



Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

August-2017

Roma Lodge well represented at 2017 Grand Lodge Convention

Roma Lodge was well represented at the 2017 Grand Lodge Convention by delegates **David De-Paoli, Giovanna De-Paoli, Cathy Mederos, Leroy and Joann Beecher** along with alternates **Kathy Briano, Kathy Canata and Larry Dutto**. Joann Beecher will give a report at the August meeting so if you have questions come prepared to listen to the report.



Roma Lodge and Grand Lodge Scholarship recipient **Sydney Reinart** is presented her \$2,500 scholarship in honor of David Prisco by past president **David Prisco**.



Junior Member Night
Monday, August 7, 2017
Farm Show Social Hall
6:30 P.M.

Janet Capella Award Recipients

Long time Roma Lodge members and delegates to the Grand Lodge Convention, **Joann and Leroy Beecher** were the recipients of the Janet Capella Award.

Janet Capella was an icon and leader for the Order. She was easily recognizable with her famous hats that she would wear at all lodge activities.

Joann and Leroy are worthy recipients of the award as they attended many, many conventions and lodge activities with Janet. Congratulations to them both for receiving such a prestigious award.



Junior Member Night! August 7, 2017-6:30 PM!

August is Junior Member night so plan on attending for some great summer BBQ. July and August birthdays should plan on bringing some back to school items or toys for raffle prizes as we will have a special raffle for our junior members. Hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, fries and chicken tenders are on the menu along with **Maryann Luis's** famous homemade potato salad. It will be great food for those who attend.



If you are retired or someday will retire you will quickly find out ***“retired people never get a day off!”*** What was supposed to be another day at the golf course suddenly changed when I was called in to be a replacement for a Roma Lodge delegate at the 2017 Grand Lodge Convention in Fresno.

When I walked into the opening session I quickly was reminded of attending the convention back in 1999 and 2000 when I was the lodge president. After two years of attendance I had vowed never to go back once my duties as president were completed. However, since I could fit it into my busy retirement schedule for a day I was willing to attend.



Grand Lodge President Lynn-Lawrence Murphy addresses the convention during opening ceremonies at the 81st Convention in Fresno.

Immediately upon entering the room I noticed the number of delegates and attendees had drastically dropped from just 15 years ago. ***Delegate and state officers attendance has dipped to less than 150 attendees!*** As documented in the convention program as of January 9, 2017 there are only **4,883** regular and associate members of the Order. That is down 280 members in just a year! There were **602** cancelled memberships and **108** members who have passed away for a total of **710** members! Compared to 15 years ago when membership exceeded 15,000 that is over a 50% drop.

After Grand Lodge President, **Lynn Lawrence-Murphy** and the state officers proceeded to open the convention with the usual rituals and protocols it was time to listen to committee chair reports and attend to other matters at hand. ***That's when things got interesting!***

In typical Grand Lodge convention style a heated discussion took place on how long each delegate could talk on a particular subject during debate. The bylaws indicate 3 minutes, however, delegates in attendance wanted to entertain a motion to go for 5 minutes. After several voice, hand and standing votes were taken over a simple 2 minutes of debate, business was resumed. We wonder why anyone with a life, outside the lodge, wants to even attend a convention.

Of course the hot topic of the day was the proposed sale of the building in San Francisco and the way the

special voting was conducted after delegates at last years convention voted overwhelmingly to support the lodge looking into the sale of the building. After a lengthy and heated debate, which included a rant calling everyone who did not like the outcome of the special vote, ***“a bunch of whiners”***, it was finally decided, by vote, in the following sessions to have the Grand Council look into the potential for the sale of the building.

There was a lot of good debate on both sides of the issue. Those in favor of keeping the building argued that it is a \$2-5 million dollar asset that could be turned into a money maker if operated correctly. Those in favor of selling it point out it is an asset which could cost the lodge a lot of money to bring it up to ADA standards and is more of a liability than an asset. The Grand Council needs to determine the purpose of the building as it relates to the mission of the Order. If it does not build on the lodges mission then it should be sold.

As I pointed out during debate, we as Roma Lodge members pay \$75 annually for our dues. Of the \$75 only **25 cents**, stays in our local budget. The Grand Lodge budget shows a projected net loss of **(\$11,665)** for the 2017 fiscal year. With declining membership and an operational loss it may not be long before they will propose a dues increase.

Without local lodges there would be no Grand Lodge. In 2003 Roma Lodge dues were \$40, in 2004 they were raised to \$50, in 2008 to \$60, in 2012 to \$65 and finally in 2015 to the current \$75. Are we as local lodge members willing to sit back and continue to allow the Grand Lodge to increase our dues because they have a net loss in their operation budget? It doesn't make since when they have a potentially \$5 million dollar asset being used for storage and an office space!

Roma Lodge is the second largest lodge in the state with 305 members and is almost as large as Visalia's Enrico Caruso Lodge with 316 members. When you add the Hanford Lodge with 160 members there are 781 members or about 16% of the states total. Tulare and Kings Counties are a long way from the building in San Francisco and the strength of the Grand Lodge is found in the local lodges.

Roma Lodge leadership and delegates were very vocal at the convention proposing changes to the Grand Council to consider changing the number of delegates who have to attend the convention, looking into the sale of the building and other changes to turnaround the declining membership. ***Unfortunately, we were labeled as a bunch of whiners by those who are opposed to change.***

Oklahoma Bound!

Roma Lodge member **Demi Danell** is headed to **East Central Oklahoma University** in Ada, Oklahoma to play softball and major in business. She completed her AA Degree at **Cuesta College** where she was a nominee for the Female Athlete of the Year and set numerous records for her softball pitching including career starts, wins, complete games and shutouts.



Ariel Grace Maness

Ariel Grace Maness was born on July 14, 2017 weighing in at 7 lbs and measuring 20.25 inches. Ariel is the daughter of **Natalie and Arthur Maness**. Her brother **George Arthur III** is a Roma Lodge member. Ariel is the granddaughter of **Mar-yann Luis** and the late **James Luis**. Congratulations to all!



Help needed for Columbus Day!

Roma Lodge will celebrate Columbus Day on October 8th at the Farm Show park. We still do not have a general chairman and we need some members to step forward and assist with the event.

If you can help coordinate the following please let first lady **Giovanna DePaoli** know at the August meeting.



Setup—Get out Table and Chairs

Dessert Contest—Organize judges and obtain prizes.

Children Games—Children activities/bounce house.

Cleanup—Everyone

Cooking—choose menu and cook.

We already have members to do the following—

Bocce Tournament—Ben Curti

Raffle—Joann Beecher

Purchasing Agent—Giovanna DePaoli

Facility—Charlie Pitigliano

Speaking of **Columbus Day** there is a vote coming up of the **Los Angeles City Council** to do away with Columbus Day and have a **Indigenous Peoples' Day**. A letter has been sent by Kevin A. Caira, President, Commission for Social Justice, Order Sons of Italy in America in support of keeping the Columbus Day observance in Los Angeles. If you would like to write your own letter to the Los Angeles City Council a letter and contact information is on the Roma Lodge website at romalodge1573.org website. Columbus Day is being attacked all over America and those of Italian descent need to be concerned.

Got News!

Send any news items to larrydutto@yahoo.com by the 20th of each month.

Sunshine News!

Roma Lodge member **Lilia Giacomazzi** spent a few days in the hospital and is recovering. **Belinda Briano** is also having surgery to repair a broken leg.

Charlie Pitigliano is also rehabbing from a hospital stay. It appears Mr. Pitigliano was attempting to impersonate **"Smokey the Bear"** by acting as his own arsonist and fireman at the same time. After starting a small fire, to dispose of some unwanted material, Charlie quickly realized the fire was getting out of control. He ran to get a garden hose to put out the blaze. Thinking he had a 100' hose he ran toward the fire to extinguish it.



Unfortunately, the hose was only 75' long and in his haste he ran out of hose flipping him backwards hitting his head on the ground. The force of the impact knocked him out cold. To excuse the pun, **Charlie was at the end of his hose!**

After a couple of days in the hospital he is now home and recovering. I'm sure at the August meeting he will give his version of what happened and regard this article as **"Fake News"**

Agnes Pelous Celebrates 95th Birthday!

Agnes Pelous celebrated her 95th birthday on July 17th. She is a 53 year member of the lodge. Agnes and Alex were active members of the lodge for many years living in Lindsay after moving to the area from Los Angeles. Agnes now lives in Visalia and attends lodge activities when she can. **Congratulations Agnes!**



Lilia Giacomazzi Celebrates 104th Birthday!

Our State Deputy, **Lilia Giacomazzi** celebrated her 104th birthday with family and friends on her birthday July 23rd. Lilia is an inspiration to all and plans to be here next year to celebrate her 105th. Picture graciously submitted by **Jackie Giacomazzi**.





Roma Lodge
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Tulare, California 93275
www.romalodge1573.org

Did You Miss A Birthday Celebration!

Last call for Roma Lodge Calendars. You can still get one for 1/2 price (\$4) at the August meeting.

2017 JULY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Giana Saramy
2 Clarence Costa	3 Cedric Kleinhans	4	5	6	7	8 Daniel Dutto
9	10 Renee Marinelli	11 Mason Maccardio	12 Corrine Canata Marilyn Madrigal	13 Rhett Rainey	14	15
16	17 Agnes Pelous	18 Garrett Costa	19 Lawrence Cotta Gary Graudi Joseph Padua	20	21 Grace Solari	22 Caitlin Curti
23 Lila Giacomazzi	24	25 Kathy Briano Marcia Anderson	26	27 Brittany Sola	28	29 Caycen Cuelho
30	31	No meeting in July				

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 (361-0811)
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

August 7, 2017
6:30 PM-Dinner

Junior Member
Night

Summer BBQ

July-August
Birthdays Bring Back-To-
School Raffle Prizes For
The Junior Members
Raffle