

Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

January-2021

Twenty Years of Filler!

I took over as editor for the Roma Lodge newsletter from **Joann Beecher** in January of 2001 with my first edition of the **LeNotizie**. I had just finished my first term as president and was turning over the reins to **Ben Curti** who was starting his second term in 2001-02. **These are pictures from my first edition of the 2000 lodge Christmas party.**

Joann had been doing the newsletter for several years, laboriously typing it out with a typewriter on a piece of paper and having it dupli-



cated and mailing it out. There were no computers with spellcheck, fancy graphics, color or autocorrect for her to use.

Just to date myself a bit, when I arrived at COS in 1984 there was one computer in the agriculture division with two floppy drives. I had learned my first basic programming on a TRS-80 from Radio Shack when I taught at Riverdale High School, so the technology had increased greatly by 2000.

Remember, how we were all afraid of "Y2K" when we thought every computer was going to crash and the world would be in chaos. Little did we know it would be nothing compared to the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020!

When I took on the task of editor I asked my mother-in-law, who spoke Italian, **Lupe Briano** what we should call the newsletter. She responded, **Le Notizie**, Italian for "The News". The rest is history.

I have enjoyed my time as editor and it is always a challenge to think of material to put in each edition. I'm always willing to let someone take over my duties and think of "filler" to put in each edition!



A Lack of Leadership!

Since I have been president of Roma Lodge I have vowed to myself that I would set forth a procedure for awarding Roma Lodge Scholarships. One of the key elements of being a good leader is to delegate responsibilities to others so they can accomplish goals and become leaders themselves. The most important aspect of delegating is having good communication, so the organizational goals are clearly understood.

For the past twenty years we have not clearly communicated to our scholarship committee what funds were available to give to prospective scholarship recipients, what the scholarship amounts awarded would be and the number and amounts of members versus non-members scholarship awards.

It was also **assumed** that Roma Lodge scholarships, for junior members, was \$1,000. Assuming something is never better than having documentation of the organizations goals and resources to provide scholarships. Therefore, I'm proposing the following procedures to be followed each year so our scholarship committee has the guidance they need to carryout the lodge's goals in awarding scholarships.

Due to the pandemic I will be asking our officer team to approve the new procedure in January by email and inform lodge members in February of their decision. **Stay tuned!**

Roma Lodge Scholarship Guidelines

Roma Lodge Scholarship Program Protocol

- At the January meeting of Roma Lodge, the Trustees will notify the membership of the total of donations for scholarships given the previous year, the interest received on the scholarship endowment fund and the availability of funds for scholarships for the upcoming year.
- At the January meeting, lodge members will vote on the maximum amount of funds available for scholarships for the current year.
- At the January meeting the lodge will determine the maximum scholarship amount for applicants who are members and **if** available the maximum scholarship funds available for non-members.
- At the January meeting the potential number of lodge member applicants will be discussed and a maximum amount of the year's scholarship will be determined and voted on by the membership.
- At the January meeting, after the member scholarship funds and amounts have been voted upon, the lodge will determine the number and amount of Merit Scholarships* to be given. If funding, in a current year, is not available for Merit Scholarships, none will be given.
- By January 15th, of any given year, Roma Lodge will post on the Roma Lodge website the availability and amount of the Roma Lodge scholarships for the current year. It will include maximum amounts of both member and non-member scholarships.
- The lodge will post in the February **LeNotizie** the information about scholarships for the current year.
- Once the scholarship funding is approved by the members of Roma Lodge, the scholarship committee has the authority to seek applications, develop a criterion for selection and meet as a group. **Prior to the meeting the committee will review the scholarship rules and criteria for selection. The committee will ensure that the Roma Lodge President or a Past-President will serve in an ex-officio capacity on the committee.** The committee will decide the years recipients, amounts and notifies the awardees of their scholarship.
- March 1st of any given year will be the application deadline for Roma Lodge Scholarships.
- Roma Lodge will hold a scholarship event for recipients and parents at the May meeting to present scholarships.

Because of COVID we do not know when we can have meetings again. Therefore, I will institute these new guidelines for this year and once we are able to meet again we will vote on them.

**A merit scholarship is one given regardless of financial need.*

2021 Dues

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or the past several years I always include a section about, **"return on your investment"** in the, payment

of your Roma Lodge dues for the upcoming year. I requested the Grand Lodge rescind dues for the state and national in lieu of the fact we have not met since last February and will not meet for the foreseeable future. Our request was denied by the Grand Council. Since Roma Lodge only gets \$.25 -Cents of your \$75 dues please don't feel you need to remain a member to financially support the lodge.

One incentive to pay your lodge dues is that it **may** be tax-deductible. According to **IRS-Circular 526-Charitable Contributions** you can deduct membership dues if your dues are \$75 or less without the requirement that you can only deduct the difference between the services provided by your membership and your dues. Since Roma Lodge dues are \$75 and since we do not receive any services from the lodge your dues should be deductible! **Check with your accountant!**



Your dues are due starting January 1, 2021. If you plan to continue your membership in the lodge you need to send your check to:

**Roma Lodge #1573
PO Box 1337
Tulare, California 93275**

If you **do not** plan to renew your membership in Roma Lodge please let **Pam Sola** know by emailing her at pam1334@aol.com or giving her a call at **559-901-1781** at let her know you no longer wish to be a member.

Western Foundation Fundraiser

The OSIA Grand Lodge of California Western Foundation is holding a fundraiser through the sale of raffle tickets similar to the Grand Lodge 365 Program. However, this drawing will be for the month of February-2021. Ticket sales will be limited to only 700 and there will be 24 daily prizes of \$25 each.

We know there are 28 days in February so special prizes will be awarded for these days:

\$100-2/2/2021-Ground Hog Day
\$200-2/12/2021-Lincoln's Birthday
\$250-2/14/2021-Valentine's Day
\$200-2/22/21-Washington's Birthday

The cost of the tickets are only **\$10.00** and ticket sales will run only through February 5, 2021. All tickets and stubs must be received by February 5th.

Roma Lodge was sent only 10 tickets and if you would like to purchase one or more contact Larry Dutto by calling or texting-**559-901-4683** or by email-larrydutto@yahoo.com prior to February 1, 2021.

Sunshine News and Milestone Birthdays !

Last January, Roma Lodge member, **Ron Pedroncelli**, was recovering from a broken hip and knee replacement. Well, he fell on Christmas Eve and broke his femur. After surgery in Kaweah Delta Hospital, to insert a rod and metal screws into his leg, he is now on his way to recovery.



Gary Dutto

continues to recover from a recent hospital stay. Gary and wife Dawn now live in Meridian, Idaho.

Stacy Galvan had surgery on her shoulder recently and is recovering and doing well. If you know someone who has had health issues contact **Joann Beecher (688-8380)** so she can send them a card.

James Vener will celebrated his 80th birthday on January 1st and **William Fusco** his 80th on January 6th. Roma Lodge would like to wish them a Happy Birthday!





Roma Lodge
 PO Box 1337
 Tulare, California 93275
www.romalodge1573.org

LeNotizie Sponsors

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<p>Benjamin (Ben) Curti Cell: (559)288-0587 Personal Email bacurti@aol.com</p> <p>16337 Road 24 Tulare, California 93274 Phone: (559)992-5866 Fax: (559)992-4842 Business Email: bencurtifarms@yahoo.com</p>	<p>BANK OF THE SIERRA</p> <p>ldutto@bankofthesierra.com</p> <p>LARRY DUTTO, PH.D. Director</p> <p>86 N. Main Street Porterville, CA 93257 559-791-4900 559-901-4683 e</p>

Your Roma Lodge Officers 2021-2022

President	Larry Dutto (901-4683)
Vice President	Louie Benedetti (827-1492)
Treasurer	Karen Pedroncelli (732-1591)
Recording Sec.	Kathryn Gomes (331-0025)
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)

Roma Lodge-2021 Dues Breakdown

Roma Lodge Dues	2021
Grand Lodge Per Capita	\$ 32.51
Supreme Lodge Per Capita	\$ 21.52
Il Leone	\$ 4.98
Scholarship Assessment	\$ 0.74
Life Insurance	\$ 15.00
Roma Lodge	\$ 0.25
Total Dues	\$ 75.00
Social Member	\$ 60.00
Junior Member	\$ 6.36

Mail To:
Roma Lodge #1573
PO Box 1337
Tulare, CA 93274