



The Grapevine

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The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan

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Visit Our New Website at: www.iaccm.net



Upcoming EVENTS



Notes from the PRESIDENT

FEBRUARY 5, 2014 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

- Italian Cultural Center
43843 Romeo Plank, Clinton Township

MARCH 5, 2014 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

- Palazzo Grande
54660 Van Dyke, Shelby Township

APRIL 2, 2014 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

- Eastpointe Manor
24611 Gratiot, Eastpointe

MAY 7, 2014 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

FESTA DELLA LIRA

(see enclosed flyer for details)

TIME

- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

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

Welcome 2014. How fortunate we are to be beginning this year with friends and family in a comfortable and safe environment. Life may have its ups and downs, but we are constantly reminded that the good keeps winning over the bad. As descendents of Italian immigrants, we all know that if we wanted something better we had to go to work and make it happen. My goal as your 2014 President will be to maintain the structure of our Italian American Chamber of Commerce and to continue to work toward newer programs to strengthen our organization.

Congratulations to our new Officers and Board of Directors. Through their efforts we will continue to improve an already sound structure. The dedication of these members is a gift we are privileged to share.

As in the past the Festa Della Lira and the IACCM golf outing will continue to be key fund raising events. Our scholarship program would not be possible without these events. The many volunteers and participants make these events the great successes that they are. My personal thank you to all who have participated in any way. Somehow great food, good friends, and a worthy cause give us reasons to want to exceed every event with a bigger and better program. Please continue your good work for these events for 2014.

Our young associate members are a great reminder that we need to appeal to all age groups to remain viable. By blending new and old ideas, we will be a better organization and still continue to be an asset to both our country and our heritage.

Our organization will be 100 years old in 2019. We have five years to prepare to make the celebration of this momentous occasion an event to remember. Please help me start this event planning with all your input.

Thank you for the honor of representing our Italian American Chamber of Commerce.

Andrew A. Agosta
President



Chairman's CORNER

With humility, I want to start by thanking the Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan's Board of Directors for entrusting me with the job of serving as the Chairman of the Board for 2014. It is an awesome honor and privilege to serve in this role. I am looking forward to working with the very talented and dedicated leaders of our Italian – American community.

As a member who was sworn in over 23 years ago in 1990 at Roma Café in Eastern Market, I have experienced this organization's growth in so many ways. First and foremost, our membership numbers are double what they were then. Additionally, we have transitioned into a true "Chamber of Commerce" entity by encouraging members to help each other grow by doing business with each other. We also have been giving members exposure to speak at meetings and sharing their expertise with us. This learning experience is great for all of us. The networking activity in the Chamber is alive and well as we enter a new year.

Personally, I pledge my support to continue the purpose of the Chamber. In the bylaws, it is outlined that it was organized to advance the general welfare and prosperity of the Italian – American community inclusive of its business community. We all need to support the Chamber in its endeavors as laid out by our founders. If we all focus in this direction our achievements will be remarkable.

In closing, I want to congratulate Joseph Ventimiglia on his extraordinary accomplishments as President of the Chamber over the last 2 years. He has definitely done what a good leader needs to do when entering a new position. That is, he has left things better, just as our previous leaders have. When you do this, exponential growth is achieved. So with that said, let's give all of our support to our new President Andy Agosta to make 2014 another stellar year for the Chamber.

Also, our appreciation is given to Joe Toia for his excellent job as Chairman of the Board for this last year. His leadership in the board room is stellar. I only hope I can follow in his footsteps with equal distinction.

Best wishes to all of you for a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year for 2014!

Best Regards,

Sam Ventimiglia
Chairman of the Board

Italian Heritage Night

AT THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS

Saturday, February 8

vs. DENVER NUGGETS • 7:30PM

100-LEVEL: \$35 (\$51 value) EXCLUSIVE TICKET PRICING:

- \$5 goes to scholarship for the Italian American Cultural Society
- Special Italian Heritage Night Detroit Pistons T-shirt
- Exclusive postgame experience for all group participants
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TO PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE: pistons.com/italianheritage
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In Memoriam



Sam Ripepi

IACCM President from 1976 thru 1977 and very active member of the Chamber since joining in 1954, passed away on September 15, 2013 at the age of 89.

Dr. Charles Marinelli, DDS

IACCM President from 1985 thru 1987, and long time Chamber member passed away at the age of 63 on December 12, 2013.



Antonio Roselli

IACCM member since 2008, passed away at the age of 78 on December 31, 2013.

Please keep them and their families in your prayers!

Italian-American Chamber of Commerce Birthdays for:

February

2/3	DelPup, Gino	3/23	Santeufemia, Michael N.
2/9	Fuciarelli, Peter A.	3/24	Esposito, Gino
2/17	DeLuca, Antonio	3/26	Giannetti, Frank
2/21	Bianchini, Mauro	3/27	Ferrera, Gene P.
2/22	Taormina, Steven	3/30	Picano, Domenic
2/25	Buffa, John Anthony	3/30	Garagiola, Mark D.
2/27	Gaglio, Philip J.		
2/27	Salerno, Dr. Ramo A.		

March

3/3	Pini, Ray	4/3	Aiello, Mark
3/4	Fuciarelli, Pietro G.	4/3	Calunas, William
3/5	Shermetaro, Charles G.	4/7	Calcaterra, Michael J.
3/6	Pippi, Angela M.	4/12	Poliuto, Valerio
3/8	Carnaghi, Donald	4/13	DiBartolomeo, Richard D.
3/14	Piccinini, Ned R.	4/16	Cerroni, Dante
3/15	Casey, Colin S.	4/17	Canzano, Roger
3/17	Rubino, Anthony M.	4/18	Minoletti, Gary
3/17	Bommarito, Benedict	4/19	Lanni, Angelo S.
3/18	Vicari, Joseph	4/23	Giacalone, Leonard
3/21	Colombo, Charles F.	4/23	Palazzola, Anthony
3/23	Ventimiglia, Joseph W.	4/25	Rocca, Larry
		4/25	Tundo, Samuel
		4/29	Vitale, Vincenzo
		4/30	Gallo, Tony J.

ITALIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEW MEMBERS 2013

John Loiacono - Italian American Cultural Society

Leah Juarez - Klokwerks, Incorporated

Michael Gagleard - Ishbia Gagleard, P.C.

George Horattas

- Resurrection Cemetery, Mt. Elliott Cemetery Association

NEW MEMBERS 2014

Joseph A. Pascaretta - CareTech Solutions

Chris & Tim Poley - Property Concepts

2014 OFFICER/BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS

At the January 8th IACCM meeting, the newly elected 2014 Officers and Board of Directors were sworn in. Congratulations to the following:

OFFICERS

- President – Andrew Agosta
- 1st Vice President – David F. Galli
- 2nd Vice President – Vito Pianello
- Secretary – David Lazzara
- Financial Secretary – Michael Locricchio
- Treasurer – Anthony DeLuca

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

- Salvatore P. Ventimiglia

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ~ Term Ending 2016

- Anthony R. Giordano, DPM
- Mark D. Garagiola
- Nunzio Provenzano



IACCM Memorial Mass and Pancake Breakfast

**November 3, 2013,
Holy Family Church**

Pictured l-r

President Joseph Ventimiglia, Anthony Palazzola, 1st Vice President Andrew Agosta, Angela Pippi, Gino Esposito, Nunzio Provenzano, Father Giuseppe (Pino) Lucciardi, Mark Garagiola, Tom Bommarito, Jim Timpa

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September 4, 2013 Meeting • Ristorante Piccirilli



Members enjoying the fine appetizers prepared by Umberto Piccirilli



Brother-in-laws Frank Pompa and Gino Esposito



President Joseph Ventimiglia presents a plaque to Gino Esposito. The award commemorates his 50th anniversary of being a member of the IACCM.

October 2, 2013 – DeCarlo's Banquet Center



Membership chairman Charles Colombo with new IACCM member Michael Gaglead, Ishbia & Gaglead, P.C.



Members networking before dinner

November 6, 2013 Petruzzello's Banquet Center



Charles Colombo and Honorable Peter Maceroni with new IACCM member George Horattas, Resurrection Cemetery

January 8, 2014 • Zuccaro's Banquet Center



Members and friends enjoying food and conversation

2014 Officers and Board of Directors taking their oath of office from Honorable Judge Peter Maceroni



Members and guests enjoying Zuccaro's great wine and food

Italian American Chamber of Commerce

2014 Installation of Officers/Board of Directors Dinner

January 8, 2014 • Zuccaro's Banquet Center



2014 Italian American Chamber of Commerce Officers/Board of Directors/Past Presidents

Seated l-r: 2nd Vice President Vito Pianello, Chairman Salvatore P. Ventimiglia, Immediate Past President Joseph P. Ventimiglia, President Andrew Agosta, 1st Vice President David Galli, Secretary David Lazzara, Joseph Toia, Gus Russo

Standing l-r: Charles Colombo, Charles Shermetaro, Nunzio Provenzano, Stefano Militello, Paul Calcaterra, Angela Pippi, Ronald A. DiBartolomeo, Daniel Galli, Peter Fuciarelli, Thomas Lanni, Mark D. Garagiola, Anthony Giordano

Officers not pictured: Treasurer Antonio DeLuca, Financial Secretary Michael Locricchio



Joseph P. Ventimiglia welcomes 2014 IACCM President Andrew Agosta



2014 President Andrew Agosta presenting a service award to Joseph P. Ventimiglia for his outstanding work as President in 2012 and 2013.



Joseph P. Ventimiglia presenting a service award to Joseph Toia for his leadership as Chairman of the Board in 2013



Judge Peter Maceroni, along with membership chairman Charles Colombo swearing in new members Joseph A. Pascaretta, CareTech Solutions, and corporate members Chris & Tim Poley of Property Concepts.

Grapevine Membership Business Directory

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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."