



Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

March-2019

Rain, What Rain?

The 52nd World Ag Expo is officially over with El Nino being the big story for attendees. With the exception of a mild and sunny Tuesday rain was the big story on Wednesday and Thursday of the show. Over 45 Roma Lodge members made their way to the show to assist chairs **Michael DePaoli, Melissa Watkins and Maci Daramy** with the food booth.

Michael quietly and efficiently spends nearly a 100 hours prior to, during and after the show to get the booth ready, order supplies and cleanup after the show. **That my folks is dedication!**

True leaders are often determined by the number of followers they have. Michael is an example of a leader who has taken on the challenge of chairing the booth for the 7th year in a row and is willing to chair it for at least one more year. Based on the number of lodge members willing to come down and work in the booth is a testament to his willingness to work with everyone to make the booth a success. **Great Job Again Michael!**



52 Years and Still Going!

It was a long, wet and busy week for Roma Lodge members who helped at our WAE food booth. We had nearly 50 members who helped staff the booth during the week. Great Job Everyone!

Potluck Night March 4th!

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.

The Joann Beecher and Gary Dutto Families will serve as our refreshment chairs so give them a call if you can help out.



Joseph Goni, Nick Serafin and Michael DePaoli check the sausage at the farm show.



Filial Lodges

Presidents Message

If you get a chance and can find a copy of the Grand Lodge of California bylaws take a look at **Section 1, Article 1-Grand Lodge** where it states the following:

By the authority of the Supreme Lodge, and in conformity with its Constitution and Bylaws, the Grand Lodge of California exercises the jurisdiction over all Local Lodges and members of the Order within the State of California...

Going back several years Local Lodges were documented in the GL bylaws as "Filial" Lodges. Filial meaning "family" lodges. Interpreting Article 1 it appears the Grand Lodge is not treating local lodges as family.

Also stated in the GL bylaws is the purpose of the organization in part is to "disseminate the Italian Culture" which is done primarily by local lodges.

Here are just a few examples:



On February 16th the Hanford Lodge sponsored a **Sweetheart Dance** for their community as a fundraiser for **Valley Children's Hospital**. Lodge members like **Louise Silacci and Jackie Giacomazzi** came together to put on a great meal, Italian music, raffle prizes and a fun filled evening. There were a lot of community people who attended who were not of Italian descent who now understand what the Italian Culture is all about. A great example of giving back to the community.

Roma Lodge has had a food booth at the World Ag Expo for all 52 years of the event starting back in 1967. Pictured at right are some students from **North High Bakersfield** who are FFA members. The lodge gave them some scholarship funds in exchange for their help with the booth. They now know what Roma Lodge does, how to cook and serve Italian sausage sandwiches, pasta and other great Italian food. What a great way to let the community know about the importance of Italians to America.



Pam Sola, Youth Activities Chair, for Roma Lodge has done an outstanding job with youth activities at each of our monthly meetings. Creating projects that have dealt with topics that relate to the Italian Culture. Pictured (l-r) **Adelyn and Giulia Watkins, Harper DePaoli and Eva Gomes** regularly participate in junior activities that promote the Italian Culture. Maybe it takes one of our more senior members to show a junior how to sauté onions like **Ed Milanese** did for **Giulia Watkins** at the WAE. If we do not cultivate interest in these young members there will no longer be local lodges or a Grand Lodge.



Roma Lodge members came together and donated as a lodge \$2,500 to 10 families who are lodge members affected by the Camp Fire in northern California. In addition individual lodge members donated as well through **Michael Smith** president of the **Vincenzo Bellini Lodge** who located these members of the Paradiso and Chico lodges who lost their homes in the fire. Once again showing that Roma Lodge is a fraternal organization.



Take a look at the next issue or past issues of the **IL Leone** and you will find that 90% of the news is from local lodges who are putting on dinners and other activities to promote the Italian Culture within their communities. Look who purchases many of the 365 tickets, local lodge members. Local lodges support the Grand Lodge Queen contest which raises a lot of money for the GL to operate.

However, look at the GL bylaws and you will find the tone of many of the sections and articles are about control over local lodges. If you can't find delegates to attend the GL convention, you are fined. If your membership drops and you are forced to close, you have to give any funds left over to the Grand Lodge. The list of rules and regulations goes on page after page.

Our Grand Lodge President **John Costa** has written numerous times about dropping membership and the loss of lodges and encourages us all to go out and find one person to join. **Maybe it is time the Grand Lodge goes back to "filial" lodges and treats us like family rather than subordinates!**

Kevin Hofstee Wins!

Roma Lodge junior member **Kevin Hofstee** won the Overall Supreme Steer at the 30th annual Sierra Winter Classic Beef Show at the Porterville Fairgrounds. Kevin attends Mission Oak High School in Tulare.



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**. The Roma Lodge Scholarship application packet can also be found on the Roma Lodge website at :

<https://www.romalodge1573.org/>

The Grand Lodge applications are online at <http://www.sonsofitalyca.org/>

Nolan Curtis Clark

Roma Lodge member **Nicole Clark and husband Anthony** are the proud parents of their newborn son **Nolan Curtis Clark** born on January 16th. Nolan weighed in at 7lbs and 7oz measuring 19 inches long. He joins his sister Ava James who is also a member of the lodge. Nolan is the grandson of Maryann Luis and the late Jim Luis who are long time members of the lodge.



Last Call

This is the last call for submission of changes for the 2019-2020 Lodge Directory. If you have a change in your address, phone number or other important information you can submit these at the March meeting or email them to larrydutto@yahoo.com so they can be changed prior to printing.



The California Agricultural Leadership Foundation will be honoring two Roma Lodge members as part of their Common Threads program honoring women in agriculture. Sisters **Giovanna DePaoli** and **Kathy Briano** will be presented their awards on March 27, 2019 at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Hall. Other lodge members who have been honored include **Agnes Pelous, Nancy Piti-gliano, Lilia Giacomazzi, Jackie Giacomazzi and Louise Silacci**.



A no-host wine social will begin at 11 a.m. followed by lunch and awards program from 12 - 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person thru March 15, 2019. As lodge members if you would like to attend you can reserve your spot on the website. Simply click on the link for more information, [visit the Common Threads webpage](#).

Richard Joel Atkinson



The Family of Richard Joel Atkinson, AKA "Dick" and "The Music Man of The Santa Ynez Valley Opportunity Shop", is saddened to report his passing at the age of 83 in Santa Barbara, CA. Richard was a member of the Santa Barbara Lodge when the lodge was closed in 2009 and their members joined Roma Lodge. Richard was a 57 year member of the order. If you would like to know about his life you can click on the link below. **Farewell Brother Richard**.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/newspress/obituary.aspx?n=richard-atkinson-dick&pid=190849125&fhid=24125>

Great Food!

Karen DeGroot, Joyce and Kevin Hofstee served as dinner refreshment chairs for the February meeting. They did a great job featuring some great Italian tacos for the meeting.





Roma Lodge
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www.romalodge1573.org

Your Roma Lodge Officers 2019-2020

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	Gary Dutto	(686-6201)
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)

Meeting
March 4, 2019
6:30 PM
POTLUCK!
Joann Beecher & Gary Dutto
Families
Refreshment Chairs



Farm Show Report From
Michael DePaoli