



# Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

April-2017

## 87th Anniversary Lodge Celebration!

Roma Lodge will celebrate its 87th anniversary at the April 3rd meeting with a traditional meal of Italian sausage and risotto. *Sal Chiamonte* is the refreshment chair for the dinner. Members with April birthdays need to bring their raffle gifts and assist Sal with the dinner.

As part of the anniversary celebration members who are marking milestone years of membership will be honored and receive their anniversary certificates and pins. Make plans to attend.

***These members are celebrating membership milestones this year:***

### **25 Year Members**

Joseph Goni  
Joann Jones  
Renee Marinelli  
Frank Marinelli  
Shannon Speidel

### **35 Year Members**

Kathy Briano  
Daniel Dutto  
Michael Pitigliano  
Pete Yribarren

Mary Louise Yribarren

### **50 Year Members**

Dennis Burner  
James Costa  
Carol McLafferty

### **51 Year Members**

Cliff Cleek  
Clarence Costa  
John Greco

Mary Ann Luis

### **52 Year Members**

Marlene Peterson  
Mary Jean Kronbetter

### **53 Year Members**

Agnes Pelous

Rosalie Milanese

**54 Year Member**

Leroy Beecher

**55 Year Member**

Judy Paggi

**56 Year Member**

Richard Atkinson

**59 Years**

Connie Spagnuolo

Catherina Romero

**60 Year Members**

Richard Paggi

Ronnie Pedroncelli

**61 Year Members**

Carole Burner, Janet Cabral, Johnnie Kaye Costa,

Betty Pratt, Lorraine Cleek, George Rinaldi

Angela Guerra

**63 Year Members**

Sharon Barreto, Joann Beecher,

Gary Dutto, Barbara Maraist

**64 Year Members**

Lillian Cotta, Sylvia Signorelli

**68 Year Member**

Catherine Atkinson

**76 Year Member**

Oswald DaRos

**81 Year Member**

Joe Signorelli

Lilia Giacomazzi

Grand Lodge Deputy

***Meeting &  
Anniversary Celebration  
Monday, April 3, 2017***

**Farm Show Social Hall**

**6:30 P.M.**

***Italian Sausage & Risotto***

***Chiamonte Family***

***Refreshment Chairs***

# Taking Stock!

Heralds Message

**I**n life we all take stock when we reach a milestone. It may be a birthday or anniversary. Perhaps, when we started or ended a career, had a first date, graduated from high school or college. We tend to reflect on our lives and see where we have been and wonder what the future will bring.

Roma Lodge will celebrate its 87th Anniversary at the April meeting. So how are we doing?

Roma Lodge was established in 1930 as a fraternal organization bringing together Italian immigrants who had settled in Tulare County. If you look at the lodge directory you will see family names like Berra, Curti, Della, DePaoli, Dutto, Pitigliano, and Sola along with many others who may have different names today but our descendants of these pioneer families.

It is important that we remember these early Italians who started the lodge and for so many years served as role models for succeeding generations to emulate how to properly carry on the Italian Culture.

We bid our final farewell to two of those early lodge members in February. **Anna Dutto** was a lodge member for 72 years. Born in 1919 and raised in the Poplar area until she married her husband John in 1920 and moved to Tulare they were instrumental leaders in the Roma Lodge. Both served the lodge in a variety of ways and have instilled in their children, grand children, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren the importance of the Italian traditions and over those 72 years was at meetings and lodge activities right up until the time she passed away. She will be missed.



Not all of our longtime members have been in the valley since the 1930's. We have several of our members who have come to the area from southern California where their ancestors immigrated to from Italy. Most were farmers and settled in Tulare County which became one of the leading agriculture coun-

ties in the state and country.

Such families as the Briano, Pelous and Milanesio families came to the area in the 1950's. Last year in March the lodge bid its final respect to brother Dominic Milanesio and now in February the lodge paid its final respects to **Pete Milanesio** who passed away. Pete and Dominic were great farmers in the Strathmore area farming cotton, corn, beans, alfalfa and a variety of other crops. Pete and wife Rosalie are 52 year members of the lodge and up until a stroke he suffered in 2000 were very active members in Roma Lodge. Again, several lodge members were on hand to bid brother Pete a final farewell at his services.



In the last ten years, 46 members of Roma Lodge have passed away. However, during the same time period we have added 93 new members to the lodge. At the Grand Lodge convention in 2016 Roma Lodge was recognized as being tied for second with Saddleback Valley with 17 new members in 2015 of all the lodges in the state. The Grand Lodge continues to lose membership and filial lodges while Roma Lodge now has over 302 members which is quite an accomplishment and we should all be proud.

At the United Lodge meeting president David DePaoli continues to question the voting for the sale of the Grand Lodge Building in San Francisco and has proposed by-law amendments to reduce the number of delegates each lodge must send to the state convention. These two actions alone will make all lodges more solvent and reduce the burden the Grand Lodge makes on local lodges. The mission of the Order is best accomplished at the local level and Roma Lodge leadership is making changes to keep the lodge solvent and strong while providing funding for charitable causes and giving a great rate of return for members who pay their dues and are active in the lodge. **Roma Lodge stock is growing in value and we should all be proud!**

## Big Changes for the 82nd Ravioli Dinner-Drive Thru!

**I**t is time once again for the annual ravioli dinner to be held on **Saturday, May 13th at the TDES Hall in Tulare.** Changing dining preferences has resulted in the lodge doing away with inside sit down dining this year. When the dinner was established back in 1935 over 1,200 people were served a great meal inside the Elliott Auditorium at the Tulare County Fair Grounds. Responding to a fast paced world the lodge starting doing drive thru take outs and the number of sit down patrons continued to decline to about 180 last year.

Ticket prices will be reduced to \$20 and will be available at the April meeting from co-chair **Cathy Mederos.** We will still need a lot of help cooking and staffing the takeout food lines so make plans to assist. The drive thru will be open from 5-7:30 p.m.



## Members in the News

Roma Lodge 48 year member **Ben Curti** gave his final address to the members of the Land-O-Lakes Board of Directors in Minnesota recently. Ben has served on the board for 14 years following in the footsteps of his father **Amelio Curti** and grandfather **Miro Curti** who were long time members of the Dairyman's Cooperative Creamery in Tulare prior to the merging with Land-O-Lakes several years ago. The Curti's have provided leadership for both organizations for over 65 years!



**R**oma Lodge member **Nicole Pedroncelli-Taylor** is participating in art classes as part of Paint Nite in Bakersfield where she lives. She is displaying a recent painting she did as part of the program. Perhaps we have another Italian painter in the lodge to follow in the footsteps of another famous Italian Leonardo da Vinci. Check it out on Facebook under Paint Nite.



## Last Call For Scholarships

Roma Lodge scholarship applications are due **April 1, 2017.** Late applications will not be accepted. **Contact Frances Della, Scholarship Chair, at 559-308-6591** if you have questions.

Applications can be found on the Roma Lodge website linked below.

<http://www.romalodge1573.org/#!scholarships/clojo>

## Sunshine News!

Get well wishes goes to **Lorraine Cleek** who had a recent illness.

## United Lodges

Roma Lodge President and First Lady **David and Giovanna DePaoli** hosted the United Lodges meeting at Vejars in Tulare. Grand Lodge President **Lynn Lawrence-Murphy** was on hand to answer questions from United Lodge members about the vote for the sale of the Grand Lodge building in San Francisco and other issues associated with the Grand Lodge. There was a great turnout for the meeting which lasted almost three hours.





Roma Lodge  
PO Box 1337  
Tulare, California 93275  
[www.romalodge1573.org](http://www.romalodge1573.org)

## *Lodge Calendars Are Ready!*

Get your Roma Lodge Calendar at the April meeting so you will have all the members birthdates and can add your family and relatives as well. Only **\$8.50** to ensure you have this keep-sake. Get one for the whole family.



## *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**  
**April 3, 2017**  
**6:30 PM-Dinner**  
**Risotto & Sausage**  
**Chiaramonte Family**  
**Dinner Chairs**

