

The Grapevine

A Publication From
The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan

Fall Issue • 2018

Volume 17 • Number 3

Visit Our Website at: www.iaccm.net



Upcoming EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 5, 2018 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

- TIME** • 6:00 PM Board Meeting
• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Zuccaro's Banquet Center
46602 Gratiot, Chesterfield

OCTOBER 3, 2018 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

- TIME** • 6:00 PM Board Meeting
• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Rivercrest Banquet Center
900 W. Avon Road, Rochester

NOVEMBER 4, 2018 • SUNDAY

IACCM Holy Family Memorial Mass

TIME (more details to follow)

- 11:30 am Mass, Breakfast to follow

LOCATION

- Holy Family Church, Detroit

NOVEMBER 7, 2018 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Nomination of Officers/Board of Directors for 2019

- TIME** • 6:00 PM Board Meeting
• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

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

DECEMBER 5, 2018 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

- TIME** • 6:00 PM Board Meeting
• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Fern Hill Golf Club
17600 Romeo Plank Road, Clinton Township



Notes from the PRESIDENT

Hello everyone,
I hope you had a great summer!

There is a lot of great stuff happening at the Chamber, as usual. This was another great year for the Festa Della Lira and the Golf Outing. A huge thank you to Tony Giordano, Chuck Shermetaro, Andy Agosta, and their committees for making this happen. Without those 2 events we cannot do most of what we do.

In August we had our first ever summer networking event. This was also a huge success because of the organization of Matt Baffo, his committee and you. Thank you to all who attended and brought a potential member. We look forward to expanding this event next time.

Coming up this fall you will also see a few changes. First is the Networking event(s) that will be taking place at our regular membership meetings. We are also taking a more pro-active approach to help you get involved. The more we get to know you the better we can refer business to you. We are going to be selling new name badges for those that want an updated badge that will show your name and business description as well, again, help us get to know you. We will begin a new program of retaining those badges after each meeting so that no one forgets them at the next meeting. Remember to pick those up and drop them off at each meeting at the door. We will also be contacting you to see if you would like to get more involved in the Chamber happenings by volunteering for a committee. New faces and new ideas are always welcome. Please feel free to bring any advertising you have to our meeting so we can support your business. One of the items we have been asking at the end of our monthly meetings is if anyone has any events, promotions or announcements they would like to share about their businesses. Please let us know.

Lastly, we are always looking for new members. Please remember that we also welcome business owners. These

Continued on Page 3



Chairman's CORNER

Now that the summer is winding down I sure hope everyone had plenty of opportunity to enjoy all the wonderful outdoor activities that our great state has to offer. One Chamber activity - The John B Agosta Memorial golf outing was another success with the event being a sellout and the beautiful weather contributing to a great day. Thank you to Andy Agosta and his committee for their efforts to organize this outing for the benefit of our scholarship fund.

On August 15th we held a networking event at Fern Hill designed to have members bring prospective new members and see the type of organization that we are. It was attended by approximately 50 people with a mix of current members and guests. The goal is to continue to grow the Chamber and hopefully some of the guests in attendance will become members. Thanks to Matt Baffo, RJ Koss, Mike Locricchio & Tony Rubino for your efforts in putting this together.

We are a little more than a year away from our 100 year anniversary celebration – October 19, 2019 at the D.A.C – and the planning committee is looking for more members to join the 100 year club. As I mentioned in the last Grapevine, a video is being produced to tell the history of our organization and as a way to fund this project we are asking members for a \$100 donation. As a member of the 100 year club you will be listed in the credits as a supporter and receive a commemorative lapel pin designed for this occasion. There will also be other sponsorship opportunities for this event available with the details coming soon. I look forward to seeing everyone at the September meeting at Zuccaro's. Have a great Labor Day weekend.

Ciao,

David F Galli

Chairman of the Board

\$40 GUEST FEE ENFORCEMENT ***"first time/potential member"***

Since 2012, the IACCM has been allowing first time potential members to attend a general membership meeting with an IACCM member at no charge. This courtesy will continue to be available to the membership if the guest has not attended before. **THIS RULE NEEDS TO BE ENFORCED.**

If the above rules are not applicable, the \$40 guest fee will be charged and must be paid at the door, unless other arrangements have been with the IACCM office in advance.

Thank you for your cooperation!

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YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE


Notes From The President

Continued From Page 1

business owners do not need to be of Italian decent, and are welcomed and encouraged to join as a corporate member. We also would like to grow our female membership. As an individual member you do need to be of Italian decent, or married to a person of Italian descent. Please solicit those that you may know to come join our organization.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you and hopefully create an environment that is profitable for your business. I look forward to the last couple month as your President.

Sincerely,
David Lazzara, CPA



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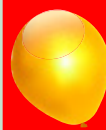
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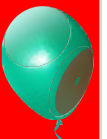
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Italian-American Chamber of Commerce Birthdays for:



September

9/6 Ventimiglia, Joseph P.
9/8 Lucido, Joseph
9/10 Cavaliere, Ray
9/11 Piccirilli, Umberto
9/12 Gagleard, Michael
9/14 Agosta, Andrew
9/21 Lazzara, David A.
9/22 Pianello, Vito
9/24 DeFlaviis, Alfred
9/28 Promesso, Charles
9/29 Toarmino, Edward

11/18 Gentilia, John J.
11/21 Moran, Charles
11/25 Calcaterra, Lawrence
11/26 Pellegrino, Joseph R.

December

12/1 Lochirco, Salvatore
12/1 Cervone, Matthew D.
12/5 DeCarlo, Gary A.
12/7 Gallo, Frank
12/13 DiCicco, Lucia
12/17 Bonadeo, David C.
12/21 Palazzolo, Sam
12/27 Tenaglia, Michel
12/28 Pascaretta, Joseph A.

October

10/2 Tocco, Nino
10/3 Palazzolo, Jerry
10/6 Gatti, John D.
10/12 Meli, Paul
10/24 Del Pup, Armen
10/27 Divozzo, Michael

November

11/2 Beaudette, Floyd C.
11/2 DiBartolomeo, Ronald A.
11/11 Marino, Al
11/15 Koss, Ralph
11/17 Milkey, James A.
11/18 Galli, Daniel A.

January

1/1 Maniaci, Philip J.
1/2 Yearego, James L.
1/4 Marrocco, Peter
1/13 Tocco, Anthony M.
1/14 Coppola, Frank
1/20 Cardella, Michael
1/22 Bommarito, Thomas
1/22 Maceroni, James
1/28 Torrice, Dr. Peter
1/31 Cicchini, Paul



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SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, September 30, 2018

Members and friends of the Columbus Day Celebration Committee will attend a Memorial Mass at 9:15 a.m. in honor of Christopher Columbus and the patron Saint of Italy, San Francesco at San Francesco Church in Clinton Twp. located at 16 and Gratiot. Following Mass, there will be a procession with the statue of San Francesco. Following up with fellowship. This year San Francesco Church is celebrating the 40th anniversary of this location started in 1898, 120 in all.

Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2018

The Columbus Day Committee will be taking a bus to the state capitol. We will board the bus at 8:30 a.m. at the Italian American Cultural Center on Romeo Plank Rd. in Clinton Twp. In Lansing there will be an awards presentation followed by lunch. We will return around 2:00 p.m. (the Bus is by invitation only, however; THIS is YOUR capitol. Everyone is invited)

Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018

The Columbus Day Parade begins at 11 a.m. and will assemble at approximately 9:30 a.m. The parade route will be in Mt. Clemens and begin at Main and Church and end at Main and Market. We will have an afterglow at Fern Hill Golf Club, on Clinton River Rd.. in Clinton Twp.

Sunday, Oct. 7, 2018

Members and friends of the Columbus Day Celebration Committee will attend a Memorial Mass at 11:00 a.m. in honor of Christopher Columbus at Historic Holy Family Church, 641 Chrysler Drive (located on the service drive of I-75 South, the Lafayette Exit) in downtown Detroit. Following Mass, there will be a fellowship in the lower level of the church. After fellowship, there will be a memorial ceremony at the Columbus Monument on Jefferson and Randolph where a wreath will be placed at the statue of Columbus.

Sunday, Oct. 7, 2018

The Banquet this year is to be held at The Italian American Cultural Center
doors open at 5:00 dinner at 6:00 tickets are \$55.

Man of the year:	Enzo Paglia
Woman of the year:	Sandra Tornberg
Humanitarian of the year:	Angelo Grillo

For more information or tickets call 586-298-1492

June 25th, IACCM John B. Agosta Memorial Golf Outing Fern Hill Golf Club



IACCM golf outing



Debbie, Golf Chairman Andy Agosta, Charles Moran, Dr. Chuck Shermetaro



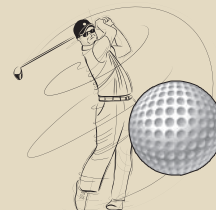
Gus Russo, Debbie, and Andy Agosta ready for check-in

Golf Chairmen Gus Russo and Andy Agosta!



all lined up and ready to go!!

Italian American Chamber of Commerce John B. Agosta Memorial 35th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing



A perfect fun filled day! I want to thank all the Chamber members, along with their friends and associates who supported this year's golf outing. This year we made more than \$15,000. Over the years we have granted over \$275,000 in scholarships and our golf outing has been a major source of that revenue. Your participation this year will help many students with scholarships. Without your continued support this would not be possible.

A special thank you to Debbie, our Chamber administrative assistant, for keeping all the finances in order, and Fern Hill Golf Club for hosting this year's event. Their food and hospitality were fantastic. I also want to thank all my committee members who contributed their own time to make it all possible. Let's not forget this year's honoree Jim Timpa for all he has done for our Chamber and the Italian American Community.

The 2019 golf outing is currently in the early planning stages, stay tuned for all the details. I am looking forward to your participation.

Best regards,
Andy Agosta

2018 Scholarship Recipients

Thomas Aiello
Bella Galli
Rocco Sacino
Cara Bonanni
Jacqueline Rola
Rose-Carmel Goddard
Scott Rola
Gabriella Burke
Annie-Marie Goddard
Hanna Wilking
Mia Minoletti
Domenic Nikprelevic
Nico Piccirilli
Gabrielle Wilking

**The IACCM wishes to thank the following sponsors for their support of the
John B. Agosta Memorial Scholarship Golf Outing**

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June 6, 2018
Scholarship Awards Night/Italian Cultural Center



Chairman of the Board David Galli, Immediate Past President Vito Pianello, and current President David Lazzara



Scholarship Chairman, Honorable Joseph Toia speaking about the scholarship program.



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June 6, 2018
Scholarship Awards Night/Italian Cultural Center



2018 scholarship award recipients with Chairman Joseph Toia



Mark Aiello accepting the Lido Bucci scholarship award for his son Thomas



Bella Galli



Rocco Sacino



Jeff Bonanni accepting for his daughter Cara.



Rose Rola accepting for both of her children; daughter Jacqueline, and son Scott



Michael Goddard accepting for his daughter Rose-Carmel



Gabiella Burke



Catherine Goddard accepting for her daughter Annie-Marie



Hanna Wilking



Mia Minoletti



Domenic Nikprelevic



Nico Piccirilli



Gabrielle Wilking

Festa Italiana 2018 - Freedom Hill County Park.





IACCM 100TH Year Anniversary

100 Years of History, Pride of Heritage

(Third in a series of 6)

A Better Chamber

How do we make this a better organization?

As we approach our second century, we all individually and collectively have the responsibility to see that we continue to exist. Also of importance is that we make every effort to make the

Chamber a better organization. This is no easy task. Let us brainstorm this.

When we look at our current Officers and Board members we see a group of bright and educated people who, when given the task, are capable of solving problems. It is the responsibility of the President and the Board Chairperson to identify and decides who, what, and when to find ways to make this a better Chamber.

First is membership retention. For reasons unknown we have too many people that join the Chamber, find that it does not meet their expectation, they then leave. The bad thing is that we make no attempt to find out why they left or try to get them to reconsider. So we must suggest that when a member decides to unjoin we should send her/him a survey which attempts to find out why. Most of these requests will be ignored. But if we receive 20% return, that is better than what we have now, which is zero. Secondly the President should make personal contact with the person and attempt to have her/him reconsider. The point being is we must do better than what we are doing now.

If it is determined that the person left for financial reasons, we should put in place funding to provide short term assistance.

The growth of Women in the IACCM has been disappointing to say the least.

We have a total of nine women by our current count. This includes regular and corporate membership. We have one female that has been active as a Board Member and Officer position. We have in recent years had a few ladies on our ballots, but they have failed to get elected. Why?

It has been ten years since the Board was able to pass the acceptance of Ladies into The IACCM, prior to the first attempt made thirty years earlier (1979). This at that time was met with male bias rejection. Here we are, today 10 years of female member acceptance and we have been able to attract only nine females. Why?

Now we must realize that women have a more difficult schedule than men. Being that in addition to being a professional or business person, they are likely to being homemakers with children to care for. Yes you must admit that the Ladies have a more difficult life. So what do we do to attract more ladies? This is something that must be addressed.

We need to honor people who made contributions to the Chamber that contribute toward the betterment of the organization. These people for most part will be past or present members. However they can also be nonmembers. A list for consideration has been provided to current Board Chairperson David Galli. There needs to be some action on this by the Board. It would be very progressive if this is addressed prior to our 100 year celebration.

Let begin with the above mentioned and attempt to make some progress. If we don't talk the talk, it becomes a non-issue.

Thank you for your participation. God bless you all and your families/

F A Pompa

IACCM 100 YEAR CLUB

Valerio Poliuto
Michael Locricchio
Angela Pippi-Soave
Ronald A. DiBartolomeo
Joseph P. Ventimiglia
Mark David Garagiola
In memory...
Martin Reno Garagiola
David F. Galli

Daniel Galli
Anthony Bommarito
Andrew Agosta
Ned R. Piccinini
David Lazzara
Lucia DiCicco
Vito Pianello
Sam Palazzolo

Thomas Bommarito
Paul Calcaterra
Salvatore Ventimiglia
Benedetto (Pete) Marrocco
Frank Pompa
Aaron Marentette
Sal M. Varano, M.D.
Dr. Charles Shermetaro

Gus Russo
Dr. Tony Giordano
Frank Coppola
Nunzio Provenzano
Ralph J. Koss
Joseph Toia



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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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