



# Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

July-2022

## Grand Lodge Convention Report!

On behalf of Roma Lodge members I want to thank **Karen Pedroncelli** and **Tina Sparlin** for attending the 85th Grand Lodge Convention of the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. (OSDIA) We would also like to thank President, **Barbara Wisniewski** and all the Grand Council members who give of their time and resources to make the convention a productive and enjoyable experience for all who attend.

The convention was held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Anaheim. This was the first face-to-face convention since the 2019 convention in Reno because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Everyone was excited we could meet in person again and masks were not mandatory. Unfortunately, of the potential 95 delegates representing our 40 lodges we had only 69 attend with 9 lodges with partial representation and 8 lodges with no representation. The financial implications of attending the convention has been difficult for lodges who have not been able to meet or do fundraising because of the pandemic.

Past State President, **Lynn Lawrence-Murphy**, served as the convention planner and did a great job in ensuring there were plenty of entertaining and meal activities for the attendees. Everyone enjoyed the baseball theme night with everyone wearing their favorite MLB team gear. Of course we Yankee fans were heavily outnumbered by Giant and Dodger Fans. It was a fun evening and gives delegates an opportunity to exercise the most important tenet of the organization which is **fraternity**.

Of course, the business sessions of the convention were held with a lot of discussion from delegates and council members. The biggest item was that of sell-



*National President, Robert Bianchi, Esq. addresses the Grand Lodge Convention.*

ing the Grand Lodge building in San Francisco. If you remember the delegates at the 2018 convention voted to sell the building, provided it netted \$5 million dollars which never happened. **MaryJane Cambria, David Lavezzari and Barbara Wisniewski** were appointed to the **Building Investment Committee**. The committee made a proposal to gift the building to the Western Foundation for tax purposes and sell it for its current value.

After an hour of discussion it was voted to remove the \$5 million dollar minimum, not gift it to the **Western Foundation** and direct the Grand Council and Building Investment Committee to move forward on the selling of the building and depositing the proceeds in the association. Although, the building report indicates the facility is operating at a profit this year, the upkeep and facility improvements makes it impractical for the Grand Lodge to continue to own the building.



# Faith Restored!

Presidents Message

**T**here are few of us in Roma Lodge who have been more critical of the Grand Lodge than I. I have verbally questioned the past actions of the organization, the sale of the building, losing membership and lodges and the length of the convention. I have submitted bylaw changes to reduce the number of delegate representation and punitive nature of their assessing fines for local lodges who are unrepresented at business sessions.

For the past three years these bylaw proposals sought to change the number of delegates each lodge must send to 1 or 2, reduce the convention days, remove fines and have the convention held every other year.

I have lamented that I'm American Italian, not Italian American and it has been over 100 years since my grandparents came from Italy to America. In arguing, on the convention floor, for our bylaw changes, I reminded delegates that the Grand Lodge is nothing without local lodges. We generate the membership, we pay the dues, we support the organization. The Grand Council needs to support us and not the other way around!

Then came the "**Black & White Ball**" on the final evening of the convention. I prefer to call it a **revival** where my faith was restored with the inspirational words of our National President, **Robert Bianchi, Esq.** Robert reminded us all why we are members of the **Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy in America**. He was very passionate in his remarks of how Italian Immigrants were treated when they came to America. How they did not ask for a handout or to be treated better than everyone else. They worked hard and earned everything they had and shared what they earned with others to make a better America. He talked about



discrimination for jobs and how Italians had to wait at the end of the line to move up in their places of work.

We were able to witness the Grand Lodge scholarship recipients such as **Preston Boswell** and his mom **Shannon Boswell**. Preston is a graduate of El Diamante High School in Visalia and a member of the **Enrico Caruso Lodge**. He is a articulate and giving young man

who will be attending UCLA in the fall. It was inspiring to hear him talk about his Italian Heritage with his grand parents **Jerry and Sherry Moore**, also of Visalia, in attendance. He received the **Jean Privitera**

**Scholarship**. Members of the Privitera Family were on hand to present the scholarship in memory of their mother and gave the foundation a check for \$10,000 to add to the fund.

President, **Robert Bianchi**, reminded us all these young people are our future and we need to keep them engaged and involved in the organization if we are going to have a future.

When you attend a convention you get to meet people from other lodges who share the same stories of belonging to the lodge because their parents or grandparents were part of the lodge. My dad, **Laurence Dutto**, pictured below left, served as president of Roma Lodge in 1948. Regardless of why you are a member of the Order, if you have an ounce of Italian blood running through your veins, we owe those that came before us our sincere thanks and gratitude for what they have done for us and this country. We need to do our part for the future generations.



## Positive Versus Punitive

During the convention I tried to impress on the Grand Council and lodge delegates the need for some changes to the convention to make it a **“positive versus punitive”** event. Convention delegates agreed by passing our bylaw change removing fines for delegates who do not attend sessions. I would hope during the next few months some changes can be made to improve attendance and participation in Reno, site of the 2023 convention.

Here are a few:

1. Complete the convention on Saturday at noon. This would require the Black and White Ball to be held on Friday night. This would allow delegates to travel home on Saturday. We had delegates this year who had to wait until Sunday afternoon at 5 p.m. to get a flight home.
2. Have breakout sessions for local lodge officers on one day to share ideas on how to improve their own lodges. This would allow local lodges to send these officers for one day, attend the evening event and return home the next day to save travel costs.
3. Hold the Royal Pageant every year and not every other year. This would allow the contestants to have to serve only one year and increase participation so the candidates do not have to serve two years. Make fundraising a part of the contest rather than all of the contest.
4. Donations to various charities is a great thing. However, we wasted a lot of time listening to Lodge X giving \$25 to the Western Foundation Scholarship Fund. Have lodges turn in donation sheets on the first day of the convention allowing those in charge to inventory the donations and printout a list for each delegate by the last session. The list could be read and local lodges could be recognized at that time if so needed.
5. Allow lodges to send as many participants as they would like. We had voting cards that were never used. They would not have to buy the **entire** convention packet and choose events they wanted to attend. I know it is a bigger headache for the planners of the convention but would increase participation.

These are just a few ideas. I plan to list these in the IL Leone and ask other delegates to come up with their list of ideas to improve conventions. We shall see.

## Mark Your Calendars!

Two of our neighboring lodges will be marking milestone anniversaries this year. The **Enrico Caruso Lodge #1463** will be holding their 95th Anniversary Celebration on **August 20th at the Lamp Litter Inn** in Visalia. More details to follow. If you have questions or would like to make reservations please contact:

**Marlene Romanazzi-559-679-8208**

**The Loggia Colombo-Stella #1149** will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary on **Saturday, September 17th at the Fresno Fairgrounds Wine Garden.**



### SAVE THE DATE

The Mother Lodge is

celebrating its

**100th Anniversary**

Please join the Colombo-Stella Lodge for dinner, entertainment, silent auction see the newly expanded Italian Heritage Museum

September 17th

6pm -10pm

Fresno Fairgrounds Wine Garden

More details to come

**Tickets will be sold beginning Aug 1st**  
**Please contact President Olivia DeLiddo**  
**(559)312-5151 for info/questions**

*Roma Lodge will be celebrating their 95th Anniversary in 2025. Because of the pandemic we missed our 90th anniversary and hopefully we can have a big celebration for our 95th. I'm sure our first president Mario Bruno who served in 1930-32 would be elated to know we are still going strong after 92-years. Let's support our other lodges by attending these special events.*





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

*Roma Lodge members with August birthdays are reminded to bring a raffle prize or dessert to the meeting on June 6th.*

**LeNotizie Sponsors**

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*If you have news about our Roma Lodge members (graduations, sports activities, school news or other items you would like to share in the LeNotizie, please email them to [larrydutto@yahoo.com](mailto:larrydutto@yahoo.com) or text to 559-901-4683 by the 20th of each month.*

**Your Roma Lodge Officers  
 2021-2022**

President	Larry Dutto (901-4683)
Vice President	Louie Benedetti (827-1492)
Treasurer	Karen Pedroncelli (732-1591)
Recording Sec.	Renee Marinelli (732-8258)
Financial Sec.	Pam Sola (901-1781)
Orator	Anthony Chiamonte (217-4055)
Historian	Melissa Watkins (361-0811)
Guard	Ken Bertorelli (788-8496)
Past President	David DePaoli (804-5443)
Chaplain	Nicole Taylor (804-7056)

**Trustees**

Michael DePaoli	(730-1168)
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)

**August Meeting**

**August 1, 2022**  
**6:30 pm**

**Junior Member Night**  
**RSVP by July 29th**  
**Text-559-901-4683**  
**Email-larrydutto@yahoo.com**

**Dinner Hosts**  
**Dutto-Cleek-Luis Families**