



The Grapevine

A Publication From
The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan

Winter Issue • 2016

Volume 15 • Number 1

Visit Our New Website at: www.iaccm.net



Upcoming EVENTS

FEBRUARY 3, 2016 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Petruzzello's Banquet Center
6950 Rochester Road, Troy

MARCH 2, 2016 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

NETWORKING MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

- Palazzo Grande
54460 Van Dyke, Shelby Twp.

APRIL 6, 2016 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

WINE PRESENTATION

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

LOCATION

- Andiamo Italia
7096 East 14 Mile Road, Warren

MAY 4, 2016 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

FESTA DELLA LIRA

See Page 3

TIME

- 6:00 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Zuccaro's Banquet Center
46601 Gratiot, Chesterfield



Notes from the PRESIDENT

Happy New Year!

I am honored to serve as the 2016 President of the Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan.

I would like to thank both Dave Galli and Ron DiBartolomeo for their leadership as President and Chairman during 2015. Also, congratulations to our new Officers and Board of Directors. It is the Chamber's goal to offer value to our members and to the communities we serve. As we enter into a New Year for the IACCM, I want to listen and understand the needs of our members. As we work together to grow the Chamber and members involved, we must all agree that the long term growth of the Chamber is through the continued growth and development of our young Italian people. These individuals will eventually be the leaders of tomorrow, guiding the future of our community. Membership growth requires participation of our current membership. How you present the Chamber has a direct impact on the Chamber's ability to grow. Inviting a guest to a meeting for the first time is a wonderful way to do so. I have asked Dan Galli to head up a committee to develop a marketing brochure that we can hand out to prospective members. We need to educate and inform prospective members about who we are and what we offer to the community. Any questions regarding the Chamber can be routed to our membership committee which will be chaired by our new board members, RJ Koss and Matt Baffo.

Our biggest events continue to be The Festa Della Lira and IACCM golf outing. These fundraisers both serve to support our scholarship program. The volunteers and participation makes these events a huge success. Please mark your calendar! The Festa Della Lira will be held at Zuccaro's on May 4, 2016 and the golf outing will be on June 27, 2016 at Scalawags. Thank you for your support and participation at these events.

Two other upcoming events include our networking event, which will be chaired by Dan Galli, and a guest speaker presentation, chaired by Dave Lazzara. Each event will provide value to our members. Please contact each chairperson if you are willing to participate.

Our organization will be 100 years old in 2019. We have a few years to prepare to make the celebration of this occasion an event to remember. The Chairperson for this event will be Ron DiBartolomeo. A lot of planning will go into this event. Your support would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Vito Pianello



Men's Social

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TELL YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND
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MORE INFORMATION WILL BE ANNOUNCED
AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE

**Where: Randazzo Fresh Market
49800 Hayes Road
Macomb Township**

**When: 4-21-16
5 pm Arrival**



All Proceeds Benefit
ST. LOUIS CENTER

ITALIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEW MEMBERS 2015

- Jerry Norcia – DTE Energy
- Michael R. Notte – Fiat Chrysler
- Joseph C. Rubino – Northwestern Mutual
- Nino Messina – Messina Trucking
- David Cercone – Hard Rock Stone Works
- Arnaldo I. Direzze – Shelby Family Dentistry
- Dr. Mike Aiello – Java Java
- Enrico Rosselli – La Dolce Vita
- Michael Divozzo – Duo-Care Carpet Cleaning

In Memoriam



Deepest Sympathy...

IACCM member and Board of Director Frank Joseph Palazzolo, 64 years old, passed away on September 10, 2015. He was the husband of Victoria. They were happily married in 1982 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Woods. Together, Frank and Vikki raised two boys, Sam and Michael.

Chamber Archives

– sharing our history

A pre-winter evening with the Mayor of “Caca Lupo”
– Russell Gambino (RIP)

It was a cold snowy night, not much to do. Certainly did not want to go out driving anywhere. I had been working on our Archive materials, because we had a meeting at Fern Hill the previous day and there is no end to making improvements. I brought home from the meeting a DVD of Russ being interviewed by a Channel 6 reporter who primarily wanted to learn about Caca Lupo. The result was a one hour question/answer recording of Russ very calmly telling the reporter what he knew about that very Italian, mainly Sicilian Italian section of Detroit located Gratiot to Van Dyke (east/west) and Harper to Traverse (south to north).

A little bit about Russ; he was a business person at one time owning and operating a trucking Company. He is one of our past Presidents (1988/1989) and also was Chairman of the Board during my term (1979/1980). Nice man, well liked, by all. I also believe he was a Brother – law to the Macomb County Prosecutor George Parish.

The program tells us that Russ grew up in that locally famous Italian neighborhood. His family moved there around 1920 (the Chamber was one year old) when he was about the age of three.

How did the name “Caca Lupo” come to be? Don’t believe that story about the car loop; not so. The truth is, (Russ says) the term in Sicilian means, where the “Wolf Sh—s”. So when the old timers were asked by the newly arrived, where does so and so live, the answer was “du caco lupo”. That location being way out in the swampy country, at the end of the street car line, and where some people choose to live for economic reasons or to avoid the city crowds.

Russ talks about the stores, mainly all small family owned and of course all Italian. He tells about schools and also the sur names of the families that lived there, some of which you hear in every one of our Chamber meetings.

He mentions the little Club House that was built on the corner of Harper and McLellan that was named “Italo American Democratic Club” where he as a young man enjoyed many great Italian dinners prepared by the men members. It was also a gathering place where many of the area politicians would visit. Names like Frank Murphy, Louis Marianni, Soapy Williams and many others. This was a great place to visit, especially at election times. I think I read that our own Chamber in the beginning used that location to hold a few meetings.

He tells us about the two “Caca Lupo Reunions” held five years apart, I am guessing around the 1982 – 1987 period. He was the Chairman of the event, hence, the name “Mayor” that I have chosen for him. Those events were held at the Imperial Hall on Groesbeck south of 15 mile Rd. He was asked, was there dancing? His reply, are you kidding, the place was packed with 1340 people; no room for dancing. He tells about the area’s most famous person, Caca Lupo born and raised singer/actor Johnny Desmond (RIP) who showed up

at the second reunion. He said he sang so many songs that the audience was displeased, not at his performance, but because he was using valuable time; they wanted to talk old times.

He also mentioned the second reunion when a “bomb threat” caused the Hall to be evacuated for several hours. He says only about thirty guests failed to return to the party when the search was completed, and the people were allowed back in.

This article is getting a little too long, sorry. Also sorry if there are miss spelled words.

Our goal is to be accurate. If this article fails in this regard, please contact the Archive Committee.

Great memories. Thank you Russell

If you are interested in borrowing the recording (available in both tape and DVD) talk to one of the Archive committee people.

Be Healthy and God Bless & Happy New Year – The Archive Committee Frank Pompa, Paul Calcaterra and Gino Esposito

FESTA DELLA LIRA

(in conjunction with the general membership meeting)

MAY 4, 2016

**ZUCCARO’S BANQUET CENTER
46601 Gratiot, Chesterfield • 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 8, 2015, Holy Family Church

Pictured l-r

Andy Agosta, Joseph Toia, Fr. Pino Licciardi, Anthony Palazzola, Angela Pippi, Paul Calcaterra, Frank Coppola, Mark Garagiola

2016 OFFICER/BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS

At the January 13th IACCM meeting, the newly elected 2016 Officers and Board of Directors were sworn in. Congratulations to the following:

OFFICERS

- President – Vito Pianello
- 1st Vice President – David Lazzara
- 2nd Vice President – Daniel Galli
- Secretary – Peter A. Fuciarelli
- Financial Secretary – Michael Locricchio
- Treasurer – Michel Tenaglia

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

- Thomas Bommarito

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

~ Term Ending 2018

- Charles F. Colombo
- Frank Coppola
- Charles G. Shermetaro, OD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

~ Term Ending 2017

- Matthew Baffo
- Ralph J. Koss

PAST PRESIDENTS 2016

- Andrew Agosta
- Salvatore P. Ventimiglia

Italian-American Chamber of Commerce Birthdays for:

February

| | | | |
|------|----------------------|------|---------------------|
| 2/3 | DelPup, Gino | 3/8 | Carnaghi, Donald |
| 2/9 | Fuciarelli, Peter A. | 3/12 | Bonanni, Jeffrey A. |
| 2/17 | DeLuca, Antonio | 3/14 | Piccinini, Ned R. |
| 2/19 | Notte, Michael R. | 3/15 | Casey, Colin S. |
| 2/21 | Bianchini, Mauro | 3/17 | Bommarito, Benedict |
| 2/22 | Taormina, Steven | 3/17 | Rubino, Anthony M. |
| 2/27 | Gaglio, Philip J. | 3/18 | Vicari, Joseph |
| 2/27 | Salerno, Dr. Ramo A. | 3/21 | Colombo, Charles F. |

March

| | | | |
|-----|------------------------|------|-------------------------|
| 3/3 | Pini, Ray | 3/23 | Santeufemia, Michael N. |
| 3/4 | Fuciarelli, Pietro G. | 3/24 | Esposito, Gino |
| 3/5 | Shermetaro, Charles G. | 3/26 | Giannetti, Frank |
| 3/6 | Pippi, Angela M. | 3/30 | Picano, Domenic |
| | | 3/30 | Garagiola, Mark D. |

April

| | |
|------|--------------------------|
| 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 | Rocca, Larry |
| 4/25 | Tundo, Samuel |
| 4/29 | Vitale, Vincenzo |
| 4/30 | Gallo, Tony J. |

May

| | |
|------|-----------------------|
| 5/2 | Caccamo, Gaetano |
| 5/4 | Russo, Agostino |
| 5/5 | Morelli, Jr., Frank |
| 5/7 | Valente Jr., Mark |
| 5/7 | Agosta, Anthony Allan |
| 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. |
| 5/17 | Paglia, Enzo |
| 5/19 | Varanelli, Jeffrey |
| 5/23 | Scalzi, Frank |
| 5/28 | Maniaci, Frank |
| 5/30 | Lawroski, Eric |

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September 2, 2015, DeCarlo's Banquet Center



Memorial Plaque being presented to the Steve Messina family for his years of dedication to the John B. Agosta golf outing by Chairman Andy Agosta and Past President Joseph Ventimiglia



Basket of Cheer proceeds check presented to the Leader Dogs for the Blind by Festa Della Lira Chairmen Dr. Anthony Giordano and Dr. Charles Shermetero



New IACCM members (l-r) Jerry Norcia, DTE Energy; David Cercone, Hard Rock Stone Works; Enzo Paglia, H & R Block, with President David Galli

October 7, 2015, Zuccaro's Banquet Center



Honorable Joseph Toia swearing in the newest IACCM member, Dr. Arnaldo Direzze, Shelby Family Dentistry



A packed house anxiously awaiting the fine food from the Zuccaro family!



Members enjoying some wine and camaraderie before dinner!

November 4, 2015, Rivercrest Banquet Center



Paul Calcaterra swearing in newest IACCM members Dr. Mark Aiello, Java Java; Enrico Rosselli, La Dolce Vita!



Guest speaker Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel



Smiling faces all around....lets eat!



Italian American Chamber of Commerce

2016 Installation of Officers/Board of Directors

General Membership Meeting • January 13, 2016



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

Seated l-r: Financial Secretary Michael Locricchio, 2nd Vice President Daniel Galli, President Vito Pianello, 1st Vice President David A. Lazzara, Treasurer Michel Tenaglia, Secretary Peter Fuciarelli

Standing l-r: Immediate Past President David F. Galli, Salvatore Ventimiglia, Frank Coppola, Matthew Baffo, Ralph Koss, Thomas Bommarito, Angela Pippi-Soave, Dr. Anthony Giordano, Andrew Agosta, Nunzio Provenzano, Charles Shermetaro OD, Mark Garagiola Not pictured: Charles F. Colombo



2015 President David F. Galli presenting a thank you award to Treasurer Antonio DeLuca for his 15+ years of dedicated service



2015 President David F. Galli presenting a thank you award to 2015 Chairman of the Board Ronald DiBartolomeo



Honorable Joseph Toia with newest IACCM member Peter Lucido III



← Honorable Joseph Toia swearing in the 2016 Officers/Board of Directors

2016 President Vito Pianello presenting a thank you award to 2015 President David F. Galli →



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TERMS ENDING 2017

Matthew Baffo

Ralph J. Koss

Angela M. Pippi-Soave

TERMS ENDING 2018

Charles F. Colombo

Frank Coppola

Charles G. Shermetaro, OD

PAST PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

David F. Galli

PAST PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

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

2006 William A. Morelli, Sr.

2004 Paul Calcaterra

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."



IACC is hosting an *Italian Wine School* on April 6th 6:30pm at Andiamo in Warren. There is no cost for members. Guest are encouraged to attend and will be charged \$40. We need a total head count by our March 2nd meeting.



Pierluigi Giachi is the President of Tenuta Torciano. Their Vineyards' are in the hills of San Gimignano. Luigi and his family are 4th generation wine makers and are very passionate about the wine and oil they produce in Tuscany. They have agreed to come and visit with us at our monthly meeting while they are here on Vacation.



Luigi will teach us how his wines are made and how to pair them up with the proper food. You will be participating as he takes us thru this journey with him and his family. I promise you will find this presentation entertaining and informative.

Wine will be available to purchase thru his distribution warehouse in Chicago if you are interested. Please let Debbie (586) 925-2020 know how many guest will be attending by our March 2nd Meeting.