



Upcoming EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 3, 2025 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

- Hard Rock Stone Works
44002 Phoenix Drive, Sterling Heights

OCTOBER 1, 2025 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Festa Della Lira

TIME • 6:00 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Italian American Cultural Center
43843 Romeo Plan Road, Clinton Township

NOVEMBER 2, 2025 • SUNDAY

Holy Family/IACCM All Souls Memorial Mass

TIME • 9:30 AM Mass, pancake breakfast to follow

LOCATION

- Holy Family Church, 941 Chrysler Drive, Detroit

NOVEMBER 5, 2025 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Nomination of 2026 Officers/Board of Directors

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Villa Penna
43985 Hayes, Sterling Heights



DECEMBER 3, 2025 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

2026 Election Results

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Petruzzello's Banquet Center
6950 Rochester Road, Troy



Notes from the PRESIDENT

Dear Members of the Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan,

Welcome back from your summer festivities! As we transition into fall, I hope each of you enjoyed a memorable summer filled with family, friends, and fun. Our organization certainly made the most of the season, hosting several remarkable events that showcased the vibrancy of our Italian heritage throughout Michigan.

Festa Italiana

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Joe Ventimiglia and his entire team for their exceptional work in making this year's Festa Italiana our most successful yet. The event broke attendance records and demonstrated the strength of our community's commitment to preserving and celebrating our Italian culture.

Special recognition goes to our new set-up/tear-down team of members who volunteered. Thanks to your efforts, we achieved the fastest tear-down EVER! Your dedication exemplifies the spirit of cooperation that makes our Chamber so special.

Golf Outing Honors John B. Agosta's Legacy

Our annual John B. Agosta Memorial Scholarship Golf Outing at Fern Hill Golf Club was another resounding success. This year's outing honored Mark Garagiola for all his contributions to the IACCM, as well as the Italian community. Blessed with beautiful weather and plenty of birdies on the course, the event honored John's memory while supporting educational opportunities for our youth. My sincere thanks to Andy Agosta and his committee for organizing such an outstanding day of fellowship and fundraising.

Tigers Italian Heritage Night Celebration

On August 18th, we proudly represented our heritage at the Detroit Tigers Italian Heritage Night. Along with a 10-run blowout, we enjoyed perfect weather and a stirring rendition of our national anthem by the talented Lia Lucci, whose beautiful voice and charismatic presence represented Italian Americans with style and grace.

Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendars

September 3rd General Meeting - Something New! We're having an innovative approach for our September meeting by hosting it offsite at Hard Rock Stone Works in Sterling Heights, one of our corporate member businesses. This gathering will feature catering by some of our own members, offering unique culinary experiences and valuable business networking opportunities. We'll also be unveiling some exciting new initiatives for member participation.

Notes From The President

Continued from page 1

October 1st - Don't Miss the Festa Della Lira \$10k reverse raffle!

Looking ahead, save the date for our Festa Della Lira on October 1st, held in conjunction with our general membership meeting. If you've never attended this event, you're missing out on one of our most exciting gatherings! Having been fortunate enough to place in the top ten of the raffle for the past two years, I'm hoping to finally take home some winnings this year. More importantly, it's a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow members and celebrate our shared heritage.

Looking Forward

As we move into fall, I'm energized by the momentum we've built and the opportunities ahead. Our Chamber continues to serve as a vital link between our Italian heritage and the broader Michigan business community. Your participation and support make all the difference.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings and events. Together, we'll continue to strengthen the bonds of our community and create new opportunities for success.

Cordiali saluti,

Charles J. Moran, President



Chairman's CORNER

A few years back, the Chamber did a survey of all the members to identify what region of Italy their ancestors came from. To some people's surprise, it revealed that 57% of our members are from Italy's largest island which is Sicily. My grandparents happen to be from Terrasini, a small, beautiful coastal town 25 miles from Palermo, which is Sicily's largest city. As it turns out, many of our membership's ancestors are from Terrasini also. So, I would like to share an article my sister Dianne sent me titled: Are Sicilians Italian, by author Carlo Treviso:

Are Sicilians Italian? Or something entirely their own? It's a common question that reveals more than it asks. Legally and geopolitically, Sicily is part of Italy. It has been since unification in 1861. But historically, culturally, spiritually, well...that's where things get more nuanced.

Sicily wasn't merely included in Italy. It was absorbed. And before that, it was fought over, conquered, and crowned by almost every empire that ever touched the Mediterranean. The Greeks called it Trinacria. The Romans turned it into their imperial province. The Arabs transformed it into an Islamic jewel of science and agriculture. The Normans built opulent cathedrals with Arabic muqarnas and Latin inscriptions. The Spanish ruled it from afar, and the Bourbons kept it poor.

Each era layered its language, cuisine, religion, and architecture onto the island. Some marks were bold, others buried. But none were ever fully lost. You can still find them in recipes, in ruins, and in the rhythm of everyday life. So, when a Sicilian in America says, "I'm not Italian, I'm Sicilian" they're not being contrarian. They're bearing witness. They're honoring a legacy that predates the modern Italian state. A legacy that includes saints and sultans, poets and pirates, rebels and kings. A legacy that often found itself at odds with the centralized power of Rome, Naples or Florence. It's not about rejecting being Italian. It's about remembrance. Sicily has always been a world unto itself. To say "I'm Sicilian" is to speak from that world...with all its beauty, pain, and defiant pride still intact.

I thought that was an interesting perspective to share with our membership,

who all appreciate their family's region of origin like no other people I know! I have had the opportunity to visit the beautiful Sicilian Island a couple of times over the past ten years. I remember in one restaurant, in Terrasini, the menu listed on one page "The Sicilian Wines" and on the next page, "The Italian Wines." Either way, it's all good!

I would like to pay tribute to one of the many "pillars" of our IACCM: Andy Agosta. As well as being a Past President (2014), he has been the Committee Chairman for the annual John B. Agosta Memorial Golf Outing over the past 25 years. Andy took over the golf outing upon the passing of his brother John, who the outing is named after. This fundraiser is the major source of revenue for our annual scholarship awards given out at our June membership meeting. The outing typically raises anywhere between \$15,000. - \$20,000. Therefore, under Andy's chairmanship, the IACCM has provided over a half million dollars in scholarship awards to eligible students. His leadership and commitment over these years to the Chamber is very much appreciated by the membership as well as the many scholarship award recipients.

Andy is passing on the golf committee leadership duties, starting in 2026, to his son Tony Agosta who will co-chair the position with Ron DiBartolomeo. So, we look forward to the continuation of one of the Chamber's major events in 2026, the 42nd Annual John B. Agosta Memorial Golf Outing!

Thank you, Andy for all your service to the IACCM-Job, well done!

Ciao,

Charles Shermetaro, O.D., Chairman of the Board

The poster features a red and white diagonal banner in the top right corner. At the top center is a logo for Columbus Day Celebration Committee, featuring a sailing ship. Below the logo, the text "Columbus Day Celebration Committee" is written in a script font. The main title "ITALIAN HERITAGE STREET FAIR" is prominently displayed in large, bold, green and red capital letters. Below the title, the location "DOWNTOWN MT CLEMENS - MACOMB PLACE - NEXT TO ANTON ART CENTER" is listed. A section titled "Join us for Italian food, music, fun, clowns, and supporting local businesses while enjoying the downtown atmosphere of Mt Clemens!" is followed by a "HIGHLIGHTS:" section listing "FOOD VENDORS", "LOCAL CRAFTERS", and "FAMILY FUN". The bottom half of the poster features a large, stylized "Save the Date" text in red script over a background of a wooden plank wall with a large Italian flag. At the bottom, the date "OCT 4 2025" and time "12-9PM" are displayed in large red letters. A footer section contains the text "MORE INFORMATION CAN BE SEEN AT", the website "COLUMBUSDAYMI.COM", and the phone number "810-338-1902".



Italian-American Chamber of Commerce Birthdays for:



September

9/4 D'Anna, Philip
9/6 Szymanski, Joe
9/6 Ventimiglia, Joseph P.
9/8 Lucido, Joseph
9/10 Cavaliere, Raymond
9/11 Piccirilli, Umberto
9/14 Agosta, Andrew
9/15 Wilson, Rebecca L.
9/18 Crudo, Samuel
9/21 Lazzara, David A.
9/22 Pianello, Vito
9/22 Manzella, Matthew K.
9/24 DeFlaviis, Alfred
9/25 Mercurio, Jr., Frank A
9/26 Badalamente, Paula
9/28 Promesso, Charles

9/28 Ventimiglia Standring, Jaclyn
9/29 Terzo, Thomas
9/29 Toarmino, Edward

October

10/3 Licata, III, Anthony C.
10/3 Palazzolo, Jerry
10/3 Lavinio-Mattinen, Tin
10/10 Sgroi, Jodi
10/11 Caruso, Aaron
10/11 D'Agostini, Antonio
10/12 Meli, Paul
10/27 Divozzo, Michael

November

11/2 DiBartolomeo, Ronald A.
11/4 Coppola, Michele
11/8 Shepherd, Douglas
11/11 Marino, Al

11/15 Koss, Ralph
11/17 Beran, David
11/17 Milkey, James A.
11/18 Galli, Daniel A.
11/20 Palermino, Leonard
11/21 Moran, Charles
11/24 Angelo, Maryrose
11/25 Calcaterra, Lawrence
11/25 Terzo, Leo
11/27 Fromm, Brandon C.
11/28 Pugno, John

December

12/1 Cervone, Matthew D.
12/2 Bonanni, Joseph
12/3 Torres, Dominic G.
12/7 Cuccia, Salvatore
12/13 DiCicco, Lucia

12/17 Bonadeo, David C.
12/17 Manzella, II, Joseph
12/20 Nehra, Gregory
12/27 Tenaglia, Michel
12/28 Pascarella, 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 Bommarito, Thomas
1/22 Maceroni, James
1/26 Palomba, Anthony J.
1/28 Torrice, Dr. Peter
1/28 Schmelzer, Andria

Beautiful Baby Contest Held at Festa Italiana By Sandy Tornberg



Some of the cutest Italian American babies in town took part in the Beautiful Baby Contest on July 21st. There were six age groups, with seven contestants in each group: 9-18 months, 19-23 months, 2-year-old, 3-year-old, 4-year-old, and 5-year-old.

The smiles, winks, and waves by these well-dressed babes were not lost on the judges or the crowd.

The contest is sponsored by Shelby Foot and Ankle. The winners were:

G9-18 Months: Giavanna Hosinski, **19-23 months:** Cecelia Cantrall, **2-year-old:** Carson Tate Towns
3-year-old: Graziella Balsamo, **4-year-old:** Demi Lucci, **5-year-old:** Giovanni DiCicco

Meatball Winners 2025

The Frank J. Palazzolo Memorial “Judges Judging Meatball” Contest Winners

The Frank J. Palazzolo Memorial “Judges Judging Meatballs” Contest never fails to draw a crowd, which is comprised not only of friends and family members of the contestants, but also people hoping to sample any leftover meatballs. This year’s distinguished judges included 16th Judicial Court Judges Honorable Joseph Toia, Julie Gatti, Kathryn Viviano, Rachel Rancilio, Chief Judge James M. Biernat, Jr., and Probate Judge Aaron Hall. The winner of the individual category was first-time entrant Aleesha Giorlando. Cloverleaf Restaurant and Bar, represented by Marie Guerra, won the restaurant category for the fifth consecutive year. This popular contest is sponsored by Bagnasco & Calcaterra Funeral Homes and Summit Plastic Molding, Inc. Paul Calcaterra was on hand to facilitate the contest and congratulate the winners.



Cannoli Contest Winner

By Sandra Tornberg

Twelve contests competed to see who could eat the most cannoli from Vito’s Bakery in five minutes. They were cheered on by a large, enthusiastic crowd. The contest resulted in a tie between six-time previous winner Matt Gino and newcomer Shy Khan, with each consuming 13 cannoli in the five-minute period. One minute was added to the clock to break the tie, with Matt consuming another 4 and Shy consuming 2.5. Matt was declared the winner, having consumed 17 in six minutes. Matt declared this to be his last year, and Shy has vowed to return next year. The contest is sponsored by Fern Hill Golf Club.



Italian American Idol

2025 Festa Italiana Italian American Idol Singing Contest Winners

By Sandra Tornberg

The Italian American Idol Singing Contest has been a popular addition to Festa Italiana since it was introduced in 2017. Past winners have been exposed to opportunities for coaching and participation in workshops and other performances to help further their development. This year's judges were Arthur White, Director of Community and Audience Engagement at Detroit Opera, Richard Fracker, Area Chair of Vocal Arts at Michigan State University, and

David Troiano, Adjunct Professor of Voice at Wayne State University. This year's talented winners were: Lia Lucci, in the 9- to 12-year-old category, Silvia Trivelloni in the 13- to 17-year-old category, and Giavanna Coffman in the 18 and over category. The sponsors of the contest are Giuseppe's International Oils & Vinegars and Shelving.com.



Festa Italiana • July 18-20, 2025 • Freedom Hill County







Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan Awards 2025 Academic Scholarships

The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan (IACCM) proudly announced the results of its 2025 scholarship competition at its monthly meeting on June 5 at Andiamo

The Honorable Joseph Toia, Macomb County Circuit Court, has been chairman of the IACCM Scholarship Committee for twenty-five years and once again presided over the awards presentations. This year \$17,500 in scholarships were awarded to twelve talented young people. Over the past forty years, the IACCM has awarded \$600,000 in scholarships.



This year's winners were Valencia Imperi, Carly Moran, Abigail Cunningham, Marco Agrusa, Adrianna Lucido, Luca Polidori, Isabella Burke, Luke Jablonski, Vito Palazzolo, Giuliana Vico, Giovanni DiGiorgio, and Gianpaolo DiLiddo.

The main source of funding for the scholarships is an annual golf outing that is well attended and supported by the IACCM membership who recognize and value the importance of honoring and rewarding deserving young Italian Americans for their achievements.

Scholarship awards are presented to outstanding students with excellent academic achievements as well as community and athletic accomplishments. To be eligible to apply and compete for a scholarship, applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- A) Applicant must be of Italian ancestry.
 - B) Applicant must be a graduating high school senior or full-time undergraduate student attending an accredited college or university and working toward a two- or four-year degree.
 - C) Applicant must be domiciled in the state of Michigan.
 - D) Applicant must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Congratulations to all the winners and their families.



June 4, 2025 • Scholarship Dinner • Andiamo Italia



Board of Director Leo Terzo, Scholarship Chairman Honorable Joseph Toia, Valencia Imperi, Carly Moran, Abigail Cunningham, Marco Agrusa, Adrianna Lucido, Luca Polidoro, Luke Jablonski, Vito Palazzolo, President Charles Moran, Scholarship Co-Chair Sandra Tornberg.



Back row - Paula Badalamente, Lori Maceri, Alicia Congiolo, Charles Moran
Front row – Don Lupo, Lisa Esposito, and Rebecca Wilson



Tommy Bommarito and Anthony Licata, III



Abigail Cunningham with her Grandparents Tony and Gina Rubino, and parents Annalisa and James



Valencia Imperi with her father Robert



Carly Moran with her father Charles



Marco Agrusa with Uncle Frank Agrusa and her mother Christine



Luca Polidori with Uncle Santino Polidori, sister Mia and her father Mike



Luke Jablonski with his father Keith



Vito Palazzolo with his sister Dianna and parents Lynn and Vito



Adrianna Lucido with her mother Maria, and Uncle Peter Lucido

June 30th John B. Agosta Memorial Golf Outing – Fern Hill Golf Club



Huge "THANK YOU & CONGRAT'S" to Andy Agosta on his retirement as Chairman of the outing after 25 successful years!

Don Christo's Cigar Room generously donating cigars for the day!

IACCM golf outing



Andy Agosta, 2025 honoree Mark Garagiola, and golf co-chair Ron DiBartolomeo

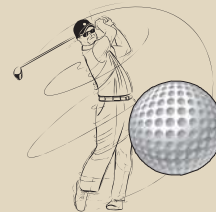


Golf Chairmen Gus Russo and Andy Agosta



Padre Azul tequila, the best around! Tastings were available and a 3 bottle raffle. Thank you for your sponsorship!

Italian American Chamber of Commerce John B. Agosta Memorial 41st Annual Scholarship Golf Outing



Dear Friends,

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who made the 41st Annual John B. Agosta Memorial Scholarship Golf Outing a tremendous success. In particular, my sincere appreciation goes to **Ron DiBartolomeo**, Co-Chair of this event, whose leadership and dedication were instrumental.

This year, we welcomed **134 golfers**, secured **50 hole sponsors** and **12 major sponsors**, resulting in a net profit of over \$20,000. Since the inception of our scholarship program, we have awarded over **half a million dollars** in scholarships — a remarkable achievement largely fueled by this annual outing.

Thanks to your support and generosity, we are able to continue providing scholarships ranging from **\$1,000 to \$1,500** to deserving students. A special thank you to our hardworking committee members, whose efforts to secure sponsorships played a vital role in reaching this year's record success.

I would also like to recognize **Deborah Moran** for her exceptional management of the event's finances and logistics, and **Jeff DiCaro** and **Dario Lanni** of **Fern Hill Golf Club** for once again graciously hosting us.

It is with great pride and confidence that I officially pass the reins of the Chamber Golf Outing to **Ron DiBartolomeo** and **Tony Agosta**. At the request of my brother John, I have had the honor of continuing his mission to support students through education, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have served in this role.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve.

Warm regards,
Andy Agosta
Former Golf Chairman

CREDIT CARD USAGE UPDATE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

"A service charge of 3% will be applied to all credit card purchases, which is not greater than our cost for acceptance."

For your convenience, you may avoid this extra fee by paying with cash or check.

FESTA DELLA LIRA

(in conjunction with the general membership meeting)

October 1, 2025

**Italian American Cultural Center
43843 Romeo Plank
Clinton Township – 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**

please contact the IACCM office for payment ASAP



July 23rd • Full Board Meeting • IACC

The Officers, Board of Directors, and Past President's came together for some camaraderie, bocce competition, and a great summer meeting. Charles Moran and Leo Terzo took 1st place bragging right this year. That's 2 in a row for Leo! The Italian American Cultural Center and their staff did a wonderful job with the pizza oven luncheon, and of course Alex cooked another amazing dinner!



The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Charles Moran

1ST VICE PRESIDENT
Joseph Divozzo

2ND VICE PRESIDENT
Philip J. Maniaci

SECRETARY
Aaron Marentette

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Anthony Licata, III

TREASURER
Michael Locricchio

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN
Charles Shermetaro, OD

PAST PRESIDENTS 2025
Andrew Agosta
David F. Galli

TERMS ENDING 2025
Greg Gagnon
Vito Pianello
Leo Salvatore Terzo

TERMS ENDING 2026
Joseph Burke
Frank Coppola
Michel Tenaglia

TERMS ENDING 2027
Ross Buffa
Alexandria Salvaggio
Sandra Tornberg

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Mark Garagiola

PAST PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

2022 Charles Shermetaro, OD
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

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 May 7, 2025 meeting, the NEW POLICY is as follows:

ALL GUESTS must pay the \$50 guest fee. You, as a member, can also pay this guest fee for your guest, if you wish at your cost. If your guest decides to join as a member, the \$50 will be reimbursed to their annual dues cost. Example; \$400 regular membership would be \$350 upon application approval.

Guests will be limited to 1 per meeting unless prior approval for more is given, and notice needs to be given 7 days in advance. This is to ensure there is proper seating for everyone who attends.