

The Grapevine

A Publication From

The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan

Spring Issue • 2013

Volume 12 • Number 2

Visit Our New Website at: www.iaccm.net



Upcoming EVENTS



Notes from the PRESIDENT

APRIL 10, 2013 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

FESTA DELLA LIRA

TIME

- 6:00 PM General Membership Meeting
- 7:30 PM Dinner

LOCATION

- Palazzo Grande
54660 Van Dyke, Shelby Township

FESTA DELLA LIRA

MAY 8, 2013 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

- Mirage Banquet Center
16980 18 Mile Road, Clinton Township

JUNE 5, 2013 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION

TIME

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

LOCATION

- Italian Cultural Center
43843 Romeo Plank Road, Clinton Township



JUNE 25, 2013 • TUESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

30TH Annual Memorial Golf Outing Honoring Frank Gallo

TIME

- 1:00 PM sharp shotgun start
- lunch served starting at 11:30 AM

LOCATION

- Scalawags Country Club • 52100 Fairchild, Chesterfield
- For tickets/info contact Andy Agosta, 248-561-1266**



Spring is upon us, the weather is starting to change, and I hope all of you have had a safe winter. I am looking forward to a great year of building our membership with all our friends, family and children. The Chamber needs the growth that will help us continue to network amongst ourselves and make all of us proud. So, please make every effort to bring in at least 1 new member for 2013.

We have a lot of exciting events coming up:

- **April 10** – Festa Della Lira at Palazzo Grande
- **May 3-6** – IACCM Poker Fundraiser at The River
- **June 5** – Scholarship Award Presentation night at the IACS
- **June 25** – 30th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing at Scalawags Golf Club
- **July 19-21** – Festa Italiana at Freedom Hill
- **August 18** – 3rd Annual Italian Heritage Night at Comerica Park

Please join me in all of these great events and help show your support for the Chamber, our scholarship recipients, and the camaraderie that we have work so hard for... to be proud of our organization and our heritage.

I would also like to ask each of you to go to our new website and see the exciting changes that have taken place. There is a new membership directory which has been set up to allow us to see what every Chamber member's occupation is so we can continue to help and support each other.

Thank you and God bless the Italian American Chamber of Commerce

Joseph P. Ventimiglia



Chairman's CORNER

We began our March meeting with a "moment of silence" to honor the memory of a Chamber member. But should we really be silent for a man, who much like his precast products, had the strength of iron and concrete, and the courage of Columbus. Alone in a foreign land, he used that strength to lay a foundation for his siblings, raise a family, build a company from scratch and truly live the American dream.

He used that strength to lead this Chamber for many years, never forgetting where he came from nor the struggles he endured. Never complaining, always caring, and always promoting our ideals.

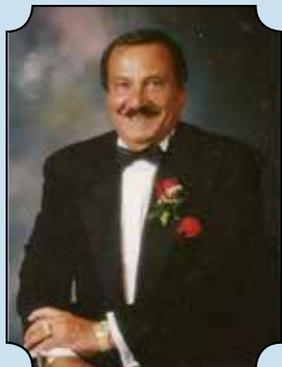
Ned Piccinini was a mentor to many of us, and a friend to all of us.

As many commented, the meeting was not the same without Ned's prayer (in English and Italian) but his leadership and commitment to the Chamber will never be forgotten.

I am thankful for the opportunity to share his friendship, to learn from his guidance, and to stand alongside each of you on the foundation that Ned helped to forge. We should honor his memory and carry on his commitment for the continued success of the Chamber, now and always.

God bless you Ned!

Joseph Toia
Chairman



Nazzareno "Ned" Piccinini died early Wednesday morning, February 13, 2013 surrounded by his family at the age of 85. He is survived by his daughter Patricia Piccinini (Chris Griessel), Sons, IACCM Past President Ned R. Piccinini (Sarah Klomp), and Dr. Robert G.G. Piccinini.

Mr. Piccinini emigrated from Italy as a young man, and epitomized the entrepreneurial spirit in every

sense of the word. His achievements include the founding of National Precast Inc., which was at one time considered the largest Precast Company in the Mid-West.

Staying close to his Italian heritage, Mr. Piccinini was also recognized by the Italian Government for his work with immigrants, bestowing on him the honor of il Cavaliere - which is the equivalent of knighthood.

Ned served on the IACCM Board of Directors since 1985, working his way up to President in 1997 and 1998. He was also Past President of the following organizations; IACS, AIO, Italian Sons and Daughters of America, and he was avid Red Wing fan.

Ned will be remembered by many of his friends and loved ones for his generous nature, enthusiasm of life, and his rock solid integrity. Ned was well known for his invocation, both in English and Italian, at all Chamber functions.....he will be TRULY missed!!!

Motivational Moments — Winter 2013

By William A. Morelli, Sr.

It is hard to believe that we are almost half way through the Lenten Season, even though we are expected to get some decent weather after a hard winter. The Lent season signals that the fresh breath of spring cannot be far off – and even the ground hog predicts the end of winter is near. In 2008 I wrote: *With the advent of the Easter Season, I remember (that) we are celebrating the greatest gift ever given to the world and the promise of a better life to come.* That still holds true today – we have a promise of a better life – but not as a result of any election here on earth. Hope springs eternal, and we have the obligation to try to “do better” for ourselves, our children and our God.

With the chance of being caught in my solid belief in family and friends, I have again turned to one of my favorite books, “A Father’s Book of Wisdom” for the inspiration for this writing to try to achieve the above.. So – here we go – some words to live by for the next few months:

Achievement – “Winning is not a sometime thing; it’s an all-time thing. You don’t win once in a while, you don’t do things right once in a while, you do them right all the time. Winning is a habit. *Unfortunately, so is losing.*” **Vince Lombardi**

Aging - “The secret is to become wise before you get old.” **Dad**

Attitude – Two stone cutters were asked what they were doing. The first said, “I’m cutting this stone into blocks.” The second replied, “I’m part of a team that’s building a cathedral.” **Just an old Story**

Challenges - Challenges can be stepping stones or stumbling blocks. It’s just a matter of how you view them – **Unknown**
Character – Its not that you won or lost, but how you played the game. **Grantland Rice**

Courage – Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear. **Mark Twain**

Criticism – Praise in public. Criticize in private. **Dad**

Excellence – Good enough – Isn’t. **Bill Morelli**

Failure – Don’t judge those who try and fail. Judge only those who fail to try. **Unknown**

Friendship – A friend is a gift you give yourself. **Robert Louis Stevenson**

Happiness – Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be. **Abraham Lincoln**

Honesty – Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom. **Thomas Jefferson**

Kindness – There are no unimportant jobs, no unimportant people, and no unimportant acts of kindness. **Dad**

Love – Treasure the love you receive above all. It will survive long after fold and good health have vanished. **Og Mandino**

Marriage – Marriage is an empty box. It remains empty unless you put in more than you take out. **Dad**

More to follow – but that will come in the next issue. Have a great Spring. And remember, to **“Smile, Give Hugs and Tell Some One that You Love Them.”** Final Tribute to my Mother-in-Law, Sara, who always told her kids with **“Be Happy! Life is Good!”**



Italian-American Chamber of Commerce



Birthdays for:

April

4/3 Calunas, William
 4/3 Aiello, Mark
 4/7 Calcaterra, Michael J.
 4/12 Poliuto, Valerio
 4/13 DiBartolomeo, Richard D.
 4/16 Cerroni, Dante
 4/17 Canzano, Roger
 4/18 Minoletti, Gary
 4/19 Lanni, Angelo S.
 4/23 Giacalone, Leonard
 4/23 Palazzola, Anthony
 4/25 Tundo, Samuel
 4/25 Rocca, Larry
 4/29 Vitale, Vincenzo
 4/30 Gallo, Tony J.
 4/30 Roselli, Antonio

May

5/1 Signorelli, Mario
 5/2 Caccamo, Gaetano
 5/4 Russo, Agostino
 5/5 Morelli, Jr., Frank
 5/7 Agosta, Anthony Allan
 5/7 Valente Jr., Mark
 5/12 Russo, John
 5/13 Lucido, Paul G.
 5/14 Calcaterra, Paul R.
 5/15 Pirrone, Joseph
 5/16 Velardo, Armand
 5/17 Giarmarco, Julius H.
 5/19 Varanelli, Jeffrey
 5/23 Scalzi, Frank
 5/26 Marino, Frank
 5/28 Maniaci, Frank

5/30 Lawroski, Eric

June

6/1 Viviano, Anthony J.
 6/2 Nagy, Charles
 6/2 Locricchio, Michael
 6/3 LaRosa, Dominic J.
 6/7 Benenati, Dr. Anthony V.
 6/12 Pavlick, Marty
 6/15 Ventimiglia, Christina M.
 6/16 Notte, Richard
 6/22 Provenzano, Nunzio
 6/26 DiGiuseppe, Jr., John
 6/26 Bonaldi, Ezio
 6/29 Ruggeri, Philip

July

7/1 Pompa, Frank

7/1 Apone, Anthony
 7/2 Bernabei, Frank A.
 7/2 Morelli Sr., William A.
 7/4 Scaglione, Albert P.
 7/14 DeCarolus, John
 7/15 Varano, Sal Mario
 7/15 Fontana, Carl
 7/18 Galli, David F.
 7/18 Timpa, James
 7/19 Ficano, Robert
 7/19 Viviano, Paul
 7/20 Altavena, Paul
 7/22 Baffo, Matthew
 7/24 Schnepper, Roy
 7/29 Simone, MD, Piero A.
 7/30 Grimaudo, Joseph
 7/31 Lucido, Peter J.



IACCM FUNDRAISER • May 3-6, 2013

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Italian American Chamber of Commerce 2013 Installation of Officers/Board of Directors Dinner January 9, 2013 • Fern Hill Golf Club



Seated l-r: Secretary Vito Pianello, Financial Secretary Michael Locricchio, 1st V.P. Andrew Agosta, President Joseph P. Ventimiglia, Chairman Joseph Toia, Treasurer Anthony DeLuca, 2nd V.P. David F. Galli, Paul Calcaterra

Standing l-r: Charles F. Colombo, Charles G. Shermetaro, D.O., Daniel Galli, David A. Lazzara, Nunzio Provenzano, Angela Pippi, Stefano Militello, Peter A. Fuciarelli, Thomas B. Lanni, Michel Tenaglia



Membership Chairman Mike Tenaglia with new IACCM member Anthony Marino (Novem Capital Management), Hon. Judge Peter Maceroni, new IACCM member Nino Tocco (River Crest Banquet Facility), and President Joseph Ventimiglia accepting their membership plaques.



Frank Gallo, Hon. Judge Peter Maceroni, Angela Pippi, Peter Lucido, and Hon. Judge Richard Caretti enjoying dinner and camaraderie

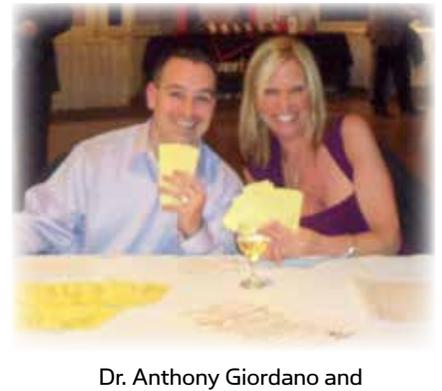
February 6, 2013 Meeting • Zuccaro's Banquet Center



Jacques Gagnon of Verizon Wireless/Wireless Zone



Frank Coppola, Angela Pippi, and Vito Pianello



Dr. Anthony Giordano and Debbie selling Festa Della Lira basket-of-cheer tickets!



Honorable Basilio Giordano (Italian Senator), Honorable Amato Berardi, (Member Italian Parliament) presenting an honorary medal from Parliament to President Joseph P. Ventimiglia



President Joseph P. Ventimiglia, Membership Chairman Chuck Colombo, and new member Gary Minoletti of J.P. Morgan

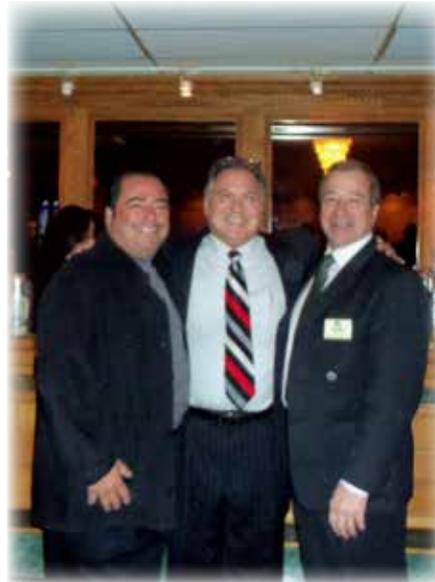
March 6, 2013 • Eastpointe Manor



Guest Speaker Wayne Blizman, Macomb-Oakland University Incubator speaking on business advancement



Paul Cicchini speaking after receiving the French Legion of Honor Medal, which is the highest distinction awarded by France for heroism to WW2 Veterans.



Members John DiGiuseppe, Paul Meli, and Vito Pianello enjoying the evening



President Joseph P. Ventimiglia bringing everyone up to date on upcoming events!

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1979 Frank Pompa
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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.”