



Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

January-2025

Behind the Scenes!

If you were one of the over 100 members and guests who attended the 95th Roma Lodge Christmas party you were treated to an outstanding ribeye steak meal, wonderful decorations, a great talent show by our juniors and a



Juniors greet Santa!

visit from Santa Claus.

What you may have not realized that our chair **Leslie DePaoli** almost didn't make it because she had sick children just before the event. You probably didn't know that our cook, **Michael DePaoli** had spent several hours during the week ordering and picking up food, arrived at 9 a.m. the morning of the event to BBQ, cook and prepare a great meal for everyone to enjoy.

You probably didn't realize that **Joanne Bee-**

cher spent countless hours shopping and making up candy stockings for each of our junior members to get a special treat from Santa. **Pam Sola** had to organize and gather materials to conduct our junior

member talent show to showcase their talents.

Melissa Watkins and Maci Daramy had to get to the party early, shop and put together our

salami and cheese trays for everyone to enjoy prior to lunch.

There were several other lodge members who helped make the Christmas party a big success.

So when you see them make sure you



Leslie DePaoli and Melissa Watkins prepare desserts brought by members.

thank them for putting on a great event. Of course if you could not attend we realize at this time of the year there are many school, sports and church activities going on. We understand we can't all be at every event.



Kate Watkins performs her dance routine!

Next Meeting
January 6, 2025
6 p.m. IAC Social Hall

Resolution Time!

It's that time of year when everyone is making New Year's resolution. Most of us will be concentrating on our health with a new nutrition plan, gym membership or promising ourselves to be a more kind person to others. Research shows that 80% of these resolutions are not kept with only about 8% of those that are made will last a full year.

In a way we all make a resolution in regards to our membership in Roma Lodge. We all have at least one reason for being a member. Of course our primary reason is that we want to carry on our Italian Culture. However, it may be because your family have been members since your great grandparents



were members nearly a 100 years ago. It may be because your parents pay your dues or your spouse is a member and you are not even Italian! Regardless, you will have to resolve whether or not to pay your dues for the 2025

membership year. (Or at least tell the person who is paying your dues that you want to continue your membership in the lodge)

We currently have about 280 members in the lodge with about 60 junior members. We usually get about 50-75 members who attend our monthly meetings. There are those who continued as paid members who live out of the area, are elderly and

because of health issues or other reasons cannot attend monthly meetings or other activities who still want to remain members and that is fine.

I have said many times the best return you can get on your investment for your lodge dues is to attend lodge activities. As an example if you attended the lodge Christmas party you were treated to hors d'oeuvres, ribeye steak dinner, homemade desserts, a talent show, and your children or grandchildren were treated to a candy stocking from Santa Claus. **FOR FREE!**

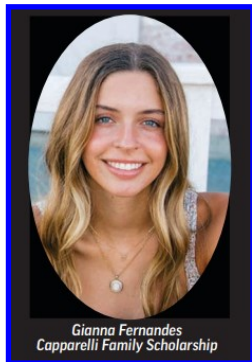
Now, before you pay your 2025 dues we all remember we increase the dues to \$85 in 2024. The Grand Council decided to rebate each local lodge one quarter of dues back to the lodge because they did not have to pay as much tax on the sale of the Grand Lodge building. Therefore, we have those funds in our checking account we have not paid. We may want to reduce our dues back to the \$75 for this year. We will decide at our January 6th meeting.

We still do not have a financial secretary for the lodge. If you would like to serve in that capacity for the lodge for the 2025-2026 term let us know. This position is very important and your duties include collecting membership dues, completing and reporting beneficiary information for those members who choose to take the death benefit and then make quarterly payments to the Grand Lodge. It is important to fill this position for the lodge at the January meeting.



Lodge Scholarships!

Roma Lodge has approximately 60 junior members. In 2020 the lodge gave out 8 scholarships. Since then we have given out only 1 and that was to **Kylee Filiponi**.



Since 2001 the lodge has awarded 85 scholarships to junior members and Tulare County High School graduates. Last year Tulare County had a Grand Lodge scholarship recipient of the Capparelli Family Scholarship, **Gianna Fernandes** who is not even a Roma

Lodge member!

In October of 2019 Roma Lodge decided to establish their own 501 (C) (3) non-profit charitable foundation entitled The Italian Culture Foundation of Tulare County (ICFTC). The foundation will now provide the funds for Roma Lodge scholarships in the future.

Roma Lodge 2025 scholarship applications are to be postmarked by March 1, 2025. Applications for the 2025 Roma Lodge Scholarship applications and general rules will be available on the Roma Lodge website romalodge1573.org after January 1, 2025. You can also contact scholarship chair **Melissa Watkins** by email at mdepaoliwat@gmail.com or calling her at 559-361-0811.

Roma Lodge scholarship applications will be due on **March 1, 2025**. We will be discussing scholarships at our January 6th meeting so if you would like input plan to attend the meeting.

If you know a junior member who is graduating from high school in 2025 you need to contact them and make sure they get an application and submit it to the scholarship committee by the March 1 deadline.



Election of Officers-2025-2026

At the January 6th meeting we will vote on our slate of officers for the 2025-2026 slate of Roma Lodge officers. Our slate includes the following so far:

President	Larry Dutto
Vice President	Justin Curti
Past President	David DePaoli
Treasurer	Karen Pedroncelli
Recording Secretary	Renee Marinelli
Financial Secretary	Vacant
Orator	Anthony Chiaramonte
Historian	Melissa Watkins
Guard	Frank Marinelli
Chaplain	Nicole Taylor
Trustee	Dominic Pitigliano
Trustee	Michael DePaoli
Trustee	Mike Saltzman
Trustee	Louis Benedetti
Trustee	Matt Watkins-Chair
Junior Members	Pam Sola
Herald	Larry Dutto
Membership Chair	Nicole Taylor

Mistress of Ceremonies

Joann Beecher

Vacant

State Deputy

Jackie Giacomazzi

We will need to find someone for our **Financial Secretary** and our second **Mistress of Ceremonies** position. If you would like to run for an office you need to attend the meeting in January or contact Larry Dutto at larrydutto@yahoo.com

Happy 95th Birthday!

Noemi Pelascini celebrated her 95th birthday on December 8th. Noemi was unable to attend our Christmas party the same day when we sang Happy Birthday to all of our members who celebrated birthdays in December. Noemi joins two other Roma Lodge members, **Frances Della** and **Angie Mil-**

anesio who also turned 95 years young in 2024. Congratulations to all of them. Noemi's son **Rick Pelascini** also celebrated his birthday in December.





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

LeNotizie Sponsors

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Your Roma Lodge Officers 2023-2024

President	Larry Dutto (901-4683)
Vice President	Justin Curti (906-9109)
Treasurer	Karen Pedroncelli (732-1591)
Recording Sec.	Renee Marinelli (732-8258)
Financial Sec.	Tina Sparlin (741-3642)
Orator	Anthony Chiaramonte (217-4055)
Historian	Melissa Watkins (361-0811)
Guard	Frank Marinelli (802-0611)
Past President	David DePaoli (804-5443)
Chaplain	Nicole Taylor (804-7056)
Junior Members	Pam Sola (901-1781)

Trustees

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

Mistress of Ceremony

Joann Beecher	(260-4156)
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Next Meeting
January 6, 2025
6:00 PM



Renee & Frank Marinelli
Refreshment Chairs