



Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

March-2017

50 Years and Counting!

The World Ag Expo just wrapped up its 50th anniversary with over 105,600 attendees and 1,400 exhibitors. For the first time in many years the show had to deal with a lot of, much needed, rain. Thursdays visitors had to deal with heavy early morning showers and parking lots and streets slick with mud.



2017 WAE Food Booth Chairs

(l-r) Michael DePaoli, Maci Daramy, Melissa and Matt Watkins served as World Ag Expo Roma Lodge Food Booth Chairs for the 5th year. Once again they did an outstanding job.

Roma Lodge has participated in the **WAE** since its inception back in 1967 at the Tulare county Fair Grounds. **Michael DePaoli, Matt and Melissa Watkins and Maci Daramy** once again did an outstanding job serving as chairs for the food booth.

Michael will give a complete financial report at the March meeting. The lodge owes Michael and his co-chairs a great deal of thanks and appreciation for taking on such a huge undertaking and continuing the long tradition of having a food

booth at the show. It is unknown how many non-profit organizations have participated at the show all 50 years, however, each year there are more and more groups who give up their spot to other organizations.

If you had an opportunity to come out and help cook, serve or help out in some way your assistance is greatly appreciated. We realize it is difficult for lodge members to find the time to assist in some way the lodge appreciates your efforts.



Hard Workers!

After a long week and a day of dealing with the rain, mud and cold these were the lodge members who were on hand to take the group picture before closing the doors on the 50th year of serving up some great food at the WAE. *Great Job Everyone!*

MARCH MEETING

Monday, March 6th World Ag Expo Social Hall at 6:30 p.m. Potluck dinner with Nancy and Charlie Pitigliano serving as refreshment chairs.

Volunteerism-Finding Your Niche!

Heralds Message

Volunteerism is the principle of donating time and energy for the benefit of other people in the community as a social responsibility rather than for any financial reward.

The 50th World Ag Expo is officially in the record books with another successful year. Ask any official of the show and they will insist the only way that the show has continued to attract visitors from all over the world is the hundreds of orange jacketed volunteers. They will also comment that without the thousands and thousands of volunteer hours given by Tulare community members the show could not go on. Volunteers have made it possible to grow the show each year and keep costs in check so generated revenues could be put back into the organization to meet show expansion efforts. If Disneyland used the same model ticket prices would still be at the \$17 level rather than the \$107 paid by adults today!

The show continues to bring millions of dollars into the local community and has essentially put the once small town of Tulare on the map. ***How many cities in the United States can boast they have the world's biggest anything?***

Like WAE volunteers, Roma Lodge has had many members volunteer over the years in support of our food booth at the show. Unlike, numerous non-profit organizations who have had to close or sell their booths the lodge continues to have enough members to operate the booth each year.



Historically, the month of February was selected as the month to have the show because it is the month with the most rain for the area and would encourage farmers to attend because the fields would be too wet to do much farming. The majority of Roma Lodge members 50 years ago were farmer families who could take a few days to assist in providing the manpower to cook the onions and boil and barbecue the sausage to sell at



the show.

Now, many of our members are employed off the farm or becoming more mature and unable to handle the physical demands of finding a place to park, standing on their feet all day serving customers, or being out in inclement weather.

We also have numerous members who volunteer for other aspects of the show. Many have been orange jacket volunteers for years and provide other vital services during the show. Granted we would love to have them assist in the food booth but they have other duties at the show. The important thing to remember is they are still volunteering and supporting the community through their efforts.

The picture below illustrates the challenge in continuing to operate the Roma Lodge booth for the next 50 years. Shown in the picture 10 years ago in 2007 there were 43 members for the picture that day. Of those 43 members, 6 are no longer members and 6 members have passed away while 6 have taken on other volunteer responsibilities at the show. That is a total of 18 fewer individuals to help operate the booth.

If you look in the far right corner of the 2007 pic-



ture you will see lodge member **Joseph Goni**. Joseph will be honored this year as a 25 year member of the lodge. You won't see him at many meetings, however, he has found his niche in how he wants to volunteer for lodge activities. Barbecuing sausage at the farm show and chicken at the ravioli dinner.

You don't have to volunteer for everything to be a good volunteer. ***Just find your niche and contribute to the community you live in and help support worthwhile causes. Roma Lodge can provide you with many opportunities to do so. See you next year at the booth!***

New Member

James Daniel Dutto was initiated into Roma Lodge at the February meeting. James is the son of **Amber and Daniel Dutto** and the grandson of **Gary and Dawn Dutto** and Great Grandson of **Anna Dutto**. Welcome to the lodge!



Note to potential new members!

If you have someone who would like to become a new member they will need to contact **Giovanna DePaoli** at least one week prior to a monthly meeting if they would like to be initiated at the meeting. Applications received on meeting nights will have to wait until the following month to be initiated.

Potluck Night March 6th!

March is **Potluck Night!** Bring your favorite main dish and salad or dessert. The lodge will provide plates, utensils and drinks. We have some great cooks in the lodge so bring your favorite dish to share with everyone.

Nancy and Charlie Pitigliano will serve as our refreshment chairs so give them a call if you can help out.

Lodge Scholarships Are Due

March 1st is the deadline for Grand Lodge Scholarships and **April 1st** is the due date for the Roma Lodge Scholarship Applications. If you would like a copy of the Roma Lodge application please contact **Frances Della @ 784-7653**. Grand Lodge applications are online at <http://www.sonsofitalyca.org/>

United Lodge Meeting

The next United Lodges meeting will be held on March 12th and hosted by the Roma Lodge. The meeting will begin with a social at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon. The cost will be \$20 per person and will be held at **Vejars** in Tulare. Contact president **David DePaoli (804-5443)** if you plan to attend by the meeting on March 6th.

Beneficiary Updates

As part of paying your dues each year it is also time to update your beneficiary information. If you have a change in your beneficiary contact **Pam Sola**

to make the change so it can be reported to the Grand Lodge. Junior members who are no longer in college and have reached the age of 26 will automatically be transferred to associate members. If you would like to become a regular member you will need to contact Pam as well.

Sunshine News

Get well wishes go **Kathy Briano** who had surgery, **Anna Dutto and Sharon Barreto** who have had health issues.

Members in the News!

Roma Lodge member **Ashlee Gray**, 17, a senior at Clovis West High School, signed her National Letter of Intent on February 1, 2017 committing to play women's soccer at Fresno Pacific University. She will continue her athletic and academic goals in the fall. Ashlee has been a soccer player since the age of 4 and has a love for the game.

Coach Rob Podeyn commented in the FPU newsletter on Ashlee. He stated: *"Ashlee is someone I had the pleasure of coaching in youth soccer, and I have watched her grow and develop over the last couple of years. She is a true student of the game and really takes the time to study and read the complexities of the game. She is very good at holding possession and has a very good touch and feel for the game. Her soccer IQ is high, as she is always analyzing the game as it unfolds. I love her passion, focus, and commitment to winning."*

Ashlee is the daughter of **Ty and Jennifer Gray** of Fresno, granddaughter of **Roger and Barbara (Dutto) Maraist**, and great-granddaughter of **Edward and Freida Dutto**.



FFA Presentation

Tulare FFA will be on hand at the April meeting to make their Ag Issues presentation. Make plans to attend.



Food booth Makes the Morning Show!



The Roma Lodge food booth received a lot of coverage during the WAE being featured in local newspapers, on Facebook and on

KMPH Channel 26 **Great Day** morning show. The news crew spent nearly an hour at the booth asking several questions about the history of the lodge, how the menu was prepared and what the different food items featured at the show. Several



Great Day!

Maci Daramy visits with Great Day reporter Wendy Lane of KMPH Channel 26 during a live broadcast at the World Ag Expo.

customers at the booth indicated they saw the broadcast and found the booth because they heard about it on TV.

Lodge Directory

With the election of officers comes the printing of the Roma Lodge Directory for the 2017-2019 term. If you have had a change in your address or phone number you need to notify **Pam Sola** so those changes can appear in the new directory. Only one phone number will be published so if you prefer to get messages from the lodge you will need to indicate which phone number you would like to appear in the directory. Please bring these changes to the March meeting if you plan to attend or call **Pam at 901-1781**. The deadline is March 10th so we can have the directories available at the April meeting.



Lodge Calendar

In the last 10 years or so the world population with internet access has grown from about 3% to over 50%. In the United States of America access to the internet reaches 320 of the 360 million people who live in America.



On the Roma Lodge website you can access a Google calendar that lists all the members and their birthdays along with other important information about the lodge. However, a lot of members do not utilize the internet and would like to have a printed calendar they can hang on the wall showing birthdays and important dates for lodge activities.

We used to print a monthly calendar of lodge member birthdays and a page of our **LeNotizie** Sponsors. However, to reduce costs we decided to utilize the Google Calendar on the web. Although the sponsors are shown on the webpage most people do not access the site to see those lodge members who help provide funding for the newsletter.

At the February meeting the idea of a calendar was discussed and numerous members indicated they would support having a printed calendar for the lodge. The cost will be **\$8.50** per calendar. The calendar will be 11X17 and printed in color and will feature all the lodge members birthdays, sponsors and calendared events for the year.


Orders for calendars will be available at the March meeting so make plans to get yours.

Tulare Chamber Awards Banquet

Cathy Mederos did an outstanding job of decorating a table with an Italian theme for the Tulare Chamber of Commerce annual awards program.



Pam Pires Chiamonte
Loan Officer - NMLS #310357



Cell: 559-799-0088
Office: 559-687-1700
Fax: 559-687-1777

140 North "J" Street
Tulare, CA 93274
pam@idasdirectmortgage.com

Canata Farms
Nick J. Canata M.Sci
Farming and Consulting
Representing Purfresh




16788 Avenue 48
Earlimart, CA 93219
PCA # 71975
QAL # 98498
Off: 661-849-2497
Fax 661-849-3207
Cell 661-344-2303
canatafarms@aol.com

Chiamonte Construction and Plumbing




Chiamonte Construction and Plumbing
Owner
Lic # 452656
chiamonteconstruction@gmail.com
(559) 467-5801
Call Us For Any Size Job!
Tulare, CA

Benjamin (Ben) Curti
Cell (559)288-0587
Personal Email
bacurti@aol.com



18357 Road 24
Tulare, California 93274
Business Email: bencurtifarms@yahoo.com
Phone (559)992-5866
Fax (559)992-4842

Curti Terra Inc / Curtico Enterprises



Ken Curti
Owner

5849 W. Elowin
Visalia, CA 93291 - Mailing
6656 Ave 192 Tulare - Physical
(559) 288-2144 Mobile
(559) 688-0448 Fax/Office
kcurti@sbcglobal.net

LAW OFFICE
HORSWILL, MEDEROS & SOARES



Ph: 559-686-3861
www.TulareEsq.com
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
791 N. Cherry St.
Tulare, CA 93274

Pine PPA Pedroncelli & Aguilar Inc.



Karen C. Pedroncelli, CPA

3500 West Orchard Court
P.O. Box 5100
Visalia, CA 93278
Tel: 559-625-9800
Fax: 559-625-9812

311 North 2nd Street
Porterville, CA 93257
Tel: 559-784-9090
Fax: 559-781-9154

karen@pinecpas.com
www.pinecpas.com

Certified Public Accountants

Sparlin Hoof Trimming
Brent Sparlin
Owner and Operator
Specializing in Dairy Animal Hoof Care



Over 30 years experience

559-287-8279
559-685-8857
TSHOOFIN@aol.com

Pitigliano Farms



11586 Avenue 120 • P. O. Box 9
Tipton, California 93272


CHARLIE PITIGLIANO
Off: (559) 752-4319
FAX: (559) 752-3230
Mobile: (559) 284-6797
Res: (559) 752-4633

Vincent Sola Partnership
Farming & Farm Management



Office (559) 688-0606
Cell (559) 901-1780
Fax (559) 688-0266
Email farmervs@aol.com
P.O. Box 190 • Tipton, CA 93272

Bassett Farms, Inc.
Pistachios & Almonds




Jon Bassett

P. O. Box 6069
Visalia, CA 93290
bfarmsinc@yahoo.com

Cell: 559-972-5716
Office: 559-635-8776
Fax: 559-739-8402

BANK OF THE SIERRA



LARRY DUTTO, PH.D.
Director

ldutto@bankofthesierra.com
86 N. Main Street
Porterville, CA 93257
559-791-4900
559-901-4683 c

| 2017 MARCH | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | | Salvador Chiamonte | Kolton Speidell | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Natalie Maness Maci Daramy | Drew Berra | | Steven Sola Anthony "AJ" Cuelho | Dennis Mederos | | Judy Paggi Mia Perry |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| Josh Pitigliano | Bruce Smith | | Nick Serafin | | | Aaron Curti |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| | | Mark Gentry Matt Watkins | Roger Maraist Philip Curti | | Evan Dutto | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 |
| Melissa Semeos | | | | | | |
| 2 | 3 | Monthly Meeting-March 6th | | | | |





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

Great Food!



Karen DeGroot, Kevin and Joyce Hofstee provided a great meal at the February meeting. The lodge is still looking for refreshment chairs for the September and October meetings so make plans to signup at the next meeting.

FRANCES DELLA

Was the raffle winner at the February Meeting!

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 (647-7161) |
| 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
March 6, 2017
6:30 PM

POTLUCK!

Nancy and Charlie Pitigliano
Refreshment Chairs



Farm Show Report From
Michael DePaoli