



The Grapevine

A Publication From

The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan

Winter Issue • 2013

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Visit Our New Website at: www.iaccm.net



Upcoming EVENTS

JANUARY 9, 2013 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Installation of Officers/Board of Directors 2013

TIME

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

LOCATION

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

Spouses/Significant others invited for \$40 fee

FEBRUARY 6, 2013 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

- Zuccaro's Banquet Center
46601 Gratiot Avenue, Chesterfield

MARCH 6, 2013 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

- Eastpointe Manor
24611 Gratiot Avenue, Eastpointe

APRIL 10, 2013 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

FESTA DELLA LIRA

(see enclosed flyer for info)

TIME

- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Palazzo Grande
54660 Van Dyke, Shelby Township



Notes from the PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! I am hoping that your Christmas holiday season was joyous, safe, and filled with family and friends! Thank you for giving me the opportunity and privilege to represent you as President again in 2013. I appreciate your confidence in me to do what's in the best interest of the IACCM, and to move our Chamber forward toward excellence. This year, and for many years to come, I am hoping that all of us find happiness and prosperity in our personal and business adventures.

I would like to thank all of our members who have gone out to their peers, families, and friends to help build our organization during 2012. I am proud to tell all that we have installed 22 new members at the regular, associate, and corporate levels, and truly hope that we can continue this throughout 2013.

Congratulations to our new Officers and Board of Directors. I truly hope and believe that they will see the importance of our Chamber and continue in the direction that we have so diligently worked for, over so many years.

I would like to thank all of you who helped with our three fundraising events. The Festa Della Lira, IACCM golf outing, and the poker night fundraisers were all hugely successful. Without the support of not only all of the volunteers working tirelessly, but also all those who attended the events, the achievement would not be possible. I am looking forward to even bigger and better attendances for the upcoming 2013 year. Remember that all IACCM fundraising profits go directly to our scholarship program and various other charities we contribute to each



Chairman's CORNER

As we begin a new year, we remain mindful of our nearly 100 years of history and the purpose for which the Chamber was organized. With that said, let us enjoy the present, and plan for the future.

What is the future of the Chamber? That is really up to each of us, the members. Here is what we know: We have history, purpose and strong leadership. We have monthly meetings with guest speakers, networking opportunities, great food and fellowship. We support the Italian community, as well as the community at large, through charitable donations. We have fund raisers, such as the golf outing and the Festa Della Lira, not only enjoy our fellowship and network, but to fund our scholarship program, and charity donations.

Our corporate leadership structure offers opportunity for involvement on committees, expressing ideas, as well as the development of budget and managerial skills. We have updated our website and have become more active in communication through social media. What will 2013 bring? What new ideas? What new benefits for our members? Will the economy improve? Will our membership continue to grow? Can we do more to support our membership and the community? Can we maintain or improve our image and expand our purpose? These are the questionsthe answers are up to US.

Wishing you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

Joe Toia
Chairman of the Board



January

- 1/2 Yearego, James L.
- 1/4 Viviano, Vincent P.
- 1/4 Marrocco, Peter
- 1/14 Coppola, Frank
- 1/18 Ripepi, Sam
- 1/20 Cardella, Michael
- 1/22 Bommarito, Thomas
- 1/26 Leonardi, Frank C.
- 1/28 Torrice, Dr. Peter
- 1/31 Cicchini, Paul

February

- 2/2 Manzella, Vincenzo
- 2/3 DelPup, Gino
- 2/9 Fuciarelli, Peter A.
- 2/17 DeLuca, Antonio
- 2/22 Taormina, Steven
- 2/25 Buffa, John Anthony
- 2/27 Gaglio, Philip J.
- 2/27 Salerno, Dr. Ramo A.

March

- 3/3 Pini, Ray
- 3/4 Fuciarelli, Pietro G.
- 3/5 Shermetaro, Charles G.
- 3/6 Pippi, Angela M.
- 3/8 Carnaghi, Donald
- 3/14 Piccinini, Ned R.
- 3/15 Casey, Colin S.
- 3/17 Rubino, Anthony M.
- 3/17 Bommarito, Benedict
- 3/18 Vicari, Joseph
- 3/21 Colombo, Charles F.
- 3/23 Ventimiglia, Joseph W.
- 3/23 Santeufemia, Michael N.
- 3/24 Esposito, Gino
- 3/26 Giannetti, Frank
- 3/27 Ferrera, Gene P.
- 3/30 Picano, Domenic
- 3/30 Garagiola, Mark D.
- 3/31 Scaccia, John

Motivational Moments — Winter 2013

By William A. Morelli, Sr.

We have come to the close of 2012 and the start of 2013. Not too long ago we were all worrying about what was going to happen with the advent of 2000 or 2001, but that is now a distant memory. We were concerned with who would be the next President and now that, too, is a distant memory. I am sure we are all worried about what 2013 is going to bring with the state of our economy and the problems the state, country and world are facing. Take a few moments to read the following – while it is not going to solve the problems of the world, it may give you something to help with your life, or one of your loved one's life.

Kindness: "You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late." *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Generosity: "Joy comes not to him who seeks it for himself, but to him, who seeks it for other people." *H. W. Sylvester*

Simple Pleasures: Count your blessing. "Every morning wake up and say - Dear Lord, I don't want anything better, just give me more of the same." *Kitty Hart*

Attitude: "Remember that if you look for the worst in life and in people, you'll find it. But if you look for the best, you'll find that instead." *A Course in Miracles.*

Marriage: "Don't forget that marriage is like an empty box. It remains empty unless you put in more that you take out." *Author Unknown*

Parenting: "The first and greatest gift we can bestow on our children is to be a good example." *Sir Charles Morell*

Remember: "Smile, Give Hugs and Tell Someone You Love Them – it will make them feel better and that will make you feel better and it will make the world a little better place to live." And remember, kindness doesn't cost anything but it is worth much. *William A. Morelli, Sr.*

I sincerely hope your 2013 is better than you anticipated, and is something you will enjoy throughout the year.

Ciao!

ITALIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEW MEMBERS 2012

- Anthony Apone** – Bella Luce
- Colin S. Casey** - Great Lakes Wealth Planning
- Jaclyn C. Ventimiglia** - Henry Ford Hospital
- Christina M. Ventimiglia** - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC
- William Calunas** - Peterson and Calunas, PLLC
- Mark D. Garagiola** - Dominick Tringali Architects
- Louis A. Michael** - Wise Buys
- Lucia DiCicco** - Hinman & DiCicco PLC
- Tony J. Gallo** - Gallo Companies
- Vincent Rubino** - Friars Kitchen
- Sam LaGrasso** - United Lawnscape, Inc.
- Dave Gagnon/Greg Gagnon** – Wireless Zone/Verizon Wireless
- Joseph W. Ventimiglia** – Battery Giant
- Frank Maniaci** – Flagstar Bank
- Samual Crudo** - CIA Financial Group
- Dario Lanni/Jeff DiCaro** – Fern Hill Golf Club
- Alfred DeFlaviis** - First State Bank
- Ralph Zerbonia** - UHY Advisors, Inc.
- Mario Signorelli** - Futura Custom Kitchens

NEW MEMBERS 2013

- Anthony Marino** – Novem Capital Management, LLC
- Nino Tocco** – River Crest Banquet Center



2013 OFFICER/BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS

At the December 5th IACCM meeting at Palazzo Grande, the election results were announced for the 2013 Officers and Board of Directors. Congratulations to the following:

OFFICERS

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

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

- **Joseph Toia**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term Ending 2013

- **Nunzio Provenzano**

Term Ending 2015

- **Charles F. Colombo**
- **Peter A. Fuciarelli**
- **Charles G. Shermetaro, D.O.**

Notes From The President

Continued from page 1

year throughout the Italian community. I am asking that all of us make an effort to volunteer for at least one event this year, and attend as many as possible to further our efforts and show support for such worthwhile causes.

Overall, my goals for this year are to build our membership, bring on many young associate members and continue to keep everyone aware and up-to-date about what is going on within the Chamber. I also hope to work together with all the members in areas where we could improve upon. Most importantly, I hope that we maintain our sense of camaraderie, and will be there for each other as an outlet of support, both personally and throughout our professional lives.

Thank you and God bless the Italian American Chamber of Commerce.
Joseph P. Ventimiglia
President

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Italian American Chamber of Commerce September 5, 2012 Meeting – Ristorante Piccirilli



IACCM guest Sheriff Tony Wickersham with President Joseph P. Ventimiglia



Salvatore Ventimiglia, Charles Colombo, Richard Caretti, and Val Poliuto enjoying dinner

November 7, 2012 meeting – Villa Penna



President Ventimiglia with corporate member Ralph Zerbonia of UHY Advisors



Corporate member John Bergmann of AXA Advisors



President Ventimiglia with new member Mario Signorelli of Futura Custom Kitchens

Italian Heritage Night Comerica Park

Joseph P. Ventimiglia, Mark Garagiola, and Tom Bommarito at Italian Heritage Night, September 26, 2012



October 3, 2012 Networking Meeting – Club Venetian



IACCM members listening to networking speaker



Matt Cervone, Just Cruises & Vacations



Jacques & Greg Gagnon of Wireless Zone/Verizon Wireless



President Ventimiglia with new corporate member
Alfred DeFlaviis, First State Bank



Gino DelPup of Plante Moran

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— Kathleen Zenisek, Marketing Director - First State Bank

Page: 30-31

“Our customers notice us in Macomb NOW Magazine. We’re proud to support Michigan vendors and growers in what we offer our customers everyday.”

— Mima Vitale, owner
Vince & Joe’s Gourmet Market

Page: 20-21

“We have received such accolades for our ad in the Macomb NOW Magazine. It is such a great way to advertise locally, especially since it circulates to an immense amount of businesses and people in the Macomb County area.”

— Michael Locricchio,
CPA Metzler Locricchio
Serra & Company, P.C.

Page: 61

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2006 William A. Morelli, Sr.
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2000 Benedetto Marrocco
1999 Augustino Russo
1998 Ned Piccinini
1994 Angelo Lanni
1991 Thomas B. Lanni
1985 Dr. Charles Marinelli
1979 Frank Pompa
1978 Mark Valente, Jr.
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.”