

The Grapevine

A Publication From
The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan
Summer/Fall Issue • 2017
Volume 16 • Number 3
Visit Our Website at: www.iaccm.net



Upcoming EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 6, 2017 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

NETWORKING NIGHT

TIME • 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Mirage Banquet Center
16980 18 Mile Road, Clinton Township

OCTOBER 4, 2017 • 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 1, 2017 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Nomination of Officers/Board of Directors for 2018

TIME • 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Palazzo Grande
54460 Van Dyke Avenue, Shelby Township

NOVEMBER 5, 2017 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

IACCM Holy Family Memorial Mass

TIME (more details to follow)

• 11:30 Mass, Breakfast to follow

LOCATION

- Holy Family Church, Detroit

DECEMBER 6, 2017 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Installation of Officers/Board of Directors for 2018

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Italian Cultural Center
43843 Romeo Plank Road, Clinton Township



Notes from the PRESIDENT

The summer is almost done, it went by too fast. My mother once told me the older we get time goes by faster. We had a successful golf outing and Festa Della Lira. Many thanks to the volunteers that help put these events on. I also want to thank Judge Toia and his committee for their commitment on our IACCM Scholarship program. This program has helped many of our members' children and grandchildren fulfill their financial needs. Lastly I want to thank our secretary Deborah Demick for her continued support to the IACCM.

Since I have been in office, I have continued to push our membership to bring in prospective new members to join our chamber. This is an ongoing drive to attract qualified new members, and we all need to work on this. As of today, we have seven new members for 2017. Please welcome our new members that have join IACCM so far this year. The breakdown of our current 169 membership is:

Associate – 2 Regular – 102 Senior – 41
Honorary – 5 Corporate - 19

As a reminder, an associate member must be between the ages of 21 and 30 years old with limited access to 5 meetings per year. A regular member can be any age with unlimited privileges. Eligibility requirements would include any person of Italian descent or that is married to a person of Italian descent who is engaged in a business or a profession having interests consistent with the aims and purpose of the chamber. Corporate members may have one member in attendance at all 10 meetings without heritage requirements without voting rights.

Our new directory has been published with a list of all our members. If you have not received one or would like to pass them out we will have some at our next meeting. Lastly, our next networking event is in September at Mirage Banquet Center. This would be an excellent time to bring a guest. Please let Debbie know if you intend to bring a guest. First time guests are free of charge!

Thank you

Vito Pianello
President



Chairman's CORNER

As Chairman of the Board I want to express my gratitude to the IACCM's Officers and Board of Directors for the trust they have bestowed upon me to lead the Chamber this year. It is an incredible honor and privilege to serve in this role and to be able to work with such strong, passionate leaders within our community. I especially would like to thank our President, Vito Pianello for the outstanding job he has done in leading this organization.

As we work together to grow the Chamber and its members business, we should understand that the long-term growth and potential of the Italian community. It is through the continued growth and development of our young Italian people who will eventually be the leaders of tomorrow leading our community needs and initiatives.

As we enter into another year for the IACCM, we want to listen and understand the needs of our members. First and foremost, it is our goal as a Chamber to offer value to our members and to the communities we serve. We aim to do this by continuing on our core successes of the past and by executing a strategic plan to assist in growing your businesses forward. We strive to do this by creating an open environment within our community that helps bring together the Italian businesses, local businesses, and other entities to cultivate relationships and networking opportunities for all of us to prosper.

In conclusion, I pledge my support to the purpose of the Chamber as outlined in its Bylaws. The Chamber was organized to advance the general welfare and prosperity of the Italian community and its business community as well. Together we need to commit to support the Italian American Chamber of Commerce with our focus on tomorrow.

We are what we repeatedly do, Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit. (Aristotle)

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\$40 GUEST FEE ENFORCEMENT ***"first time/potential member"***

Since 2012, the IACCM has been allowing first time potential members to attend a general membership meeting with an IACCM member at no charge. This courtesy will continue to be available to the membership if the guest has not attended before. **THIS RULE NEEDS TO BE ENFORCED.**

If the above rules are not applicable, the \$40 guest fee will be charged and must be paid at the door, unless other arrangements have been with the IACCM office in advance.

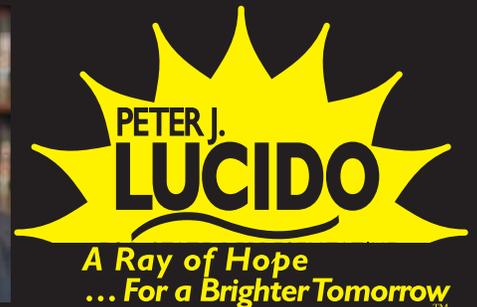
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Not too many years ago the Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan used to host an annual black-tie dinner dance on the last Saturday in January. It was called the "Festa del Vino". This was an event held to install and recognize our newly elected and current Officers and Board of Directors. The men wore tuxedos and the ladies dressed in their fine evening gowns. It was always a fine affair enjoyed by all.

I don't know exactly when these events started, because they preceded my membership which began in 1971. I assume they began in the mid-sixties; let us say 1965. In the beginning they were held at the Gourmet House which was located on Jefferson Avenue near Ten Mile Road. This fine catering establishment was owned and operated by Chamber member Sam La Fata (RIP), a kind and generous person.

I remember around 1975 I was Chairman of the affair, and early in the week prior to the party we had a massive snow storm. This particular storm dumped great amounts of snow, with piles of plowed slush everywhere taking up a lot of spaces where cars would normally park. Being my responsibility, I contacted Mr. La Fata and asked if the party was still on. His response was; you get the people to come, and I will guarantee there will be places to park their vehicles. As I recall, a good time was had by all who attended.

In the beginning the event included dinner, dancing and all the wine or champagne you could drink, including a small take home bottle. No hard liquor was offered. Of course, in the later years that changed and you could enjoy a mixed drink if that was your choosing. I have no memory of any mis-behaving or people problems during these joyous gatherings.

After the Gourmet House changed hands, the events continued annually up until around the year 2006 (I am guessing). They then made the circuit of member owned banquet facilities. The last ten or more years the

continued on page 10

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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
- 9/21 Lazzara, David A.
- 9/22 Pianello, Vito
- 9/24 DeFlaviis, Alfred
- 9/28 Promesso, Charles
- 9/29 Toarmino, Edward

October

- 10/2 Tocco, Nino
- 10/3 Palazzolo, Jerry
- 10/6 Gatti, John D.
- 10/12 Meli, Paul
- 10/12 Rubino, Joseph C.
- 10/24 Del Pup, Armen
- 10/26 Messina, Steve J.
- 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.
- 11/21 Moran, Charles
- 11/24 Corso, Tony
- 11/24 Basilisco, Antonio
- 11/25 Calcaterra, Lawrence
- 11/26 Pellegrino, Joseph R.

December

- 12/1 Lochirco, Salvatore
- 12/1 Cervone, Matthew D.
- 12/5 DeCarlo, Gary A.
- 12/7 Gallo, Frank
- 12/13 DiCicco, Lucia
- 12/17 Bonadeo, David C.
- 12/21 Palazzolo, 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, Paul



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May 10, 2017 - Festa Della Lira – San Marino Club



Dr. Chuck Shermetaro and our wonderful “emcee” Mark Garagiola announcing the next \$100 lucky winner.



Basket of Cheer raffle proceeds donated to Theresa Toia’s “Friends of Foster Kids” program!



Honorable Joseph Toia and President Vito Pianello with new members Ross Buffa (Site One Landscape Supply) and Patrick Hall (Law Offices of Patrick Hall PLLC).



Festa Della Lira always draws a nice crowd!



Festa Chairmen Dr. Chuck Shermetaro and Dr. Tony Giordano encouraging guests to get their “180th” ticket!

June 7, 2017 Scholarship Awards Night Zuccaro’s Banquet Center



Honorable Joseph Toia and President Vito Pianello with new member Giuseppe Biondo (Macomb County Chief Deputy Treasurer)



Scholarship Chairman Joseph Toia presents the scholarships to the deserving students!



Rose-Carmel Goddard



Mark Aiello accepting for his son Thomas



Rose Rola accepting for her daughter Jacqueline



Gregory Pine



Lia Morelli



Annie-Marie Goddard



Bella Galli



Cara Bonanni



David Halvorson



Scott Rola



Joseph Cipriano, III



Mia Minoletti

IACCM golf outing



Thank you to all our generous sponsors!



Gus, Andy, Debbie and Tony DeLuca working the morning check-in!

All ready to head out – shotgun start time!



Matt Baffo and President Pianello ready to go!!

Chairmen Gus Russo and Andy Agosta presenting an honorary plaque to the Severini family on behalf of their father Fred Severini, Jr. We miss you Fred!!



Italian American Chamber of Commerce John B. Agosta Memorial 34th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing



Wow! What a beautiful fun filled day. 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 \$15,000 which is a record and all goes towards our scholarships. Over the years we have granted over \$265,000 in scholarships and our golf outing has been a major source of that revenue. Your participation this year helped 12 students who were awarded scholarships ranging from \$1500 to \$750. Without your continued support this would not be possible.

I would like to wish a special thank you to Debbie, our Chamber administrative assistant, for keeping all the finances in order. A huge thank you also goes to Fern Hill Golf Club for hosting this year's event. Their food and hospitality were top notch and fantastic. I also want to thank all the committee members who contributed their own time to make it all possible. Let's not forget this year's posthumous honoree Fred Severini Jr. for all he did for our Chamber and the Italian American Community.

The 2018 golf outing is currently in the early planning stages, stay tuned for all the details. I am looking forward to your participation.

Best regards,
Andy Agosta

2017 Scholarship Recipients

- Bella Galli**
- Gregory Pine**
- Rose-Carmel Goddard**
- Thomas Aiello**
- Jacqueline Rola**
- Annie-Marie Goddard**
- Cara Bonanni**
- Lia Morelli**
- David Halvorson**
- Scott Rola**
- Joseph Cipriano, III**
- Mia Minoletti**



SAVE THE DATES

SUNDAY, OCT. 1, 2017

Members and friends of the Columbus Day Celebration Committee will attend a Memorial Mass at 9:15 a.m. in honor of Christopher Columbus and the patron Saint of Italy, San Francesco at San Francesco Church in Clinton Twp. located at 16 Mile and Gratiot. Following Mass, there will be a procession with the statue of San Francesco, followed by fellowship.

TUESDAY, OCT. 3, 2017

The Columbus Day Committee will take a bus to the state capitol. We will board the bus at 8:30 a.m. at the Italian American Cultural Center on Romeo Plank Rd. in Clinton Twp. In Lansing there will be an awards presentation followed by lunch. We will return around 2 p.m. (The Bus is by invitation only; however, this is YOUR capitol. Everyone is invited.)

SATURDAY, OCT. 7, 2017

The Columbus Day Parade begins at 11 a.m. and will assemble at approximately 9:30 a.m. The parade route will be in Mt. Clemens and begin at Main and Church and end at Main and Market.

SUNDAY, OCT. 8, 2017

Members and friends of the Columbus Day Celebration Committee will attend a Memorial Mass at 11 a.m. in honor of Christopher Columbus at Historic Holy Family Church, 641 Chrysler Drive (located on the service drive of I-75 South, the Lafayette exit) in downtown Detroit. Following Mass, there will be a fellowship in the lower level of the church. After fellowship, there will be a memorial ceremony at the Columbus Monument on Jefferson and Randolph where a wreath will be placed at the statue of Columbus.

SUNDAY, OCT. 8, 2017

The Banquet will be held at Mirage. Honorees will be Man of the Year Peter J. Lucido, Co-Women of the Year Marilyn Borner and Pam White, Humanitarian of the Year Fr. Giuseppe "Pino" Licciardi, Family of the Year The Dominic Mocerri Family and Parade Marshal Domenic Melia. For tickets, call (586) 298-1492.

Festa Italiana • Freedom Hill



event was held at the Fern Hill Country Club which was owned and operated by Chamber member Mr. Fred Severini (RIP). Fred was a proud Italian American and he really went all out for Chamber events, but he really did his best at the "Festa del Vino". Then the parties really got fancy. There were ice carvings and long lines of people lined up for hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. This was followed by a five or six course meal, which most people just barely picked on because they were all filled up with the fine appetizers. And that was not the end of the food...this was followed with sweet tables, ice cream and coffee bars. Yes... these were great events which gathered as many as five hundred people and they surely did the Chamber proud.

They are only memories now, only for those of us who were around to attend them. As I like to say, all good things must come to an end. The ticket prices got high and we were unable to sell the number of tickets to fill a banquet facility. The Board of Directors decided to discontinue the Festa del Vino. Just think, forty years, and let's say an average attendance of four hundred, which calculates to 16,000 people that found joy at these Chamber events of the past. Memories!

This writing was prepared for the new membership who had no idea that we did some great parties in the old days. Be well, be proud to be an Italian American and God bless all.

Frank Pompa
Archives Chairman



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Instructions

1. Brown the ground beef in a large pot over medium heat, stirring frequently.
2. Add in garlic, onion and green pepper, and continue to sauté for 5 minutes.
3. Stir in tomato paste and tomato sauce.
4. Add in parsley, basil, oregano, salt and pepper, continue to stir.
5. Bring sauce to a light boil, then remove from heat.
6. Grease a 9" x 13" baking dish with coconut oil.
7. Place a thin layer of the sauce in the baking dish.
8. Layer zucchini and mushrooms over sauce, and repeat, alternating layering of sauce, then zucchini and mushrooms and finally topping with remain cheese..
9. Bake lasagna at 325°F for 15 minutes, covered with foil.
10. After 15 minutes, remove foil and bake for an additional 15 minutes

Vince & Joes Lasagna

- 1 lb Lean Ground Beef
- 1 cup Green Bell Peppers, chopped
- 1 cup Onion, chopped
- 1 Tbsp fresh Basil
- 1 Tbsp Parsley
- 1 Tbsp fresh Oregano
- 1 Zucchini, sliced thinly
- 1 1/4 cup white, raw Mushrooms, sliced, roasted and well drained
- 15 oz Fresh Marinara
- 15 oz skim milk mozzarella cheese, optional
- 3 cloves Garlic, minced
- 6 oz Tomato Paste,
- 1 tsp Salt and Pepper, more to taste

The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan

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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."