



# The Grapevine

A Publication From  
The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan  
Fall/Winter Issue • 2022  
Volume 21 • Number 3  
Visit Our Website at: [www.iaccm.net](http://www.iaccm.net)



## Upcoming EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 7, 2022 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

- TIME** • 6:00 PM Board Meeting  
• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting  
**LOCATION**  
• Petruzzello's Banquet Center  
6950 Rochester Road, Troy



### OCTOBER 5, 2022 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

#### *Festa Della Lira*

- TIME** • 6:00 PM General Membership Meeting  
**LOCATION**  
• Villa Penna  
43985 Hayes Rd., Clinton Township

## FESTA DELLA LIRA

### OCTOBER 20, 2022 • 2ND ANNUAL PASTA COOKOFF

- TIME** • 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
**LOCATION**  
• Hard Rock Stone Works  
44038 Phoenix Drive, Sterling Heights



### NOVEMBER 2, 2022 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

#### *Nomination of 2023 Officers/Board of Directors*

- TIME** • 6:00 PM Board Meeting  
• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting  
**LOCATION**  
• Mirage Elegant Banquet Center  
16980 18 Mile Road, Clinton Township

### DECEMBER 7, 2022 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

- TIME** • 6:00 PM Board Meeting  
• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting  
**LOCATION**  
• Palazzo Grande  
54450 Van Dyke, Shelby Township



## Notes from the PRESIDENT

I trust everyone has enjoyed these warm summer months as we soon head into our fall season. The Chamber has had many of our major special events over these past few months so a number of people need to be recognized for their contributions.

First, thank you to Honorable Joseph Toia and his committee for their time and effort that go into administering the IACCM Scholarship Program. What a professional job they do in selecting from the many qualified applicants who are furthering their education. The scholarship presentation took place at our June meeting at the San Marino Club.

Secondly, thank you also goes out to Andy Agosta and his golf committee for a very successful 2022 Golf Outing at Fern Hill Golf Club. The event will allow us to donate \$13,500 to the 2023 scholarship fund. This year we honored Gino Esposito, our member with the longest ties to the Chamber. Gino has been a member for over fifty-years and has contributed his time and talents on many committees over the past years. Thank you Gino, for all those years of service to the Chamber!

Thirdly, thank you to Joe Ventimiglia and his committee, as well as all the Chamber members who volunteered their time to help support this year's successful Italian Festival. The IACCM 50/50 Raffle, which took place at the Festival, brought in \$9,000 in additional revenue which will go to support our donations to local charities. Thank you, Dan Galli, Philip Maniaci and Peter Fuciarelli for organizing the raffle and congratulations to Al Marino who was the big winner in this year's raffle.

Our next events include a wine-networking event at Cellar 104 in Mt. Clemens hosted by David Gagnon; the Festa Della



## Chairman's CORNER

Hello to my fellow Italians, how time fly's when you're having fun! While we had many open items to close and get a grip on, I want to say that I really had fun this last year and a half being your chairman.

First, thanks to everyone that has encouraged, mentored, and helped me be Chairman of the Board. It has been a joy learning from the great ones who came before me and those I work alongside of. I personally want to thank President Charles Shermetaro for trusting in me to be your chairman and having an open collaborative relationship. We have grown to become great friends. I want to thank Debbie Demick, who we all know is the link in our chain we cannot operate without. Thanks to the Officers and Board of Directors who have shown me respect as I am fairly new and have worked hand in hand with me to make our venture a continued success.

We have accomplished many things and it goes to show when we come together, we can achieve what we set out to do. We added over 25 new members since 2020, and we have balanced our budget moving forward thanks to the new budget committee. We added members (Alexandria Salvaggio/Aaron Marentette) to handle marketing/website, expanding our brand awareness by connecting on social media where our younger generation can see what we are about, join and experience what becoming a member can offer. We have a bold vibrant vision committee which has brought more networking events to our members, and much more.

So, as this will be my last correspondence as your Chairman, I will continue to love my Italian heritage, my commitment to the Italian Chamber, and expand presence wherever it is needed in the future. Thank you to all who have stepped up and brought their talents to take us to another level. May God bless you all!

Charles Moran  
Chairman of the Board

**Michael A. Locricchio, J.D., CPA**  
Partner



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Lira at Villa Penna's on October 5th under the direction of Dr. Anthony Giordano and Anthony Licata; in late October, the second annual spaghetti cookoff at Hard Rock Stone Works, being put together by Charles Moran and Mark Garagiola.

A special thank you to our Chairman Charles Moran for the past two years of support and direction in leading our full board meetings and monthly meetings. Charles, along with Joe Divozzo, have been instrumental in growing our Chamber roster to our current total of 194 members. Another special thank you to Debbie Demick for all the work and organizational skills that she provides for our meetings, events and communications to the membership.

A thank you also goes out to the past president's council for the support and guidance they bring to the Chamber. It is one of the main reasons our Chamber continues to thrive in these challenging times as we head into our 104th year of existence.

Finally, the annual IACCM Mass, held at Holy Family Church in Detroit, is November 6th at 11:00 am with a breakfast to follow. What a great opportunity for us to gather with our fellow Chamber members and thank God for His many Blessings on our families, businesses and the IACCM.

Ciao,  
Charles G. Shermetaro, O.D., President



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Certified Public Accountant

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f: 586.228.5802  
c: 586.295.9375  
e: taxmanfj@yahoo.com  
w: frankcoppola.com

## Meatball Winners 2022

The Frank J. Palazzolo Memorial Judges  
Meatball Contest has 2 categories:  
individual and restaurant.



L to R Vicky Palazzolo, Paul Calcaterra,  
Phaendra Amormino, individual winner  
*Photo credit Sandra Tornberg*



L to R Vicky Palazzolo, Paul Calcaterra,  
Restaurant Winner Marie Guerra Easterby  
of Cloverleaf Bar & Restaurant



L to R Paul Calcaterra, Macomb County Circuit Judges Teri Lynn  
Dennings, Julie Gatti, James Biernat, Jr., Joseph Toia, Richard  
Caretto, James Maceroni, and Kathryn Viviano.  
*Photo credit Elite Photography*



## 2022 Festa Italiana Italian American Idol Singing Contest Winners



L to R Sponsor Joe Cuccinello, Delaney Garon, David Glazkov,  
Nina Gojcaj, Norah Shields, Lia Lucci, Sofia Taylor, Sam Kesek,  
Isaac Murray, Aaron Caruso, Sandra Tornberg

There were entrants in three age groups, the winners were;  
Lia Lucci - 9 to 12 years, David Glazkov - 13 to 17 years,  
and Nina Gojcaj - 18 and over

## Cannoli Contest

sponsored by Fern Hill.



Joshua Lesinski  
and Matt Gino  
in tie breaker.  
*Photo credit Elite  
Photographic*



Aaron Marentette  
presents plaque to  
winner Matt Gino



# Festa Italiana 2022 – Gara: Dei Bambini

## Cutest Baby Contest Winners



9-12 months: Ellie Tilotti • 13-18 months: Eva Pelino • 19-23 months: Eliana Mittlestadt • 2 years: Ember Kralowski  
3 years: Cecelia Kropf • 4 years: Gaia Hinman • 5 years: AJ Lazzari

Contest winners with Dr. Trina Russo (left) and Dr. Anthony Giordano (left) of Shelby Foot & Ankle, contest sponsors.

*Photo credit Elite Photographic*



## Italian-American Chamber of Commerce Birthdays for:



### September

9/4 D'Anna, Philip  
9/6 Ventimiglia, Joseph P.  
9/8 Lucido, Joseph  
9/10 Cavaliere, Ray  
9/11 Piccirilli, Umberto  
9/12 Gagleard, Michael  
9/12 Lepore, Joey  
9/14 Agosta, Andrew  
9/15 Wilson, Rebecca L.  
9/18 Crudo, Samuel  
9/21 Lazzara, David A.  
9/22 Pianello, Vito  
9/24 DeFlaviis, Alfred  
9/25 Mercurio, Jr., Frank A  
9/28 Promesso, Charles

9/28 Ventimiglia Stranding,  
Jaclyn

9/29 Toarmino, Edward

9/29 Terzo, Thomas

### October

10/1 Esposito, Rosario  
10/2 Tocco, Nino  
10/3 Licata, III, Anthony C.  
10/3 Palazzolo, Jerry  
10/1 Esposito, Rosario  
10/6 Gatti, John D.  
10/11 D'Agostini, Antonio  
10/12 Meli, Paul  
10/27 Divozzo, Michael

### November

11/2 DiBartolomeo, Ronald A.  
11/11 Marino, Al  
11/15 Koss, Ralph  
11/17 Milkey, James A.  
11/18 Galli, Daniel A.  
11/18 Gentilia, John J.  
11/21 Moran, Charles  
11/25 Calcaterra, Lawrence  
11/25 Terzo, Leo

### December

12/1 Cervone, Matthew D.  
12/3 Torres, Dominic G.  
12/5 DeCarlo, Gary A.  
12/7 Gallo, Frank  
12/7 Cuccia, Salvatore

12/13 DiCicco, Lucia  
12/17 Bonadeo, David C.  
12/21 Palazzolo, Sam  
12/27 Tenaglia, Michel  
12/28 Pascaretta, Joseph A.

### January

1/1 Maniaci, Philip J.  
1/2 Yearego, James L.  
1/4 Marrocco, Peter  
1/11 Bommarito, Anthony  
1/14 Coppola, Frank  
1/20 Cardella, Michael  
1/22 Maceroni, Hon. James  
1/22 Bommarito, Thomas  
1/26 Palomba, Anthony J.  
1/28 Torrice, Dr. Peter  
1/28 Schmelzer, James

## July 22nd • Full Board Meeting

The Officers and Board of Directors met for the summer full board meeting to discuss the upcoming events and meetings. A few took advantage of a round of golf before the meeting. The meeting took place at Fern Hill Golf club...where you never leave hungry!

In attendance were Aaron Marentette, Philip Maniaci, Anthony Licata, Mike Divozzo, Mike Locricchio, Joe Burke, Dan Galli, Joe Toia, Mike Tenaglia, Pete Fuciarelli, Paul Calcaterra, Charles Moran, Jim Timpa, Chuck Shermatero, Gus Russo, Andy Agosta, Mark Garagiola, and Deb Demick



Andy Agosta, President Charles Shermetaro & Gus Russo

Andy Agosta, Joe Divozzo, Charles Moran, and Mike Divozzo



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

David Gagnon



CELLAR 104 In Macomb



Raise a Glass to a New Winery



*Cellar 104*  
Boutique Winery

## World Varietal Winery

**David Gagnon** is Vintner and Managing Member of **World Varietal Winery** and **Cellar 104 Tasting Room**. He started making wine over 18 years. Before opening Cellar 104 in Downtown Mount Clemens, he was involved in the Retail Wireless industry with my brother, Greg Gagnon, dating back to 1985.

Retiring in 2015, David soon became bored with the simple life, when his friends and family convinced him to open a Winery. So, in 2018, acquiring 104 Macomb Place in Downtown Mount Clemens with sister Marie Loffredo and started producing wine for the public.

Growing up in this area, he wanted to provide an upscale atmosphere, serving special wine for everyone's Enjoyment.

At Cellar 104, the objective is to provide the greatest wine tasting experience available and offers more than 20 different wine varietals we **produce here in Mount Clemens** with juice sourced from **Italy, Chile and California**.



Wines taste remarkably different than other wines. They are made naturally, **without additives**. Another **noticeable difference** is they are **not oaked**, aged minimum of 12 months for **Signature Collection** and 24 months for **Reserves Collections**.

Whether you enjoy red or white wine, we believe you will be pleasantly surprised with the pure character of these wines served at Cellar 104 as well as available for purchase at Total Wine & More.

**Cellar 104... "Produce Wine Naturally for Your Enjoyment"**

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586-242-2222 • [www.Cellar104.com](http://www.Cellar104.com)

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Paula Badalamente

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IMAGIO™

Paula is the President and co-founder of IMAGIO™ a local Sterling Heights company. Over 10 years ago she set a new course to establish her dream of making a difference in the design world. Pure passion has driven her to the creation of a recognized brand that is known nationally.

IMAGIO is a pioneer of image-to-glass technology for interior design with their solid glass backsplashes, shower walls, and more. The business started in 2011 by developing a proprietary process that enables them to image glass with infinite design possibilities. This groutless process coupled with superior design gives their customers a premium product from an award-winning team. Her company is steadfast to promote safe, healthy, and sustainable environments where we live, work, and play.



# June 24th, IACCM John B. Agosta Memorial Golf Outing Fern Hill Golf Club



## IACCM golf outing



## Italian American Chamber of Commerce John B. Agosta Memorial 38th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing



Italian American Chamber of Commerce John B. Agosta Memorial 38th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing

What beautiful memories were made during this year's golf outing. Friends old and new gathering to support scholarships provided by the Italian Chamber. This year we had 144 golfers and 46-hole sponsors as well as 8 majors sponsors which netted a profit of over \$16,000. Since we started the scholarship awards, we have granted over \$300,000 in scholarships. This outing is a major source of that revenue. Your participation this year will help to provide the students with scholarships up to \$1,500. Without your support this would not be possible.

From all of us, a special thank you to Debbie Demick for keeping our finances in order, Jeff DiCaro and Dario Lanni of Fern Hill Golf Club for hosting this event and to all my committee members who contributed a great deal of time and talent to this event. A special acknowledgement to this year's honoree, Gino Esposito, for all he has done for the Chamber and our Italian community during his 56 year membership.

Next years golf outing is currently in the planning stages, stay tuned for all the details

I am looking forward to your participation.

Andy Agosta  
Golf Chairman

### 2022 Scholarship Recipients

Carlina Galli  
Layna Gatti  
Carly Moran  
Gianna Agosta  
Honorable Joseph Toia  
President Charles Shermetaro, OD  
Dianna Palazzolo  
Ryan Veneri  
Dominic Lucido  
Grace DiGiorgio

**Festa Italiana 2022 • Freedom Hill County Park.**





## FESTA DELLA LIRA

(in conjunction with the general membership meeting)

**October 5, 2022**

**Villa Penna**

**43985 Hayes**

**Clinton Township, 6:00 PM**

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

**PLUS OVER \$3,000 IN  
ADDITIONAL CASH PRIZES**

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# June 1, 2022 • San Marino Club • Scholarship Awards



▲  
**Pictured L-R,** Carlina Galli,  
 Layna Gatti, Carly Moran,  
 Gianna Agosta,  
 Honorable Joseph Toia,  
 President Charles Shermetaro, OD,  
 Dianna Palazzolo, Ryan Veneri,  
 Dominic Lucido, Grace DiGiorgio  
**Not pictured;** Nico Gonnella,  
 Abigail Cunningham, Alexa Minoletti,  
 Adriann Gonnella

▲  
 A full house for the  
 evening's events!



➤  
 Honorable Joseph Toia swearing in  
 our newest members: Steven R. Fox,  
 Macomb County Prosecutors Office;  
 Luigi Fiorino, Contracting Services  
 of Michigan; Rebecca Wilson, The  
 Dobrusin Law Firm;  
 Raymond Confer, Highlands  
 Restaurant/Olin Restaurant



# **"Our distinguished scholarship recipients with Honorable Joseph Toia"**



Dominic Lucido



Ryan Veneri



Distinguished Lido Bucci award  
recipient Carlina Galli



Grace DiGiorgio



Carly Moran



Gianna Agosta



Leyna Gatti



Honorable Joseph Toia giving a history  
of the scholarship program



Tony Rubino accepting for his  
granddaughter Abigail Cunningham



Dianna Palazzolo

# Grapevine Membership Business Directory

## ★ ACCOUNTING/CPA

### **Metzler Locricchio Serra & Co., PC**

Michael A. Locricchio, J.D., CPA  
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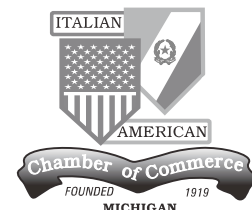
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*Matthew Manzella*  
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# The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan

## OFFICERS

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Charles Shermetaro, OD

1ST VICE PRESIDENT  
Mark Garagiola

2ND VICE PRESIDENT  
Michael Locricchio

SECRETARY  
Philip J. Maniaci

FINANCIAL SECRETARY  
Michael Divozzo

TREASURER  
Frank Coppola

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN  
Charles Moran

PAST PRESIDENTS 2022  
Andrew Agosta  
Vito Pianello

TERMS ENDING 2022  
Peter A. Fuciarelli  
Michel Tenaglia  
James Timpa

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

TERMS ENDING 2024  
Joseph Divozzo  
Aaron Marentette  
Alexandria Salvaggio

## 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 Honorable Joseph Toia  
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  
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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