



# Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

February-2022

## We Are Back!



It was Valentine's Day, Thursday, February 14, 2020 when this hearty group of Roma Lodge members gathered outside the food booth at the World Ag Expo. It had been a busy week of selling sausage sandwiches, pasta and a variety of other menu items to hungry WAE show attendees.

**Michael DePaoli, Melissa Watkins and Maci Daramy** had spent countless hours ensuring the booth was prepared, organized and operated to give customers the best dining experience available at the show. They completed year number 53 for the lodge who has had a booth at the show since its inception at the Tulare Fair Grounds in 1967.

When the group gathered for their traditional last day picture little did they realize that just three weeks prior a man from the State of Washington had been diagnosed with COVID-19 on January 21, 2020. A pandemic the country and the world had not experienced for over 100 years.

We are still dealing with the wearing of masks, vaccinations, boosters, sickness and deaths as the latest variant Omicron is sweeping the country. Only time will tell as the country deals with new variants of the disease.

As of this writing the show will go on and I'm sure health safety measures will be in place to help control the spread of the virus as much as possible.



Our main chairs for the food booth are **Michael DePaoli, Melissa Watkins and Maci Daramy**. As we discussed at our January meeting Michael has health issues while getting treatments for Hodgkin's Lymphoma and sister Maci is expecting a child, lives in Bakersfield and unable to travel. Therefore, it is

imperative other lodge members step forward and do everything they can to assist in operating the booth.

We will be having our February meeting along with cutting onions on **Sunday, February 6th at 10 a.m.** at the WAE food booth. We hope to allow you to enter through Gate 6 and tell them you are attending the Roma Lodge meeting without having a pass. If that is not possible we will let you know how to get into the show. If you cannot attend on the 6th you need to contact **Melissa Watkins @ 559-361-0811 to get your pass.**

**February Meeting  
Sunday-February 6th  
WAE Food Booth  
We will Cut Onions at 10 AM  
Hope to see you there!**

# Putting Things In Perspective

President's Message

I'm an American-Italian. Of the nearly 300 members we have in Roma Lodge I'm not sure we have any Italian-Americans left in the lodge. My grandparents immigrated from the little town of Villafalletto, Province of Cuneo in the Piedmont region, next to the border of France, in the late 1890's



If you look at the picture above it is a lovely little town with the snow covered mountains in the background looking much like the San Joaquin Valley on a brisk winter day. The main difference is the high temperatures during the summer is about 95 degrees with about 25 inches of rain each year with a lot of snow.

Before you book your flight to Italy, you may be wondering why I'm even writing about my Italian history. A lot of us have swabbed our mouths and sent our mucous to



Ancestry.com or 23andMe to find out where we came from. I did and found out I'm only 14.3% Italian! So what is the point to be made?

Like I said before, my grandparents came to this country more than 130 years ago. Yes, when they came there was a definite need for Italian immigrants to reach out to each other and form a social network of fellow Italians who were also immigrants from Italy. This is exactly what happened over 90 years ago when Roma Lodge was organized in 1930. The organization had a definite purpose, mission and goals to encourage Italian immigrants to become American Citizens. I have been a member of the lodge for more than 35

years and my memory as a child, sitting outside the lodge meeting room (because children were not allowed), goes back over 70 years. We certainly are not soliciting potential members of the lodge to become American citizens. Those days have long passed.

I'm in my third (hopefully my last) term as president of the Roma Lodge. I have seen many changes in the lodge over the past 70 years and as all lodges struggle to keep membership growing and our activities relevant we have had to change the way we do things.

As I look at the *IL Leone* publication each month and see all the pictures of lodge members it is difficult to find those with junior members or younger members of local lodges taking part in lodge activities. Roma Lodge has over 60 members under the age of 21. Do



they all come to every meeting? With school and sports activities they can't. However, they do come for special events of the lodge.

**To put things in perspective** it is time local lodges and the Grand Lodge put their focus on younger members by conducting activities to engage our younger people to become active members. The purpose and mission of the local lodges is not to encourage members to become American citizens anymore. It is to be proud of our Italian ancestry and to carry on some of Italian traditions passed down to our generation.

Let us adapt and change to meet the needs of our American-Italian members. We can continue to respect our ancestors efforts and to develop our own activities to keep our local lodge strong and vital in an ever changing world.

## Carmen Ann Rolfi

**Carmen Rolfi** was a 37-year member of Roma Lodge and passed away on December 23, 2021 at the age of 93. She moved to California at an early age and attended various elementary schools in the Tulare area. She graduated from Tulare Union High School in 1946 then married **Harry L. Rolfi**. They were long-time residents of Tipton, California. Carmen was a bookkeeper/Secretary for the J.G. Boswell cotton gin in Tipton, and later for the Tipton Growers' Gin.

*Farewell Sister Carmen may you rest in peace.*



## Members in the News!

Roma Lodge member **Giada Piti-gliano** exhibited her prize feeder steer at the **Sierra Winter Classic** at the Porterville Fair Grounds. This was the 34th year of the show and had over 100 exhibitors competing in the event.



For these young people who exhibit at these Jackpot shows it becomes a family effort. Mom **Amie**, sister **Camilla** and dad **Dominic** are all involved in the preparation and showing of these



steers. **Congratulations to all!**

**If you didn't see your family in the LeNotizie, just text me a picture and the information to 559-901-4683 and I will be glad to include it in the next issue!**

## Roma Lodge Scholarships

Applications for the 2022 Roma Lodge Scholarships are available on the Roma Lodge website. You can also contact **Melissa Watkins** by email at [mdepaoli-wat@gmail.com](mailto:mdepaoli-wat@gmail.com) or calling 559-361-0811.

Roma Lodge scholarship applications will be due on **March 1, 2022**. At the January meeting lodge members voted to appropriate up to \$6,000 this year for scholarships with the maximum being \$1,500.

## Your Dues are Due!

Roma Lodge dues were due starting January 1, 2022. Here is your breakdown of where your dues go:

Roma Lodge Dues	2022
Grand Lodge Per Capita	\$ 32.51
Supreme Lodge Per Capita	\$ 21.52
Il Leone	\$ 4.98
Scholarship Assessment	\$ 0.74
Life Insurance	\$ 15.00
Local Dues \$0.25 Cents	\$ 0.25
Total	\$ 75.00
Junior Member-Insurance	\$ 6.36

## Tickets for the Farm Show!

We need everyone's help at the WAE food booth this year. If you can help in the booth please do so. You can pickup your pass for the show at the February meeting. For those who cannot attend the February meeting on **Sunday, February 6th at 10 a.m.** to cut onions you can contact Melissa Watkins at **559-361-0811** to make arrangements to get your pass before the show.

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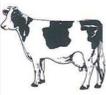
## EMAIL

**If you are not on the Roma Lodge email distribution list send an email to [larrydut-to@yahoo.com](mailto:larrydut-to@yahoo.com) and we will add your name to the list.**



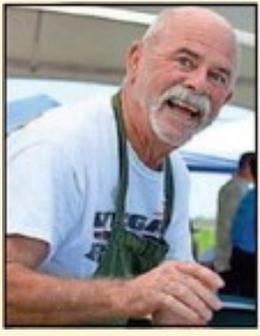
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**Thanks Ray!**

As we approach the WAE 2022 show it will be hard to go to Gate 6 and not see the friendly smile of **Ray Machado**, who passed after being diagnosed with ALS a few months ago. As Roma Lodge members we found Ray was the go to guy if you needed anything done while at the show. Along with our own member **Bill Benedetti**, if you needed something moved with a forklift, a ride to and from the booth, someone to take you to the front of the show or anywhere else, you could count on Ray to provide you that service. He had been an orange jacket volunteer since 1971 and was instrumental in doing so many things making the show the largest in the world. When we look at our lodge charter, in its new wooden case, we will always remember Ray for getting his brother to build it. **Farewell Brother Ray. May you rest in peace.**



**September Meeting**  
**Sunday**  
**February 6, 2022**



**10:00 AM**

**We will be cutting onions again this year. Bring your knife and cutting board. There is no crying when cutting onions!**