

OFFICERS		BOARD OF DIRECTORS		IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT - Salvatore P. Ventimiglia	
PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	CHAIRMAN	TERMS ENDING '09	PAST PRESIDENTS'	1989 Alexander Bongiorno
Ronald A. DiBartolomeo	Joseph Toia	Paul Calcaterra	Andrew Agosta	2006 William A. Morelli, Sr.	1988 Russell Gambino
1 <sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT	FINANCIAL	TERMS ENDING '08	Michael T. Catenacci	2004 Paul Calcaterra	1985 Dr. Charles Marinelli
Ned R. Piccinini	SECRETARY	David F. Galli	Anthony M. Rubino	2002 Fred Severini, Jr.	1984 Frank DiGiovanni
2 <sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT	Joseph Ventimiglia	Stefano Militello	TERMS ENDING '10	2000 Benedetto Marrocco	1981 Hon. Anthony Sanfemio
Thomas Bommarito	TREASURER	Valerio Poliuto	Michael Locricchio	1999 Augustino Russo	1979 Frank Pompa
	Antonio DeLuca		Vito Pianello	1998 Ned Piccinini	1978 Mark Valente, Jr.
			Michel Tenaglia	1994 Angelo Lanni	1976 Sam Ripepi
				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.”**

*September 12, 2008 Do your part in the fight on Cancer*

## **CANCER FUNDRAISER FOR AUDREY TENAGLIA**

**PLACE:** St. Therese Lisieux Church, 48115 Schoenherr Shelby Township, MI 48315 • **TIME:** 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Enjoy... Pasta, Chicken, Sausage, Salad, Dessert, Coffee, Pop, Wine & Water

**Dinner:** Adults \$20.00  
Children 6-10 years old \$10.00  
Children under 6 FREE

**ALL DONATIONS ACCEPTED**

**For More Information Call:**

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**Nellina Serraiocco 586-247-9173**

**Cathy Ripari 586-263-6763**



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# THE GRAPEVINE

A Publication From The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan

Fall Issue • 2008 • Volume 7 • Number 3

## Upcoming EVENTS



### SEPTEMBER 3 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

#### Scholarship Awards Evening

##### TIME

- 6:00 PM Board Meeting
- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

##### LOCATION

- Italian Cultural Center  
43843 Romeo Plank Road, Clinton Township  
*Spouses, guests, and significant others invited.*

### OCTOBER 1 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

##### TIME

- 6:00 PM Board Meeting
- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

##### LOCATION

- Club Venetian  
29310 John R Road, Madison Heights

### NOVEMBER 5 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

#### Nomination of Officers/Board of Directors

##### TIME

- 6:00 PM Board Meeting
- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

##### LOCATION

- Zuccaro's Banquet Center  
46601 Gratiot Avenue, Chesterfield

### DECEMBER 3 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

#### Election of Officers/Board of Directors

##### TIME

- 6:00 PM Board Meeting
- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

##### LOCATION

- Villa Penna  
43985 Hayes, Clinton Township

Wow, can you believe it? It seems just when I was telling everyone to enjoy their summer, I find myself writing this column welcoming everyone back. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer.

Traditionally, the Chamber slows down considerably during the summer months, but we still had some activity. For instance, on Wednesday, June 4th we held our last monthly meeting before our summer break. It was a big agenda that evening. First off, representatives of the Italian American Alliance for Business and Technology (IAABT) were present and gave a short presentation, the executive director of the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce John Carroll was our guest speaker, the Consulate of Italy Dr. Carol Romero was present, and we inducted new members as a result of our membership drive into the Chamber, including our first female Patricia Piccinini.

The reason I mention this is because on that particular evening, we were facing a couple of obstacles – the Red Wings were playing that evening for the Stanley Cup, and St. John's was holding their annual fund raising event. It had all the makings of a low turnout. Nevertheless, we still had 120 people in attendance. That is a tribute to the membership of their commitment to the Chamber.

On June 29th the IACCM held their 25th Annual John B. Agosta Golf Outing. I would like to congratulate Andy Agosta and his committee for another outstanding event. Even with the economic environment that we find ourselves in, the golf outing was a sellout. With the proceeds, the Board of Directors was able to disperse \$11,500 in scholarship money to this year's recipients.

Speaking of scholarships, on Wednesday, September 3rd at our regularly monthly meeting, we will honor this year's recipients (see article inside.) I would like to commend Joe Toia and his committee for their efforts. I know it is a difficult task. There were 27 applicants, and every one of them could have very well been chosen. Please make every effort to attend to congratulate them.

On July 24th, the Chamber held a wine tasting event at Champagne's. Though there was a small attendance, a good time was had by all. There were a lot of good wines to sample, as well as good food. I want to thank Mike Tenaglia for all of his hard work to put this on.

*Continued on page 3*





**A**mici e macaroni, Se non sons caldi, Non sono buoni.. which means, "Friendships like macaroni, if they are not warm, they are not good". Non members of our organization often ask. "What's so great about our chamber? It seem like it is just a social club that enjoys a good meal every month." I always answer that in one way or another it is true. It was because of the friendship between a group of business men and professionals back in 1919 it all began. This feeling between the members still exists today and should never change. Reminiscing about the old days that brought our organization to where it is today.

The alarming part about this type of attitude is that in the last several years our membership numbers have been dropping. The next generation is looking for more than a social club. Because of this, great strides are being made to become a true chamber of commerce: we now have a great speakers program for our meetings. Our direction is geared more toward business and how we can help each other and by doing so it will attract more young business and professional people.

By partnering with other outstanding organizations, we will improve our strength as well as our creditability. We now have a membership card that has value. We still have work to do toward meaningful networking that will benefit our new members as well as the established ones. Our membership seems to be growing as long as the new ones stay with us by realizing that being a member has value to them.

There is another old Italian saying "il pesce puzza dalla testa" which means a fish smells from the head down or an organization is graded from the top echelon down.

We can be proud of the progress our leaders have been making to improve the image of this organization.

It is up to us as members to support and stand behind our leadership in order to improve this great organization.

Respectfully: Your Chairman of the Board;  
Paul R. Calcaterra

## The Vespa Motor Scooter

*Article and Photo by Dominic LaRosa*

**O**n Wednesday, August 6th, three members of the Italian American Chamber of Commerce attended a cocktail reception by the Italian American Alliance for Business and Technology, under the auspicious of the Consulate of Italy, Dr. Carlo Romeo. The reception was held at the Henry Ford Estate-Fairlane in Dearborn. In attendance were Ron DiBartolomeo, President, Tom Bommarito, 2nd Vice-President and Dominic LaRosa. The keynote speaker of the evening was Dr. Paolo Timoni, President and CEO of Piaggio of Group Americas. The name Piaggio is immediately connected to the Vespa, an inexpensive way of transportation that started in Italy just after World War II. The Vespa iconic scooter is fast becoming the new way of transportation not only in Italy, but worldwide. The Vespa motor scooters get up to 70 miles per gallon, and compliment U.S. produced vehicles that may get anywhere from 15 to 30 miles per gallon. As Dr. Timoni says, "We are helping to put America on two wheels." The Italian American Chamber of Commerce was proud to be a co-sponsor of the event that was attended by more than 250 people.



(From left) Massimo Denopoliti, President of the Italian American Alliance for Business Technology; Dr. Paulo Timoni, President and CEO of Piaggio Group Americas, Inc.; Ron DiBartolomeo, President of the Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan; Tom Bommarito, IACCM 2nd Vice President; Dr. Carlo Romeo, Italian Consul in Detroit; Paolo Nervo, Vice President of the Italian American Alliance for Business Technology.



# Grapevine Membership Business Directory

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dlazzara@lazzaracpa.com

## Metzler Locricchio Serra & Co., PC

Michael A. Locricchio, J.D., CPA  
1800 West Big Beaver Rd.,  
Ste. 100  
Troy, MI 48084  
(248) 822-9010

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Clinton Township, MI 48038  
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## Bufalino & Palazzolo Associates, PLLC

Frank J. Palazzolo/  
Nunzio G. Provenzano  
33830 Harper  
Clinton Township, MI 48035  
(586) 415-1200

## Ruggirello, Velardo, Novara & Ver Beek, P.C.

Armand Velardo  
65 Southbound Gratiot  
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043  
(586) 469-8660 – Office  
(586) 918-3380 – Cell

## Finkel, Whitefield, Selik

Mark E. Merlanti  
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(248) 855-6500

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## ★ TOOL & DIE

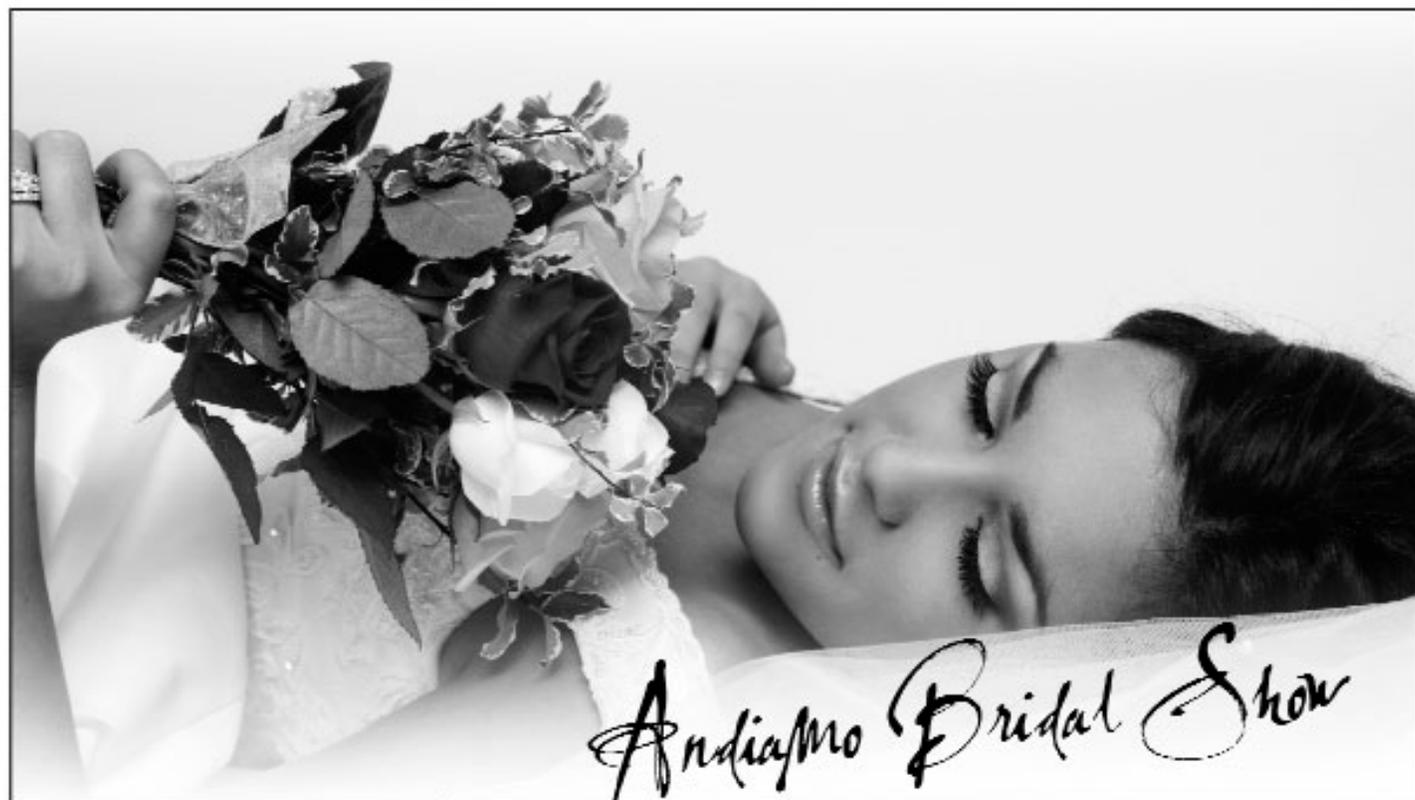
### Tape Master Tool Co.

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## ADVERTISE

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**Sinbad**



**SEPT 26, 27**

*Tony & Tina's* **Wedding**



**SEPT 12, NOV 21**

**Michael Amante**



**OCT 24**

**Ronan Tynan**



**NOV 14**

**The Scintas**



**DEC 11, 12, 13**

**TICKETS AND  
EVENT INFORMATION**

**ANDIAMO CELEBRITY SHOWROOM** | 7096 East 14 Mile Road just west of Van Dyke in Warren

Andiamo Celebrity Showroom  
**(586) 268-3200**  
[www.andiamoshowroom.com](http://www.andiamoshowroom.com)

Ticketmaster  
**(248) 645-6666**  
[www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

*ticketmaster*



## Notes from the President

*Continued from page 1*

In another step toward alliance with the IAABT, on August 6th, the Chamber co-sponsored and was represented by myself, Tom Bommarito and Dominic LaRosa at an event that was put on by the IAABT at the Henry Ford Estate (see article inside.) Dr. Paolo Timini, CEO, Piaggio Group Americas was the guest speaker.

I would like to mention that Director Joe Bellanca has resigned from the board due to professional and home commitments. I want to thank Joe for volunteering his time, and wish him well. Following Article VI, Section 6.4(g) of our By-Laws, the Board of Directors was obligated to fill the vacancy and has chosen Tony Rubino. We look forward to Tony joining us beginning at our September board meeting.

We are also approaching the time of year when we will begin our nomination process for the upcoming year's board. Sam Ventimiglia will be heading up the nomination committee. There are three director seats up for election. If you have any interest, or know of anyone that has any interest, contact Sam. Details as to the procedure and deadline for filing will be forthcoming.

As you can see, your Board of Directors is committed to making this a very reputable and successful chamber as we are going through a transitional period, and more importantly, if there wasn't the support of the membership, this Chamber would not be moving forward as it has up to this point, and I thank you all for that.

Best regards,

Ronald A. DiBartolomeo  
President

## Italian-American Chamber of Commerce Birthdays for:

### September

- 9/6 Ventimiglia, Joseph P.
- 9/7 Viviani, Anthony J.
- 9/8 Lucido, Joseph
- 9/10 Cavaliere, Ray
- 9/10 Seifert, Michael
- 9/11 Piccirilli, Umberto
- 9/14 Agosta, Andrew
- 9/15 Buscemi, Anthony
- 9/19 Bianchini, Roy
- 9/21 Maccarone III, Ralph L.
- 9/21 Lazzara, David Alan
- 9/22 Pianello, Vito
- 9/28 Puzzuoli, Joseph P.
- 9/28 Promesso, Charles

### October

- 10/9 Sanfemio, Hon. Anthony
- 10/13 DeRita, Michael G.
- 10/23 Scrafano, Carmen J. Duke
- 10/24 Del Pup, Armen
- 10/30 Penna, George
- 10/31 DiLorenzo, Tony

### November

- 11/2 Beaudette, Floyd C.
- 11/2 DiBartolomeo, Ronald A.
- 11/5 Biretta, Eric E.
- 11/5 Catenacci, Michael T.
- 11/10 Marchiori, William R.
- 11/11 Marino, Al
- 11/12 Agazzi, Giovan B.

### October

- 10/2 Roselli, Anthony
- 10/3 Licata, III, Anthony
- 10/4 Cancro, Frank
- 10/5 Messina, Steve
- 10/7 Palazzolo, Frank J.
- 10/8 Catenacci, Thomas C.
- 11/15 Koss, Ralph
- 11/17 Milkey, James A.
- 11/18 Galli, Daniel A.
- 11/18 Gentilia, John J.
- 11/25 Calcaterra, Lawrence
- 11/26 Pellegrino, Joseph R.
- 11/30 Masi, Carl

## Remembering our Friend



The members of the Italian American Chamber of Commerce are saddened by the passing of Bob Ripullo, a.k.a. Ripper, who passed away on Sunday, August 17, 2008. Bob was a member since 1999 up until he moved to California in October 2007. During his time as a member, Bob was actively involved serving on the Festa Della Lira committee, of which he was the Co-Chairman. He was also editor of the Grapevine newsletter for two years.

**BMI**

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Fax: 586-716-4499  
John A. Buffa

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## IACC New Members



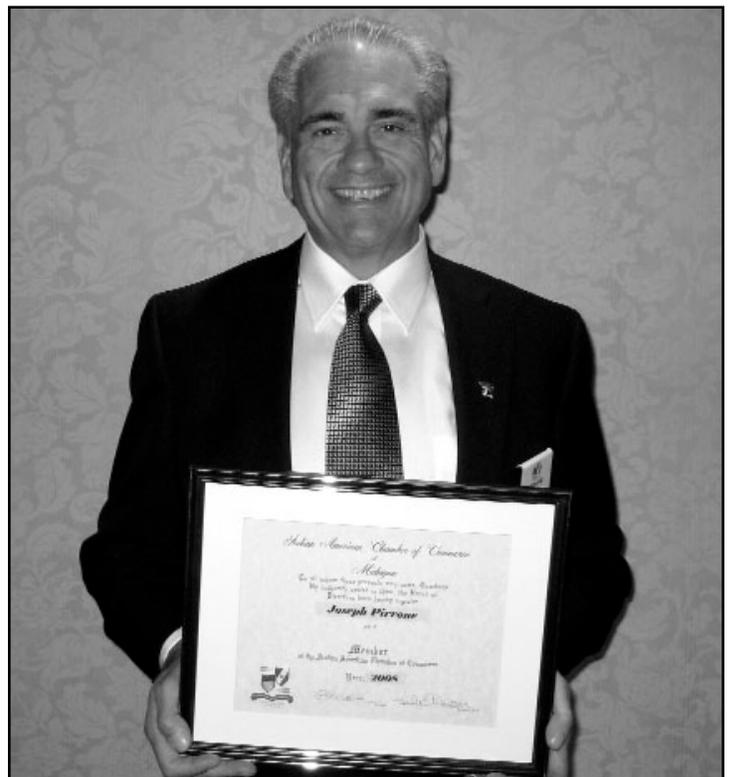
Patricia Piccinini, Owner of Creations Beauty Salon in Sterling Heights



Gerardo Pavone, Owner of Kingswood Lanes in Clinton Township

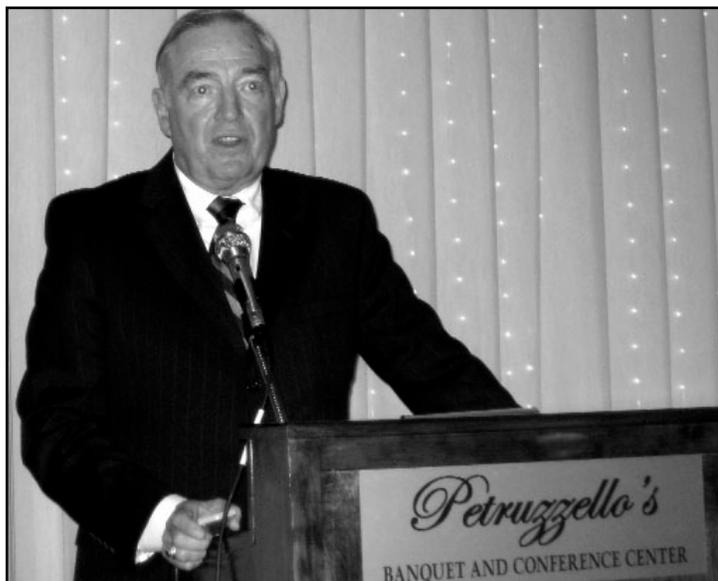


Anthony Roselli, President and Owner of Roselli Wholesale Foods in Fraser

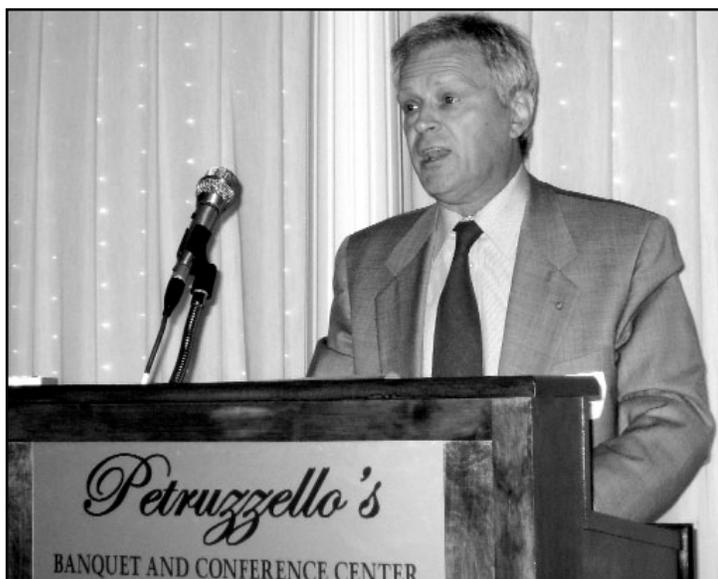


Joseph Pirrone, President of Mike Pirrone Produce in Capac





John Carroll, Guest Speaker

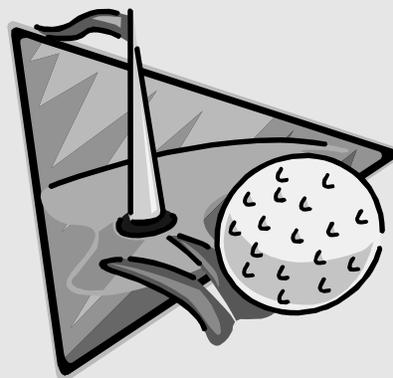


Paolo Nervo, Vice Presidet I.A.A.B.T.



Dr. Carlo Romeo, Italian Consulate

Italian American Chamber of Commerce



## John B. Agosta Memorial 25th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing

Just wanted to thank all the Chamber members and their friends who supported this years outing. I am sure my brother John and Fred Severini were looking down on us and provided that beautiful day. Your participation will provide 12 Students with scholarships arranging from \$500 to \$1500. Without your support this would not be possible. I am looking forward to hosting next years outing.

Best regards,  
Andy Agosta

### JOHN B. AGOSTA MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2008

**\$1,500:**  
Alyssa Caramagno

**\$750:**  
Kristin Aquino  
Renee Cavaliere

**\$1,000:**  
Jaclyn Ventimiglia  
Angela Maniaci  
Natalie Pianello  
Brandon Busuito  
Maria Russo  
Adam Gaglio  
Lauren Hilliker

**\$500:**  
Sara Palazzolo  
Kristin Marino

