

# The Grapevine

A Publication From  
The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan  
Spring/Summer Issue • 2023  
Volume 22 • Number 2  
Visit Our Website at: [www.iaccm.net](http://www.iaccm.net)



## Upcoming EVENTS

**JUNE 7, 2023 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING**

### Scholarship Awards Dinner

#### TIME

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

#### LOCATION

- Villa Penna  
43985 Hayes Road, Sterling Heights



**JUNE 26, 2023 • MONDAY**

### 39th Annual John B. Agosta Memorial Golf Outing

#### TIME

- Lunch served 10:30 p.m.
- Shotgun start 12:00 noon

#### LOCATION

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



**JULY 14/15/16, 2023**

## Festa Italiana

Times and entertainment schedule TBD

#### LOCATION

- Freedom Hill County Park

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING**

#### TIME

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

#### LOCATION

- Andiamo Italia  
7096 E. 14 Mile Road, Warren



## Notes from the PRESIDENT

Spring has finally arrived. It has been a busy and rewarding first 3 1/2 months of 2023 for our Chamber membership. It started with our January installation meeting held at Fern Hill Golf and Country Club. Fellow Chamber member Jim Schmelzer from Elite Photography did an outstanding job taking memory and group photos that evening.

February's meeting, held at the Italian Cultural Center, featured guest speaker Allegra Baistrocchi, our Italian Consulate, who informed our group about events planned for the upcoming year. I am still getting great reviews on the quality of the food served at the IACS that evening.

In March, our Chamber returned to the Zuccaro Banquet Center, where Mark and Dino Zuccaro hosted our group for a great evening of delicious food and member socialization.

In April, we were honored to have Henry Ford Health System CEO Barbara Rossman present to our Chamber. She detailed the multi-million-dollar expansion to their medical campus in Clinton Township that will include 166 state of the art hospital rooms along with a multilevel parking garage for hospital staff. The "image boards" gave us a preview glimpse of the exciting addition to our community. At the San Marino Hall meeting, we also had a short preview from representatives of The Detroit Tigers regarding Italian Heritage Night proposed for early August at Comerica Park. The Detroit Tigers are initiating a partnership with our Italian Chamber to make this year's Italian Heritage Night extra special.

I am very proud of the many Chamber members that have "stepped up" to assist in the packing up of the Friends of Foster Kids facility in Sterling Heights. Our dear friends and fellow Chamber members, Joe and Theresa Toia, received a surprise and sudden 90-day eviction notice after 5 years of operation at that location. Needless to say, they were stunned and devastated. This eviction has temporarily disrupted all of the great work that Friends of Foster Kids does to provide assistance to children in the foster care system. The Toia's and their volunteer staff are true humanitarians in this mission. Hopefully, a new home will be found soon...

Our Chamber membership had an outstanding presence at the recent "Bocce with the Brothers" event held at Villa Penna. Over 30 IACCM

## Notes From The President

*Continued from page 1*

members were in attendance to help support the Capuchin Ministries in Metropolitan Detroit. Over \$100,000 was raised that evening to assist the Franciscan Brothers as they work to change lives by providing food and other support and services for those in need. Kudos to all of the Chamber members that supported this great cause.

Members of our Chamber are gearing up for a few other events in the coming months. Tony Rubino and Al Marino along with their support team (which includes many IACCM members) are in final preparations for the annual "Thrilla at the Villa" event to be held on May 17th at Villa Penna. This outstanding event helps to raise money to support efforts towards finding a cure for Multiple Sclerosis. I am sure that this event will also be well attended by our membership.

On the following evening, May 18th, I Care of Michigan will be hosting a barbeque cook-off to be held at the Hard Rock Stone Works in Sterling Heights. Chamber members Charles Moran and Paula Badalamente are spearheading this fund-raising event to support charitable efforts that I Care of Michigan provides to our community. I am hoping our Chamber membership will make a good showing.

Looking forward to the summer months, our good friend and fellow chamber member, Tony D'Agostini will be hosting the 10th Annual Concours D'Agostini. This classic car event will take place at Villa Penna on Friday, July 28th starting at 5:30 p.m. The evening will include a buffet dinner and great entertainment to help support Friends of Foster Kids, Forgotten Harvest, The Capuchins, and F.A.I.R. and Veterans Chapter 154.

This year's Festa Italiana at Freedom Hill will take place on the weekend of July 14, 15 and 16. The Festa committee met at Andiamo's on March 13th to discuss plans for another outstanding weekend of celebration and socialization, along with tasty food, cold drinks, and top notch local and national musical entertainment. Our raffle team lead by Phillip Maniaci, Dan Galli, Sandra Tornberg, and Pete Fuciarelli will be looking for Chamber membership assistance in selling raffle tickets before and during the Festa. In 2022, over \$18,000 worth of raffle ticket sales provided for \$9,000 of income to our Chamber, along with the \$9,000 in prize money to the winning ticket holder Al Marino.

Our festival Chairmen, Joe Ventimiglia and Aaron Marentette are hoping that we have "all hands on deck" from our Chamber membership. They would encourage volunteering some time and energy to help make this year's Festa Italiana the best Festa ever. I would like to express our gratitude to Chamber member David Gagnon from Cellar 401 in Mt. Clemens for being our Festa raffle ticket sponsor this year.

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I am continually impressed with the younger members on the IACCM Board of Directors. They provide energy and enthusiasm to the board. Aaron Marentette recently took on the tedious task of digitizing items from our Chamber archives. He then followed up by placing featured photos and historical documents from our past 100 years onto our website so that membership and others can gain access to them. I urge our membership to take the time to get a glimpse of our chamber's history.

Anthony Licata, Alexandria Salvaggio, Leo Terzo and Aaron Marentette work very hard to promote our Chamber meetings and activities on our Facebook page. These photo postings create a positive spotlight for our Chamber in the social media forum.

Anthony Licata continues to do an outstanding job with our monthly membership meeting 50/50 drawings. While our membership is enjoying their hors d'oeuvres and conversation at the beginning of our evening, Anthony works the floor selling 50/50 tickets. His effort and personal sacrifice are greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank long time member Dominic LaRosa for the great exposure he gives our Chamber through his photos in the Italian Tribune. Dominic does an outstanding job of covering our monthly meetings and special events.

Enjoy your Spring!

Mark Garagiola  
IACCM 2023 President



## Chairman's CORNER

Hello Chamber Members,

I hope this greeting finds you happy and healthy. Warmer weather has finally arrived and spring is officially here. Kids are out playing again; golf courses are bustling and the opening day for the Tigers has one again been celebrated. It truly is one of my favorite times of the year.

Although, this recent string of 80+ degree weather has also reminded me that summer is not far away. Summer means 2 great events for the Chamber. Our annual IACCM golf outing will be on June 26 at Fern Hill Golf Club. Please consider supporting by playing, dining, or sponsoring this great event. Also- I hope to see you and your families in July at the Festa Italiana. This year's Festa Italiana event will be held on July 14, 15 & 16 at Freedom Hill. This is truly a celebration of our heritage and a treasured event for the surrounding communities. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to volunteer your time or resources for this event.

That's all for me, and I hope to see you next month for our monthly meeting at 6:30 pm at the June 7th meeting at Villa Penna, which is also scholarship awards night.

Ciao.

All the best,  
Joe Ventimiglia

# February 1, 2023 • Italian American Cultural Center



Past President Dr. Charles Shermetaro, Alexandria Salvaggio, Honorable Joseph Toia and Charles Moran with newest sworn in member Steven DiPiazza of The Motor Mall.



Sandra Tornberg, Aaron Marentette, and Jaclyn Ventimiglia-Standing



Aaron Marentette, John DiPiazza, and David Galli



Mike Talluto, Lori Maceri, and Charles Moran



Board of Directors Charles Moran, Charles Shermetaro, Anthony Licata, Alexandria Salvaggio, along with Debbie Demick present a donation check to Al Marino of "Thrilla Gives"



Paola Allegra Baistrocchi, Consul of Italy in Detroit



Chairman Joseph Ventimiglia, Aaron Marentette, Anthony Bommarito, and Honorable Joseph Toia



Ed Toarmino, Daniel Galli, Christy Jakubec, and Tom Terzo



Edward Wolf & Leo Terzo

# March 1, 2023 • Zuccaro's Banquet Center



Judge James Maceroni swearing in newest corporate member Naeem Mirza of the UPS Store Macomb, along with membership chairmen Alexandria Salvaggio and Charles Moran, and President Mark Garagiola



Paul Calcaterra giving the blessing before our delicious dinner....maybe a good story after too!

Honorable James Maceroni, Frank Coppola, Mike Locricchio, Sam Ventimiglia, Philip Maniaci, Dr. Charles Shermetaro, Rob Shermetaro and Tommy Bommarito

Andy Agosta speaking on behalf of the John B. Agosta Memorial Golf Outing



Nice turnout for our general membership meeting!



Jaclyn Ventimiglia-Standing, Joe Ventimiglia, John DiPiazza, Anthony Licata III, Dave Lazzara, Tom Terzo, Leo Terzo, and Aaron Marentette



Val Poliuto, Charles Promesso, Frank Gallo, Gus Russo, and Andy Agosta



Everyone is happy after the delicious meal!



← President Mark Garagiola, Thomas Salvati, Membership Chairman Charles Moran



↑ Tony Rubino being presented his 50/50 winnings by Aaron Marentette and Leo Terzo.



Dinner is served, Benny Bommarito's food never disappoints!



Thrilla at the Villa committee members cutting the ribbon on the new "Thrilla Gives" non-profit



Honorable Joseph Toia giving the oath to new member Thomas Salvati of the Thomas Salvati Insurance Group →

← Please pass the Cannoli



**Italian-American Chamber of Commerce Birthdays for:**

- | <b>May</b>  |                          | <b>July</b>   |                         |
|-------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 5/4         | Russo, Agostino          | 7/4           | Scaglione, Albert P.    |
| 5/7         | Agosta, Anthony Allan    | 7/14          | DeCarolus, Dr., John A. |
| 5/8         | Salvaggio, Alexandria    | 7/15          | Varano, MD, Sal M.      |
| 5/8         | Picciche, Vincent        | 7/15          | Fontana, Carl           |
| 5/14        | Calcaterra, Paul R.      | 7/18          | Galli, David F.         |
| 5/14        | DiCicco, Joseph M.       | 7/18          | Mazza, Thomas           |
| 5/14        | Fiorino, Luigi           | 7/18          | Timpa, James            |
| 5/16        | Velardo, Armand          | 7/19          | Viviano, Paul           |
| 5/17        | Giarmarco, Julius H.     | 7/22          | Baffo, Matthew          |
| 5/17        | Paglia, Enzo             | 7/24          | Schnepper, Roy          |
| 5/17        | Rogensues, Gary          | 7/29          | Simone, MD, Piero A.    |
| 5/19        | Varanelli, MD, Jeffrey   | 7/30          | Grimaudo, Joseph        |
| 5/23        | Scalzi, Frank            | 7/31          | Accica, Andrea          |
| 5/30        | Lawroski, Eric           | 7/31          | Lucido, Peter J.        |
| <b>June</b> |                          | <b>August</b> |                         |
| 6/2         | Locricchio, Michael      | 8/2           | Seleno, Andrew A.       |
| 6/3         | LaRosa, Dominic J.       | 8/3           | Toia, Joseph            |
| 6/3         | Shermetaro, Robert       | 8/6           | Guerrieri, Robert       |
| 6/4         | Marentette, Aaron        | 8/7           | Belcastro, Domenico     |
| 6/7         | Benenati, Dr. Anthony V. | 8/9           | DiPiazza, John          |
| 6/7         | DiPiazza, Steven M.      | 8/12          | Bossio, Alan J.         |
| 6/7         | Ricciardello, Michael L. | 8/12          | Sorrentino, Benedetto   |
| 6/9         | Burke, Joseph A.         | 8/14          | Rubino, Daniel          |
| 6/9         | Confer, Raymond          | 8/17          | Bergmann, John P.       |
| 6/12        | Pavlick, Marty           | 8/18          | Talluto, II, Michael    |
| 6/19        | DiGiorgio, Frank         | 8/19          | Militello, Stefano      |
| 6/21        | DeMatteis, Anthony       | 8/22          | Giordano, Dr. Anthony   |
| 6/22        | Provenzano, Nunzio       | 8/23          | Maceri, Lori            |
| 6/25        | DeAngelo, Peter C.       | 8/23          | Zuccaro, Dino           |
| 6/26        | DiGiuseppe, Jr., John    | 8/26          | Petruzzello, Frank      |
| 6/26        | Bonaldi, Ezio            | 8/29          | Ventimiglia, Sam P.     |
| 6/28        | Monicatti, Timothy       | 8/30          | DiGiuseppe, Christopher |
| 6/29        | Ruggeri, Philip          |               |                         |

# **THRILLA GIVES**



On Wednesday, May 17th, Ray Confer and Joe Burke will be honored at the annual Thrilla at the Villa Event.

These two men are heavily involved in the community, a tremendous asset to our neighborhood, and extremely deserving of this award, and recognition.



It's an honor that they both are a part of the Italian American Chamber of Commerce.

Thank you both for everything you do for the community.

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Agency owner, Leo Terzo, has been a member of the Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan since 2019. He joined with the hopes of learning more about his Italian heritage, but soon learned that he would be building some of the greatest relationships. Leo became close with member and now board member Aaron Marentette. Their friendship turned into a business relationship. Now they sit on the board together and are part of the donation committee. The Italian American Chamber of Commerce has proved to be beneficial for both business and personal relationships.

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# Italian Festival 50/50 RAFFLE

All the proceeds from this raffle will benefit the various charities that the IACCM supports year-round. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Please consider assisting us in selling tickets to help raise money for these worthy causes.

The drawing will be held at the Italian Festival, July 16th at 7 p.m. at Freedom Hill County Park. You need not be present to win.

For ticket information contact  
Dan Galli, 248-670-4912  
or Philip Maniaci, 586-703-6885

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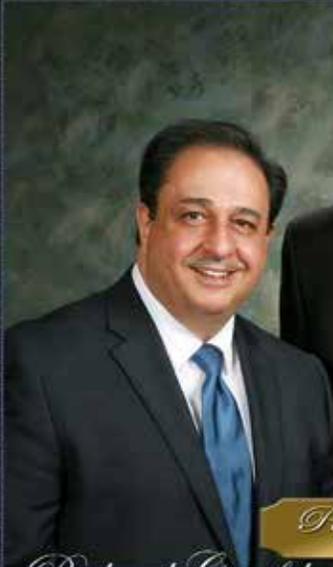
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# The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan

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Alexandria Salvaggio  
Sandra Tornberg

TERMS ENDING 2025  
Charles Moran  
Vito Pianello  
Leo Salvatore Terzo

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Charles Shermetaro, OD

## PAST PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

2020 Daniel Galli  
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."

## DRESS CODE

Reminder that the Chamber does have a business casual dress code.

Appropriate business casual dress typically includes slacks or khakis, dress shirt or blouse, open-collar or polo shirt, optional tie or seasonal sport coat, a dress or skirt at knee-length or below, a tailored blazer, knit shirt or sweater, and loafers or dress shoes. **NO DENIM** Defined as a style of clothing that is less formal than traditional business wear but is still intended to give a professional and businesslike impression.

## GUEST FEE

Effective with the meeting in May 2022, the Board of Directors has agreed to increase the guest fee to \$50. This is being done to cover the increased costs of food and labor at all our establishments. We have all seen this in our daily lives daily. As always, a **FIRST TIME GUEST**, who is a potential member, is always welcomed with no charge. We will also be collecting guest information at the check-in table, which will be given to our membership committee for follow up!