

Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

March-2021

We Can't Wait Until You Die!



Now, before you get all bent out of shape about the title of this month's **President's Message** we have to put the title of the article into context. The statement, **"We Can't Wait Until You Die"** can be framed in two ways. **First**, the most often used, would be that we are standing around counting the days until you do die. **Second**, is the urgency of getting some things done before you die!

I shall use the second connotation in my remarks for this article. I want to use the analogy as it relates to our **Roma Lodge Scholarship Fund**.

Historically the endowment fund, from which lodge scholarships are given, has been built upon over the past 25-years from donations made, in part, for remembrances of past lodge members who have passed away. Families, friends and others have graciously given to the scholarship fund in their memory.

In 2020, **Frances Della**, who accepts lodge donations to the scholarship fund, reported only \$250 was donated. With bank interest rates so low (around 1%), our scholarship fund is losing ground each year.

Last year the scholarship committee awarded 8 scholarships totaling \$4,000. At a 1% interest rate it would take an endowment of \$400,000 to generate the \$4,000 we gave out in 2020 for scholarships.

It does not take a math genius (which I am NOT) to figure out we need to do something to generate more funding for our scholarship program. **Basically, we can't wait until you die for people to donate in your memory to provide funding for scholarships!**

So What's the Rush!

Roma Lodge has 58 junior members which is by far the largest number of junior members in any lodge in the state. We are fortunate to have so many parents who think it is important for their children to be lodge members.



Of those 58 junior members 35 will be eligible to apply for a lodge scholarship in the next 10 years. If we gave each one a \$1,000 scholarship we would need \$35,000 to fund scholarships over the next 10 years!

Let Us Not Panic!

We certainly do not want any of our members to die just to build up our scholarship fund. However, we can dedicate some of our fundraising efforts to ensure that we have enough funds to support our junior members. We certainly would like to have plenty of funds to support other high school students, of Italian ancestry, who may not be lodge members. Your lodge officers have devised some ways to do that described in this edition of the LeNotizie. Stay tuned.

I know as lodge members you want to make sure the lodge has sufficient funds to provide scholarships to our young people as they graduate from high school. Let's work together to ensure those funds are there when needed.



Pasta With a Purpose!

If the COVID pandemic has done anything is that we have all participated in drive-through, takeout dining for nearly a year. Our successful polenta-stew dinner was a big success and hopefully we are turning the corner in terms of the numbers of new infections in Tulare County.



Hopefully, we will be able to start meeting again in May, however, for the meantime we will have a scholarship fundraiser on **April 5th**. We will offer a pan of rigatoni or ravioli for \$20 or a pan of each for \$35. You can take your ravioli or pasta home and provide your own side dishes. Proceeds will go toward our scholarship account. We hope to make this an annual event.

We will require an RSVP for the number of ravioli or rigatoni pans members or guests would like. Feel free to talk with your friends who may want to participate. We will give exact details, RSVP dates and times for the drive-thru in the April edition of the *LeNotizie*. Stay tuned.

Scholarships Due March 1st!

As noted in the in the last edition of the *LeNotizie* we have established new protocols for Roma Scholarships. Applications for this years scholarships are due on **March 1, 2021**. Applications can be found on the Roma Lodge website. You can also contact **Melissa Watkins** by email at mdepaoliwat@gmail.com or calling **559-361-0811**.



Again, Roma Lodge scholarship applications will be due on March 1, 2021. This information is available on the website as well.

Dues Deadline!

We are rapidly approaching the end of the first quarter. Your Roma Lodge, Grand Lodge and OSDIA dues were due starting January 1. Remember if you do not pay your dues by April 1, 2021 you will be dropped from the lodge. We have asked the Grand Lodge to suspend dues during the pandemic. Our request was denied. **Pay your dues ASAP!**

Grand Lodge Convention

Roma Lodge has been asked to submit their delegate list for the 2021-22 Grand Lodge Convention. Based on our membership we are allocated 6 delegates for the convention. Depending on where the convention is held it costs the lodge from \$3,500-\$5,500 per year to send our delegates to convention.



We have suggested, on two different occasions, through

changes to the bylaws, that each lodge, regardless of membership, have two delegates to the convention. We have also encouraged lodges who would like to send more members to the convention that they be allowed to do so. Both times the changes have been voted down.

We have also suggested, during this pandemic, lodge delegates be given the option to attend via online media. We shall see.

Members Stay Active!

Ben and Elisabeth Curti enjoyed a game of pickleball at Plaza Park. They celebrated their 7th wedding anniversary on Valentine's Day!



Kate, Giulia and Adelyn Watkins enjoy a day in the snow at Shaver Lake.



Mike and Janice Saltzman celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 20th. Congratulations to them both.



The Ben Curti Family celebrated Ben's 70th birthday with a trip to Carmel and a round of golf at Poppy Hills Golf Course. Congratulations to all!



George Maness V received his Orange Belt in Karate.

Dennis Mederos will turn 70 on March 9th. Call and wish him a Happy Birthday!



We want to thank everyone who sent us pictures for the LeNotizie. If you have news send it to larrydutto@yahoo.com or text to 559-901-4683 by the 20th of the month!



Roma Lodge member Albert and Sally Berra-Scalia along with Joe Scalia make Italian sausage as part of a long family tradition.

Sunshine News

Taylor Dutto broke her right arm for a second time after an accident on a hoverboard.

Ron Pedroncelli continues to rehab from his broken leg on Christmas Eve.

Giovanna DePaoli is still recovering from recent surgery.

If you know someone who has had health issues contact **Joann Beecher (688-8380)** so she can send them a card.





Roma Lodge
PO Box 1337
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www.romalodge1573.org

LeNotizie Sponsors

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Your Roma Lodge Officers 2021-2022

President	Larry Dutto (901-4683)
Vice President	Louie Benedetti (827-1492)
Treasurer	Karen Pedroncelli (732-1591)
Recording Sec.	Kathryn Gomes (331-0025)
Financial Sec.	Pam Sola (901-1781)
Orator	Anthony Chiaramonte (217-4055)
Historian	Melissa Watkins (361-0811)
Guard	Ken Bertorelli (788-8496)
Past President	David DePaoli (804-5443)
Chaplain	Nicole Taylor (804-7056)

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)

**Don't Forget To Pay Your
2021 Roma Lodge Dues
\$75-Adult Members
\$6.36-Junior Members
Who Want Insurance**



**Mail To:
Roma Lodge #1573
PO Box 1337
Tulare, CA 93274**