoo.com

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LARRY DUTTO, PH.D.

Director

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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)

October Meeting
Monday, October 6th
6 p.m.



Chiamonte Family
Dinner Hosts