



Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

November-2021

Columbus Day Celebration!

After a bit of confusion, with changes of dates and location Roma Lodge returned to Mooney's Grove for its annual Columbus Day celebration. After many, many years at the Mooney's Grove the lodge moved to the International Agri-Center park in 2007. After almost 15 years it was back to Mooney's Grove with nearly 70 members and guests enjoying some great food, raffle and bocce tournament.

Special thanks to **Melissa Watkins** who volunteered to get all the food and supplies, **Matt Watkins and Dominic Pitigliano** for doing the barbecuing of hotdogs and hamburgers. **Joann Beecher** for organizing the raffle, and **Ben Curti** for organizing the bocce tournament. **Charlie and Nancy Pitigliano** helped with setup and **Anthony Chiamonte, Louie Benedetti and Renee Marinelli** with cleanup. Special thanks to all who attended. **Mark your calendar for October 9, 2022, Arbor #13, Mooney's Grove Park for the next Columbus Day Celebration!**



Bounce House Fun!

Giada Pitigliano and Adelyn Watkins enjoy the bounce house and slide at Columbus Day!

2021 Bocce Champs!

Ben Curti, Columbus Day Bocce Tournament Director, presents the winning trophy to (l-r) **Giuseppe, Frankie, Sally and Joe Scalia**.

More great pictures on the Roma Lodge website. [Home | roma-lodge \(romalodge1573.org\)](http://roma-lodge.com)

**November Meeting
Polenta and Stew Dinner
Monday, November 1st, 2021
Agri-Center Social Hall
6:30 PM-RSVP-Text to 901- 4683
Or email- larrydutto@yahoo.com
By October 31st!**

“Monetary Achievement Contest”-Decision Time!

Presidents Message



It is hard to believe the picture of our Roma Lodge Queen, **Gianna Benedetti** was taken at our **Columbus Day** celebration in 2017. Little did we know, at that time, we would have a pandemic and not be able to meet or have a Grand Lodge convention, in person since the 2019 one held in Reno.



Gianna has moved on to Cal Poly, after being the valedictorian of her graduating class, the recipient of the **\$5,000 Trinchero Perpetual Scholarship**, the highest scholastic award given by the Grand Lodge, and **Miss California** of the Royal Pageant.

In 2018 Roma Lodge matched Gianna’s ticket sales and submitted \$11,822, of which we received back a total of \$6,109.61, showing a net of \$198.61. Gianna received 4% of the total which was \$472.88 which is less than 4% of the yearly tuition fees at Cal Poly. The Grand Lodge queen in 2018 sold over \$30,221 in tickets.

I have said often and written countless recommendations to convince the Grand Lodge the queen contest has nothing to do with beauty, intelligence, charisma, charm or personality. **“If you raise the most money, you Da Queen.”** I have been told and it is written in the contest rules, for local lodges, **“It is a monetary achievement contest.”**

Gianna has graciously agreed to serve as our queen for another year and as Roma Lodge members we certainly appreciate her willingness to do so. However, we cannot expect her to drive over from Cal Poly for lodge meetings and activities to sell raffle tickets.

For her and Roma Lodge, the minimum ticket sales have to be equal to or greater than \$2,000. That would have to be 400 books of tickets (\$1 each or 6 for \$5). About 2,400 tickets would have to be filled out or address labels applied to each ticket.

We have to notify the Grand Lodge by **November 14th** if we plan to participate. We will decide at our November 1st meeting if we plan to participate. I know we have several junior members coming up in

the next 5-10 years and I’m sure we will have plenty worthy candidates to support!

RSVP Training

You may have noticed we are asking members to RSVP for lodge meetings and other activities. You may also be asking why?

The answer is pretty simple. Because of the pandemic we have not had a fundraiser for over two years. We have not had two annual ravioli drive-thru dinners and we missed the 2020 farm show food booth. These events are our major fundraisers.

However, we have continued to provide dinners at meetings and our Columbus Day activity. This is why it is important to have our raffles, and accurate counts for those who provide dinners so we do not have a lot of waste.

We do not want to discourage members from attending our meetings or other activities because they forgot to RSVP. There are times when you do RSVP and something comes up and they cannot attend. This is fine.

We had RSVP’s for 62 for Columbus Day and we had about 70 with some who did not RSVP and some that did and did not attend. We just want to provide those in charge of meals a better idea of how many people who are attending. The old days of cooking for 100 and having 40 show up are over. **Just plan to RSVP if you plan to attend a lodge activity. Thanks.**

HACKED!

If you received an email from me on Tuesday, October 19th requesting a favor, it was not from me. My email was hacked sending out the message for a favor or Apple gift cards. It was someone from Nigeria. With over 1600 contacts being sent the message, I received phone calls, emails and messages wondering if I was okay. Thanks to all who were worried and I appreciate those who recognized I had been hacked and deleted the email.



James Vener

James Vener was a 31 year member of Roma Lodge. James passed away on September 3, 2021 in Arroyo Grande, California where he lived. Born on January 1, 1930 in Bellflower, California and the family moved to Earlimart, California. His mother was killed in 1951 in an auto accident and he went to live with his maternal aunt and uncle **George and Amelia Orisio** in Waukena, California.



James worked in construction for 25 years in San Jose, Santa Cruz, and in the Central Coast. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Dolores. **Farewell Brother James, may you rest in eternal peace.**

Win Big Money!

At the September meeting we made some major decisions that could make you rich! We will continue with our normal monthly drawing for \$50 for members who attend the meetings. We will increase the amount by \$5 each month in case we do not have a winner for the month. When the amount reaches \$100 we will continue drawing until we get a winner from those members who are present.

Next, we will sell our raffle tickets, \$1 for 3 tickets, to those who are present at the meeting. The last ticket drawn the lodge will split the pot with the person whose number is drawn! If we have \$10,000 worth of tickets sold, you will win \$5,000! **WOW!**

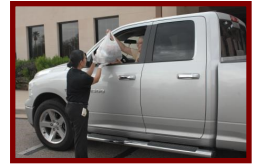
Finally, we will ask birthday month members to bring a raffle items to each meeting. Therefore, if your birthday is in November bring a raffle item to the meeting.

Sunshine News

Best wishes goes to Roma Lodge member **Michael DePaoli** who is still taking treatments for his health issues. If you know someone who is having health issues or involved in some type of accident, contact **Joann Beecher at 688-8380** so she can send them a card from the lodge.

Dinner for Two!

Melissa Watkins and Dominic Pitigliano have stepped forward with some new ideas for fundraisers. **How about a drive-thru takeout dinner for two? The meal will feature ravioli, chicken, green beans, salad and bread.** The drive-thru is tentatively scheduled for pickup on **Sunday, December 5th at the Ag Center-Social Hall. The drive-thru will be from 2-5 p.m. If you plan to attend the Christmas party you can pickup your takeout dinners on your way out. Dinner for two for only \$50.**



If you are a Roma Lodge member you may feel that the cost of \$50 is a bit high. Please remember if you attend our lodge meetings you get a free dinner for you and your family each month. If you attend the Christmas party the day of the takeout you get a free meal of ham and yams. We have a group of younger members willing to take on the challenge and they need our support! Hopefully, you will be able to buy a ticket or sell others to your friends.

Melissa and Dominic would like to invite anyone who would like to help with the event to attend a meeting at **6 p.m. on Monday, November 1st**, prior to our lodge meeting.

Roma Lodge Christmas Party!

The Roma Lodge Christmas party will be held on **Sunday, December 5th at noon at the Agri-Center Social Hall.** Our meal will consist of ham, yams, green beans, salad and bread.



We are looking for members who would like to help with the cooking duties. **Joanne Beecher** will be handling the candy stockings for the children and **Pam Sola** will organize the talent portion of the program. Details will be discussed at the November meeting.



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Polenta Dinner

Roma Lodge will host its annual polenta and stew dinner on **Monday, November 1st**. The **DePaoli Family** will be doing the cooking and we want to thank them in advance for stepping forward and making a great stew and polenta dinner.



Please RSVP by texting to 559-901-4683 or emailing larrydutto@yahoo.com by Sunday, October 31st. We look forward to seeing everyone.

November Meeting
November 1, 2021
6:30 PM-Dinner
DePaoli Family
Dinner Hosts



RSVP by October 31st!
Email-larrydutto@yahoo.com
Text-559-901-4683