



Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

February 2016

WAE # 49!

The 49th World Ag Expo will officially kickoff on Tuesday, February 9th. Farm show chair and Roma Lodge member *Charlie Pitigliano* and wife *Nancy* will serve as chairs for the show so as lodge members we need to be there to support the show.

Roma Lodge will be one of the few booths that will be at the show for the 49th year. *Melissa and Matt Watkins along with Michael DePaoli and Maci Daramy* will once again serve as chairs for the food booth at the show.

They have graciously agreed to take on the tremendous task of chairing the show once again. This takes a lot of effort and time on their parts to get the booth ready, order all the food and encourage members to help out.

We have 302 members of Roma Lodge and it takes 15-20 people each day to volunteer at the booth to make it successful. Make your plans to help out as much as possible during the week.

If you can't help during the week you can come down and help make sauce on **Sunday, February 7th at 9 a.m.** Since we no longer cut onions you will need to make arrangements to pickup your farm show passes at the February meeting on February 1st. If you cannot attend the February meeting you will need to make arrangements for someone else to pickup your passes from Melissa Watkins. We hope to see you at the show.



Scholarship Applications

There will be a lot of Roma Lodge junior members who will be graduating from high school this year. To that end they will be eligible to apply for a Roma Lodge Scholarship.

Frances Della, scholarship chair, will have applications on

hand at the February meeting or you can contact her by calling **559-308-6591** if you have questions. You can also download an application on the Roma Lodge website at romalodge1573.org on the scholarship page.

The lodge will determine the number and amounts available for scholarships this year. If you would like to donate to the scholarship fund you can contact Frances. These students are our future and we need to support them in their efforts to complete their higher education.



February Meeting

Monday

February 1, 2016

6:30 PM

Karen DeGroot

Refreshment Chair

Nothing symbolizes Roma Lodge's participation in the World Ag Expo more than this picture of **Louis Clarot** cooking onions hour after hour, year after year at the lodges food booth.

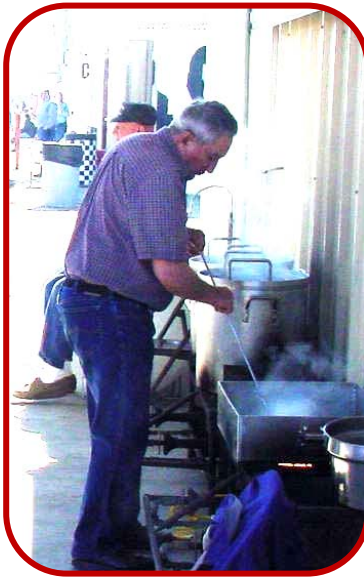
Roma Lodge members bid their final tribute to Louis on a cold and rainy day, January 5th. As a former Farmer of the Year and dairyman for over 60 years he certainly would have welcomed the rain to soak into the parched drought stricken San Joaquin Valley.

Louis was a member of our countries "Greatest Generation" serving our country during WWII surviving a plane crash in the Sea of Japan in 1946.

You could not find a more friendly person than Louie. He would tend to his duties of sautéing the onions for the sausage sandwiches at the farm show each year. He did so each and everyday with a smile on his face as he greeted farm show visitors who would pass him by and visit with him while he cooked onions. Roma Lodge has lost one of its 60 plus year members of the lodge. **Farewell Brother Louis Clarot.**

With the passing of Louis Clarot the reality of losing another dedicated lodge member brings up the same old question we ask each and every year about whether or not Roma Lodge can continue to operate the booth at the World Ag Expo?

Thankfully we have some younger members who have stepped forward to chair the booth again this year. However, it is a thankless, time consuming job that requires them to be away from jobs and family obligations for the entire week. It is no wonder that it is difficult to get members who can afford to chair the booth year after year. Many of our



dedicated members have done so and after one or two years or even longer can no longer do it. For many of our members who may have the time, they no longer have the energy to spend the countless hours at the booth to serve as a chair.

Costs to operate the booth continue to rise as sales decline because of our poor location. The center of activity for the show continues to reside on the south greenbelt between the dairy pavilion and the Heritage Complex. There were years when the booth would easily net \$8-\$10,000. Those profits have now been cut in half. One must question the return on investment of doing all the work we have done in the past for half of the profit.

Granted the lodge is a non-profit charitable organization and the money we make on the show does not make or break the organization. There is a social aspect in that it does provide members with an opportunity to come together and be part of the show.

However, when it becomes more work than fun for a reduced return on investment may it is time to ask a new question. **So where do we go from here or will we make year 50?**

Now, is not the time to answer these questions, however, we better continue to evaluate the lodge's involvement in the World Ag Expo.



Regardless, we are committed to this year so we need everyone's help. Get your pass and show up as often and long as you can. It is always better to have too much help than not enough. See you at the show!



Members in the News!

Nancy Pitigliano was selected as the Tulare County Planning Commission chair. Nancy has served on the committee for several years and continues her great work in planning the future and direction of Tulare County growth.



Darian Roeber, granddaughter of lodge member **Sharon Barreto**, was selected first team All West Yosemite League for girls water polo. Darian was the MVP for Hanford High and set the scoring record for the school.



Anica Gentry, was recognized by the McFarland School District for saving the life of a student who was choking while eating her lunch. Anica is a Transitional-Kindergarten teacher at **Browning Road Elementary**. This is the second time her quick actions have saved a child from choking to death.



Trudi Briano is heading up the new Valley Business Banking center in Woodlake.



Ken Curti was featured in the statewide magazine **Ag Alert** on monitoring chill hours for tree crops such as almonds and pistachios.



Sunshine News

Long time Roma Lodge mem-

ber **Nick Serafin** is recovering at Kaweah Delta Hospital after suffering a heart attack the day before Christmas. At this writing Nick is still in the intensive care cardio unit at the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family as



we hope he has a complete recovery.

Queen's News!

Roma Lodge Queen, **Gabrielle Benedetti** continues to sell raffle tickets so if you have not gotten yours please see her at the February meeting.



Ticket sales are due to the Grand Lodge in early April so support our queen.

She will have another fundraiser as the lodge will put on two lunches for the Western Dairy Challenge event on Friday and Saturday, February 26th and 27th. Members will need to assist on both days. Details will be given at the February meeting on how you can help.

Continue to save your recyclable cans and bottles and bring them to the meeting as part of her fundraiser.

She will also be having a garage sale on **Saturday April 2nd**. Small items you would like to donate can be brought to the March meeting or delivered to Larry and Kathy Dutto's home at **1804 South Tamarack in Visalia on April 1st**. Support our queen by purchasing tickets, saving your cans and bottles, helping with the lunches or donating items to the garage sale.



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

Membership Dues

Your lodge dues were due on **January 1, 2016**. Regular member dues are **\$75** with the mortuary (\$60 without) per year. Dues for social members are the same as regular members. Juniors with benefits are \$6.36. Junior members who choose not to select the benefit option are free. College students up to the age of 26 are also free if they verify they are in college by sending a letter to the lodge. Mail your dues to **Cathy Mederos, Roma Lodge, PO Box 1337, Tulare, California**

Your Roma Lodge Officers

President	David DePaoli (804-5443)
Vice President	Michael DePaoli (730-1168)
Treasurer	Karen Pedroncelli (732-1591)
Recording Sec.	Giovanna DePaoli (361-0640)
Financial Sec.	Cathy Mederos (687-1112)
Orator	Gary Dutto (686-6201)
Historian	Elisabeth Curti (553-3151)
Guard	Ken Bertorelli (788-8496)
Past President	Nick Canata (661-978-9331)

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)
Kathy Canata	(281-5294)

Meeting
February 1, 2016
6:30 PM



Refreshment Chair
Karen DeGroot