



Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

October-2021

Columbus Day Celebration **Sunday, October** **10th, 2021!**



Roma Lodge will celebrate Columbus Day on **Sunday, October 10th** at the World Ag Expo Park. We hope that you will be able to join us on the 10th as we celebrate Columbus Day!

RSVP by October 8th if you plan to attend!
Text to: 901-4683 or email: larrydutto@yahoo.com

Tentative Schedule of events:

- 11:30 AM-Setup/Cooking
- 12:00 PM-Registration/Bocce Team Signup*
- 12:30 PM-Bocce Tournament Starts
- 1:00 PM-Lunch is Served
- 2:00 PM-Raffle
- 2:30 PM-Bocce Championships
- 3:00 PM-Cleanup

*Teams who would like to participate in a team buyout will put in \$20 per team. High team gets 50%, 2nd 30% and 3rd 10% of the pot!

What the Lodge Supplies

BBQ, Paper products, water and all the trimmings. Ice Cream for Dessert!

What to Bring

- ◆ Raffle Prizes
 - ◆ Additional beverages if wanted
- A Bounce House and Junior Member Bocce Tournament will be held for juniors.**

No side dishes or Dessert!

Unfortunately, due to COVID we are unable to have a dessert contest or have members bring side dishes. Therefore, the lodge will supply the food items.



2019 BOCCÉ CHAMPS!

David Pinheiro, Michael Saltzman, Vince and Pam Sola won \$100 in the buyout. Congratulations!

In 2019 the lodge had about 70 members attend the annual Columbus Day Celebration! It is hard to believe it has been 2 years since we have been dealing with COVID and we are still having all types of requirements placed on public gatherings. In addition the Cancel Culture has also forced a lot of governmental agencies to remove Columbus statues and other artifacts depicting the contributions he made to America. As Roma Lodge members we need to continue to celebrate his achievements to our country and keep his memory alive.

October Meeting

Monday October 3rd-6:30 PM

Justin and Navin Curti will serve as dinner hosts for the meeting.

RSVP -By Friday-October 1st

Text-559-901-4683 or
Email larrydutto@yahoo.com

Changing of the Guard!

Presidents Message

B

arbara Wisniewski, Grand Lodge President, has been holding ZOOM calls once a month for local lodge presidents to share information and challenges facing local lodges as they deal with the pandemic. If you have read my articles in the *IL Leone*, you will notice I have often been very critical of some of the actions or inactions of the Grand Lodge organization. My biggest concern has been the increase in dues by either the Grand Lodge or OSDIA. Barbara has promised, during her tenure as president, **there will be no dues increases**.

I applaud her efforts to increase communications by having these ZOOM calls and the sharing of information. Of course, many of us didn't even know what a ZOOM call was prior to the pandemic and know if you are not zooming you are snoozing!

Roma Lodge has the largest lodge in the state and I cringe when I hear other lodges who are hanging on by a thread. One lodge president lamented the fact his lodge only had 25 members and membership dropped to only 12 members during the pandemic! Others are facing closure and still others are having difficulty with their meeting places requiring the president of the local lodge sign a waiver indicating they would be personally responsible if someone gets COVID as a result of their meetings. **REALLY!**

You have seen my charts indicating the loss in membership by the Grand Lodge which shows membership under 4,000 and the number of lodges dropping from over 70 a few years ago to 41 now. **So what happened?**

On one of our Grand Lodge calls a local president indicated he had been president of the lodge for the past 22-years! **Uh?** This sounds like some of our con-

gressional representatives where one has been representing the state of Michigan for 59 years! **Crazy!**

Roma Lodge has 63 junior members (1-21 years of age) and 105 members over the age of 55. That leaves 120 members age 22-55. If Roma Lodge is going to be around in another 50 years it is this age group we need to transfer leadership to ensure a bright future. We must remember this age bracket



consists of our busiest members, young parents with a lot of responsibilities taking kids to school activities, sports and a myriad of other things. The first step is to ask and the second is to provide them with a leadership activity, along with some guidelines, without **criticism!**

I have been around the organization for over 70 years. We have event chairs who have conducted lodge activities for years and years and years. When they decided to no longer be in charge, someone else was given the responsibility and often faced a backlash criticism. The sauce was too meaty, the desserts were cut too big, the drawing dragged on too long. Just to name a few. If Roma Lodge is going to survive, our younger members need to be given the freedom to take on an activity, conduct it with lodge members help and do so without the constant criticism of **"well that's not the way we did it last year."**

A prime example is our WAE food booth. We are no longer just a sausage sandwich on a bun booth. Because, of our younger members leadership, we have new menu items from pasta salads to meatball sandwiches!

Changing of the guard has to occur before the old guard is dead or too old to function. If the COVID has taught us anything, it is the fact that we must adapt to change, embrace it and move forward!

It's Official!

On Monday, September 20th, the Tulare City Council officially recognized October as *Italian Heritage Month for the City of Tulare*. Roma Lodge #1573 was honored for over 90 years of promoting the Italian Culture in the Tulare community.

So what does this mean?

Just because you are a member of Roma Lodge, you won't be able to drive your car to the front of the line at the new *In-N-Out Burger* in Tulare. What it does mean, is we have recognized our ancestors who came to Tulare in the late 1800's as part of the 5.5 million Italians who immigrated from Italy. As Roma Lodge members we can all take pride in carrying on the Italian Culture!



Tulare City Mayor Dennis Mederos reads the proclamation at the Tulare City Council meeting.



Several Roma Lodge members attended the city council meeting along with Hanford Lodge members.

Meeting Changes!

Roma Lodge began officially meeting at our September meeting. A couple of items came up at the meeting about long time held traditions of having members with birthdays bring an item to raffle off at the end of the meeting. Here are some items we will discuss at the October meeting.



- Have the Junior members conduct the raffle each month by selling tickets for \$1 each. (This eliminates members hunting for ticket numbers when they are 5 tickets for a \$1) Proceeds from ticket raffles will go toward supplies for junior member activities.
- Traditionally we have had a drawing from our membership roster for \$50 for members who are present at the meeting. If the member is not present the amount is increased \$5 each month until the amount reaches \$100 and then names are drawn until a winner is chosen. *Does anyone think this is an incentive for someone who never attends a meeting to attend?* Probably not. Suppose we give a ticket to everyone who attends and draw for \$25 each month? Let's discuss at the meeting.

Support Hanford Lodge!

SPAGHETTI/MEATBALL DINNER--SAUCE SALE Sunday, October 24
drive-thru from 12 noon until 3 p.m.
Contact Janis Hansen for tickets.
(559 582.4731 or 559.362.8499)

Junior Activities



Camden Taylor celebrates Dairy Day at St. Paul's School.



Austin and Aiden Gentry commemorate the 20th anniversary of 9/11 with House of Representative minority leader Kevin McCarthy.

Karate Kid **George Maness** earned the highest belt in his class and also was Student of the Month. Not bad for a kid with a broken arm!

Didn't see a picture of your child or grandchild in the LeNotizie?

Send info to:

larrydutto@yahoo.com


and we will include in the next issue.





Roma Lodge
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 Tulare, California 93275
www.romalodge1573.org

LeNotizie Sponsors

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If you have a birthday in October remember to bring a raffle item to the meeting for the raffle!

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 Chiaramonte (217-4055)
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)

**October Meeting
 Monday**

October 3, 2021

If you plan to attend:

RSVP

Email- larrydutto@yahoo.com

Text- 559-901-4683

Call-559-901-4683

By Friday-October 1st!



**Justin & Navin Curti Family
 Will be our dinner chairs!**