



Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

September 2024

Looking Back to the Future!

Looking back to the future is a term we use when referring to the past for the decisions we have made and how they affect our future.

In 2004, yes 20 years ago, the picture on the right shows then Roma Lodge President, **Charlie Pitigliano** showing junior member **Michael DePaoli** how to conduct the meeting at **Junior Member Night**.



For many years this has been a long standing tradition to keep our junior members engaged in lodge activities. The night was re-introduced by then president **Kathy Briano** in 1995 and has grown over the years to become a tradition where we had

nearly a 100 members and guests at our August meeting this year.

So how important is this event for the future of the lodge? Let's just use Michael DePaoli as an example. Michael is a 33-year member of the lodge, serves as a trustee, has chaired the farm show booth for 11-years, BBQ's for the XMAS party, cooks sausage for the risotto dinner in November and cooks chicken for the ravioli dinner. To top that off he and his wife **Leslie** along with children **Harper, Haydyn and Harlow** attend monthly meetings and are involved in the lodge throughout the year.

Looking back this was one of the best decisions we have made in the past which will pay huge benefits in the future as we continue to engage our junior members so someday they will become the leaders of the lodge and carry on our Italian Culture in Tulare County.

What a Night!



Boy, what a crowd! The 2024 Junior Member Night was a huge success with nearly a 100 members and guests in attendance. Acting president **Austin Gentry** took control and welcomed everyone to a great night of food, fun and back-to-school items for the kids going back to school.



Guests included State First Vice-President **Mark Vaona**, Hanford Lodge President, **Michael Leoni** and State Youth Chair **Brian Watson**.

Next Meeting
Monday, September 9th
Dinner-6 p.m.
Chiaramonte Family
Dinner Hosts

(MCGA) Make Columbus Great Again!

If you read the Supreme Lodge bylaws, Article 1, Section C, it states in part, “to encourage the dissemination of Italian culture in the United States” as one of the purposes or mission of the Order. Roma Lodge has been doing this for almost 95 years.

If you asked the average person in Tulare County if they know of any organization that is promoting and preserving the Italian Culture you probably would not find very many who know about the Sons and Daughter's of Italy. However, if you asked them who discovered America they would probably know it was the Italian **Christopher Columbus!**

Now, as long as I can remember Roma Lodge has held their Columbus Day celebration at either Mooney's Grove or the Farm Show park. BBQ, bocce, raffle and dessert made for a fun day. Unfortunately, it was a great time for all the lodge members and guests who attended, however, did the citizens of Tulare County even know we were celebrating Columbus Day? **Probably not!**

October is **Italian Heritage Month** as proclaimed by the Tulare City Council and mayor **Dennis Mederos** in 2021. We decided to bring back our annual ravioli dinner after COVID in October of 2023 and have made plans to hold our dinner in October this year.

I have proposed an idea to our officer team about having our ravioli dinner on October 12th of the Columbus Day weekend. This will accomplish two things. First, we can showcase Roma Lodge to our community by providing a great meal and second, we will bring about awareness to Christopher Columbus. Mr. Columbus has taken a beating over the last few years as “**wokeness**” has spread across the country with the tearing down of Columbus Statues, graffiti and paint being slung across pictures and artwork of Columbus and other insults directed toward his achievements in discovering America.



Sauce maker extraordinaire, **Dominic Pitigliano**, has suggested a new slogan for signage at the dinner which will be **(MCGA) Make Columbus Great Again!** For all of you who will be helping out, we encourage juniors as well, we will be providing tee-shirts to everyone who sells tickets, cooks, serves or works the drive-thru. We want to make this a great event for our community to promote Christopher Columbus and our Italian Culture. Tickets will be available for sale at the September 9th meeting.

Now, for all you bocce ball players who are starting to shed a tear because you have been a past champion and have experienced the thrill of victory and held the coveted bocce champion trophy, we have another idea for you.

The picture at the right was the first picnic of Roma Lodge in May of 1930 held at Mooney's Grove. In May of 2025 Roma Lodge will celebrate its 95th anniversary. In the **IL Leone** you have seen a lot of lodges celebrating anniversaries with formal elegant banquets which is great. Roma Lodge has over 60 junior members so I'm proposing we celebrate our 95th anniversary at Mooney's Grove with a picnic and bocce tournament for the whole family to enjoy.



Frank Marinelli is going to be assisting with the bocce courts at Mooney's Grove and we should have some good areas without a lot of gopher squirrel holes to go around. We will discuss this idea at our September meeting.

My apologies for not bringing all these ideas up at our Junior Member Night, however, we reserved that night for our junior members as we do not conduct business. We will move forward with the ravioli dinner date and decide on the May event at the meeting as well. If you cannot attend, send me your thoughts to larrydutto@yahoo.com

Junior Member Spotlight! How They Have Changed!



Taylor Dutto



Adelyn Watkins



Austin Gentry

Kate Watkins



Giulia Watkins



Giada Pitigliano



Harper DePaoli



Birthday Wishes

Roma Lodge members celebrated **Janet Cabral's** birthday at the August meeting. It was Janet's actual birthday on meeting night and friend **Beverly Broberg** brought three different cakes to celebrate Janet's birthday. Beverly also was the big winner of the 50/50 raffle and donated



her portion of the winnings to be placed in the junior member account for their activities. This was about the 4th time Beverly has won and each time has donated it back to the **lodge.**



So Good!









As a special treat **Lorraine Cleek, Maryann and Amanda Luis** dipped root beer floats for all the lodge members at the August meeting. Special thanks also goes to **Megan, Jordyn and Taylor Dutto** who purchased all the back-to-school items for the junior members.





Roma Lodge
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Your Roma Lodge Officers 2023-2024

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)

September Meeting
Monday
September 9, 2024
 Dinner at 6 p.m.



The Chiamonte Family
 Are our dinner hosts!