



The Grapevine

A Publication From

The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan

Fall Issue • 2014

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Visit Our New Website at: www.iaccm.net



Upcoming EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 3, 2014 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION • Rivercrest Banquet Center
900 W. Avon Road, Rochester Hills

OCTOBER 1, 2014 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Guest Speaker; Sheriff Anthony Wickersham

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION • DeCarlo's Banquet Center
6015 E. 10 Mile Road, Warren

NOVEMBER 5, 2014 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Nomination of Officers/Board of Directors

Guest Speaker; Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION • Petruzzello's Banquet Center
6950 Rochester Road, Troy

DECEMBER 3, 2014 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Election of Officers/Board of Directors

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION • Mirage Banquets & Catering
16980 18 Mile Road, Clinton Township

JANUARY 7, 2015 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Installation of Officers/Board of Directors 2015

TIME

• 6:00 PM Board Meeting

• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION • Palazzo Grande

54660 Van Dyke, Shelby Township

Spouses/Significant others invited for \$40 guest fee



Notes from the PRESIDENT

As a first generation Italian American I find it hard to describe the pride I felt during this past July's Italian festival at Freedom Hill. Looking at all the beautiful faces in the crowd singing both the American and Italian national anthems, my only regret was that I did not know the names of more of the participants. We have blended our Italian heritage and the American dream that brought our ancestors here to begin this new and unique extended family. We have so much to be proud of but we still have many dreams to fulfill. Our scholarship funding through the Italian American Chamber is a wonderful opportunity to help achieve some of these dreams.

I want to personally thank all the Chamber members and their friends and associates who supported this year's 31st golf event. I am sure my brother John was looking down on us and provided for the beautiful day. Your participation helped to provide 13 students this past June with scholarship ranging from \$ 500 to \$1500. Again without your support this would not have been possible. I am looking forward to hosting next year's event.

Looking ahead to November 2, 2014 we will be hosting a memorial mass at Holy Family Church. Mass will be at 11:30 a.m., followed by a pancake breakfast. Depending on the response we can have a bus from the Cultural Center to the church, details to follow.

I am very proud to represent this outstanding organization.

Thank you for your support,

Andy Agosta



Chairman's CORNER

As I sit here with my right foot in a cast and elevated on the ottoman, I find myself reflecting on a couple of things. One... how blessed we can be; and two...how quickly our lives can change.



Recently, my wife Donna and I were able to take a dream vacation. We spent 22 days in Europe with the last 12 days spent in Sicily and Rome. We were able to spend the first 10 days on a Northern European cruise in the Baltic Sea with shore excursions almost every day that required much walking. This theme continued in Sicily and Rome as well. In all the places we explored the walking was on ancient cobblestone and hilly

terrain. We were able to do it with no problem. We returned home on July 25th and on July 29th, while walking across the street between the Detroit Athletic Club and Comerica Park, on the way to the Tiger game, I ruptured my Achilles tendon on my right foot. So now you know why my foot is casted and resting on an ottoman.

Allow me to focus and spend a few moments with you about the 12 days spent in our home country. From the moment the plane touched down in Palermo for my first visit to the region of my ancestors, the anticipation that I would walk where my Grandparents once lived brought an emotional tear to my eye. We stayed in Palermo for 4 nights and from there as our base we explored places like Monreale, Cinisi, Cefalu and last but not least, Terrasini. In Terrasini, we went to the church in the Piazza Duomo that Holy Family Church in Detroit is modeled after. It is called Maria Santissima delle Grazie. We went to the memorial honoring war veterans and witnessed names like Bagnasco, Bommarito, Corrado, DiMaggio, Saputo, Cusmano, LaFata, Maniaci, Mazzola, Mocer, Orlando, Palazzolo, Passalacqua, Pellerito, Tocco, Ventimiglia, Vitale, Viviano and Zerilli. Many familiar surnames of some of our ancestors representing some of our history. We then went to the library and began to do some genealogy research which will be ongoing. With the assistance of email and the internet we will be in contact with the librarian there who is continuing to help us.



We eventually left Palermo to travel to Taormina and explored many places on the way including Agrigento which is where many Greek ruins are. The beauty surrounding us was breathtaking. Then on to Taormina where the scenery was awesome. After

3 days of great times there we traveled to Rome for the remainder of our trip. Rome is one of our favorite cities. The history there is at times almost incomprehensible. To stand where Emperors and Gladiators stood is humbling at the least. And to mention one thing (we all think about when we talk about Italy)...the food...this is very difficult to discuss

in detail. Volumes of books are written about it. So all I can do is try to give you a short overall description. So here goes... From the moment we touched foot on Italian soil, every breakfast, lunch and dinner was a unique experience. Let's not forget the breaks we took at the café for an

espresso or the gelato or cannoli dessert after a three hour dinner. Each meal was memorable. I find myself talking about where I was by describing what I ate while I was there. We Italians like our food, don't we?



experiences and provide valuable travel tips. You've heard me talk about networking for our careers and businesses, now we need to also network for our travels.

So plan a trip, so when you leave to come home you'll be able to say Arrivederci Roma!!

Sam Ventimiglia, Chairman of the Board

Motivational Moments — Fall 2014 By William A. Morelli, Sr.

Well, we are in the later days of summer. A strange summer at that – few really hot days, some rain but not a lot, beautiful sunrises and sunsets – a great time to reflect on the world around us.

Jim Henson, the creator of the Muppets put it this way; "When I was young, my ambition was to be one of the people that made a difference in this world. My hope is still to leave this world a little bit better for my having been here."

As we go through our lives, each of us would like to be a medal winner and as we grow older we realize that we have a chance to do that every day – not in the Olympics and not on an international stage - but if we do our best and treat others as we would like to be treated we will be winners too.

One of the greatest quotes ever recorded was; "As you do to the least of these, you do also unto me." No matter what your station in life, you always have the chance to reach out and touch someone. Sometimes just a smile and a nod will make all the difference in the world to the other person.

One last quote for now; "I really do believe that all of (us) are at the beginning of a wonderful journey. As (we) travel down the road of life, remember this: There are never enough comfort stops. The places you are going are never on the map. And once you get the map out you won't be able to refold it no matter how smart you are."

So plan on where you want to go but do not be surprised when you end up on a different path. Enjoy the trip because there are no rain checks in life, just the one trip so, do all you can to make it great for you and all those around you.

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Archive Committee Update

Approximately 15 years ago Sam Ripepi (rest in peace) and I decided there was a need to collect and record the history of this fine Michigan based Italian American organization. We met one time at Sam's home, went through his Chamber collection, and so began our Archives.

Over these years we have accumulated a considerable amount of printed information of interest, pictures etc. We think it is a good idea that we share with our membership some of this information through an article which will be periodically published in the Grapevine, our quarterly newsletter. Your reaction to the interest generated will determine continuation of same.

As you all should know, the Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan was founded in 1919; 95 years ago. Yes in five years the Chamber will be 100 years old. Try to visualize 1919; muddy roads, Model T's and a small group of Italian Americans meeting above a Hardware store on Gratiot Avenue. We think it is easy to comprehend why during World War Two; there was a need to meet secretly. The reason, because Italy in the beginning of the conflict was on the wrong side.

We wish we could tell you that we have documentation going back to the beginning, but that is not the case. Our archive collection begins around 1965, which provides about 50 years or 50% of our total history. The information that we do have in print form is stored in a cabinet which is located at the Fern Hill Country Club. Additionally we are happy to inform you that highlights of this information is available on our Web Site (iaccm.net). This includes lists (1965 to present) of Presidents, Officers, Board members, Scholarship History and a Memorial List of all past members who have left us.

I think in an effort to avoid long boring reading, we will conclude at this point and continue in a future issue with a blessing to the Chamber from Pope Paul VI (1963 – 1978).

Frank Pompa • Paul Calcaterra • Gino Esposito

Festa Italiana 2014



Freedom Hill Park



Italian American Chamber of

June 23, 2014 • John B. Agosta 31st Annual Memorial Scholarship Go



Debbie and Committee Chairmen Andy Agosta and Gus Russo begin the check-in process!



Rain!! Not again...umbrellas were not out for long!



2014 Honoree, Judge Peter Maceroni receives his award!



Dario Lanni skyrockets a nice shot!



Awaiting the fabulous dinner prepared by John DiGiuseppe of VP Catering!



Last minute campaign push!

f Commerce

golf Outing • Scalawags Country Club



Cocktail hour begins on the patio!



Italian American Chamber of Commerce John B. Agosta Memorial 31st Annual Scholarship Golf Outing



With the early rain in and out, the weather was great for this year's event. I want to thank all the Chamber members, along with their friends and associates who supported this year's golf outing. This year's profit is almost \$9000 which all goes towards our scholarships. We have granted over \$250,000 in scholarships and our golf outing has been a major source of that revenue. Your participation this year helped to provide 13 students with scholarships. 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 Di Giuseppe for the great food, Steve Messina and his staff for hosting this year's 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 year's honoree Peter Maceroni, a deserving member of the Italian community.

The 2015 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

2014 Scholarship Recipients

Jaclyn DiBartolomeo
Carla Marie Hayden
Marena Salerno Collins
Jason Lazzara
David Halvorson
Andrew Reside
Marina Bommarito
Christina Morelli
Rachel Lazzara
Peter Lucido
Christopher DeLuca
Jaclyn DiPiazza
Carlo Meli
Allyssa Bartolomleo

May 7, 2014 • Fern Hill Golf Club • Festa Della Lira



Dan Galli and Debbie checking in members and guests



Frank Coppola, Frank Gallo, Angela Pippi, and Judge Peter Maceroni



Members and guests enjoying a great dinner!



Mark Garagiola, Floyd Beaudette, and Dr. Charles Shermetaro



Sam Ventimiglia and Tony DeLuca enjoying some fine seafood!



A great dinner and camaraderie!



Ready to roll!



The committee making sure everything runs smoothly!



Lucky Winners

June 4, 2014 meeting • Andiamo Italia • Scholarship Awards Night



←Swearing in ceremony by Judge Peter Maceroni of new IACCM members Philip J. Maniaci, Raymond James & Associates; James Maceroni, Maceroni Law, PLLC; and Sherry Provenzano, Corporate member Rose Senior Living, LLC.

New members along with Judge → Maceroni, President Andrew Agosta, and Membership Chairman Charles Colombo.



A full house at Andiamo anticipating the delicious dinner!



2014 attending scholarship recipients



Members and guests enjoying a fine meal and good wine!

Grapevine Membership Business Directory

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Metzler Locricchio Serra & Co., PC

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1800 West Big Beaver Rd., Ste. 100
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Italian-American Chamber of Commerce

Birthdays for:



September

9/6	Ventimiglia, Joseph P.
9/8	Lucido, Joseph
9/10	Cavaliere, Ray
9/11	Piccirilli, Umberto
9/12	Gagleard, Michael
9/14	Agosta, Andrew
9/18	Crudo, Samuel
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, Nino
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
12/17	Caretti, Richard
2/17	Bonadeo, David C.
12/26	LaGrasso, Sam
12/27	Tenaglia, Michel
12/28	Pascaretta, Joseph A.

January

1/1	Maniaci, Philip J.
1/2	Yearego, James L.
1/4	Marrocco, Peter
1/14	Coppola, Frank
1/20	Cardella, Michael
1/20	Crocenzi, Lawrence
1/22	Bommarito, Thomas
1/22	Maceroni, James
1/28	Torricce, Dr. Peter
1/31	Cicchini, Paul

Italian American Chamber Of Commerce MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

In an effort to increase membership and strengthen our organization the Board of Directors recently approved a membership drive proposed by the membership committee. The drive will begin in September and continue through the end of the year. The goal is to swear in all of the new members at the January meeting. We are asking all members to submit 3-5 names of potential candidates that would be interested in joining our organization. You can submit names to membership chairman, Charles Colombo at ccolombo@colombopllc.com who will follow up and **invite them to be a guest at an upcoming monthly meeting free of charge to the prospective member.**

Current members are encouraged to bring a **potential member** to a meeting free of charge during September, October, November, or December. **Each member may only bring a guest to 1 meeting at no charge.** If they would like to attend another additional meeting, the normal guest fee would be charged.

The Membership Drive will consist of the following benefits:

- 18 months membership for the price of 12, regular membership only
- New members sworn in January 2015 with renewal date of September 2016

We look forward to seeing you at one of the following events:

September 3, 2014 - Rivercrest Banquet Center

900 W Avon Rd, Rochester Hills 6:30PM

October 1, 2014 - DeCarlo's Banquet Center

6015 East 10 Mile, Warren 6:30PM

November 5, 2014 - Petruzzello's Banquet Center (nominations)

6950 Rochester Road, Troy 6:30PM

December 3, 2014 - Mirage Banquets & Catering (election night)

16980 18 Mile Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48038 6:30PM



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2ND VICE PRESIDENT
 Vito Pianello

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 Thomas Lanni

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 1991 Thomas B. Lanni
 1979 Frank Pompa
 1978 Mark Valente, Jr.
 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."