



The Grapevine

A Publication From
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 4, 2015 • 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

MARCH 4, 2015 • 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

APRIL 1, 2015 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

- Italian Cultural Center
43843 Romeo Plank, Clinton Township

MAY 6, 2015 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

FESTA DELLA LIRA

See Page 3

TIME

- 6:00 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Eastpointe Manor
24611 Gratiot, Eastpointe

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope that the Christmas holiday season was a happy occasion spent with family and friends. Here's hoping that 2015 is a healthy and prosperous year to all our members and their families. I would like to thank the Past Presidents council for having the confidence in me to be the President of this great organization. It is truly an honor. This position for me is the culmination of being a board member and officer for 10 years. Being involved in this organization has been enjoyable mainly due to the many good people I've met. Getting involved is something I strongly encourage any member to do, especially the new members. There's no better way to meet other members than to get involved with one of our fund raising committees or selling 50-50 raffle tickets at our monthly meetings.

I would like to welcome the 2 newest additions to the board this year. First, our Chairman Ron DiBartolomeo. It's always nice to have a past president back to lead our board. Second, Frank Palazollo who I'm sure will be a great addition.

This year I'm looking forward to working with the board and officers to continue to improve the quality of our meetings. We're currently working on guest speakers for 2015 and have a few lined up so far. The other thing I'd like to see members use more of is our website, iaccm.net. It is a great source of information for all things regarding the IACCM.

Congratulations go out to two of our members who recently were elected to serve the public. The newest Honorable Judge Maceroni is James, elected to replace his Dad Pete on the bench in Macomb County Circuit Court. For those of us living in the 36th district, our new State Representative is Peter J Lucido. The best of luck to both of you in your new positions.

And lastly, I'd like to remind the membership that first time guests that could be potential members are invited to attend a meeting free of charge. We're continually trying to grow the membership but this is not possible without the help of all members.

Ciao!
David F. Galli, President



Chairman's CORNER

By now, I'm sure that many people have come up to you and said, "May you have a Healthy and Prosperous New Year," and I'm sure you have said that to others, and you've probably made new year resolutions as well. But the fact of the matter is, will you carry it out? The first of the year is the time to get things in order.

To have and maintain a healthy new year, schedule your yearly physical. That includes vision and dental.

Review your health insurance plan to make sure you have the proper coverage. With the Affordable Care Act in effect, insurance policies and coverages have gone through major changes.

If you have a life insurance policy, be sure it is updated, i.e., do you have enough insurance? Are the beneficiaries correct?

Do you have a will or trust, and if so, is it up to date?

Go over your financial portfolio. Check to see if you're getting the maximum out of your fund(s), and if you are contributing enough.

And finally, start pulling everything together for your taxes.

Accomplishing these few simple tasks will ensure you of a "Healthy and Prosperous New Year."

If you are in need of any professional advice or service for any of the abovementioned items, refer to our directory. We have members that specialize in each of these categories, and they will be more than happy to assist you.

I hope you all have a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.
Best regards,

Ron DiBartolomeo, Chairman of the Board

ITALIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEW MEMBERS 2015

Joseph A. Pascaretta – CareTech Solutions

Mauro Bianchini - Tri-Phase Commercial Construction

Lawrence Crocenzi - Great Lakes Tile Products

Ron Venditelli – San Marino Club

Chris/Tim Poley – Property Concepts

Sherry Provenzano – Rose Senior Living, LLC

Philip J. Maniaci – Raymond James & Associates

James Maceroni – Judge 16th District Court

Dawn Bartolomeo - Excaliber Holdings

Anthony M. Tocco - Digigraphx Embroidery/Detroit Sign

Jeffrey A. Bonanni – Pet Supplies Plus

Mark F. Deldin –

Deputy County Executive/Macomb County Government

Enzo Paglia – H & R Block

In Memoriam



Richard Notte

IACCM member and Mayor of Sterling Heights, passed away at the age of 76 on October 28, 2014

Steve Messina

IACCM member, Founder & Owner of Messina Trucking, and President of Scalawags Golf Club, passed away at the age of 80 on November 30 2014.



Please keep them and their families in your prayers!

Chamber Archives – sharing our history

A Blessing from Pope Paul VI by P. Calcaterra,
G. Esposito & F. Pompa

Pope Paul VI (Born 9/26/1897 – died 8/6/1978) was elected on June 21, 1963 and reigned until his death on August 6, 1978.

The year 1978 is known as the year of three Popes. John Paul I who was elected to replace Pope Paul VI lived only thirty three days and was replaced by the well loved Pope John Paul II who reigned until 2005.

Pope Paul VI – (see above).

Pope John Paul I – 33 days. elected on 8/26/1978 and died on 9/28/1978.

Pope John Paul II elected on 10/16/1978 and held the position for almost 27 years until his death in 2005.

Why the short history lesson? Because, the Chamber holds the honor of being blessed by Pope Paul VI sometime in 1975. Yes we have a framed document on display in our Archive Cabinet (Stored at the Fern Hill CC) containing this blessing.

Marion Macioce (deceased RIP) a Chamber member and retired Union Official had the honor of a personal audience with Pope Paul VI. At that occasion Mr. Macioce requested that the Pope bless our organization. Do you know of any other organization that has the blessing of a Pope. You are now better informed.

We wish you all a healthy and a prosperous New Year,
F. Pompa 12/23/14

Final Thoughts



In the tradition of our immigrant forefathers, we joyously celebrate the beginning of a new year. Welcome 2015.....The strength and determination of our ancestors will always be a source of courage. We need to continue to make the world better, for ourselves and those around us. The world continually finds ways to test our belief in the good in all people.

With so many charities requesting our support, it will be our responsibility to continue to make this Italian American Chamber of Commerce a growing and vital organization.

With your support the new President, Dave Galli and the new Board of Directors will strive to continue and improve. As an organization we must continue old traditions and find new and improved methods of gaining the support and trust of our younger generations. We do not want to lose who we are and where we came from. It requires all of us. I'm sure with all the great, young minds among us we can add new and unusual sources of income to support our scholarship program. The Festa Della Lira continues to be fun and exciting. Your participation is the key.

Thanks to all of you for the support of the annual golf outing. Our 2015 golf outing honoree will be Paul Calcaterra. Paul has always been a prominent member of our Italian family and we really appreciate all of the things he does for us.

Let's not forget (2) two of our loyal members who we lost this past year Mayor Richard Notte and Steve Messina, they will be greatly missed.

It has been an honor for me to serve as your President. Thank you

Andy Agosta

At the time of this writing we had just finished our nominations process and are moving toward elections which will be held at our December meeting. By the time you read this, elections will be completed and we will be going into our 2015 administration year. Also, we are currently conducting a membership drive, but I want you to keep some things in mind because you won't be reading this before the membership drive is over. Even though we are having a "drive", that isn't the only time that you should be recruiting for new qualified and talented members. We should be recruiting prospective members all year long. When evaluating the worthiness of our organization, a prospective member is determining the value that they will receive as a member.



I belong to many professional organizations and I've thought about the differences between them and our Italian American Chamber. All of them use some of my dues money to pay lobbyists; they provide continuing education classes and credits to me; have a code of ethics that we swear to abide by and conduct ourselves under. All of that adds up to value for me which makes my dues worth it.

Let's talk about the great value we get from "The Chamber" for our dues. 1st of all, we have ten meetings (5 for associate members) with our dinner included. If you attend every meeting that averages \$40/dinner. I believe you'll agree that our dinners are definitely worth \$40. Secondly, we have awesome

camaraderie with our fellow members with excellent networking opportunities. We also gain prestige from belonging to such a great organization with a respected history. Not to mention, the community spirit and notoriety we get from raising funds for our college scholarship program.

There is no doubt about it, each and every one of us gets a tremendous value for our dues paid, so go out there and bring others into our great organization. I'm sure you'll find that sharing the Chamber will make you feel great!

In a closing note, I want to thank the membership, the board of directors and President Agosta for bestowing the honor of serving as the Chairman of the Board for 2014.

I appreciate the faith and confidence you have placed in me over the years I have served as a committee member, a committee chair, a board member various officer positions and President and finally a Chairman.

My membership in the IACCM has been the highlight of any of my extra-curriculum community activities. The friendship I have made and continue to make here are very heartwarming to me.

My sincere wishes that you had a very Blessed and Merry Christmas and that your New Years is filled with hope, health and prosperity.

Sam Ventimiglia

FESTA DELLA LIRA

(in conjunction with the general membership meeting)

**MAY 6, 2015 • EASTPOINTE MANOR
24611 Gratiot, Eastpointe • 6:00 pm**

REVERSE RAFFLE WITH A GRAND PRIZE OF \$10,000

PLUS OVER \$3,000 IN ADDITIONAL CASH PRIZES

Hors d'oeuvres open bar, fabulous dinner, 50-50 raffle, basket of cheer

TICKET INFORMATION COMING SHORTLY!!



IACCM Memorial Mass and Pancake Breakfast November 2, 2014, Holy Family Church

Pictured l-r

Paul Calcaterra, Mark Garagiola, Gino Esposito, Joseph Toia, Nunzio Provenzano, Angela Pippi, Charles Promesso, Father Giuseppe (Pino) Lucciardi, Tom Bommarito, Andy Agosta, Jim Timpa, Anthony Palazzola

September 3, 2014 • Rivercrest Banquet Center



Members enjoying a great meal!



President Agosta and Rivercrest Owner Nino Tocco



A little wine on the patio before dinner!

October 1, 2014 • DeCarlo's Banquet Center



Guest Speaker Sheriff Tony Wickersham



Members hoping to get lucky with 50/50 raffle



Dinner is about to be served! Cheers!

November 5, 2014 • Petruzzello's Banquet Center



Guest Speaker Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel



Members enjoying some delicious appetizers



President Agosta, Membership Chairman Chuck Colombo, and Honorable Peter Maceroni with newest IACCM corporate member Dawn Bartolomeo, Excaliber Holdings

December 3, 2014 • Mirage Banquet Center



Dinner time! Mangia, Mangia!



Mirage owner John DiGiuseppe making sure everything is perfect!



Immediate Past President Joe Ventimiglia announcing the 2015 election results!

Italian American Chamber of Commerce

2015 Installation of Officers/Board of Directors

General Membership Meeting January 7, 2015 • Palazzo Grande



2015 Italian American Chamber of Commerce Officers/Board of Directors/Past Presidents

Seated l-r: President David F. Galli, Paul Calcaterra, Salvatore P. Ventimiglia, Gus Russo, Mark Valente, Immediate Past President Andrew Agosta, Thomas Lanni, Joseph Toia, Chairman Ronald A. DiBartolomeo, Joseph P. Ventimiglia

Standing l-r: Financial Secretary Michael Locricchio, Charles G. Shermetaro, Nunzio Provenzano, 2nd Vice President David A. Lazzara, Treasurer Antonio DeLuca, Charles F. Colombo, Angela Pippi, Frank J. Palazzolo, 1st Vice President Vito Pianello, Daniel Galli, Mark D. Garagiola, Anthony R. Giordano



Members anxiously waiting for dinner!



Honorable Richard Caretti swearing in newest members Mark Deldin, Anthony Tocco, and Jeffrey Bonanni



2015 President David Galli presenting a thank you award to 2014 President Andrew Agosta



President David Galli introducing 50+ year member Mark Valente, Jr.



Honorable Richard Caretti swearing in the 2015 Officers/Board of Directors

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."