

The Grapevine

A Publication From
The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan
Fall/Winter Issue • 2021
Volume 20 • Number 2
Visit Our Website at: www.iaccm.net



Upcoming EVENTS



Notes from the PRESIDENT

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting
• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting
LOCATION • San Marino Club
1685 E. Big Beaver Road, Troy



SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 • MONDAY

37th Annual

JOHN B. AGOSTA MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

TIME • Lunch served 10:30 AM
• Shotgun start at 12:00 noon
LOCATION • Fern Hill Golf Club
17600 Clinton River Road, Clinton Twp.



OCTOBER 6, 2021 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting
LOCATION **FESTA DELLA LIRA**
• Mirage Elegant Banquet Center
16980 18 Mile Road, Clinton Township

NOVEMBER 3, 2021 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Nomination of 2022 Officers/Board of Directors

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting
• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting
LOCATION • Andiamo Italia
7096 E. 14 Mile Road, Warren

NOVEMBER 7, 2021 • SUNDAY

Holy Family IACCM Memorial Mass

TIME • 11:30 AM mass, Breakfast to follow
LOCATION • Holy Family Church
• 941 Chrysler Drive, Detroit

DECEMBER 8, 2021 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting
• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting
LOCATION • Palazzo Grande
54460 Van Dyke, Shelby Township

How fast the summer months go by! Our monthly meetings will resume on Wednesday, September 1st at the San Marino Club. In looking back to our past June meeting, a special thank you to Honorable Judge Joseph Toia and his committee for the successful Scholarship Award Night held at Villa Penna's Banquet Hall. Congratulations go out to all the exceptional students who received awards that night. The Chamber provided a total of \$12,500 in scholarship award money for this event.

Then, when it rains, it pours! The annual golf outing scheduled for June 28th at the Fern Hill Golf Club was rained out and rescheduled for September 20th. We are all looking forward to that event. The rains then washed out the first day of the Italian Festival at Freedom Hill. Fortunately, Saturday and Sunday saw record crowds of people turn out for the entertainment, food and socializing as the pandemic restrictions eased up. Thank you to Joe Vicari, Joe Ventimiglia and all the chamber members and sponsors who worked during this festival to help bring about its success. What a great summer weekend this provides annually for our entire region.

The IACCM 2021 Directory has been produced and distributed to the membership. A special thank you to Vito Pianello and Deb Demick for their work in putting together the directory update as well as all the members who advertised their businesses. The advertising covered the cost of the directory for us.

Going forward, we anticipate a full slate of monthly meetings ahead for the rest of 2021. Our Festa Della Lira (reverse raffle) will be held on October 6th at the Mirage Banquet Hall. Mark Garagiola and Mike Tenaglia are heading up the Vision Committee that is working on scheduling a spaghetti sauce cook-off for October 20th at Hard Rocks Stone Works. More details will follow as the event draws nearer.



Chairman's CORNER

Hello everyone, hope you have been enjoying this summer as we get out and start enjoying all the outside activities. June started out with our Scholarship Awards Dinner. Scholarship awards are presented to outstanding students with excellent academic achievements as well as community and athletic accomplishments. Honorable Joseph Toia is the current committee chairperson. All scholarship proceeds come directly from our annual John B. Agosta golf outing. Next, in July, was the annual Festa Italiana at Freedom Hill Park. It was a tremendous event with attendance records and food vendors dishing out plenty of great food and beverage. Even though our first night was a wash due to the rain, Saturday and Sunday made up for it. Thank you to all the helped in the success especially our vendors and volunteers. This event cannot make it without you.

We are excited to announce the launch of IACCM new website, iaccm.net! Please visit the website and explore the pages of updated information and pictures. We also have membership applications, meeting dates, and upcoming events that you may want to check out. Speaking of membership, we are up in the numbers at 172 and counting as 6 more applications are being reviewed. If you know anyone interested in joining, please go to IACCM website or call the Chamber office to get further details.

Our annual golf outing will be September 20th at Fern Hill Golf Club, there may be a few openings left, so if interested please contact Andy Agosta 248-561-1266 for information. The annual Festa Della Lira is being held this year at the Mirage Banquet Center on October 6th in conjunction with our general membership meeting. The event offers a chance at a grand prize of \$10,000. 179 tickets are sold, with everyone having the chance to win the 180th ticket, using a reverse raffle. Several other cash prizes are offered throughout the elimination process totaling over \$3,000. There will also be a 50/50 and Basket of Cheer raffle and a new lottery board raffle this year. Networking within the IACCM is also getting traction. Our members are asking for more of this type of gathering so we are scheduling a networking event at our member, Hard Rock Stone Works, location in Sterling Heights on October 20th. This will be an Italian sauce cook-off for 10 participants. This event is free to attend, and you are encouraged to bring family/friends not familiar with the Chamber to see how great it is. We will have taste testing and beverages. More details about this event will be available in the coming weeks.

Regards,
Charles J. Moran (Garavalia)
Chairman of the Board



Stephen J. Messina
Manager/VP

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Notes From The President, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

On a sad note, in May we lost our own member Ramo Salerno, father of Chamber member Dr. Ray Salerno. I also want to mention, in July our Past President Dave Galli's wife Sharon passed away

and in August, long time Chamber member, Don Carnaghi's son Kevin passed away. On behalf of the Chamber, I want to pass on our condolences and that Ramo, Sharon and Kevin rest in peace and that the peace of Christ be with Ray, Dave and Don and their families during these difficult times. Know that you're in the thoughts and prayers of the entire Chamber family.

So, in these challenging times, stay well, stay safe and stay informed. There is a lot of fake-news out there!

Ciao!

Charles Shermetaro, O.D., President

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Festa Italiana Meatball Winners 2021

The Frank J. Palazzolo Memorial Judges
Meatball Contest has 2 categories:
individual and restaurant.

This year's winners are:
Winner of Individual category:
Joey Lepore

Winner of Restaurant category:
Cloverleaf Bar and Restaurant



Photo by Clarice Squillace:

L to R: Marie Guerra Easterby of Cloverleaf Bar and Restaurant, Sam Palazzolo, Joseph Tabbi, Paul Calcaterra, Joey Lepore, Judge Richard Caretti

Italian-American Chamber of Commerce Birthdays for:

September

- | | | | |
|------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| 9/6 | Ventimiglia, Joseph P. | 11/18 | Gentilia, John J. |
| 9/8 | Lucido, Joseph | 11/21 | Moran, Charles |
| 9/10 | Cavaliere, Ray | 11/25 | Calcaterra, Lawrence |
| 9/11 | Piccirilli, Umberto | 11/25 | Terzo, Leo |
| 9/12 | Gagleard, Michael | 11/26 | Pellegrino, Joseph R. |
| 9/14 | Agosta, Andrew | | |
| 9/18 | Crudo, Samuel | | |
| 9/21 | Lazzara, David A. | | |
| 9/22 | Pianello, Vito | | |
| 9/24 | DeFlaviis, Alfred | | |
| 9/25 | Mercurio, Jr., Frank A | | |
| 9/28 | Promesso, Charles | | |
| 9/29 | Toarmino, Edward | | |
| 9/29 | Terzo, Thomas | | |

October

- | | | | |
|-------|-------------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| 10/2 | Tocco, Nino | 12/1 | Lochirco, Salvatore |
| 10/3 | Licata, III, Anthony C. | 12/1 | Cervone, Matthew D. |
| 10/3 | Palazzolo, Jerry | 12/5 | DeCarlo, Gary A. |
| 10/6 | Gatti, John D. | 12/7 | Gallo, Frank |
| 10/11 | D'Agostini, Antonio | 12/13 | DiCicco, Lucia |
| 10/12 | Meli, Paul | 12/17 | Bonadeo, David C. |
| 10/27 | Divozzo, Michael | 12/21 | Palazzolo, Sam |
| | | 12/27 | Tenaglia, Michel |
| | | 12/28 | Pascaretta, Joseph A. |

November

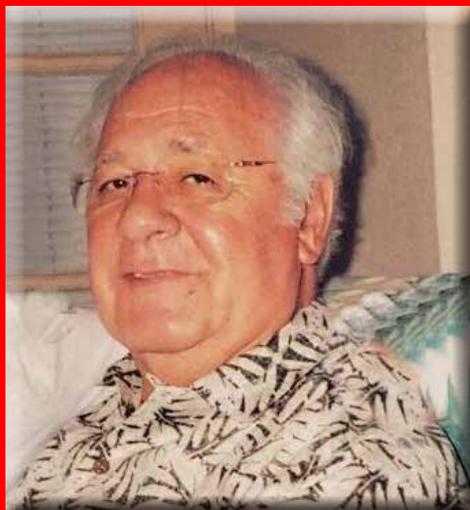
- | | | | |
|-------|-------------------------|------|--------------------|
| 11/2 | DiBartolomeo, Ronald A. | | |
| 11/11 | Marino, Al | | |
| 11/15 | Koss, Ralph | | |
| 11/17 | Milkey, James A. | | |
| 11/18 | Galli, Daniel A. | | |
| | | 1/1 | Maniaci, Philip J. |
| | | 1/2 | Yearego, James L. |
| | | 1/4 | Marrocco, Peter |
| | | 1/14 | Coppola, Frank |
| | | 1/20 | Cardella, Michael |
| | | 1/22 | Bommarito, Thomas |
| | | 1/22 | Maceroni, James |
| | | 1/28 | Torrice, Dr. Peter |
| | | 1/31 | Cicchini, Paull |

December

January

In Memorium

Ramo A. Salerno, Sr.



Cavaliere Ramo Salerno, IACCM member for 30 years and President of the IACS passed away May 31, 2021, at 89 years young. He could always be seen attending our meetings and events with his son and IACCM member Dr. Ramo Salerno. Mr. Salerno will be missed by so many in the Community. May he rest in peace!

May 5, 2021 • Rivercrest Banquet Center



"Mr. 50/50" Anthony Licata, III



Our "elected officials"

I-r

- Larry Rocca, Macomb County Treasurer
- Honorable Joseph Toia, 16th Judicial Circuit Court
- Honorable Julie Gatti, 16th Judicial Circuit Court
- Anthony Wickersham, Macomb County Sheriff
- Peter Lucido, Macomb County Prosecutor
- Frank DiGiorgio, Bruce Township Treasurer



Our host Nino Tocco
and Macomb County
Prosecutor Peter Lucido



Our guest speaker for
the evening, Macomb
County Sheriff Anthony
Wickersham



FESTA DELLA LIRA

(in conjunction with the general membership meeting)

October 6, 2021

Mirage Elegant Banquet Center

16980 18 Mile Road

Clinton Township, 6:00 PM

**REVERSE RAFFLE WITH A
GRAND PRIZE OF \$10,000**

**PLUS OVER \$3,000 IN
ADDITIONAL CASH PRIZES**

**Hors d'oeuvres, open bar,,
fabulous dinner, 50-50 raffle,
basket of cheer**

please contact the IACCM office for payment ASAP



Honorable Joseph Toia, newest member Victoria Jozefiak,
President Charles Shermetaro,
and Membership Chairman Charles Moran

June 2, 2021 • Scholarship Award Dinner • Villa Penna



Giovanni & Stephanie Loria accepting for their daughter Sara



Alex & Theresa Lucido accepting for their son Dominic



Carlina Galli, Lido Bucci Award recipient, with Honorable Joseph Toia



Honorable Joseph Toia welcoming members, scholarship recipients and guests



2021 Scholarship Recipients - l-r, Juliana Varanelli, Luca Varanelli, Andrea Loria, Giancarlo Maue, Carlina Galli, Honorable Joseph Toia, Leyna Gatti, Dianna Palazzolo, Hanna Wilking, Gianna Agosta, Isabella Pine, Alexa Minoletti (not pictured Sara Loria/Dominic Lucido)



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Festa Italiana Beautiful Baby Contest

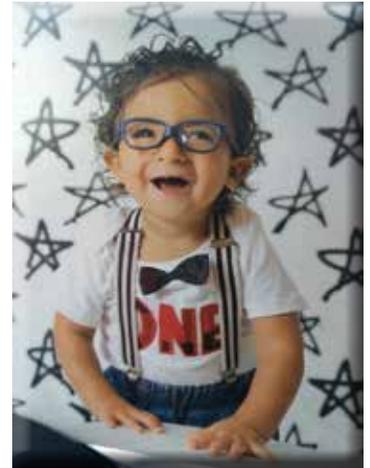
Here are the winners of the Beautiful Baby Contest:



9-12 Months - Rocco Fiscelli



13-18 months - Stella Bianchi



19-24 months - Jack Remick



2 yrs - Nicholas Lazzari



3 yrs - Francesca Morra



4 yrs - Malena Mittelstadt



Beautiful Baby Contest Sponsors
Dr. Anthony Giordano and Dr. Trina Russo of Shelby Foot and Ankle



5 yrs -
Isabella Morra



Grapevine Membership Business Directory

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Michael Divozzo

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Vito Pianello

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Philip J. Maniaci
James Timpa

TERMS ENDING 2022
Michael Locricchio
Sam Palazzolo
Michel Tenaglia

TERMS ENDING 2023
Joseph Burke
Paul Calcaterra
Anthony C. Licata, III

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Daniel Galli

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2017 Vito Pianello
2015 David F. Galli
2014 Andrew Agosta
2013 Joseph P. Ventimiglia
2011 Honorable Joseph Toia
2010 Thomas Bommarito
2009 Ned R. Piccinini
2008 Ronald A. DiBartolomeo
2007 Salvatore P. Ventimiglia
2004 Paul Calcaterra
2000 Benedetto Marrocco
1999 Augustino Russo
1994 Angelo S. Lanni
1991 Thomas B. Lanni
1974 Joseph Grimaudo

Mission Statement

The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan

"To nurture an environment for business and professional growth inclusive of our Italian history and culture, that provides our members the commercial, educational, and charitable forums necessary to inspire pride throughout the Italian community, and to establish a relationship of trust and service between our members and our fellow citizens."



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