

Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

August-2022

100th Birthday Celebration!

Roma Lodge's own **Agnes Pelous** celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday, July 17th with family and friends at the Sierra Village Club house. Agnes is a 58-year member of Roma Lodge and has been so instrumental in the success of the lodge over many years. She served as an officer, chaired the annual ravioli dinner, worked countless hours during the early days of our booth at the farm show when it first started back at the Tulare Fair Grounds.



Agnes was born on July 17, 1922 in La Puente, California to John and Maria Manassero who came to the America from Bene Vagienna, in the province of Cuneo, in the Piedmonte Region of northern Italy in 1920. She married Alex Pelous in 1944 and moved to Lindsay in 1957 and joined the lodge in 1958.

Agnes and Alex gave of their time and resources to make Roma Lodge a success in those early days of the organization. Although, Alex was of French heritage he had many Italian friends who he worked with in his farming and custom bean harvesting business.



They both enjoyed their time at Roma Lodge meetings and activities and did their part in promoting the Italian culture. Roma Lodge would like to thank both of them and congratulate Agnes on celebrating her 100th birthday. We wish her many more birthdays to come.

Junior Member Night

Roma Lodge will hold its annual Junior Member and back-to-school night on **Monday, August 1st**.



Junior members represent the future of our lodge. It has become a tradition to have a special night at our August meeting for them to have the spotlight and for the evening. We have over 60 junior members and thanks to Pam Sola, junior member activity chair, they enjoy coming to our meetings and participating in the activities Pam has for them.

If you have a junior member in your family this is a great opportunity to have them attend a



meeting and get some great back-to-school items in our special junior member raffle.

We are asking lodge members to bring back-to-school items such as spiral notepads, colored pencils, crayons or other items for the special junior member raffle.

T-Frank!

Presidents Message

There were many Roma Lodge members on hand to bid our final farewell to **Brother Frank Goni** on July 18th. Frank fell and hit his head while working on his dairy farm and passed away on July 3rd. Frank was born in Spain and immigrated to America and settled in Tipton in the 1970's and quickly made friends with many of our Italian Immigrants who started Roma Lodge many years ago. One of which was Charlie Aspesi who farmed just east of Tipton.

Charlie introduced Frank to Olivia Lerda and they were married in 1980. Frank joined the lodge the same year and was a 42-year member of Roma Lodge. Olivia served as lodge president for three consecutive terms from 1987-1992 making Frank the First Gentleman of the lodge as Olivia was the first woman president of Roma Lodge.

If there was ever anyone who dedicated herself to Roma Lodge, carrying on her Italian culture it was Olivia. She served the lodge in many capacities and Frank was at her side doing his best as **First Gentleman**.

Tragically, Olivia's brother, Russel passed away in May of 1995 and she passed away in October of the same year. This left Frank and son Joseph and daughter Joanna to run the family operation. Frank quickly learned the dairy and farming business after being a Basque sheep herder all over the western United States when he first came to America. As an immigrant Frank quickly befriended many of our lodge members who were immigrants from Italy.



Frank was always more comfortable in the kitchen than he was sitting at the head table. People are often asked what they want to be remembered for when their journey on this earth is over. I know Roma Lodge members will always remember Frank for his famous risotto he cooked every year to go along with our Italian sausage in celebration of our lodge anniversary.

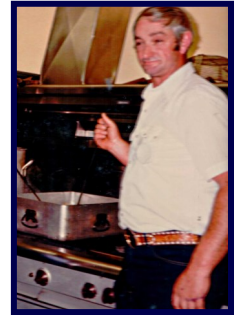
Being a dairy farmer we all know it is a 24/7 operation and Frank did not have a lot of free time to devote to the lodge. However, he would make sure when April rolled around he could be counted upon to secretly make the concoction of herbs, spices and chicken stock to make the risotto so delicious.

This year he arrived about 4 o'clock and we sat and chatted while we waited for Joseph to show up with the sauce pan with all the key ingredients for the cooking the risotto.

I always delighted in my conversations with Frank or T-Frank as I called him, which translates to Uncle Frank. He said, "**Dutto, I remember coming to these lodge meetings and seeing all the old-timers like your dad, your uncles and all the great families of the lodge. Now, we are the old-timers!**"

Yes, Frank we are the old timers and we miss those folks who started the lodge over 92-years ago and have entrusted us to carry on our Italian Heritage. You have done more than your share for the lodge and it didn't matter if you were Basque

or Italian. What you were was a hard worker, loyal friend and someone who valued and treasured your citizenship as an American. Just as Olivia passed the torch to you, now, you have passed the torch to **Joseph** and **Joanna** and your grandchildren **Quinn** and **Mason**. I also remember that meeting in April when Frank won the 50-50 drawing and donated the money back to the lodge. That was **Frank Goni. Farewell Brother Frank, may you rest in peace. We will miss your friendship and loyalty to Roma Lodge.**



Looking Ahead

It is never too early to look ahead to the future and the Junior Member Night gives us a night off from doing any official business as it is dedicated to them. However, it is time to start thinking about activities for the lodge for the remainder of this year and next.

- **Officer Elections**

In November we will have our officer elections for the 2023-24 term. If you are currently an officer and would like to continue in your role we need to know so we can develop our slate of officers for next year. If you are not an officer and would like to become one, we would like to know that as well.

- **Fundraising**

Our annual budget to operate the lodge is about \$15,000 per year. With the pandemic we missed two years of our major fundraiser, our annual ravioli dinner and one year of the farm show booth. We need to discuss future fundraiser ideas so we can operate at a profit to continue our charitable donations.

- **Royal Pageant**

The Grand Lodge will be having a Royal Pageant contest at the 2023 convention in Reno. We need to decide at our September meeting if we have someone in the lodge who would like to participate in the pageant this year.

- **Lodge Directory**

We continue to work on our lodge directory and hope to have a new directory printed for our January meeting. We continue to update our membership rosters and will ask members to make changes at our meetings the next few months so we can finalize our list by December.

- **Email Contacts**

Email and texting have become the preferred method of communication. If you would like to be added to our Roma Lodge email distribution list please send your email address to:

larrydutto@yahoo.com

- **Meeting Refreshments**

We would like to have families step forward and host refreshments for each meeting. If your family would like to do this, let us know.

Members In The News!

The picture at the right is Roma Lodge member **Harper DePaoli** as she is graduating from kindergarten and will be going to first grade in August.



You may be wondering why her picture is in the newsletter this month. **The answer is simple! Because her mother took the few minutes it takes to email me the picture!**

At right is the cover of the first **LeNotizie** I wrote in January of 2001. Now, 20+ years have passed and I guess I have written over 250 of them. I enjoy nothing more than putting pictures and articles in each newsletter about lodge members activities.



I rely on members to send me information about what they are doing in their daily lives. If they don't, then I have to find information through social media. I know we have members who have been to Hawaii, Greece, Indiana, Disneyland, Florida and just about everywhere else this summer. So please take a few minutes and send me information about what your kids are doing so we can include them in the next issue of the **LeNotizie**. If I can't get them in the current edition I will put them in the next one.

Send information, pictures, articles, etc., etc. to

larrydutto@yahoo.com



Don't forget Junior Member Night-August 1st!



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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 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

