

The Grapevine

A Publication From
The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan
Winter/Spring Issue • 2023
Volume 22 • Number 1
Visit Our Website at: www.iaccm.net



Upcoming EVENTS



Notes from the PRESIDENT

FEBRUARY 1, 2023 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

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



MARCH 1, 2023 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

- Zuccaro's • 46601 Gratiot Avenue, Chesterfield

APRIL 5, 2023 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

- San Marino Club
1685 E. Big Beaver Road, Troy



MAY 3, 2023 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

- MRCC Banquet Center • 23397 Mound Road, Warren

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



I would like to state that it is an honor and privilege to be selected to lead the Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan as its 2023 President.

I sincerely appreciate the confidence that our past presidents have in me after just over 11 years of Chamber membership. I plan to rely on counsel from many of our past presidents as I navigate through my presidency.

I am truly blessed to be supported by a Board of Directors filled with dedicated, talented and hard-working individuals. This group is very diverse with a perfect blend of experience and youth. This Board will also include two women representatives in Alexandria Salvaggio, along with newly elected Cav. Sandra Tornberg. I believe this is a first in over the 100 year history of the Italian American Chamber of Commerce. Together, I believe they add a unique and valued perspective to our Board as we enter the early stages of our next 100 years.

I have selected one of the Past Presidents, Joe Ventimiglia, to serve as the 2023 IACCM Chairman of the Board. I will rely on his experience and knowledge to help mentor me as this year's President. Joe and I go back a long way to our high school days at Notre Dame and we have worked together for so many years at Festa Italiana. Joe Ventimiglia's passion and dedication to the Italian Chamber and its membership makes him the perfect choice to serve as my Chairman.

I would be remiss if I failed to acknowledge an integral person to the Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan - our Executive Assistant, Deborah Demick. I am sure that all of our Past Presidents would agree that Deb is the straw that stirs the drink for our Chamber. Without her knowledge, experience, dedication and support, we Presidents would be totally lost. I plan to rely on her support greatly this year.

As we move into 2023, we as a Chamber will continue planning for our three major annual events (a) the John B. Agosta Memorial Golf Outing, set for Monday, June 26th at Fern Hill Golf and Country Club; (b) Festa Italiana scheduled for the weekend of July 14, 15 and 16 at Freedom Hill; and (c) The Festa Della Lira set for Wednesday, October 4th at Mirage Elegant Banquets. Each of these events relies

Continued on page 2



Chairman's CORNER

Buon Anno! Happy New Year! As we welcome 2023, I would like to wish all members and their families a healthy and prosperous new year. I am honored to serve as this year's Chairman of the Board for the IACCM. I would like to extend a sincere congratulations to our new President, Mark Garagiola, son of the late (and beloved) Reno Garagiola. I would also like to welcome our newest board members- Sandy Tornberg and Leo Terzo.

As I reflect on 2022, I am most thankful for our Detroit Lions--who might finally win a championship in my lifetime! Joking aside- I am truly thankful for the continued growth of the Chamber and the camaraderie that has continued to develop over our long history. I am optimistic about the future and look forward to what is ahead. I would also like to express my condolences for all those who we lost in 2022.

As the new Chairman, I will try my best to keep everyone informed of events and Chamber happenings. With that- it is never too early to talk about summer. Please note that Festa Italiana 2023 will be held on July 14-15-16. The Festa is a great opportunity to showcase and celebrate our culture, while also welcoming the community to join in our rich heritage and tradition. I hope to see you there! I am also looking forward to seeing each of you throughout the year at our monthly dinner meeting.

Lastly, I would like to thank our Immediate Past President Charles Shermetaro, and Chairman Charles Moran for their leadership in 2021 and 2022. I am looking forward to a successful year under the leadership of President Mark Garagiola in 2023.

I wish the best for each of you throughout this next year and beyond.

Joe Ventimiglia

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Notes From The President

Continued from page 1

on the planning of the individual committees that chair each event, but volunteer help from our membership is needed and appreciated to ensure each event's success. Profits from these three major events help to fund our annual Scholarship Night Award Dinner (chaired by Hon. Joseph Toia) each year, along with helping to defer the increasing cost attributed to funding our monthly dinner meetings.

I am encouraged that membership in the Italian American Chamber of Commerce has reached 198 members, which is up from the 172 members we had entering covid. I believe that our Chamber has done a number of things to retain and increase our membership over the past few years. We have capitalized on the afterglow of the 100 year celebration held in the fall of 2019, including the award winning docufilm created by members Anthony Bommarito and Michael Peraino which highlights the history of our Chamber and features a dozen of our members sharing what our Chamber means to them.

We have formed a Network and Vision Committee to investigate, develop and promote events to appeal to our evolving membership. The pasta cook-offs held at Hard Rock Stone Works the past two years, along with a wine tasting event held in late summer at Cellar 104 in Mt. Clemens are just a couple examples of new Chamber event opportunities. This committee is researching other events, which include a weekend trip via rail to either Toronto or Chicago, possibly a night on the town in the D with limobus transportation, or maybe a bocce night at Villa Penna or Palazzo DiBocci.

The Network Vision Committee has also discussed potentially bringing back events from the past (i.e., January formal Inauguration Ball and/or the Roast) as well. We, on the Network and Vision Committee look forward to membership input on event options.

The continued evolution of our website along with additional visibility in social media (primarily Facebook) has enhanced our Chamber visibility. Improvements initiated by Charles Moran have taken the IACCM website to the next level with complete member roster, testimonials, event photos and even access to the 100 year docfilm. Additionally, Aaron Marentette put together an outstanding history background on the Festa Italiana for the website. Alexandria Salvaggio, Leo Terzo and Aaron make sure that the smiling faces at each of our dinner meetings get exposure on Facebook.

I am also encouraged with the spirit of collaboration that has evolved between our Italian American Chamber of Commerce and the Consul of Italy. It began with the previous Consul of Italy, Maria Manca, and the 100 Year Celebration Committee. Maria was included in the planning and played a major role at the 100 Year Gala. Her successor, Allegra Baistrocchi, has maintained the close connection with our Chamber of Commerce. She has attended a few of our dinner meetings over the past year, along with speaking to our membership. Allegra plans to address our group once again in the coming months. Ultimately, my goal as the 2023 Italian American Chamber of Commerce President is to reach out to and get to know the many within our membership as possible. I plan to focus on our newest members. I would like to learn a little more about them and what they do for a living, along with how IACCM membership can benefit them. I encourage others within our membership to do the same.

Respectfully,

Mark Garagiola
IACCM 2023 President

2023 OFFICER/BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS

At the January 4th General Membership Meeting at Fern Hill Golf Club, the newly elected Officers and Board of Directors were sworn in. Congratulations to the following:

OFFICERS

- **President – Mark D. Garagiola**
- **1st Vice President – Michael Locricchio**
- **2nd Vice President – Joseph Divozzo**
- **Secretary – Philip J. Maniaci**
- **Treasurer – Greg Gagnon**

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

- **Joseph P. Ventimiglia**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

~ Term Ending 2025

- **Charles Moran**
- **Vito Pianello**
- **Leo Salvatore Terzo**

~ Partial Term ending 2024

- **Sandra Tornberg**

PAST PRESIDENTS 2023

- **Ronald DiBartolomeo • David F. Galli**

IN MEMORIAM

PETER J. MACERONI

August 11, 1940 - September 28, 2022

The beloved and longtime IACCM member Honorable Judge Peter Joseph Maceroni, 82, passed away peacefully at home on September 28 surrounded by loved ones. Peter is the father of IACC member James Maceroni.



Peter Maceroni was born on August 11, 1940 and was a lifelong resident of the Detroit area. He attended De La Salle Collegiate High School, graduating in 1958. He began his long and illustrious legal career at Wayne State University Law School, where he earned his Juris Doctor in 1965. After 25 years in private practice, Judge Maceroni was elected to the 16th Circuit Court in 1990 and re-elected in 1996, 2002, and 2008. In March 1992, he was elected Chief Judge and served in that position through December 31, 2004 with wisdom, fairness, strength, and dignity that he became known for.

Italian-American Chamber of Commerce Birthdays for:

February

2/1 Guerrieri, John
2/3 Gagnon, Greg
2/4 Forlini, Anthony
2/6 Paglia, Paul
2/7 Gatti, Hon. Julie
2/9 Fuciarelli, Peter A.
2/10 Fox, Steven R.
2/11 Magnotte, Gerald
2/12 Piccinini, Patricia A.
2/16 Wolf, Edward M.
2/17 DeLuca, Antonio
2/19 Notte, Michael R.
2/20 DiLorenzo, Frank
2/22 Jozefiak, Victoria
2/24 Lucido, III, Peter J.
2/27 Gaglio, Philip J.
2/27 Salerno, Dr. Ramo A.

April

4/3 Aiello, Mark
4/3 Calunas, William A.
4/5 Iacona, Joseph
4/7 Calcaterra, Michael J.
4/12 Poliuto, Valerio
4/13 Buffa, Ross
4/17 Canzano, Roger
4/18 Minoletti, Gary
4/19 Lanni, Angelo S.
4/25 Rocca, Larry
4/25 Tundo, Samuel
4/26 Biondo, Joe
4/27 Cipriano, Joseph
4/29 Vitale, Vincenzo
4/30 Gallo, Tony J.

March

3/2 Jakubec, Christy A.
3/4 Fuciarelli, Pietro G.
3/5 Shermetaro, Charles G.
3/6 Pippi-Soave, Angela M.
3/8 Carnaghi, Donald
3/12 Bonanni, Jeffrey A.
3/14 Piccinini, Ned R.
3/17 Rubino, Anthony M.
3/17 Bommarito, Benedict
3/18 Vicari, Joseph
3/23 Santeufemia, Michael N.
3/23 Lucido, Alex
3/24 Esposito, Gino
3/26 Giannetti, Frank
3/30 Garagiola, Mark D.
3/30 Picano, Domenic

May

5/4 Russo, Agostino
5/6 Adamek, Suzanne
5/7 Agosta, Anthony Allan
5/8 Salvaggio, Alexandria
5/8 Picciche, Vincent
5/14 Calcaterra, Paul R.
5/14 DiCicco, Joseph
5/14 Fiorino, Luigi
5/16 Velardo, Armand
5/17 Giarmarco, Julius H.
5/17 Paglia, Enzo
5/17 Rogensues, Gary
5/19 Varanelli, Jeffrey
5/23 Scalzi, Frank
5/30 Lawroski, Eric

ITALIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEW MEMBERS 2022

Andrea Accica – Goodman Venegas Insurance Agency
Suzanne Adamek – Interior Design by Suzanne, LLC
William Castiglione – Castle Surveillance
Marianne Engstrom – Next Step 4 Seniors
Luigi Fiorino – Contracting Services of Michigan
Steven R. Fox – Macomb County Prosecutors Office
Jeffrey C. Furest – First Financial Coaching, Inc.
David Gagnon – Cellar 104
Giacomo Garrisi – ATA National Title Group LLC
Joseph Iacona – Keller Williams Realty Lakeside
Christy A. Jakubec – Berkshire Hathaway Key Realty
Joey Lepore – Great Lakes Glass
Dominic Maratta – All American Business Center
Naeem Mirza – The UPS Store Macomb
Paul Paglia – Stellantis North America
Gasper Randazzo – Randazzo Heating & Cooling
Tricia A. Saputo – R & R Bath
Benedetto Sorrentino – Icon Development, Inc.
Jaclyn Ventimiglia Standing – Baylor University
Rebecca L. Wilson – The Dobrusin Law Firm, P.C.
Edward M. Wolf – First Independent Agency
Rebecca L. Wilson – The Dobrusin Law Firm, P.C.

Festa Della Lira, October 5, 2022 • Villa Penna



Jim Yearego, Dominic LaRosa, Gino Esposito, and Tim Monicatti enjoying dinner!



– Gary Rogensues, Paula Badalamente, Mike Trego, and Dr. Sal Varano enjoying each other's company



Tony Rubino, Roy Schnepfer, Al Marino, and Joey Lepore all hoping to win!



The Festa Della Lira committee ready to give away some cash!



The WINNERS, Dave Lazzara, Joyce Mocaby, Joe Biondo, Peter Lucido III, and Michael Notte



Anthony Licata III with his winning Basket of Cheer!



A packed house tonight!



Treasurer Frank Coppola handing out the payouts

HARD ROCK STONE WORKS

2nd annual pasta cookoff • October 27, 2022



"The Chefs" Paula and Aaron Marentette, Joey Lepore, Charles Moran, Roger Canzano, Paula Dooling with her Grandson, Ed Toarmino, and Pete Fuciarelli



Aaron Marentette with his mom Paula



Pete Fuciarelli making sure his sauce is "just right"



Ed Toarmino and Maria Polsinelli



Honorable Joseph Toia with his wife Theresa and Mark Garagiola



Paula Dooling with her winning dish



"Get your raffle tickets for some nice prizes!"



Chairpersons Michel & Renee Tenaglia. Great job!

November 2, 2022 • The Mirage



Father and Son team, Tom & Leo Terzo



Honorable Joseph Toia, Steve Fox, Dominic LaRosa, Joe Biondo, and Larry Rocca



How did Honorable James Maceroni and Michael Ricciardello get so lucky to sit with all the beautiful ladies?



Anthony Licata III and Dr. David Bonadeo



Honorable Joseph Toia swearing in new members Giacomo Garrisi, ATA National Title Group, and Tricia Saputo, R & R Bath



Sam Ventimiglia, Steve Militello, Philip Maniaci, John DiPiazza, Mike Locricchio, Dave Galli, and Joe Ventimiglia

December 7, 2022 • Palazzo Grande



President Shermetaro, Marianne Engstrom,
Charles Moran



Members enjoying the delicious appetizers



President Shermetaro swearing in new corporate member
Marianne Engstrom, Next Step 4 Seniors/Divinity Health
Care, with Membership Chairs Joseph Divozzo
and Charles Moran



"Let's Eat"

Friends of Foster Kids Annual Christmas Wrapping Event

*Thank you to all IACCM members who volunteered this year.
Also a huge THANK YOU to Honorable Joseph Toia and his wife Theresa
for all their hard work year after year!*



Italian American Chamber of Commerce

2023 Installation of Officers & Board of Directors

Fern Hill Golf Club • January 4, 2023



2023 Officers & Board of Directors

Standing L-R Ronald DiBartolomeo, Vito Pianello, Aaron Marentette, Leo Terzo, Joseph Burke, Sandra Tornberg, Anthony Licata III, Alexandria Salvaggio, Charles Moran, David Galli

Seated L-R: Chairman of the Board Joseph Ventimiglia, Secretary Philip Maniaci, 1st Vice President Michael Locricchio, President Mark Garagiola, 2nd Vice President Joseph Divozzo, Treasurer Greg Gagnon, Immediate Past President Charles Shermetaro OD, Financial Secretary Michael Divozzo



2023 Officers

L-R 1st Vice President Michael Locricchio, President Mark Garagiola, Secretary Philip Maniaci, 2nd Vice President Joseph Divozzo, Treasurer Greg Gagnon, Financial Secretary Michael Divozzo



Past President's in Attendance

Standing L-R David F. Galli, Daniel Galli, Thomas Bommarito, Honorable Joseph Toia, Immediate Past President Dr. Charles Shermetaro, OD

Seated L-R

Vito Pianello, Joseph P. Ventimiglia, Sam Ventimiglia, Gus Russo, Andy Agosta, Ronald A. DiBartolomeo





Roy Schnepfer leading the prayer before
our delicious meal is served

Honorable Joseph Toia swearing in the new 2023 Officers and Board of Directors



Immediate Past President Charles Shermetaro introducing
the new 2023 President, Mark Garagiola



President Mark Garagiola presenting a plaque to Charles Shermetaro in
recognition of his two years of service as President of the IACCM



President Shermetaro presenting
Charles Moran a plaque in
recognition of his two years of
service as Chairman of the Board



Charles Moran, Joseph Divozzo,
Christy Jakubec of Berkshire
Hathaway Key Realty, and
Honorable Joseph Toia



Honorable Joseph Toia swearing
in our newest member Christy
Jakubec with membership
Chairmen Joseph Divozzo and
Charles Moran



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

George Horattas



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George Horattas, Family service Counselor

George Horattas is a well-known family service counselor at Resurrection Cemetery.

He is active in several Italian organizations including the Italian Cultural Society & the Italian Chamber of Commerce. George began helping families with their burial arrangements 25 years ago, after his mother passed away following an extremely long illness. Dealing with all the arrangements for his mother's funeral, he realized the importance of preplanning.

Because of this personal experience, George has a great deal of compassion for the families and individuals that he serves.

He explains that the benefits of preplanning are:

- Decisions can be made together, easing your family's stress at a time of loss.
- Your family is spared the immediate financial demands of making burial arrangements.
- A small deposit locks prices in and monthly payment options make preplanning affordable.
- Resurrection offers a generous repurchase plan should your needs change in the future.

Families who have made arrangements ahead of time have told George that, at the time of loss, they appreciated having made their decisions in advance. They were spared the difficult and emotional task of making decisions alone and realized that by planning ahead, they achieved significant financial savings.

Resurrection is a not-for-profit cemetery open to all Christian faiths. The landscaped grounds and beautiful mausoleums provide families a place of beauty and serenity in which to remember loved ones.

For more information about current preplanning incentives and for your free copy of the Personal Planning Organizer, call George Horattas @ 586-226-3401 or email ghorattas@mtelliott.com

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

D.C. Bonadeo, D.D.S., P.C.

D.C. Bonadeo, D.D.S., P.C.

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**IACCM / Holy Family Memorial
Mass and Pancake Breakfast
November 6 2022, Holy Family Church**

Pictured L-R: Dan Galli, Tony Agosta, Chuck Promesso,
Andy Agosta, Mark Garagiola, Dr. Charles Shermetaro OD

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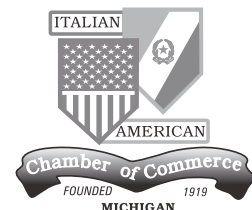
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The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan

OFFICERS

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Mark D. Garagiola

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Michael Locricchio

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Joseph Divozzo

SECRETARY

Philip J. Maniaci

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Michael Divozzo

TREASURER

Greg Gagnon

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN

Joseph P. Ventimiglia

PAST PRESIDENTS 2023

Ronald DiBartolomeo

David F. Galli

TERMS ENDING 2023

Joseph Burke

Paul Calcaterra

Anthony C. Licata, III

TERMS ENDING 2024

Aaron Marentette

Alexandria Salvaggio

Sandra Tornberg

TERMS ENDING 2025

Charles Moran

Vito Pianello

Leo Salvatore Terzo

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

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!