



# Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

February-2024

## World Ag Expo!

**Michael DePaoli, Melissa Watkins and Maci Daramy** have been gearing up for the upcoming World Ag Expo February 13-15th!

We will be having our February meeting along with sauce making on **Sunday, February 11th at 7 a.m.** followed cutting onions at 9 a.m. with our February meeting at **10 a.m.** and lunch afterwards. If you plan to assist at the farm show this year you will need to come on Sunday to get your daily passes.

Hopefully, you will be allowed to enter through Gate 6 and tell them you are attending the Roma Lodge meeting without having a pass.

If you cannot attend on the 11th you need to contact **Melissa Watkins @ 559-361-0811 to get your pass.**

We want to encourage everyone who can attend the show to come to the booth and help in



whatever capacity you can. For the past 56-years Roma Lodge has had a booth at the show. Of all the activities we do each year the farm show allows us to showcase our organization and promote the Italian Culture to the community and to our world visitors.



## February Meeting

**Sunday-February 11th**

**WAE Food Booth**

**We will make sauce at 7 AM**

**Cut Onions-9 AM-Bring Your Knife/  
Cutting Board**

**Meeting at 10 AM -Followed by Lunch  
Enter Gate #6-Hope to see you there!**

For those of you who have never been a part of the farm show experience we hope you try it. We think you will enjoy the fraternity we have working at the booth and all the people you get to see at the show. **See you at the show!**

**H**eritage-*something that is handed down from the past, as a tradition.*

I joined Roma Lodge on March 2, 1956. As I enter my 8th and final year as president of the lodge I guess I have been around just about as long as anybody in the lodge. In 2025 the lodge will celebrate its 95th anniversary. 95 years of carrying on the Italian Heritage in Tulare County.

It was during April and May of 1930 when a group of Italian-Americans came together at the Tulare Woman's Clubhouse to form the lodge and elect officers. Back then it was the mission of the lodge to encourage Italian Immigrants living in the Tulare area to become American Citizens. **How times have changed.**

Over the years there are three long lasting traditions the lodge has continued for many years. First, is our monthly meetings, held the first Monday of each month. That's nearly 1,000 meetings over the past 94 years. Next, is our annual ravioli dinner which was the social event of the year for many years in the Tulare community.

Finally, we are one of the few organizations who have been at every World Ag Expo since its inception in 1968. This year will mark our 56th consecutive show where we serve our famous Italian Sausage sandwiches to visitors from all over the world.

In the beginning it was **Lupe Briano and Agnes Pelous** who stepped forward to organize and operate the first Roma Lodge booth at the California Farm Equipment Show. Cooking sausage sandwiches and pasta on a wooden pallet supplied by **Ben Curti**.

Now, 56 years later it is once again time for lodge members to come together and show the world we are proud of our Italian Heritage showcasing our great food to visitors. Many volunteers come each and every day to enjoy the great food.



Lupe Briano and Agnes Pelous

These traditions don't just happen. There has been a long line of members who have served as chairs for the food booth. There is no exception this year as **Michael DePaoli, Melissa Watkins and Maci Daramy** are once again volunteering of their time and resources to organize and conduct this year's main fundraiser for the lodge.

They have been doing the show for the last 11-years and hopefully somebody will step forward and take over this major fundraiser for the lodge next year.

As shown in the picture on the right, the **DePaoli** children have been active in the lodge since they took a Roma Lodge junior member trip to the Fresno Zoo many years ago. They have certainly have embraced the concept of carrying on their Italian Heritage following in their grandmothers Lupe Briano willingness to set the standard for service to Roma Lodge. Also, shown in the picture is **Joseph Goni** who spends each and every year at the show helping BBQ sausage. Joseph's parents **Olivia and Frank Goni** were also instrumental in lodge activities and could always be counted upon to do their utmost in support of the lodge.



We are all busy in our daily lives. With work, school and sports activities, family obligations and a variety of other challenges we face each and everyday. It is important as members of Roma Lodge to carve out that little amount of time it will take for us to head to the World Ag Expo. We need to all assist in whatever we can do to support our booth chairs and provide help in cooking and serving WAE visitors. **Our Heritage is Important!**



## Dean Michael Milanesio

**Dean Michael Milanesio** was born November 15, 2023. He weighed 7 lbs 13 oz & measured 21 1/4 inches long. His parents are **Brian & Lindsey Milanesio**, grandparents **Nick & Dana Milanesio** and great grandmother **Angie Milanesio**.



## Sunshine News!

**Giulia Watkins** broke her finger playing basketball at school. If you know someone who is dealing with health issues contact **Joann Beecher at 559-260-4156 so she can send them a card from the lodge.**



## Tickets for the Farm Show!

We need everyone's help at the WAE food booth this year. If you can help in the booth please do so. You can pickup your pass for the show at the February meeting. For those who cannot attend the February meeting on **Sunday, February 11th at 10 a.m.** you can contact Melissa Watkins at **559-361-0811** to make arrangements to get your pass before the show.



## Roma Lodge Scholarships

Applications for the 2024 Roma Lodge Scholarships are available on the Roma Lodge website. You can also contact **Melissa Watkins by email at [mdepaoli-wat@gmail.com](mailto:mdepaoli-wat@gmail.com) or calling 559-361-0811.**

Roma Lodge scholarship applications will be due on **March 1, 2024.**

## Your Dues are Due!

Roma Lodge dues were due starting January 1, 2024. Here is your breakdown of where your dues go:

<b>Roma Lodge Dues</b>	<b>2024</b>
Grand Lodge Per Capita	\$ 32.51
Supreme Lodge Per Capita	\$ 21.52
Il Leone	\$ 4.98
Scholarship Assessment	\$ 0.74
Life Insurance	\$ 15.00
Local Dues \$10.25 Cents	\$ 10.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 85.00</b>
Junior Member-Insurance	\$ 7.00

You must pay your dues by the end of the first quarter or else Roma Lodge will be forced to drop you from our membership roster. **Mail them to Roma Lodge, PO Box 1337, Tulare, California, 93275.**

## Bocce Courts

Roma Lodge held its first picnic at Mooney's Grove in 1930. For many, many years we have held our annual Columbus Day celebration at the park. If you have not been to Mooney's Grove in recent months you will see numerous improvements being made to arbors, the boating pond, playground areas and new benches being installed.



We met with the advisory board and they have agreed to allow Roma Lodge to install bocce courts around Arbor 13 for use at our Columbus Day event. Hanford and Visalia Lodges have expressed interest in supporting the cost of installing the courts.

We will be meeting with them in the next couple of months to determine exact location, size, materials and design for the courts. **Stay tuned!**



Roma Lodge  
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[www.romalodge1573.org](http://www.romalodge1573.org)

**LeNotizie Sponsors**

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**Your Roma Lodge Officers  
 2023-2024**

- |                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| President      | Larry Dutto (901-4683)       |
| Vice President | Justin Curti (906-9109)      |
| Treasurer      | Karen Pedroncelli (732-1591) |
| Recording Sec. | Renee Marinelli (732-8258)   |
| Financial Sec. | Tina Sparlin (741-3642)      |
| Orator         | Anthony Chiamonte (217-4055) |
| Historian      | Melissa Watkins (361-0811)   |
| Guard          | Frank Marinelli (802-0611)   |
| Past President | David DePaoli (804-5443)     |
| Chaplain       | Nicole Taylor (804-7056)     |
| Junior Members | Pam Sola (901-1781)          |

**Trustees**

- |                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Matt Watkins-Chair | (647-7161) |
| Louis Benedetti    | (827-1492) |
| Mike Saltzman      | (686-4340) |
| Dominic Pitigliano | (359-1907) |
| Michael DePaoli    | (730-1168) |

**Mistress of Ceremony**

- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| Joann Beecher | (260-4156) |
|---------------|------------|

**Next Meeting  
 February 11, 2024  
 10 AM-WAE  
 Food booth**



**Joyce Hofstee & Karen DeGroot  
 Refreshment Chairs**