



Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

December-2014

Tulare County Historical Museum

Nearly 150 people attended the Tulare County Historical Museum Italian Culture ceremonies on October 26th at the museum located in Mooney Grove Park. Special thanks goes to Historian Carol Burner, Ben and Katrina Curti-Rainey, Lilia Giacomazzi and other Roma Lodge members who worked with curator Amy King on getting all of the memorabilia and displays to the museum. Roma Lodge and the Enrico Caruso lodge were featured in the exhibit and the Visalia lodge provided refreshments the day of the event.



The display is still going on and can be viewed Thursday-Monday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The museum is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. You can go to the Roma Lodge website and see all the pictures from the event. Enjoy!



Polenta-A-Plenty

November is traditionally polenta and stew night at the meeting. There was a big crowd of hungry polenta eaters at the



meeting. President **Nick Canata** and First Lady **Kathy Canata** served up a delicious meal of polenta, beef stew and all the fixings. Pictured above is **Michael DePaoli** and **Ben Filiponi** who assisted in making some great polenta.

Turn Back The Clock On Meetings!



Now, that the time change has moved us back to Pacific Standard Time it may be a good idea to start our meetings at 6 p.m. during standard time. It gets dark a lot quicker and waiting until 6:30 makes the meetings later and is difficult for small children to stay along with their parents. Let's discuss in December.

*Christmas Party & Meeting
December 7th
Mark Your Calendar*

Due Process!

Heralds Message

Hold on to your checkbooks because your Roma Lodge dues are about to increase. As shown in the chart below the dues for Roma Lodge members

	Dues Increase From 2011					
	2011	2015	2016	2017	Over 2011	% Increase
Grand Lodge Per Capita	\$20.51	\$ 30.51	\$ 31.51	\$ 32.51	\$ 12.00	59%
Supreme Lodge Per Capita	\$21.00	\$ 21.52	\$ 21.52	\$ 21.52	\$ 0.52	2%
Il Leone	\$ 4.98	\$ 4.98	\$ 4.98	\$ 4.98	\$ -	0%
Scholarship Assessment	\$ 0.74	\$ 0.74	\$ 0.74	\$ 0.74	\$ -	0%
Life Insurance	\$15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ -	0%
Total	\$62.23	\$ 72.75	\$ 73.75	\$ 74.75	\$ 12.52	20%
Social Member	\$47.23	\$ 57.75	\$ 58.75	\$ 59.75	\$ 12.52	27%
Junior Member	6.36	6.36	6.36	6.36	\$ -	0%

will be increase to \$75 for regular members starting January 1, 2015. The lodge members decided to bite the bullet and cover the next three years of proposed increases by the Grand and Supreme Lodges. Social members will increase to \$60 with the only difference being the mortuary benefit. So where is the increase in your dues going?

Looking at the chart it is interesting to note how and where your dues have increased from 2011. In 2017 your dues will have increased **20%**.

However that 20% increase will be a result of a **59%** increase in the Grand Lodge dues and only a **2%** in the Supreme Lodge dues with everything else remaining the same! **REALLY!**

It is pretty ironic that it has been stated in the **IL Leone** that the newspaper is losing \$14,000 and yet the contribution from your dues for the newspaper has remained the same for the last 5 years! Maybe the **IL Leone** should be optional, funded through subscriptions and stand on its own. Members should have the option to receive the newspaper and subscribe to it if they choose to do so. I'm assuming that if it is so far in the red that the Grand Lodge is picking up the tab for the loss.

If the Grand Lodge made the **IL Leone** self sustaining through subscriptions, advertising and donations it would benefit members who wanted the publication without adding it to the cost of dues. I do notice in the publication that you can get a subscription for \$20 per year, however, you get the issues for free if you are a member and the cost of \$4.98 comes out of your dues. **Uh!**

They should also think about notifying members who would like to be sent an electronic version of

the publication or view it on the Grand Lodge website. They would save printing costs, postage and labor costs. Just a thought.

It is a bit ironic that the Grand Lodge can increase their dues by 59% and leave all the other costs the same. Does the Supreme lodge do a better job of managing their income and expenses and therefore are only asking for a 52 cent increase over the next three years!

State President **Lynn Lawrence-Murphy** wrote in her column that "***I need you to share your concerns and needs with me if I am to truly represent you.***" She goes on to explain we need open communication and transparency. **Great!**

So let's have the Grand Lodge post all income and expenses, along with a balance sheet, in the **IL Leone** well in advance of the convention. In so doing lodge members can discuss and direct their delegates on how to vote for future dues increases and budgets.

Do you know how many lodge members there are in the state? I looked at the website and could not find that information. From 1925, with the formation of the first lodge in Oakland, to the last lodge on May 4th, 2013 the Ryan Bonaminio #2879 in Riverside there have been 109 lodges started in the Grand Lodge organization. The website lists 75 lodges remain, however, on the OSIA website it only lists 49 lodges in California. So who really knows.

Doing the math, let's assume that each lodge averages 100 members, and we had 65 lodges, that would mean there would be 6,500 regular members. Because of the dues increase let's assume that we lost 10% of our regular membership. That would be 650 members. For the Grand Lodge alone that would be a total of \$208,000. The Grand Lodge has to understand that they are taking a big risk in increasing dues which may cause members to drop out and smaller lodges to close. If we want open communication and transparency then let's get the budget sent to all lodges so they can give their input.

Dues increases without a good "dues process" showing lodge members the justification of those increases is not a good idea!

Christmas Party December 7th!

Our annual Christmas dinner and program will be **Sunday, December 7th** at the social hall at the World Ag Expo. Each member is asked to bring items for our new charity the **Tulare Lighthouse Rescue Mission**.

Those wishing to help cook should plan on arriving at 10:30 a.m., table decorators at 11:30 a.m. and servers at 12:45 p.m. Lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m.

Remember our Christmas lunch is free for members and only \$5 for guests. Each family is asked to bring a pie, cookies or dessert.

We would like all of you to share your talent for our program. Lets have a great turn out this year. Santa will be there with goodies for the kids. **Contact Kathy Canata** if you would like to participate in the talent show. If you can help with the lunch, decorations, or cleaning up, please contact **Cathy Mederos, 687-1112**. Our December meeting will be conducted at 12:30 p.m. Election of officers will be conducted.

Bring Your Items for the Lighthouse Rescue Mission on December 7th!

The Lighthouse Rescue Mission needs floor cleaners, Ajax, Laundry Soap, Air Fresheners, Window Cleaner, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Tri-Fold Towels, Toilet Seat Covers, Feminine Products, Diapers, Lice Shampoo, Mops, Brooms, Food Handling Gloves, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Bus Passes, Gift Cards or monetary donations.

We have invited a few of the Rescue Mission representatives to join us for lunch and pickup the items that have been donated.

Sheepish Grin!

For the second year in a row, Roma Lodge member **Lauren Costa** won top honors in the **"Make it with Wool"** contest by making her own wool outfit and will be moving on to the next level of competition. Lauren is also the top golfer at Reedley High School and qualified for the regional competition.



2015-16 Officer Nominations

Under the leadership of nomination committee chair Charlie Pitigliano the committee is recommended the following members to serve as officers for the 2015-16 terms. *Anyone who would like to run for an office can be nominated at the meeting on December 7th from the floor.*

2015-2017 Roma Lodge Officers (Incumbents in Blue)

President	David DePaoli
Vice President	Michael DePaoli
Past President	Nick Canata
Treasurer	Karen Pedroncelli
Recording Secretary	Giovanna DePaoli
Financial Secretary	Cathy Mederos
Orator	Gary Dutto
Historian	Elisabeth Curti
Guard	Ken Bertorelli
Chaplain	Pam Sola
Herald	Larry Dutto
Trustee	Dominic Pitigliano
Trustee	Daniel Dutto
Trustee	Mike Saltzman
Trustee	Rob Pinkerton
Trustee	Matt Watkins-Chair

Mistress of Ceremonies

Kathy Canata
Frances Della
State Deputy
Lilia Giacomazzi

Sunshine Committee

Get well wishes are extended to **Louie Clarot** who has been dealing with health issues. The lodge extends its thoughts and prayers to members **Lena, Trudi, Albert and the entire Briano Family with the passing of Dena Briano-Supino** on November 16, 2014.

Ravioli's On Sale!

Ken Curti has several 10 pound bags of raviolis to sell. They are only \$30 per bag and would be perfect for holiday meals. **Contact Kenny @ 288-2144 and make arrangements to get yours!**



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

Dinner Menus

January-Chairman's Choice
February-Chairman's Choice
March-Chairman's Choice
April-Italian Sausage and Risotto
May-Chairman's Choice
June-Chairman's Choice
July-No Meeting
August-Hotdogs/Hamburgers
September-Potluck
October-Chairman's Choice
November-Polenta and Stew
December-Ham & Yams-XMAS Party

Your Roma Lodge Officers

President	Nick Canata (661-978-9331)
Vice President	David DePaoli (804-5443)
Treasurer	Karen Pedroncelli (732-1591)
Recording Sec.	Tina Sparlin (685-8857)
Financial Sec.	Cathy Mederos (687-1112)
Orator	Gary Dutto (686-6201)
Historian	Carole Burner (686-8419)
Guard	Ken Bertorelli (788-8496)
Past President	Ken Curti (288-2144)

Trustees

Danny Dutto	(686-1348)
Mike Saltzman	(686-4340)
Matt Watkins	(635-1699)
Dominic Pitigliano	(359-1907)
Michael DePaoli	(730-1168)

Mistress of Ceremony

Frances Della	(784-7653)
Shurene Curti	(740-0184)

*Roma Lodge
Christmas Party
Sunday
December 7, 2014
WAE-Social Hall
Meeting @ 12:30
Dinner @ 1:00 PM
January Meeting
January 5th*