



Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

December-2016

Polenta Night!



Michael DePaoli, Matt Watkins, Maci Daramy, Dominic Pitigliano and Melissa Watkins cooked up some great polenta for the November meeting. If you

missed it you missed a great meal complete with all the trimmings. There were about 65 members who did attend and were treated to some

great food and a lot of wonderful desserts. Polenta in November is a

great Roma Lodge tradition and is enjoyed by all who attended.



New Officers

The newly elected Roma Lodge Officers for 2017-18 are as follows:

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

Mistress of Ceremonies

Toni Saltzman
Frances Della
State Deputy
Lilia Giacomazzi

The lodge owes these individuals a great deal of thanks and gratitude for stepping forward and serving as lodge officers. These new officers will be officially installed at the January meeting and will need your support in planning, organizing and conducting lodge activities. You need to sign up for committee assignments at the December meetings.



Christmas Party & Meeting
December 4th
Mark Your Calendar

Need Raviolis?

Ken Curti has several boxes of frozen ravioli from the May dinner. If you would like some for your holiday dinners give him a call at 288-2144.

To Sell or Not To Sell, That is the Question!

Heralds Message

If you read your November edition of the *Il Leone* you are aware of the Grand Lodge leadership considering the sale of the Grand Lodge Home Building in San Francisco through a special vote of convention delegates. In a point-counterpoint forum there are articles being written in support or against selling the building.

Each side gives a lot of great justifications on why the building should or should not be sold. Those who support the sale of the building cite examples as a declining profit/loss for the building, increasing maintenance costs, potential loss in appraisal value and the demographics of the population in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Supporters who want to keep the building counter with arguments that it is not a liability, it is a valuable asset and could be turned into a profit center for the Grand Lodge with some innovative ideas of how it could become a revenue generator.

So how does the sale affect a member of Roma Lodge? If you are a member of Roma Lodge you may care less about whether or not the Grand Lodge decides to sell the building. **But, should you?** You may be content just to come to the lodge meeting each month for some great food and socialize with fellow members who are carrying on the Italian Culture in Tu- lare County. However, before you think that what happens in San Francisco stays in San Francisco you will be reminded very soon how this decision can affect your pocketbook.

In January it will be time to once again pay your dues. I posted this chart in the December 2014 edition of the *LeNotizie* showing the proposed increase in dues indicating a **59%** increase in Grand Lodge dues from 2011 to 2016.

If you look in the program for the Grand Lodge Con- vention you will notice the Building Operations showed a **\$16,577.29** loss for the building in 2015. Granted

	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%

about \$10,000 of that was for depreciation. A further review shows the Grand Lodge had about a \$6,600 net income for the same year. At a minimum without the building the net income would have been over

\$23,000. **As Roma Lodge members the profit/loss of the Grand Lodge determines the cost of your dues!**

What I did **not** see in the pro and con articles in the *Il Leone* was any reference as to the purpose of the Grand Lodge having a building to begin with. I believe the primary uses of the building by the Grand Lodge is for an office and storage. I do not believe they hold meetings, events or other activities at the building.

If that is the case then we as Roma Lodge members need to ask if the Grand Lodge should hang on to a potentially \$5,000,000 asset to house an office and provide some storage space? Even at today's low interest rates the sale of the building would build a revenue stream which could easily provide for office space and storage in just about any city in California!

In one of the articles it was estimated that the Grand Lodge has lost about 2,000 members and 13 local lodges. In the first half of 2016 membership was down another 200 members. What we don't know is whether or not the loss in membership is because of the increase in dues.

Let's face it. There are numerous long time Roma Lodge members who not only pay their own dues but the dues of their children and grandchildren in most cases. Look at our directory. We have about 300+ members with about a 20-25% participation rate at most meetings and activities. Looking at the chart in 2017 where only **25 Cents (\$75.00-\$74.75=\$.25)** will go to the local lodge!

Now, if you attend meetings and activities you and your family certainly get your \$75 back in great food at these events because the lodge does not charge members for much of anything. If you can't then you are getting very little for your dues.

The bottom line on this issue is simple. If the Grand Lodge only needs office and storage space and continues to hang onto a building worth potentially \$5 million dollars then sell it! Put the money in an investment account which would provide an income stream that could pay for office space, storage and other Grand Lodge expenses without having to raise dues for members for a long time.

Dues increases result in lost membership. Losing members and local lodges will eventually result in more lost revenue for the Grand Lodge which will force another dues increase to cover losses. The downward spiral of membership will continue.

For the Grand Lodge to hold onto an asset that could prevent an increase in dues for the next several years would be irresponsible. Think about it!

Christmas Party December 4th!

Our annual Christmas dinner and program will be **Sunday, December 4th** at the social hall at the World Ag Expo. Each member is asked to bring items for our 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. The meeting will be at 12:30 and lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m.

Remember our Christmas lunch is free for members and all children (under 12) and only \$5 for guests. Each family is asked to bring a pie, cookies or other 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 **Queen Gabrielle Benedetti** 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**.

Bring Your Items for the Lighthouse Rescue Mission on December 6th!

The **Lighthouse Rescue Mission** needs for the pantry - Rice-A Roni , spaghetti, spaghetti sauce mix, corn bread mix, top ramen, Mac and cheese, sugar, flour, Bisquick, hamburger helper, any canned food - in other words non perishable items. These can be big box items from Smart and Final or Costco.

They can also use cleaning items such as - paper towels, brooms, mops, cleaning products. Personal items like shampoo , lice shampoo, soap (laundry, dish, or bathing) diapers any size, burp pads, coloring books, puzzles, pencils. They can always use money donations as well.

We have invited a few of the Rescue Mission representatives to join us for lunch and pickup the items that have been donated. The Lighthouse Rescue Mission is a non-profit organization located in Tulare that assists the homeless and others in need of food and shelter on a temporary basis.

To learn more about the mission you can go to their website at <http://www.lighthouserescue.org/menu/>



Members in the News!

Delaney Shaw of Waukena 4-H recently brought home 13 blue ribbons in arts & crafts, foods and nutrition, photography and market lambs. She also won best of show for one of her photographs. She is shown here with her market lamb "Agnello", which means lamb in Italian. Delaney is the current President of the Waukena 4-H Club and is a fourth generation member of the club (mother Lisa Shaw, grandmother Carole Burner and great grandmother Pierina Girado).



Honoring Veterans

Vietnam Veteran **Ben Curti** marched in the Visalia Veterans Day Parade with grandsons Boy Scout **Rhett Rainey** and his brother **Dane**.



Yankee MVP!

Austin Gentry was selected as the MVP for his Yankee T-Ball team in Bakersfield. He is the son of **Anica and Mark Gentry** Roma Lodge members.



If you have information you would like to share in the **LeNotizie** please send it, along with photos, to larrydutto@yahoo.com by the 20th of each month.

OSIA The Future Good of the Order Committee

Tony Bisceglia Anderson is the new chair of The Future Good of the Order Committee of the OSIA and is seeking members to provide input into how the OSIA organization can improve the Order. If you have suggestions you can email them to: atony@harbornet.com by December 15th. The committee will be providing ideas on how the Order can be changed and improved in the future.



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.	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)

*Roma Lodge
Christmas Party
Sunday
December 4, 2016
WAE-Social Hall
Meeting @ 12:30
Dinner @ 1:00 PM
January Meeting
January 9th*