



Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

October-2020

California Burning!

California is in the midst of the biggest fire season in the states history, with over 3 million acres burned. The **Creek Fire** in Fresno and Mariposa Counties and the **SQF Complex Fire** burning in Tulare County, have just a small percentage of containment and continue to burn. Thousands of structures and several deaths have been attributed to the fires.

Roma Lodge member **Tina Sparlin** had their cabin, her father's cabin destroyed by the **Castle Fire**. For those of



us who do not have property in the mountains it has been difficult dealing with the heavy smoke that has been blanketing the skies

from all the fires burning in California. For several days the air quality was in the severe or hazardous range for the entire San Joaquin Valley. As shown in the picture at the right many of us saw a orange sun, ash falling from the sky and temperatures held down by all the smoke in the air.



Health officials estimated between 1-3,000 people may have died because of the poor air quality when they already had compromised respiratory systems.

Grand Lodge Takes Action!

Grand Lodge President, **John Costa**, asked the Judicial Committee to act on the election of officers by-laws due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For local lodges, who are not meeting in person or through virtual media, have been granted the opportunity to continue with their current slate of officers for the 2021-2022 term.

Roma Lodge officers have been notified of this change and all have decided to continue in their current positions. Therefore, the Roma Lodge Officers for the 2021-22 term are:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| President | Larry Dutto |
| Vice President | Louie Benedetti |
| Past President | David DePaoli |
| Treasurer | Karen Pedroncelli |
| Recording Secretary | Kathryn Gomes |
| Financial Secretary | Pam Sola |
| Orator | Anthony Chiamonte |
| Historian | Melissa Watkins |
| Guard | Ken Bertorelli |
| Chaplain | Nicole Taylor |
| Trustee | Dominic Pitigliano |
| Trustee | Daniel Dutto |
| Trustee | Mike Saltzman |
| Trustee | Rob Pinkerton |
| Trustee | Matt Watkins-Chair |
| Junior Members | Pam Sola |
| Herald | Larry Dutto |

Mistress of Ceremonies

Toni Saltzman
Frances Della

State Deputy

Jackie Giacomazzi

We want to thank these individuals for stepping forward and continuing in their role as officers for Roma Lodge.

unMASKing the Truth!

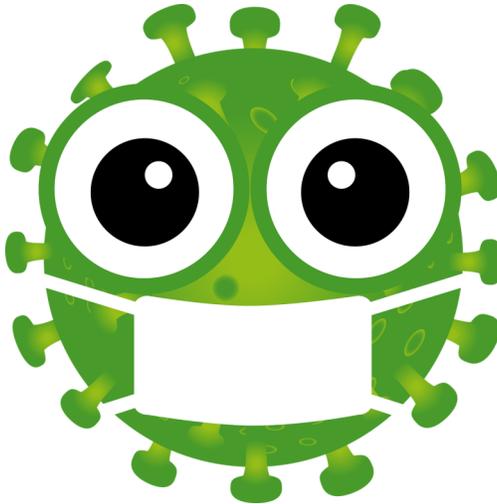
Presidents Message

Truth be told. I hate wearing a mask. It becomes more of a guessing game of whether or not wearing a mask protects you from getting the COVID-19 virus. Let's go back to March when all the health officials were saying you didn't need to wear a mask. Then we were told that everyone needed to wear a mask. Then we are told social distancing of six feet was not enough, then we are told that 94% of the deaths occurred because individuals had other compromising health issues that contributed to their deaths.

Now, we are hearing a vaccine may be available within the next few months and yet others are saying it will be well into next year. We also understand only 45% of the population is willing to get the vaccine. Our children and their parents are dealing with an educational crisis trying to teach children from home via "**distance education**" which everyone agrees is detrimental to their learning and social development. Some schools have partially reopened and others have sued the state to open and lost their legal battle.

Since the pandemic hit Tulare County in March, 15,270 people have been sickened and 253 people have died from COVID-19 complications, according to the health agency. In a promising sign, the county's COVID-19 positivity rate is now 8.7%, slightly above the state's recommended 8%.

Roma Lodge has not met since last March. We have canceled our 90th Anniversary celebration, ravioli dinner fundraiser, junior member night and our monthly meetings since then. Our meeting place has been turned into a COVID testing facility and the World Ag Expo has been canceled for next February. It appears the country, state and county are confused as what to do next. **Unmasking the truth of what is best will be difficult.**



We have several local lodges who have attempted to keep lodge activities going by having ZOOM meetings, raffles, small fundraisers, email campaigns and the like. So the question is simply this: **Should Roma Lodge be doing something?**

Like the health experts, I will take a look into the future and predict where we might be in a month or two based on being in the center of Tulare County. The likelihood we will be able to open up as a county with schools, restaurants, barbershops and beauty salons able to serve customers inside their establishments, I predict, will be slim to none. Some, like the health official in Los Angeles, predicts everything can open up once the election is over. **REALLY! I**

think not.

As your president I will do whatever the lodge members think is best for the organization. To have a meeting, for the sake of having a meeting, with social distancing, everyone wearing a mask, sanitizing stations, Plexiglas, etc., etc., in my opinion, is a waste of time. We must remember the tenets of the organization: **Liberty-Equality-Fraternity** of which fraternity is the reason we meet for the social aspect of seeing everyone once a month. We gather to enjoy a good meal and fellowship. It is not to meet in fear if we don't do everything correctly we could get someone sick with the virus.

To **unmask the truth** about the whole pandemic is anyone's guess as to when we will be back to normal. My best guess will be sometime next year and as an organization I will be requesting that the Grand Lodge and OSDIA suspend dues until everyone can get back to some semblance of normal. Let me know how you feel by emailing me at:

larrydutto@yahoo.com or give me a call at **559-901-4683** with your ideas of what the lodge should do!

Wedding Bells



Brian Milanesio & Lindsey Vieira were married on June 6, 2021 in St. Aloysius church. Brian is the son of Roma Lodge members **Nick & Dana Milanesio** and grandson of **Angelina Milanesio**.



OSDIA NEWS!

On August 31st several local lodge representatives participated in an OSDIA Zoom meeting concerning the loss of membership in the OSIDA, Grand Lodges and local lodges. In an effort to increase membership the OSDIA has launched a social media campaign on Facebook with a series of interviews and short videos featuring prominent American Italians. We recommend you click on the hyperlink to the national organization and checkout what is going on. <https://www.osia.org/>

Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America

OSDIA Interviews LIVE!
Season 2 Episode 1
DEANA MARTIN
Wed. September 29th @ 7pm EST/4pm PST
Facebook.com/osdia

Watch Interview

Tune in this Wednesday for the first episode of OSDIA Interviews LIVE! Season 2 Wednesday (9/29) at 7pm EST/4pm PST on Facebook Live. Our guest is Deana Martin, Esq. and Charissa Butt will be joined by world renowned singer, actress and best-selling author, Deana Martin!

Don't forget to tune in and leave your questions for Deana to be asked during the live show!



Enzo Miro Curti
Roma Lodge members **Justin and Navin Curti** welcomed **Enzo Miro Curti** into the world on September 8th. Enzo weighed 8 pounds and was 22 inches long. He is the brother of **Domenica and Amelia** and the grandson of **Janis and Phillip Curti**. Congratulations to the Curti Family.

Milestone Birthdays

41-year Roma Lodge member **Lorraine Clarot** will be celebrating her 90th birthday on October 9th. Lorraine was married to Louie Clarot who was a member for nearly 65 years. Roma Lodge members want to wish Lorraine a very happy and healthy 90th birthday!



Hanford Lodge Sauce Sale!



Okay Brothers and Sisters....
We have the meatball rolling!
(Well, no meatballs, just sauce this time around)

A handful of fearless volunteer workers will be making our famous sauce – COVID-19 style.

Sauce sale will be by **reservation only**.

No tickets! \$6/QT

Contact person: **Debbie Nardini**

Phone: **559-904-0487**

Date: October 25, 2020

- Delivery service will be available within 100 miles.

More information will follow as it becomes available.



50-year member of Roma Lodge and former first lady **Giovanna DePaoli** is currently serving as president of the **ZONTA Club** in Porterville. ZONTA is an international organization whose mission is to improve the status of women by helping them develop their utmost potential through education, mentor programs and leadership in the community. If you would like to learn more about the organization you can go to their website <https://www.zonta.org/>



In A Pickle

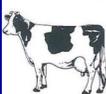
Roma Lodge members **Elisabeth Curti** (left) and **Kathryn Gomes** (center) have taken up the sport of pickleball which is sweeping the country as a new way to get out and have some fun and exercise. The groups play at Plaza Park and enjoy some great times on the court.





Roma Lodge
 PO Box 1337
 Tulare, California 93275
 www.romalodge1573.org

LeNotizie Sponsors

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| <p>INGLEBY</p> <p>Nick Canata Agronomist</p> <p>INGLEBY UNITED STATES Mob +1 559 690 1482 njc@inglebyfarms.com</p> | <p>MSOR</p> <p>MEDEROS, SOARES, ORMONDE & RASCON ATTORNEYS AT LAW</p> |
| <p>Benjamin (Ben) Curti Cell (559)288-0587 Personal Email bencurti@aol.com</p>  <p>CURTI DAIRY BEN CURTI FARMS</p> <p>18337 Road 24 Tulare, California 93274 Business Email: bencurtifarms@yahoo.com</p> <p>Phone (559)992-5866 Fax (559)992-4842</p> | <p>BANK OF THE SIERRA</p> <p>LARRY DUTTO, PH.D. Director</p> <p>ldutto@bankofthesierra.com</p> <p>86 N. Main Street Porterville, CA 93257 559-791-4900 559-901-4633 c</p> |

**Your Roma Lodge Officers
 2019-2020**

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| 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 Chiamonte (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) |

Polenta Time!

For many years Roma Lodge has had the tradition of serving polenta at the November meeting. It is often said in Italy polenta was served to remind Italians of the difficult economic times they were suffering through.

Our polenta and stew chefs have volunteered to continue that tradition on **Monday, November 2nd** at the World Ag Expo Social Hall. This will not be a meeting, social distancing will be followed and drive through take outs will also be available. Details in the November edition of the LeNotizie.

