



Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

January-2017

Holiday Cheer!

Roma Lodge members were treated to a wonderful Christmas luncheon and celebration with Santa Claus on December 4th.

Cathy Mederos and Kenny Curti co-chaired the event. **Kathy Briano** made some beautiful poinsettia table arrangements and **Ben Curti** assisted with the cooking.

Santa Claus (A.K.A.) as Dennis Mederos was on hand to ask the junior members what they wanted for Christmas and **Joann Beecher** prepared all the stockings with candy, trinkets and whistles for the kids.



Family Time!

Justin and Navin Curti along with daughter Domenica enjoy their visit with Santa.

Over 75 adults and 30 children were in attendance and everyone enjoyed a wonderful afternoon with some great food and entertainment put on by the junior members.

Once again the **Tulare Lighthouse Mission** was on hand to receive all of the items brought by members. Special thanks to all the members who assisted in putting on the event, decorating tables, cutting desserts brought by members.



The Cushing and Solari families enjoy a great meal at the Roma Lodge Christmas party.



**January Meeting
Monday
January 9, 2017
6:30 PM
Installation of Lodge Officers**

Return on Investment?

Heralds Message

The World Ag Expo will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary Show February 14-16th. Roma lodge has participated at each and every show for the past 50 years starting at the Tulare Fair Grounds in 1966.

This years chairs for the booth are **Melissa** and **Matt Watkins, Michael DePaoli and Maci Daramy**. They have been doing all the work to organize and operate the booth that features Italian Sausage sandwiches and pasta.



There has been a lot of discussion over the past few years about whether or not Roma Lodge will continue their participation in the show. Dwindling revenue, increased costs and a shrinking profit margin has members questioning the lodge's return on investment for all the time and effort it takes to run the booth each year.

For the chairs it is a month long ordeal from cleaning the booth, ordering supplies, getting volunteers to staff the booth and spend 12-14 hours each day cooking, selling and cleaning the booth.

Granted we have 40-50 lodge members who volunteer during the week to help staff the booth to cook, sell and prepare the sandwiches and pasta but each year once we determine the profit for all the work members are questioning whether or not to continue the operation of the booth for the 51st year.

Unfortunately, the lodge does not have a lot of options to sell or lease out the booth for the week. The farm show reserves the right to do that so our choices are somewhat limited.

We make about twice the net profit on the ravioli dinner that we do at the WAE. At the ravioli dinner we have a few dedicated members who sell 2/3 of the tickets sold. **Should we adopt this idea for the farm show booth?**

We have long lamented our booth is one of the best values at the show with excellent food, a fair price and great service. Our sales would increase if we had a better location. It has long been documented the foot traffic on the north greenbelt is limited at best. We have often suggested to the farm show to compensate those nonprofits who are located on the north greenbelt should pay less commission to the show based on their location and reduced foot traffic compared to those booths on the south belt or next to the dairy pavilion.

Preselling pasta or sausage sandwich specials would be a win-win for the booth and the lodge. Selling the tickets before the show would mean that the lodge would entice those who purchase them to find the booth and use their tickets. If they choose not to use the tickets it would be



pure profit for the lodge.

If only 40 lodge members sold 5 tickets each that would be more 200 specials we would sell more than we have now. That would increase our profit and greatly improve our return on investment for all the hard work our chairs and members do at the show.

The chairs will have the tickets at the January meeting so plan on picking up 5 or more and start selling to celebrate the 50 years of Roma Lodge involvement in the World Ag Expo!

United Lodges!

The United Lodges of the valley have been busy discussing some pending issues being proposed by the Grand Lodge. First, is the sale of the Grand Lodge building located in San Francisco. After a 81-1 vote by delegates at the convention to sell the building the Grand Lodge leadership decided to form a committee, feature pro and con articles in the IL Leone, and then send out ballots to delegates to vote again on the sale of the building.

The United Lodges has worked very diligently on behalf of local lodges to provide member



lodges with the pros and cons of selling the building. Roma Lodge President David DePaoli has been instrumental in leading the effort.

He has also been working with the United Lodge member lodges to draft an amendment to the Grand Lodge bylaws to reduce the number of required delegates to 1 or 2 for each lodge at the convention. It appears to be gaining strength and support from the group.

President DePaoli will update lodge members at the January meeting as to all the letters and actions of the United Lodge group.

Junior Members at the Christmas Party!



Members in the news!

Roma Lodge members **Camryn Berra** and **Chloe Cushing** were on the same team as the East played the West in women's water polo. Camryn is at Porterville High School and Chloe plays for Tulare Western.



Sunshine Committee

Condolences are sent to the Roma Lodge members of the Dutto-Ferrero Families on the passing of cousin **Peter Belezzouli** who died suddenly on December 16th.



Peter Belezzouli

Condolences are also extended to **Joe** and **Sylvia Signorelli** on the loss of their son David.

Get well wishes are extended to **Pete Milanesio** who is recovering from a recent stay in the hospital.

Membership Dues

Your lodge dues are due on **January 1, 2017**. Regular member dues are **\$75** with the mortuary (**\$60** without) per year. Social members are the same. Juniors with benefits are **\$6.36**. Junior members who choose not to select the benefit option are free. College students up to the age of 26 are also free if they verify they are in college by sending a letter to the lodge. Mail your dues to **Cathy Mederos, Roma Lodge, PO Box 1337, Tulare, California**



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

Ravioli's

Kenny Curti still has ravioli's for sale that were left over from the May dinner. If you would like to purchase some contact Kenny at 288-2144.

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)

January Meeting

Monday

January 9, 2017

6:30 Social Hall



Menu

Chairman's Choice

Kathy & Nick Canata

Refreshment Chairs