

The Grapevine

A Publication From
The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan

Fall Issue • 2016

Volume 15 • Number 3

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Upcoming EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 7, 2016 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

NETWORKING NIGHT

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

• Palazzo Grande

54460 Van Dyke, Shelby Township

OCTOBER 5, 2016 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

• DeCarlo's Banquet Center

6015 East 10 Mile Road, Warren

NOVEMBER 2, 2016 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Nomination of Officers/Board of Directors

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

• San Marino Club

1685 E. Big Beaver, Troy

NOVEMBER 6, 2016 • SUNDAY

IACCM Memorial Mass *(more details to follow)*

TIME • 11:30 AM, Breakfast to follow

LOCATION

• Holy Family Church, Detroit

DECEMBER 7, 2016 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Installation of Officers/Board of Directors 2017

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

• Ristorante Piccirilli

52830 Van Dyke, Shelby Township



Notes from the PRESIDENT

I hope everyone is enjoying this great summer we are having. I miss everyone, Can't wait to see you in September. I wanted to touch on membership growth and retention. As you know, the success of any organization is the continued growth of its members and to retain the members that we have. We all need to continue to help bring in new members for the continue success of IACCM.

I am working with the membership committee and the vision committee to send out invites to local business professional Italians that have an interest to come to our meetings to see what were all about. We will mail them a directory, our flyer along with a letter asking them to come to our meeting and meet and network with the fellow Italians. Of course we cannot forget our corporate members that we continue to attract.

Our membership as of April 2016 is 164. Invite a guest that has an interest in joining the IACCM. The first time is on the Chamber. Our September meeting would be a great time to showcase how we network among ourselves and meet other business professionals. Please get involved and help when you can to help our continue success.

Our organization has been around since 1919 and we will be celebrating our 100 year anniversary in a few years. Not too many organizations have reached that milestone. Therefore, let's continue to grow the IACCM.

Vito Pianello
President



Chairman's CORNER

WHAT KIND OF LEGACY WILL YOU LEAVE?

In our day to day activities, we meet and do business with all kinds of people. Some are very friendly and helpful while others are very rude and judgmental. Some people live their lives in service and love for others, while some people live self centered and closed off to the world. As members of the Italian American Chamber, most of us have shown that we care about the world around us and leaving it a better place.

Whenever you hear of a person passing, what is the first thing you think of? She was a great person? He was such a good friend? Do you remember their car or house or what kind of watch they wore? Or, do you remember if they were helpful to you and those around you?

I believe it is a good idea for us to consider the kind of Legacy we are leaving behind for our Family, Friends & Society. In the end, it doesn't matter what our final resume says or how big our bank account is, in God's eyes, what matters is the kind of life we have lived.

Tom Bommarito, Chairman of the Board

The Dash

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on her tombstone from the beginning to the end. He noted that first came the date of her birth and spoke of the following date with tears, but he said what *mattered most* of all was the dash between those years. For that dash represents all the time that she spent alive on earth.

And now only those who *loved* her know those what that little line is worth.

For it matters not how much we own, the cars, the house, the cash. What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash. So think about this long and hard. Are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left, that can still be rearranged. If we could just slow down enough to consider what's true and real and *always* try to understand the way other people feel. And be less quick to anger, and show appreciation more, and love the people in our lives like we've never *loved* before.

If we treat each other with respect, and more often wear a *smile*, remembering that this special dash might only last a little while. So, when your eulogy is being read with your Life's actions to rehash, would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent your *dash*?



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Bonaldi Family Honored

The Bonaldi family recently closed their retail store after 102 years of service to the Italian community. Four generations of Bonaldis were present with Ezio and Diva Bonaldi as the IACS recognized them for their contributions at this year's Italian Festival.

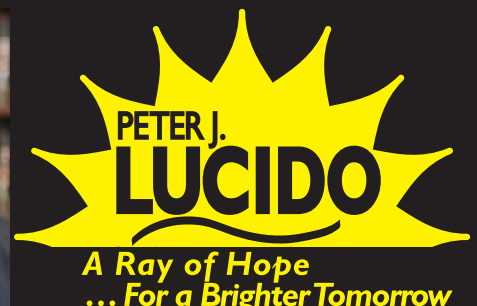


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Chamber Archives

– sharing our history

“The Lost Folder”

At a meeting held at the River Crest in Rochester Hills in October of 2015 Debbie our Executive Secretary handed me (F.Pompa) an envelope of Archive material that somehow had been miss-placed in our office file. She was in the process of relocating the Chamber office from the Cultural center to her home and came across a folder that she was supposed to pass on in 2002. I was pretty excited to receive archive material at this stage of the game. Thirteen years is a very long time, and we can't wait to see what kind of written Chamber history is in there.

I had been driven to the meeting by Paul C., and guess what? I forgot the folder in his car, and didn't get to see it until we met at Fern Hill on Nov. 20, 2015 for an Archive meeting.

When I finally was able to review the contents of the lost folder, what I found was mainly some old issues of the “Italian American” published by the Cultural Society. The first impression; disappointment.

Then when I had a chance to review the material it brought back memories of some fine members. Some no longer with us, but gone on to that special place. Others still around and aged a little and a few I don't even remember. Let's share a few of the articles and pictures with you.

*March 2002 – a message from the president, the Honorable Anthony Sanfemio (RIP). Tony in this article was promoting the IACC membership “buy a bronze brick” program. I wonder what happened to that Heritage Wall?

*January 2002 – The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan elects Officers and Board Members. Fred Severini (RIP) as President, Paul Calcaterra as 1st Vice President, William Morelli 2nd Vice President, Philip D'Anna Secretary, Sam Ventiglia Financial Secretary and Antonio De Luca Treasurer. Board members elected (or Carried over) were John Agosta, Thomas Bommarito, Ronald Di Bartolomeo, Tony Gallo, Reno Garagiola, Thomas Lanni, Michael Lazzara, Michael Santeufemia and Joseph Toia.

*June 13, 2002 – picture of Bill Morelli and Paul Calcaterra discussing plans for the very first “Business after Hours” Chamber event. The first BAH was held at Picano's at a later date of 2002.

*March 2002 – a picture of Two Italian American Leaders taken at the “Festa del Vino” held in January at the Fern Hill Country Club. Fred Severini President of the Italian American Chamber of Commerce and *Anthony Sanfemio President of the Italian American Cultural Society. Rest in peace Brothers, you both look great dressed in your tuxedos.

May 2002 – New members being sworn into the Italian American Chamber of Commerce. Mario Monti (RIP), Sam Promesso, David Galli and Fernando Casasanta pictured with Fred Severini (President) and William Morelli (Board Chairman).

*November 2000 – Italian American Chamber of Commerce awards \$ 10,000 in Scholarships. Pictured seven recipients, and four others not in attendance. I wonder what these young bright people are doing now.

Memories, sometimes sad, and other times, glad. Best we remember those that have passed with good thoughts. Imagine the loss of friendly greetings, the accomplishments we initiated together, the laughs we shared, etc.; life goes on. Thanks for the memories. Be well; and once in while go to our web page memoriam to remember and honor those listed.

The Archive Committee
Paul Calcaterra, Gino Esposito and Frank Pompa 5/3/2016
Luigi Del Bianco – Master Stone Carver Artist (1892-1969)

Columbus Day to Honor Three IACCM Members

Several IACCM members will be honored by the Italian American community during the weeklong celebration of Columbus Day in October. Among those being honored are Humanitarians of the Year Ned Piccinini and Dr. Anthony Benenati. This year's honorary Parade Marshall will be Gino Esposito.

Celebrations for the week include the following:

- Sunday, Oct. 2: Memorial Mass at 9:30 a.m. in honor of Christopher Columbus and the patron Saint of Italy, San Francesco at San Francesco Church in Clinton Twp.
- Wednesday, Oct. 5: Columbus Day in Lansing, with award presentations followed by lunch.
- Saturday, Oct. 8: Columbus Day Parade to be held in Mt. Clemens.
- Sunday, Oct. 9: Memorial Mass at 11 a.m. at Holy Family Church in Detroit, followed by a memorial ceremony at the Columbus Monument on Jefferson and Randolph. Later that evening, the Columbus Day Banquet will be held at Fern Hill in Clinton Twp.



Ned Piccinini



Dr. Anthony Benenati



Gino Esposito



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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
9/14 Aiello, Dr. Mike
9/21 Lazzara, David A.
9/22 Pianello, Vito
9/24 DeFlaviis, Alfred
9/28 Promesso, Charles

October

10/2 Tocco, Nino
10/12 Meli, Paul
10/12 Rubino, Joseph C.
10/24 Del Pup, Armen
10/27 Divozzo, Michael

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.
11/24 Basilisco, Antonio

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
1/13 Tocco, Anthony M.
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

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June 8, 2016 - Scholarship Awards Night – Eastpointe Manor

2016 Recipients with Scholarship Chairman Honorable Joseph Toia



Mark Aiello accepting the Lido Bucci distinguished award for his son Thomas



Lia Morelli



Rose & Matt Rola accepting for their daughter Jackie



Alexandra Pine



Giovanna Fortuna



Joseph Cipriano III



David Halvorson



Members and guests awaiting the award presentation and dinner



Festa Della Lira chairmen Dr. Charles Shermetaro and Dr. Anthony Giordano presenting the basket-of-cheer profit check to Fr. Enzo Addari to benefit the St. Louis Center.



Eastpointe Manor host Benny Bommarito supervising the pizza oven!

Festa Italiana • Freedom Hill



Meatball Judges

John DiGiuseppe of Mirage Elegant Banquets/VP Catering is the repeat winner for 2016 of the best meatballs in town!

IACCM golf outing



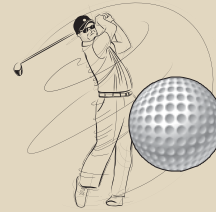
June 27, 2016,
Scalawags Country Club
Joseph Ventimiglia receiving
the John B. Agosta Memorial
Golf Outing Honoree award
from Golf Chairman
Andy Agosta

New Members



L-R: Peter DeAngelo, Amusement Vending; Anthony Urbani, Urbani & Marshall P.C.; Anthony Vitale, Probuilt Woodworking; Antonio Basilisco, Express Recovery Inc, with Honorable Joseph Toia and IACCM President Vito Pianello

Italian American Chamber of Commerce John B. Agosta Memorial 33rd Annual Scholarship Golf Outing



What a beautiful fun filled day it was. I want to thank all the Chamber members, along with their friends and associates who supported this year's golf outing. This year we made over \$13,000 a near record, which all goes towards our scholarships. Over the years 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 many students with scholarships. Without your continued 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, Scalawags and their 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 Joe Ventimiglia for all he has done for our Chamber and the Italian American Community.

The 2017 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

2016 Scholarship Recipients

Thomas Aiello
Jackie Rola
Alexandra Pine
Lia Morelli
Giovanna Fortuna
Joseph Cipriano III
David Halvorson
Alessia Risi

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2009 Ned R. Piccinini

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2007 Salvatore P. Ventimiglia

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2004 Paul Calcaterra

2000 Benedetto Marrocco

1999 Augustino Russo

1994 Angelo Lanni

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."