



Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

September 2017

Change Your Calendar!

Get out your iPhone, iPad, lodge calendar, notebook or write it on your hand to remind you that the Roma Lodge meeting will be on the second Monday of September, **September 11th** due to the Labor Day holiday. Not only will the date be changed but the location and time as well. Lodge members will be hosting a dinner for the cancer society at **6 p.m. at the Heritage Complex** located across from the social hall. The WAE is remodeling the social hall and construction will start after Labor Day. The lodge will hold its regular meeting after the dinner as usual. We will need some help cooking so if you can help contact President **David DePaoli** or **Cathy Mederos**.

Junior Member Night!

Psychologists tell us that young children's minds are like sponges when it comes to absorbing experiences they have when they are



small. It is important Roma Lodge dedicates one meeting a year to our junior members. Having a dinner catered just to them, special raffle prizes of back-to-school items and allowing them

to conduct the meeting are experiences they will never forget and hopefully continue to be lodge members after they are no longer junior members. With schools starting earlier and earlier we may want to make junior member night in September after schools have started and they have settled into their new routines. Something to think about.



David DePaoli and **Audriana Solari** conduct the meeting at junior member night.



Taylor Dutto leads the Pledge to the flag!

September Meeting
Monday, September 11th!

Looking on the Brightside!

Heralds Message

The **LeNotizie** for September was headed to the printer with my Herald's Message lamenting the lack of participation by members at lodge activities. I had went through my directory scouring through each page of names and trying to remember if I had seen this person or that person at a meeting, Christmas Party, ravioli dinner, farm show food booth or Columbus Day Celebration.

A cursory look on each page quickly had me writing numbers of people I had seen the past year at lodge activities. There were only 2 on this page, 9 on that page and another 11 on the page after that. Now, I was on to something. By my count there were only 131 members I had remembered seeing at some event. Only 131 out of 302! A mere 43.3%!

I quickly opened up a spreadsheet and calculated the net return on a person's \$75 dues and determined for a family of four if you attended all the lodge meetings, parties, dinners and farm show you would net over \$1,402 on your investment. How could this be that only 43.3% of our members ever show up at lodge activities!

I was all excited and shared the article with my wife who quickly reminded me that it would be too negative and I should write something else. So I went back to my directory to scan the names one more time. Yup, 302 names are listed as Roma Lodge members.

I soon found out that some of these people live in Arroyo Grande, this person in Idaho, that one in Ohio, another family in Stockton, these people were at the meeting and they live in Bakersfield! The list was filled with dozens of families who do not live in Tulare County. In fact 92 of our members live outside of Tulare County. No wonder they cannot attend all lodge activities.

Then I quickly looked at my Excel database of lodge member statistics. We have 30 members over 80 years of age, 33 between 70 and 79 and 44 between 60-69 for a total of 107 or a 1/3 of our members over 60! I'm sure many of these members can only attend a few lodge activities per year and some none at all because of age or illness.

We have almost another 1/3 (84) members who are between the ages of 30 and 50 and we know they are super busy with children activities and school so it is very difficult for them to at-

tend lodge meetings on school nights and have many other activities during the weekend. So figuring we have nearly 100 members who live outside of Tulare County, another 107 over the age of 60 and 84 who are probably busy parents between the ages of 30 and 50 then to get 50 members at a meeting or other activity is pretty good all things considered.

So, I have decided to look on the bright side and bring you some Sunshine News! Sunshine News can be defined as good news that makes one happy or to have someone in your life that brings joy and happiness to others.

I know when I attend Roma Lodge meetings a person who brings sunshine into my life is seeing our State Deputy **Lilia Giacomazzi**. Lilia represents all the best of our Italian Culture and has a long, long history of service to the Order and has given so much of herself and her resources to Roma Lodge and the Hanford Lodge over the years. She has had a few setbacks with her health lately and we all wish her a rapid recovery and cannot wait to see her at future meetings.



Charlie Pitigliano brings a lot of sunshine to peoples lives and has done so much for Roma Lodge over the years. He is going to be honored by the COS Foundation as an inductee into their Hall of Fame on October 5th. Congratulations to Charlie for all he has done for COS and the Tulare community over the years.



So I guess when you look around the social hall and see about 50 members in attendance at our meetings or a 100 at the Christmas Party we are doing pretty well. We have to remember those who cannot attend lodge activities have some pretty good reasons for not doing so. We appreciate their continued support and urge them when possible to take a more active role in the lodge when they can. I know if they do they will appreciate the other families who attend to help preserve our Italian Culture!

Great Food!

The **Dutto-Luis-Cleek** families got together to put on a great meal for junior member night. Hamburgers, hot dogs, French fries and chicken tenders were enjoyed by all. **Aaron Dutto** took over chef duties, **Lorraine Cleek** made homemade cream puffs, cobbler and cookies, **Maryann Luis** featured her wonderful potato and macaroni salads, **Amanda Luis** assisted with setup and cleanup and **Megan Dutto** took care of getting all the back-to-school supplies and raffle for the junior members. **Great Job Everyone!**



Lorraine Cleek, Maryann Luis, Amanda Luis, Megan and Aaron Dutto
Below-Janis Curti and Joann Beecher enjoy the great food.



New Member!

Charli Jo Curti was initiated at the August meeting and became the newest member of Roma Lodge. Charli is the daughter of **Aaron and Jaimi** and sister of **Grace Curti** who is also a member of the lodge. The Curti's live in Cord' alene, Idaho.



Columbus Day Celebration Moved to October 15, 2017

The Roma Lodge Columbus Day Celebration will be held on October 15th at the International Agri-Center park. Due to a scheduling conflict we had to move



the date so mark your calendars. With all the political correctness going on and the assault on monuments and statues Christopher Columbus is now under attack by several groups to remove the holiday from the calendar. Roma Lodge needs to continue the long standing tradition with everyone coming out to participate. We are still looking for someone to chair the dessert contest. If you would like to do that contact Giovanna DePaoli.

Big Boy!

Bradley Benjamin Briano was born on July 31, 2017 and weighed in at 10 pounds and 1 ounce. He measured 19 3/4 inches and is doing well. He is the son of Roma Lodge member **Kory Briano**. His mother is **Elizabeth Guerrero** and his grandparents are lodge members **Belinda and Albert Briano**. Bradley is also the great-great grandson of **Lena Briano** who is also a lodge member. Congratulations to all!



Sunshine News

Get well wishes go out to **Belinda Briano** after her surgery for a broken leg. She will be unable to put any weight on the leg until November. OUCH! **Faye Taylor** is also recuperating from some recent health issues. Condolences are also extended to the Pitigliano family on the loss of Charlie Pitigliano's brother **Gary Berkovich**. If you know someone who has been ill or been in the hospital, contact **Joann Beecher** so the lodge can send them get well wishes.



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

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. | Pam Sola (901-1781) |
| Orator | Gary Dutto (686-6201) |
| Historian | Melissa Watkins (361-0811) |
| Guard | Ken Bertorelli (788-8496) |
| Past President | Nick Canata (661-978-9331) |
| Chaplain | Kathy Canata (281-5294) |

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) |

Meeting Monday
September 11, 2017
6:00 PM
Heritage Complex
Special Dinner
Honoring
Cancer Survivors

***Meeting
To
Follow***