

The Grapevine

A Publication From
The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan
Spring/Summer Issue • 2021
Volume 20 • Number 1
Visit Our Website at: www.iaccm.net



Upcoming EVENTS



Notes from the PRESIDENT

APRIL 14, 2021 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

- TIME** • 6:00 PM Board Meeting
• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Fern Hill Golf Club
17600 Clinton River Road, Clinton Township



MAY 5, 2021 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

- TIME** • 6:00 PM Board Meeting
• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Rivercrest Banquet Center
900 West Avon Road, Rochester

JUNE 2, 2021 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD NIGHT

- TIME** • 6:00 PM Board Meeting
• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Villa Penna
43985 Hayes Road, Sterling Heights

JUNE 28, 2021 • MONDAY

37th annual

MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

- TIME** • Lunch served 10:30 AM
12:00 noon shotgun start

- LOCATION** • Fern Hill Golf Club



SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 • WEDNESDAY MONTHLY MEETING

- TIME** • • 6:00 PM Board Meeting
• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- San Marino Club • 1685 E. Big Beaver Road, Troy

Welcome to 2021! Hopefully we can keep the events of our world during 2020 in the rearview mirror and return to some sort of normalcy in this new year! It is a great honor and privilege to serve as President of the Italian-American Chamber of Commerce. I have been an active member since 2007 and have had the opportunity to serve on many of the Chamber's various committees over the past 13 years. Thus, I have watched the Chamber grow and evolve yet still hold strong onto many of our traditional Italian values. I refer to these values as the "Five F's". It's our belief in Faith, Family, Friends, Freedom, and of course...Food!

It is very gratifying and humbling to know our Chamber is entering into its 102nd year of existence. We currently have 176 members in our Chamber and our goal is to continually expand membership to increase our networking capabilities, charitable donations, and scholarship awards. As the year progresses, we will be resuming all our annual events. The John B. Agosta Memorial Golf Outing will take place on Monday, June 28th at Fern Hill, and the Festa Della Lira will be held on Wednesday, October 6th at the Mirage Banquet Center. Our monthly meetings have already commenced, and the 2021 location list has been distributed via email to the membership. Our guest speaker list and other events planned for this year will be led and facilitated by the Vision Committee Co-Chairs, Mark Garagiola and Mike Tenaglia. Despite last year's golf outing cancellation, we will continue to award scholarships this year. The funding has come from the savings on the four missed meetings due to the virus lockdowns of 2020.

I would like to thank Charles Moran for accepting the position of Chairman, and he will serve as the leader at our board meetings. I would also like to welcome our new board members for 2021: Paul Calcaterra, Anthony Licata, and Joe Burke. We all look forward to the enthusiasm these gentlemen will bring to the table.

We are also looking forward to publishing an updated Italian-American Chamber Directory this year. More information about the directory, our website upgrades, and other networking and fund-raising events will be forthcoming.

Finally, the best words of wisdom I have heard over this past crazy year have been, "Stay close to God, for He will be our source of Joy in the good times, and our source of Comfort in the tough times!" Stay well.

Ciao!
Charles Shermetaro, O.D., President



Chairman's CORNER

I am honored to serve as the 2021 Chairman of the Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan.

As we enter our first quarter of 2021 and start to embrace getting back to normalcy, the IACCM wants 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 our core successes of the past and executing a strategic plan to assist in growing your personal / business relationships forward. We strive to do this by creating an open environment within our membership and 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.

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 one of my highest honors and my privilege to be able to work with such strong, passionate leaders within our community. As we work together to grow the IACCM and its members businesses, we should understand that the long-term growth and potential of the Italian community 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. I pledge my support to the purpose of the Chamber as outlined in its Bylaws. Together we need to commit to support the IACCM with our focus on tomorrow.

In Conclusion, I would like to thank both Dan Galli and David Galli for their leadership as President and Chairman during 2019 and 2020. I am looking forward to a prosperous new year with President Shermetaro leading the way.

Charles J. Moran (Garavaglia)

Chairman of the Board



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Manager/VP

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ITALIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEW MEMBERS 2020

- Patricia A. Piccinini – Dena Marie Salon
- John Guerrieri – Dream Limousine, Inc.
- Robert Guerrieri – Castlemark Homes
- David Cercone – Hard Rock Stone Works
- Alex Lucido – Lucido Real Estate
- Michael Manasseri – Flux Capacitor Studios
- Carluigi DiLiberti
– Suburban Ford of Sterling Heights
- Vincent DiLorenzo – D & T Construction
- Thomas Terzo – The Pleasure Zone
- Gerald Magnotte – E-Zee Set Wood Products
- Anthony Bommarito – Woodward Original

2021 OFFICER/BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS

At the February 3rd IACCM meeting, the newly elected 2021 Officers and Board of Directors were sworn in. Congratulations to the following:

OFFICERS

- President – Dr. Charles Shermetaro, OD
- 1st Vice President – Mark D. Garagiola
- 2nd Vice President – Peter A. Fuciarelli
- Secretary – Angela Pippi-Soave
- Financial Secretary – Michael Divozzo
- Treasurer – Frank Coppola

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

- Charles Moran

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

~ Term Ending 2023

- Joseph Burke
- Paul Calcaterra
- Anthony C. Licata, III

PAST PRESIDENTS 2021

Andrew Agosta • Vito Pianello

SAVE THE DATE

JULY 16, 17, 18

ITALIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF MICHIGAN

Proudly Presents

Festa Italiana 2021

Freedom County Hill Park

Festa Italiana will take over Freedom Hill County Park for three fun-filled, family-friendly days again this July. It is a fantastic event for all ages.

Italian music and heritage - More than 30 food vendors serve the best Italian food in metro Detroit. Taste the finest Italian wines, beer, and cocktails.

More details to follow.

Italian-American Chamber of Commerce Birthdays for:

April		July	
4/3	Aiello, Mark	7/25	DeAngelo, Peter C.
4/3	Calunas, William A.	7/26	DiGiuseppe, Jr., John
4/7	Calcaterra, Michael J.	7/26	Bonaldi, Ezio
4/12	Poliuto, Valerio	7/28	Monicatti, Timothy
4/13	Buffa, Ross	7/29	Ruggeri, Philip
4/17	Canzano, Roger	7/4	Scaglione, Albert P.
4/18	Minoletti, Gary	7/14	DeCarolis, John
4/19	Lanni, Angelo S.	7/15	Varano, Sal Mario
4/23	Giacalone, Leonard	7/15	Fontana, Carl
4/25	Rocca, Larry	7/18	Galli, David F.
4/25	Tundo, Samuel	7/18	Timpa, James
4/26	Biondo, Joe	7/18	Mazza, Thomas
4/27	Cipriano, Joseph	7/19	Viviano, Paul
4/29	Vitale, Vincenzo	7/22	Baffo, Matthew
4/30	Gallo, Tony J.	7/24	Schnepper, Roy
		7/29	Simone, MD, Piero A.
May		7/30	Bartolomeo, Dawn
5/4	Russo, Agostino	7/30	Grimaudo, Joseph
5/7	Agosta, Anthony Allan	7/31	Lucido, Peter J.
5/8	Salvaggio-Crump, Alexandria		August
5/14	Calcaterra, Paul R.	8/2	Seleno, Andrew A.
5/14	DiCicco, Joseph	8/3	Toia, Joseph
5/16	Velardo, Armand	8/4	Pascarella, Antonio
5/17	Giarmarco, Julius H.	8/6	Guerrieri, Robert
5/17	Paglia, Enzo	8/7	Belcastro, Domenico
5/19	Varanelli, Jeffrey	8/9	DiPiazza, John
5/23	Scalzi, Frank	8/11	Maceroni, Hon. Peter
5/30	Lawroski, Eric	8/12	Bossio, Alan J.
		8/14	Rubino, Daniel
June		8/17	Bergmann, John P.
6/2	Locricchio, Michael	8/18	Talluto, II, Michael
6/3	LaRosa, Dominic J.	8/19	Militello, Stefano
6/4	Marentette, Aaron	8/22	Giordano, Anthony
6/7	Benenati, Dr. Anthony V.	8/23	Zuccaro, Dino
6/9	Burke, Joseph A.	8/25	Salerno, Sr., Ramo A.
6/12	Pavlick, Marty	8/26	Petruzzello, Frank
6/19	DiGiorgio, Frank	8/29	Ventimiglia, Sam P.
6/22	Provenzano, Nunzio	8/30	DiGiuseppe, Christopher



Holy Family IACCM Memorial Mass and Pancake Breakfast November 8 2020, Holy Family Church

Pictured l-r: President Daniel Galli, Paul Calcaterra, Fr. Paul Ward, Andy Agosta, Mark Garagiola

September 23, 2020 • Rivercrest Banquet Center



The beautiful outdoor set-up for a perfect evening!



Lucia DiCicco, Mark Garagiola, Sandy Tornberg, and Ross Buffa awaiting the fine dinner being prepared by Nino Tocco.



Let's eat!! Anthony Bommarito, Matt Cervone, Mike Locricchio, Sam Ventimiglia, and Frank Coppola



Honorable Joseph Toia swearing in the newest IACCM members Anthony Bommarito and Jerry Magnotte.



Honorable Joseph Toia and President Galli with Anthony Bommarito, Woodward Original



Honorable Joseph Toia and President Galli with Jerry Magnotte, E-Zee Set Wood Products

October 7, 2020 • Andiamo Italia • Festa Della Lira



Honorable Joseph Toia swearing in new member Vincent DiLorenzo, D & T Construction Company along with Membership Committee Co-Chair Charles Moran



Honorable Joseph Toia, Vincent DiLorenzo, President Daniel Galli, and Frank DiLorenzo



The annual Licata table!



Vito Pianello, Dave Galli, and Sam Ventimiglia



The fantastic beef carving station at Andiamo Italia



The Festa Della Lira committee grabbing a quick bite before the festivities.



Committee co-chairs Anthony Giordano and Charles Shermetaro making sure all is in order!



The WINNERS! Sal Cuccia, Benny Bommarito, Joe Cipriano representing Angie Morelli, Al DeFlaviis representing Matt Baffo, Peter Fuciarelli, Michael Divozzo, and Mark Galli, not pictured Umberto Piccirilli.

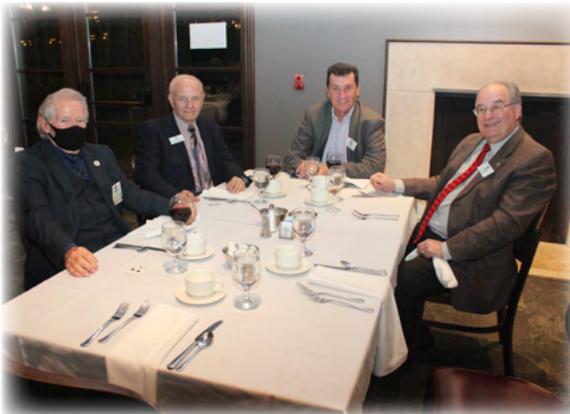
November 2, 2020 • San Marino Club



Arthur White giving a brief history of the Michigan Opera Theatre.



Michigan Opera Theatre Director of External Affairs Arthur White accepting the basket-of-cheer proceeds from the Festa Della Lira along with Dr. Anthony Giordano, Dr. Charles Shermetaro and President Daniel Galli



Paul Calcaterra, Gino Esposito, Gary Minoletti, and Tim Monicatti enjoying an evening of camaraderie.



Pietro Fuciarelli, Ray Cavaliere, and Peter A. Fuciarelli awaiting dinner.



President Dan Galli welcoming everyone to the San Marino Club

February 3, 2021 • Petruzzello's Banquet Center



Dave Galli swears in the new 2021 Officers and Board of Directors



Dave Galli receiving an award from his brother Dan for his service as Chairman-of-the-Board.



Immediate Past President Dan Galli receiving an award for his outstanding leadership from President Charles Shermetaro



Newly elected President Charles Shermetaro thanks Dan Galli for his service as President in 2019 and 2020



Paul Calcaterra gives the invocation before dinner...then a little story!

Italian American Chamber of Commerce

2021 Installation of Officers/Board of Directors

February 3rd, 2021 • Villa Penna



2021 Officers & Board of Directors

Seated L-R: President Charles Shermetaro, OD, Past President Representative Andy Agosta, Treasurer Frank Coppola, Secretary Angela Pippi-Soave, 2nd Vice President Peter A. Fuciarelli, 1st Vice President Mark Garagiola **Standing L-R:** Michel Tenaglia, James Timpa, Michael Locricchio, Anthony C. Licata III, Chairman of the Board Charles Moran, Philip Maniaci, Immediate Past President Daniel Galli, Joseph Burke
 Not pictured: Financial Secretary Michael Divozzo, Joseph Divozzo, Sam Palazzolo, Past President Representative Vito Pianello

March 3, 2021 • Eastpointe Manor



Our Macomb County Team – Larry Rocca, Treasurer, →
 Peter Lucido, Prosecutor, and Joe Biondo, Deputy Treasurer

NEW MEMBERS

Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido swore in our newest members, Anthony J. Palomba, Palomba Landscape, and Juanita Hickmon, My3Angels LLC. Prosecutor Lucido was the keynote speaker for the evening and spoke about the Prosecutor's Office responsibilities to the citizens which it serves.



Grapevine Membership Business Directory

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The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan

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President
Charles Shermetaro, OD

1ST VICE PRESIDENT
Mark Garagiola

2ND VICE PRESIDENT
Peter A. Fuciarelli

SECRETARY
Angela Pippi-Soave

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Michael Divozzo

TREASURER
Frank Coppola

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN
Charles Moran

PAST PRESIDENTS 2021
Andrew Agosta
Vito Pianello

TERMS ENDING 2021
Joseph Divozzo
Philip J. Maniaci
James Timpa

TERMS ENDING 2022
Michael Locricchio
Sam Palazzolo
Michel Tenaglia

TERMS ENDING 2023
Joseph Burke
Paul Calcaterra
Anthony C. Licata, III

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Daniel Galli

PAST PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

2018 David A. Lazzara
2017 Vito Pianello
2015 David F. Galli
2014 Andrew Agosta
2013 Joseph P. Ventimiglia
2011 Joseph Toia, Esq.
2010 Thomas Bommarito
2009 Ned R. Piccinini
2008 Ronald A. DiBartolomeo
2007 Salvatore P. Ventimiglia
2004 Paul Calcaterra
2000 Benedetto Marrocco
1999 Augustino Russo
1994 Angelo S. Lanni
1991 Thomas B. Lanni
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."



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In Memorium



Mark Valente, Jr.

IACCM Past President and founder of Valente Formal Wear in Detroit in the 1950's and owner of Valente Realty, passed away on July 31, 2020 at the age of 93.

Frank A. Morelli, Jr.

Long time IACCM member and friend passed away tragically on October 3, 2020 at the age of 55. Frank was a treasured employee of Merrill Lynch.

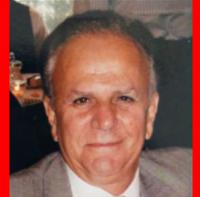


Armen DelPup

Longtime IACCM member and owner of DelPup Development passed away on January 12, 2021 at the age of 90.

Joseph Pellegrino

Long time member of the IACCM and owner of Heritage Realty Associates passed away on February 19, 2021 at the age of 81.



Please keep them, and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

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