



The Grapevine



A Publication From

The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan
Spring Issue • 2011 • Volume 10 • Number 1



Upcoming EVENTS



Notes from the PRESIDENT

MARCH 2, 2011 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

- Zuccaro's Banquet Center
46601 Gratiot Avenue, Chesterfield

APRIL 6, 2011 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

- Eastpointe Manor
24611 Gratiot Avenue, Eastpointe

MAY 4, 2011 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

FESTA DELLA LIRA (see enclosed flyer for info.)

TIME

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

LOCATION

- Mirage Banquet Center
16980 18 Mile Road, Clinton Township

JUNE 1, 2011 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

- Ristorante Piccirilli
52830 Van Dyke Avenue, Shelby Township

JUNE 28, 2011 • TUESDAY • GOLF OUTING

28th Annual John B. Agosta Memorial Golf Outing and Scholarship Awards Dinner

- Boulder Lakes Golf Club
52100 Fairchild, Chesterfield
For tickets/info contact Andy Agosta • 248-561-1266

The success of an organization is based upon three important factors:

- Involvement of members and past officers
- Membership retention
- Membership growth

Each of these factors has a common thread and that is "member involvement."

Involvement of members and past officers

The Chamber is very fortunate to have the active involvement of almost 20 of its past presidents. This is perhaps the single reason why that organization has been able to exist since 1919.

Membership growth

This requires the participation of our current membership. You as a member are an ambassador of the Chamber. How you present the benefits and activities of the Chamber has a direct impact on the Chambers ability to grow. Invite a guest to a meeting. The first time is "on the Chamber." Better yet, invite a few guests to one of our events.

Membership retention

This factor requires the participation of our current membership. The length of a membership is impacted by that members feeling of belonging. If a new member does not feel welcome, his membership is not likely to be renewed. It's incumbent upon us as members, to invite a new member to an open seat at our table, or to invite a new member to participate on a committee. On the other hand, if you are a new member or even a long time member, you cannot just sit back and wait to be asked. Sit at that open seat, volunteer to work on a committee, take the initiative.

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Chairman's CORNER

Celebrate!

Along with the honor of being your chairman, I'm given the pleasure of being able to communicate with each of you through the Grapevine. As I pondered on what I should write about, it became very apparent that I was at a loss for content. I knew what I didn't want to write about, and the list kept growing each time I thought about it. Then finally it dawned on me, my article should be about the achievements of our members. It should be a celebration of the successes some of you have had outside our organization. With that realization, also came the reality that I need your help, but I'll get back to that in just a bit.

We've made great strides in the past year or two to educate our members on what each of us do in business, largely to the efforts of Tony Rubino and the networking committee. However, and I'll go out on a limb here, but modesty seems to prevail when it comes to achievements that set some of our members apart from the rest, both in business and in our community. For instance, we all know that Anthony (Tony) J. Viviano owns Sterling Heights Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, but did you also know that Tony is the Commander of the Macomb County Sheriffs Marine Safety Officers, or that he is the Vice Chair of the March of Dimes Detroit Region, and he sits on the Foundation Board of Henry Ford Hospital Main. If that wasn't enough Tony also sits on the Board of Directors at Henry Ford Macomb Hospital, and is the executive Chairman of Philanthropy for both Henry Ford Macomb Hospital Sterling Heights and Warren.

Speaking of Macomb another one of our long time members, Peter J. Lucido has brought to the community the first ever magazine dedicated to this great County. The Macomb Now magazine is Pete's vision to honor the community that has allowed so many of us to live and prosper in a way that has shaped our lives and the lives of our children. As Publisher, Peter released the inaugural issue in December of 2010. The magazine will be available quarterly in locations all over Macomb County,

Continued on page 3

Motivational Moments — March 2011

By William A. Morelli, Sr.

We have been recently reminded of our mortality/immortality by two occasions – First was the discovery of Major Robert Tucci's remains (died in 1969) after all these years and then, the revisit of the Challenger disaster (1986). Both of these events happened a long time ago yet their memorials made it feel like yesterday. I guess the morale of this is that grief has no boundaries in terms of time or in terms of relationships. I doubt that any of you were related to any of the Astronauts or Major Tucci but for a few moments we were all one family.

As we begin the next chapter in our lives let us all remember to try to be important to our family as these long lost individuals were to each of us. Starting today – live wisely and choose well:

- Look for opportunities to make people feel important – *There is more hunger for love and appreciation in this world than for bread - **Mother Teresa***
- Sign and carry your Organ Donor Card – *We must not only give what we have; we must also give what we are – Desire – **Joseph Mercier***
- Have a dog – *No matter how few possessions you own, having a dog makes you rich – **Louis Sabin***
- Make the most of the best and the least of the worst – *Every life has its dark and cheerful hours. Happiness comes from choosing which to remember – **Anonymous***
- Every problem has two handles. You can grab it by the handle of fear or by the handle of hope – *Nothing in life is so hard that you can't make it easier by the way you take it – **Ellen Glasgow***
- Save an evening a week for just you and your wife – *To keep a fire burning brightly there's one easy rule: keep the logs together, near enough to keep warm and far enough apart for breathing room. Good fire, good marriage, same rule – **Marnie Reed Crowel***
- Remember that no time spent with your children is ever wasted – *The best minute you spend is the one you invest in your family – **Ken Blanchard***

Finally: "Smile, Give Hugs and Tell Someone You Love Them – it will make them feel better and that will make you feel better and it will make the world a little better place to live."

William A. Morelli, Sr.



*Italian-American
Chamber of Commerce*
Birthdays for:

MARCH

- 3/3 Pini, Ray
- 3/4 Fuciarelli, Pietro G.
- 3/5 Shermetaro, Charles G.
- 3/6 Pippi, Angela M.
- 3/8 Carnaghi, Donald
- 3/14 Piccinini, Ned R.
- 3/17 Rubino, Anthony M.
- 3/17 Bommarito, Benedict
- 3/18 Vicari, Joseph
- 3/21 Colombo, Charles F.
- 3/23 Santeufemia, Michael
- 3/24 Esposito, Gino
- 3/27 Palumbo, Charles
- 3/27 Grosso, Jr., Peter M.
- 3/27 Ferrera, Gene P.
- 3/30 Picano, Domenic
- 3/31 Scaccia, John

APRIL

- 4/3 Aiello, Mark
- 4/7 Calcaterra, Michael J.
- 4/8 Marinelli, Charles L.
- 4/12 Poliuto, Valerio
- 4/13 DiBartolomeo, Richard D.
- 4/16 Cerroni, Dante
- 4/18 Lazzara, Michael
- 4/19 Perazza, Lisa Marie

APRIL

- 4/19 Lanni, Angelo S.
- 4/23 Giacalone, Leonard
- 4/23 Palazzola, Anthony
- 4/25 Rocca, Lawrence
- 4/25 Tundo, Samuel A.
- 4/29 Vitale, Vincenzo
- 4/30 Roselli, Antonio

MAY

- 5/2 Caccamo, Gaetano
- 5/4 Russo, Agostino
- 5/5 Morelli, Jr., Frank A.
- 5/7 Valente Jr., Mark
- 5/7 Agosta, Anthony Allan
- 5/12 Russo, John
- 5/13 Lucido, Paul G.
- 5/14 Calcaterra, Paul
- 5/15 Pirrone, Joseph
- 5/16 Velardo, Armand
- 5/17 Giarmarco, Julius H.
- 5/19 Tudisco, William S.
- 5/19 Varanelli, Jeffrey
- 5/23 Scalzi, Frank
- 5/26 Marino, Frank
- 5/28 Maniaci, Frank
- 5/29 Polsinelli, Vincenzo
- 5/30 Lawroski, Eric



Notes From The President

Continued from page 1

When you get involved the value of your membership will grow, exponentially...try it!

Please note the changes for the Festa Della Lira, which will be held during our regular May meeting, and, remember that the scholarship awards will be presented at our Golf Outing in June. As you know, these two events provide the funding for our scholarship program, our charitable donations and our operating budget. The success of these events is tied to that common thread "member involvement."

Joseph Toia



Chairman's Corner

Continued from page 1

the initiative. including Walgreens, Barnes & Noble, and Borders. For more information on the magazine go to: www.macombnowmagazine.com.

Well as you can see, when you celebrate the successes of others you can run out of room fast. Next issue will feature the accomplishments of Dr. Anthony Benenati, but he's just one that I know of and I need your help. Please let me know about others in our organization that are doing those things that we should all celebrate.

Ned R. Piccinini
Chairman of the Board




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January 5, 2011 • INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS



Thomas Bommarito presents appreciation plaques to the following: Dan Galli, Festa Della Lira Chairman, Steve Militello, Grapevine Editor, Anthony Rubino, Networking Committee Chairman, Joseph Toia, Scholarship Chairman, Andy Agosta, Golf Committee Chairman



2010 President Thomas Bommarito presents Sam Ripepi with the Honorary Lifetime Membership award. Sam has been with the IACCM since 1954.

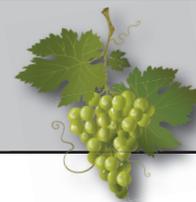


Thomas Bommarito presents Ronald A. DiBartolomeo with an award for his outstanding duties as Chairman of the Board for 2010.



2011 Officers/Board of Directors, L-R: Anthony Rubino, Steve Militello, Michel Tenaglia, Michael Locricchio, Andy Agosta, Dave Galli, Joseph Toia, Joseph Lucido, Joseph Ventimiglia, David Lazzara, Vito Pianello, James Timpa, Ned Piccinini, Peter Fuciarelli, Ned R. Piccinini, Tom Bommarito, Paul Calcaterra. Not pictured-Anthony DeLuca.

Palazzo Grande MEMBERS/BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Thomas Bommarito receives a plaque in appreciation of his service as President for 2010 from Joseph Toia, 2011 IACCM President.



Vito Pianello accepts the 1st ever VIP award from Thomas Bommarito. Vito is actively involved in many aspects of the Chamber; he is always there when needed.

JOIN THE FIGHT - A BENEFIT FOR VINCE RANDAZZO



Vincenzo was diagnosed with a rare brain tumor in May of 2010 shortly before his 29th birthday. He underwent a long 12 hour surgery that removed 99.9% of the tumor, and was on the long road to recovery. Just as he was feeling back to himself a six month MRI revealed the tumor had returned. Unfortunately, in addition to the original tumor doctors discovered two more tumors in his brain, and two lesions on his spine. Due to the rarity of this tumor local doctors were baffled and referred him to Duke University Hospital in North Carolina to find answers. The brain tumor center there has a motto they live by "At Duke there is hope". He has a team of world renowned optimistic doctors with an aggressive treatment plan. Vince is positive and ready for his fight. Please join us in our fight to lessen his already burdened shoulders.

FUNDRAISER DINNER

Saturday March 5th at 6:00 pm

Marco Antonio's Italian Ristorante

7750 Metropolitan Parkway

For Ticket Information Call: (586) 344-6499

Make Checks Payable to Vince Randazzo Fund

If you are unable to attend but would like to make a donation to help with the cost of relocating and medical treatments please visit us online at <http://donate.billhighway.com/fight4vince> or email us at fight4vince@gmail.com

WE ARE LOOKING FOR RAFFLE/AUCTION DONATIONS FOR THE EVENT.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE A PRODUCT, GIFT CERTIFICATE OR SERVICE PLEASE EMAIL US - *THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT*



SAVE THE DATE!

28th Annual, John B. Agosta Golf Outing

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2011

Boulder Lakes Golf Club • 52100 Fairchild Road, • Chesterfield

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GARRETT**
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06.25.11
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MARTIN**
Musician



11.11.11
**ERIC
BURDON &
THE ANIMALS**
Classic Rock



04.15.11
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HOLMES**
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Entertainer of
the Year*



09.16.11
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Classic Rock



11.12.11
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AMANTE**
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04.16.11
STARSHIP
Classic Rock



09.17.11
**JOAN
RIVERS**
Comedian



12.15.11
12.16.11
12.17.11
SCINTAS
Holiday Show



05.13.11
**MARK
RANDISI**
Salute to Sinatra



10.21.11
**AARON
CARUSO**
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12.18.11
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NEWMAN**
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 1979 Frank Pompa
 1978 Mark Valente, Jr.
 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.”