



Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

March-2024

Showcasing our Italian Culture!

There are few lodges in the state who get the opportunity to showcase their Italian Culture to the world. Roma Lodge has been doing that for the past 56 years at the World Ag Expo in Tulare. Our Italian sausage sandwich, pasta plate and antipasti salad has become a staple for WAE visitors from all over the world.

Over 50 members of the lodge put in a lot of hard work organizing, cooking and serving over 1200 sandwiches, pounds of pasta and baked potatoes for those who want a great meal at the show.

Our chairs **Michael DePaoli, Melissa DePaoli-Watkins and Maci DePaoli-Daramy** have done a great job in changing the menu to include baked potatoes, side salads and Dole Whip for dessert. It takes a lot of work in preparing the booth and ordering all the supplies to ensure the booth is ready each day to serve show attendees.

Activities of the week started on Sunday with making the sauce and cutting onions and peppers for the sandwiches. Our cooking crew arrived at the show each day before 7 a.m. to start cooking the onions, boiling and barbecuing the sausage and organizing the booth for the days sales.

Many of our members came each and everyday because they enjoy working the booth and serving customers from all over the world. It is an opportunity to visit with many customers who come back each and every year to the booth to enjoy the great food and fellowship.

More great photos on the Roma Lodge website:

[Home | roma-lodge \(romalodge1573.org\)](http://roma-lodge.com)



Show Chairs
Melissa Watkins, Michael DePaoli and Maci Daramy.



Service!

Presidents Message

Volunteering your time, money, or energy to help others doesn't just make the world better-*it also makes you better!* Service to others gives us a feeling of accomplishment and gives us all a gratifying feeling. As a member of Roma Lodge our most important tenet of the lodge is *fraternity*. Working with others at our WAE food booth is a great opportunity to work with other members of the lodge.



As mentioned before we had over 50 members who assisted during the show. Besides our chairs, topping the list was *Bill Benedetti* who transported our members to and from the parking lot. Then there was *Joann Beecher* who at nearly 83 was there early in the morning, worked all day, made biscotti cookies for our

members to enjoy and made sure visitors had all they needed to have a great meal.

Sisters *Karen DeGroot and Joyce Hofstee* prepared a great meal for everyone to enjoy after our meeting on Sunday and along with *Kevin Hofstee* worked each day serving customers.



Tina Sparlin worked each day from early morning to late afternoon and along with *Frank Marinelli* made a ton of sausage sandwiches.

Nick Milanesio, Ed Milanesio, David DePaoli and Nick Serafin

were in charge of boiling the sausage and sautéing the onions for the sandwiches. They arrived early each day and cooked all day to keep customers happy.



Joseph Goni, Ben Filiponi show junior members *Mia and Trevor Filiponi* how to cook sausage. For the past several years Joseph and Ben have been in charge of the BBQ along with Nick Serafin.

Elisabeth Curti and Pam Sola along with *Giovanna DePaoli, Pam Chiamonte and Sally Scalia* dished



out plate after plate of pasta cooked by *Josh and*



Dominic Piti-gliano and Matt Watkins.

As your president I want to thank everyone who took time from their busy schedule to provide service to Roma Lodge. It is much appreciated.

March Potluck!

We will have our traditional March potluck meeting on March 4th.

Bring your favorite main dish and salad or dessert. The lodge will provide plates, utensils, bread and drinks. We have some great cooks in the lodge so bring your favorite dish to share with everyone. **Joanne Beecher** is our chair for the potluck. Call her and ask if you can help.



Roma Lodge is the largest lodge in California. At the time of this writing we have 281 members in the lodge. On May 25, 1930, 115 potential members of Roma Lodge came together to meet. Eight-six of those members were initiated and became charter members of the lodge on that day. The remaining 29 members were initiated at the following meeting. All of these individuals resided in Tulare County. Since that time we have welcomed members who lodges have closed. The Porterville Lodge and the Italia Nuova Lodge in Santa Barbara. ***How has the lodge membership changed in the last 94 years?***

To begin with, 18 (6%) of our members live out of the state of California. 5 (2%) of our members live in Fresno County, 16 (6%) live in Kern County, 1 in Kings County, leaving about 80% living in Tulare County. 61 (22%) of our membership are Juniors and 21 (7%) are over the age of 80.

So what is the point? In the beginning of the lodge the primary purpose of the lodge was to bring Italian immigrants to the lodge and encourage them to become American Citizens. That mission is no longer the case. In fact of our 280 members we have only one Italian-American left in the lodge.

We also have many members who no longer live in Tulare County. Several live in Kern, Fresno or Kings County. The rest are located all over the state or in other states. These are descendants of some of our founding members who have continued their membership even though they live so far away it is impractical to come to meetings or participate in many of our activities. Because of health or age issues many members cannot attend meetings or activities.

The bottom line is if we get 50-60 member who help at the farm show or 60-80 members who attend monthly meetings the lodge is doing very well. We understand everyone cannot be active in the lodge, however we appreciate your membership.

Final Call For Dues!

Roma Lodge Dues	2024
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
Total	\$ 85.00
Junior Member-Insurance	\$ 7.00

This is the final call for dues if you have not paid your dues by March 31st you will be dropped. The lodge has to pay your dues to the state and national organizations after the first quarter of the year. If you do not plan to continue your membership let us know.

March Meeting
Monday-March 4, 2024
WAE Social Hall
6:00 PM
Potluck!
Roma Lodge Scholarships
Due-March 1st
Contact Melissa Watkins
559-361-0811



Roma Lodge
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 Join Today!**

**Your Roma Lodge Officers
 2023-2024**

- | | |
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| 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

March 4, 2024

6:00 PM

WAE-Social Hall

Potluck



Special thanks to our juniors. Adelyn, Kate, Giulia Watkins, Harper and Harlow DePaoli and Wessel Pitigliano for their help at the booth.