



# 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](http://www.iaccm.net)



## Upcoming EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 2, 2015 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Guest speaker – Jerry Norcia, President and CEO, DTE Energy

**TIME** • 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

**LOCATION**

- DeCarlo's Banquet Center  
6015 East 10 Mile Road, Warren

### OCTOBER 7, 2015 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

#### Networking Meeting

**TIME** • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

**LOCATION**

- Zuccaro's Banquet Center  
46601 Gratiot, Chesterfield

### NOVEMBER 4, 2015 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

#### Nomination of Officers/Board of Directors

Guest Speaker – Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel

**TIME** • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

**LOCATION**

- Rivercrest Banquet Center  
900 West Avon Rd., Rochester Hills

### NOVEMBER 8, 2015 • SUNDAY

#### IACCM MEMORIAL MASS (more details to follow)

**TIME** • 11:30 AM mass

- Breakfast to follow

**LOCATION**

- Holy Family Church, Detroit

### DECEMBER 2, 2015 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

#### Election of Officers/Board of Directors 2016

**TIME** • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

**LOCATION**

- Andiamo Italia • 7096 East 14 Mile Road, Warren



## Notes from the PRESIDENT

As happens every year, summer seems to go by faster and faster. With that said... welcome back chamber members from our 2 month break. At least with our September meeting being before Labor Day it doesn't feel like summer is over just yet. The September meeting at DeCarlo's Banquet Center will feature DTE Electric President and CEO Jerry Norcia as our guest speaker. I look forward to a great turnout.

Congratulations to Past President Joe Toia on his appointment by Governor Rick Snyder to the Macomb County Circuit Court. This is a well-deserved appointment.

Our Festa Della Lira event held at Eastpointe Manor in May was very successful raising \$11000. Also, the basket of cheer portion of the raffle raised \$1900 for the leader dogs of the blind. Benny Bommarito and his staff did a wonderful job as always with dinner and hors d'oeuvres. Thank you Tony Giordano, Chuck Shermetaro and their committee for their efforts in organizing this event.

Next up was our golf outing in June held at Scalawags. Unfortunately the golf was cut a bit short because of the weather but that didn't put a damper on the day. We had a great turnout and raised over \$10000 for our scholarship fund. Andy Agosta, Gus Russo, and their committee should be applauded for their efforts year after year raising money for our kids benefit.

Looking ahead to October's meeting we'll be having a networking meeting. So anyone that would like to do a presentation of their company please contact Vito Pianello.

This year's memorial mass at Holy Family Church will be November 8th at 11:30 a.m., followed by a pancake breakfast. Details regarding transportation etc. will come at a later date.

I hope to see you at DeCarlo's.

Ciao!



## Chairman's CORNER

It has been asked, and I have often wondered myself, what is a chamber of commerce? What does a chamber of commerce do? So relying on the internet, I Googled it, and this is what I found:

Wikipedia describes a chamber of commerce as "a form of business network, for example, a local organization of businesses whose goal is to further the interests of businesses."

The Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives defines it as "an organization of businesses seeking to further their collective interests while advancing their community, region, state or nation."

It also mentions to provide more value to the members of a chamber of commerce, a chamber should:

1. Network
2. Update their own information
3. Promote their business
4. Communicate
5. Find a job
6. Find an employee
7. Educate themselves

Now looking at our own Chamber, our mission statement and goals, I think the IACCM is following the protocol and the criteria of what has been outlined above.

The Board of Directors are incorporating different events among ourselves, as well as partnering up with other chambers and associations in an effort to further advance not only IACCM as an organization, but giving you, the members, the opportunity to participate to promote your business.

I think it is very important that when you know of an event that is going to take place or if there is the need to promote a business, i.e., hiring, grand opening, make sure you contact the Chamber office and let them know. It is very easy for us to distribute the necessary information to our members, which will allow everyone to take full advantage of the opportunity.

I hope everyone enjoyed the summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone again when we start up again in September.

Best regards –  
Ronald A. DiBartolomeo, Chairman of the Board

## TIME TO UPDATE!

### IACCM.NET ONLINE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Attention members:

Please take a minute to visit the Chambers web site at [iaccm.net](http://iaccm.net) and click on the membership directory. We are asking every member to please check that all their information is listed properly. If you see a discrepancy, or wish to make any changes, please contact the IACCM via email at [iacc.mich@yahoo.com](mailto:iacc.mich@yahoo.com) and indicate your changes or corrections.

Thank you for your cooperation!

## Chamber Archives – sharing our history

Father Solanus Casey (RIP) born Nov. 25, 1870, died July 31, 1957.

He was born into a large Irish American family of ten boys and six girls on a farm on the Mississippi River in Wisconsin. He served as a Capuchin Priest in Detroit, but also in New York City, Yonkers, NY and Huntington, Indiana.

They say he spoke in a soft and quiet voice to all who came to him for help. Some say his prayers cured illness. They called him "The Porter (doorkeeper) of St. Bonaventure". By the way there is a book of the same name which is a great read.

Locally we know he was the founder of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen which is more than 80 years old and today continues to feed the needy and homeless.

The campaign to nominate him for Sainthood continues in the Vatican. The process is very complex and at this point the outcome is unknown.

The IACCM is proud to be a contributor to the fund which enabled construction of the Father Solanus Center which is adjacent to the St. Bonaventure Church and Monastery at 1780 Mt. Elliot in Detroit. If you visit the center, look for our engraved paver blocks (2) which are located close (the left of) to the entrance. If you want to pray, you can do so at his burial site or leave a note as many people choose to do.

A little religion is good for us all. There are many books and writings available for purchase (at the Center gift shop and online) of Father Solanus legacy here in Detroit.

The Archive Committee.  
P. Calcaterra, G. Esposito and F. Pompa



# Italian American Chamber of Commerce John B. Agosta 31st Annual Memorial Scholarship Golf Outing June 22, 2015 • Scalawags Country Club





2015 John B. Agosta Memorial Golf Outing honoree Paul Calcaterra receiving his plaque from golf chairmen Andy Agosta and Gus Russo!



# Italian American Chamber of Commerce John B. Agosta Memorial 32nd Annual Scholarship Golf Outing



As another year is quickly passing and I want to thank all the Chamber members, their friends and associates who supported this year's golf outing. We had a record 159 golfers and 43 hole sponsors which netted a profit of over \$10,500. Since we started the scholarship fund we have granted over \$200,000 in scholarships and our golf outing has been a major source of that revenue. Your participation this year helped to provide 12 students with scholarships ranging from \$500 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, John DiGiuseppi for the great food, Scalawags Golf Club for hosting this year's event, and all my committee members who contributed a great deal of time and talent to this event. A special acknowledgment 2015 honoree Paul Calcaterra for all he has done for our Chamber and our Italian American Community.

Next year's golf outing is currently in the planning stages, stay tuned for all the details.

I am looking forward to your participation.

Best regards,

Andy Agosta  
Chairman

## 2015 Scholarship Recipients

- Thomas Aiello**
- Rebecca Viviano**
- Jason Lazzara**
- Jackie Rola**
- Mia Minoletti**
- Scott Rola**
- Peter Lucido, III**
- Christina Morelli**
- Andrew Reside**
- Rachel Lazzara**
- Annie-Marie Goddard**
- David Halvorson**
- Marina Bommarito**
- Megan Notoriano**

# May 6, 2015 • Festa Della Lira • Eastpointe Manor



Festival Chairman Tony Giordano welcoming everyone to the event!



50/50 winner about to be announced by Tony Giordano



Committee Members Mark Garagiola, Joe Ventimiglia, and Joseph Toia pulling some winners!



Another sell-out crowd anxiously awaits the evenings festivities!



The lucky winners!

# June 3, 2015 • Scholarship Awards Night • Petruzzello's Banquet Center

## —2015 RECIPIENTS—



Annie-Marie Goddard



Thomas Aiello



David Halvorson



Andrew Reside



Christina Morelli



Marina Bommarito



Peter Lucido III



Rachel Lazzara



Scott Rola



Jackie Rola



Mia Minoletti



Rebecca Viviano



Scholarship Chairman Joseph Toia with Columbus Day Queen Megan Notoriano

# Grapevine Membership Business Directory

## ★ ACCOUNTING/CPA

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# The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan

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Vito Pianello

2ND VICE PRESIDENT  
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Andrew Agosta

PAST PRESIDENTS COUNCIL  
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."