



The Grapevine

A Publication From

The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan

Fall Issue • 2013

Volume 12 • Number 3

Visit Our New Website at: www.iaccm.net



Upcoming EVENTS



Notes from the PRESIDENT

SEPTEMBER 4 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

• Ristorante Piccirilli • 52830 Van Dyke, Shelby Township

OCTOBER 2, 2013 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

• DeCarlo's Banquet Center • 6015 East 10 Mile, Warren

OCTOBER 9, 2013 • WEDNESDAY

MACOMB COUNTY BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL EXPO

TIME • 11:30 AM-2:30 PM

LOCATION

• Mirage Banquet Center • Details on page 11

NOVEMBER 6, 2013 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Nomination of Officers/Board of Directors

TIME

• 6:00 PM Board Meeting

• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

• Villa Penna

43985 Hayes, Sterling Heights

DECEMBER 4, 2013 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Election of Officers/Board of Directors

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

• Petruzzello's Banquet Center

6950 Rochester Road, Troy

Welcome back IACCM members, family and friends. The summer is almost over and I hope all of you have had a chance to enjoy this year, relax, spend time with your families, and most of all have good health. The year is running past us and my term as your President is also coming to an end. I want to thank all of you for the trust, patience, and understanding that you have given to me these past 2 years, along with the networking that we have established throughout the Chamber.

All IACCM events that have taken place this year have all been successful. An outstanding job was done by all of the committee members and their chairmen. The Festa Della Lira, which was held in April, was a night of great food, fun, and drink. The golf outing at Scalawags was successful, despite the rainy weather. The credit goes to the golf committee, headed by Andy Agosta, along with all the volunteers who work so hard to make our scholarship program successful. The scholarship awards were given out at the June 5th general membership meeting at the IACS. It was great to see so many students personally accept their awards from scholarship chairman Joe Toia. I want to thank the Chamber and all of its members that attended Festa Italiana 2013 this year. It was a great success, and I hope to see all of you there again next year.

We have a few upcoming events:

- **November 3, 2013** - IACCM memorial mass @ Holy Family Church. The mass will take place at 11:30 am, followed by a delicious pancake breakfast. We will, once again, through the generosity of a few of our Chamber members, have bus transportation from the IACS so everyone can enjoy the day! More details to follow!
- **November 14-17** IACCM Poker Fundraiser, The River Poker Lounge. The playing/operation hours have been shortened to midnight, so I am hoping that many of you can look at your schedules and give us your help. Keep in mind, this is a very fun and easy fundraiser and it helps the IACCM give donations to various charities that are near and dear to a lot of us. So, again, please consider and volunteer some time.



Chairman's CORNER

“ITALIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER of COMMERCE THANKS and SUPPORTS the City of DETROIT”

...This is the headline I would like to read, and the message we need to send. Now is the time to support the City that gave us, and our forefathers, so much. Above all, living in Detroit gave us opportunity...a chance to earn a living, raise a family and start a business. How many of us, our families or our businesses have their roots in Detroit? The answer is “all of us!”

What can we do to help the ‘D’, our City?

First of all, we must speak of our City in a positive tone. Although, it is very easy to criticize and ride the train of negativity, we must realize that we are in the eve of a New Era, about to witness the rebirth of a great City. At this time in our lives, we have the opportunity to make a difference. To give back...not turn our backs.

Second, we must support Detroit. Make the effort to support the businesses, the restaurants, the events, the churches, and the leaders (as difficult as that may be sometime) the City and the Region depend on our support. After all, Detroit has been the economic epicenter of our State for decades.

We as Italians, have shared the struggles, the set backs and the financial hardships...but we were strong and endured difficult times.. because we lived in the MotorCity, we had opportunity and the ‘Determination to make it.

There is ‘D’EEP Italian heritage in the city of Detroit. Let it be our legacy that the Italians of Detroit helped to forge the New Detroit, much like our forefathers did...so many years ago.

Italian heritage ... Detroit pride

Joe Toia
Chairman

Notes From The President

Continued from page 1

The IACCM is in the process of producing new printed pocket membership directories. We will have them done very soon. We have had a lot of requests for a printed and updated directory that would be easy to carry or distribute. It’s another great way to keep others informed of your business or what services you have to offer!

The new and improved website now contains a PayPal link for payment of membership dues, golf, event tickets, etc.

Thank you and God bless
the Italian American Chamber of Commerce

Joseph P. Ventimiglia

Motivational Moments — Fall 2013

By William A. Morelli, Sr.

As many of you already know, I am Acting Mayor of Fraser, and while that title does not give much authority, it does allow me to continue to perform weddings. With that in mind, I am reminding you of the followings quotes from some pretty impressive people
– at least in my mind

Marriage - *Marriage is an empty box. It remains empty unless you put in more than you take out. - (This is a repeat from the last year but I thought it bears repeating) - Dad*

Opportunity - *Problems are opportunities in work clothes. - Henry Kaiser*

Parents - *Parents today are pals nowadays because they don't have the guts to be parents. - Me*

Participation - *Do it! Move it! Make it happen! No one ever sat their way to success. - Dad*

Persistence - *Never, never, never, never give up. - Winston Churchill*

Reality - *We do not see things as they are. We see things as we are. - Dad*

Self Concept - *No one can make you feel inferior without your consent. - Eleanor Roosevelt*

Self Reliance - *Self Reliance is like a flashlight; no matter how dark it gets, it will help you find your way. - Dad*

Success - *Success is 99% perspiration and 1% inspiration. - Unknown*

Values - *There is never a wrong time to do the right thing. - Dad*

Wealth - *If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and a man. - Mark Twain*

Work - *Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life. - Confucius*

Observation - *There are two times in a man's life when he should not speculate: when he can't afford it and when he can. Mark Twain*

In Closing - Remember, you never get a second chance to make a good first impression - so do it right the first time!

And as always remember to *Smile, Give Hugs and Tell Someone Special That You Love Them*. It will make them feel better, and that should make you feel better, and that will make the world a little better place to live. Have a great late summer.

Bill

2ND ANNUAL FAN FALL FEST SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

Villa Penna's 6:00 pm - 11:00 pm

43985 Hayes Rd., Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Dinner, Entertainment, Silent & Live Auction



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Festa Italiana 2013



Freedom Hill Park



Italian American Chamber of Commerce

June 25, 2013 • John B. Agosta 30th Annual Memorial Scholarship Golf Outing



Golfers enjoying the cocktail hour



Delicious appetizers served during cocktail hour!



Chairmen Andy Agosta and Gus Russo preparing the crew for the day ahead!



Man of the Year recipient Frank Gallo, with Gus Russo, and his son Tony Gallo



Brothers, Dave and Dan Galli, with Angela Pippi



Joseph Ventimiglia hoping to get in 9 holes before the rain comes!



Golf Chairman Andy Agosta, along with Tony Gallo, presenting the golf outing Man of the Year award to Frank Gallo



Matt Baffo, Michael LaGrasso, Sam LaGrasso, and Frank Arcori waiting out the rain!

Commerce

Golf Outing • Scalawags Golf Club



Delicious lunch buffet prepared by John DiGiuseppe of The Mirage Banquet Center & V.P. Catering by the Mirage



Gus Russo and his group...tee off time!



Cocktail hour between a few "buds"

Italian American Chamber of Commerce John B. Agosta Memorial 30th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing



Like true Italian explorers, we didn't let the rain inhibit our desire to reach our goal of helping to fund our IACCM Scholarships. I want to thank all the Chamber members, along with their friends and associates who supported this years golf outing. We had a record 160 golfers and 40 hole sponsors, which netted a profit of over \$5,000 in spite of the rain. Since we started the scholarship fund we have granted over \$200,000 in scholarships and our golf outing has been a major source of that revenue. Your participation this year helped to provide 12 students with scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$1,500. Without your support this would not be possible.

From all of us, a special thank you to Debbie, our Chamber administrative assistant for keeping all the finances in order, John DiGiuseppe for the great food, Steve Messina and his staff for hosting this years' event, and all my committee members who contributed a great deal of their own time to make it all possible. Let's not forget this years' honoree Frank Gallo, a deserving member of the Italian community.

The 2014 golf outing is currently in the planning stages, stay tuned for all the details.

I am looking forward to your participation.

Best regards,
Andy Agosta

2013 Scholarship Recipients

- Joshua Reside
- Rebecca Viviano
- Andrew Reside
- Jaclyn DiBartolomeo
- Rachel Lazzara
- Dominique DiPiazza
- Ashley Beaudette
- Elisabeth Marcus
- Christopher DeLuca
- Mary-Catherine Goddard
- Spender Smith
- Jillian Sorensen

**June 5, 2013 meeting • Italian Cultural Center • Scholarship Night
(Awards presented by Scholarship Chairman Joseph Toia)**



Accepting for Spencer Smith are his parents Kevin & Theresa



Catherine Goddard reading the acceptance speech for her daughter Mary-Catherine Ann



Beautiful pastry table presented by Il Fornaio Bakery



Accepting for Rachel Lazzara are her parents David & Michelle



Accepting for Christopher DeLuca is his father Anthony



Dominique DiPiazza accepting her award



Elisabeth Marcus with Joseph Toia



Dr. Maria Luisa Lapresa, Consul of Italy in Detroit, accepting her honorary membership plaque with President Joseph Ventimiglia



Accepting for Andrew Reside are his mother Lisa, and Grandfather Antonio Roselli



Jaclyn DiBartolomeo thanking the IACCM for her scholarship



Lido Bucci Award Recipient Joshua Reside with Scholarship chairman Joseph Toia



Rebecca Viviano accepting her award



Ashley Beaudette receiving her IACCM scholarship award

* Not pictured Jillian Sorensen

Grapevine Membership Business Directory

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**Italian-
American
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Birthdays for:

September

- 9/6 Ventimiglia, Joseph P.
- 9/8 Lucido, Joseph
- 9/10 Cavaliere, Ray
- 9/11 Piccirilli, Umberto
- 9/14 Agosta, Andrew
- 9/18 Crudo, Samuel
- 9/20 Costa, David J.
- 9/21 Lazzara, David A.
- 9/22 Pianello, Vito
- 9/24 DeFlaviis, Alfred
- 9/28 Promesso, Charles
- 9/28 Ventimiglia, Jaclyn C.

October

- 10/2 Tocco, Anthony
- 10/4 Cancro, Frank
- 10/5 Messina, Steve
- 10/7 Palazzolo, Frank J.
- 10/12 Meli, Paul
- 10/24 Del Pup, Armen
- 10/30 Penna, George

November

- 11/2 Beaudette, Floyd C.
- 11/2 DiBartolomeo, Ronald A.
- 11/11 Marino, Al
- 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.

December

- 12/1 Apruzzese, Mario
- 12/1 Lochirco, Salvatore
- 12/1 Cervone, Matthew D.
- 12/5 DeCarlo, Gary A.
- 12/7 Gallo, Frank
- 12/11 Marchiori, William L.
- 12/13 DiCicco, Lucia
- 12/14 Piccinini, Ned
- 12/17 Caretti, Richard
- 12/17 Bonadeo, David C.
- 12/26 Bonnell, James E.
- 12/26 LaGrasso, Sam
- 12/27 Tenaglia, Michel

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Contact: Debbie at IACCM at (586) 228-2576 or Joe Lucido at (586) 286-8200

Macomb Business Expo

Tuesday, Oct. 9
11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Mirage Banquet Center

Sponsored by

**Metro Networking Professionals
Italian American Chamber
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1976 Sam Ripepi
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.”