



The Grapevine

A Publication From

The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan

Summer / Fall Issue • 2012

Volume 11 • Number 3

Visit Our New Website at: www.iaccm.net



Upcoming EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 5 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

• Ristorante Piccirilli • 52830 Van Dyke, Shelby Township

Guest Speaker: Judge Linda Davis,

Families Against Narcotics

OCTOBER 3, 2012 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

• Club Venetian • 29310 John R Road, Madison Heights

OCTOBER 24, 2012 • WEDNESDAY

MACOMB COUNTY BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL EXPO

TIME • 11:30 AM-2:30 PM

LOCATION

• Mirage Banquet Center

Details on page 11

NOVEMBER 7, 2012 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Nomination of Officers/Board of Directors

TIME • 6:00 PM Board Meeting

• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

• Villa Penna • 43985 Hayes, Sterling Heights

DECEMBER 5, 2012 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Election of Officers/Board of Directors

TIME • 6:00 pm Board Meeting

• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

• Palazzo Grande

54660 Van Dyke, Shelby Township



Notes from the PRESIDENT

WELCOME BACK MEMBERS

Our first meeting back for the fall will be on Wednesday, September 5th at Ristorante Piccirilli.

It has been a great summer, and I hope all of you have enjoyed it as much as I have.

The IACCM events that have taken place have all achieved great success, and an outstanding job was done by all of the committee's and their chairmen. The Festa Della Lira, which was held back in April, was once again a night of good food, drink and camaraderie. The golf outing was a great success this year and all the credit goes to the golf committee, headed by Andy Agosta, along with all the volunteers, new members and associate members who worked so hard to make our scholarship program a huge success. The scholarship awards were handed out at the June 6th meeting at the Mirage, and it was so nice to see so many students on hand to personally accept their scholarships this year.

I am proud to say that Festa Italiana 2012 in downtown Mt. Clemens was a great event and was enjoyed by many. The city of Mt. Clemens rolled out the red carpet and made it a great party for everyone to enjoy, and are looking forward to next year.

Here are a few upcoming events and Chamber happenings:

- The September 5, 2012 general membership meeting is going to be a very informative meeting with our guest speaker Judge Linda Davis. She will be speaking about the organization that she has founded, FAN (families against narcotics). Using real-life experiences, instead of statistics, FAN hopes to help students, parents and the community deal with the realities of drug abuse and addiction. This is a very large growing problem and we all need to listen, learn and help this cause.

Continued on page 8



Chairman's CORNER

You are probably scratching your head right now wondering why Tony Rubino isn't writing this column. Well, Tony had to step down as Chairman of the Board. Because of all of his previous obligations and commitments in his personal, charitable, and business lives, he felt he could not put in the time and dedication it deserves, but he will continue to be 2nd Vice President. We wish Tony all the best. As a result, the Board of Directors elected me to finish out his term, and I'm more than happy to do so.

With that said, how about this past summer? If you are a boater or golfer, you have got to be smiling. The weather was very cooperative. Speaking of golf, hats off to Andy Agosta and his committee for a spectacular outing. It was a sellout event. The event honored Gus Russo for all of his years of service and time giving, not only to the IACCM but the Italian community – well deserved! Special thanks go out to Steve Messina for allowing us to be at Scalawags for our event, as well as Johnny DiGiuseppe for the wonderful food he provided throughout the entire day. More importantly, the proceeds from this event that went to the scholarship fund and reached approximately \$12,000! Thank you to all of our sponsors, and particularly you, the members, who not only came to the event, but brought non-member friends and co-workers along with you.

You know, not only are you marketing and selling yourself and your business when you attend an event such as this and bring others, you are also selling and marketing the IACCM. What a way to showcase our organization as to who we are, and what our mission and goals are. It is a great way to recruit people to join.

I also noticed in various publications, IACCM members attending other events. One of them was the IAABT event that was hosting the Ambassador of Italy to the United States. Again, not only are you networking yourself and your profession, but you are marketing the IACCM as well. I should note that the IACCM was a sponsor for that event.

I know that there are various other functions that are coming up, including the Macomb County Business & Professional Expo that is presented by the Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan, the Macomb County Chamber, and Metro Networking Professionals, on October 24th at The Mirage. Take advantage of these events. It is a great networking tool not only for you, but for the Chamber as well. I think you will find that you will have great standing and credibility when others find out that you are a member of the IACCM.

The Board of Directors is doing their part to help promote the Chamber as well as its members. We have been active in sponsoring various events, advertising and contributing to various charities, but the best promoter is you, the member. Tell others why you are a member, the benefits of being a member, and what it has done for your business.

The IACCM has been around for 93 years. That alone says it all. As part of our mission statement states "To nurture an environment for business and professional growth..." That is what we believe in, and that is why we are as successful as we are today.

Best of luck to all of you in the upcoming months, and may you all continue to prosper and be well.

Ronald A. DiBartolomeo
Chairman, IACCM

Motivational Moments – Summer/Fall 2012

By William A. Morelli, Sr.

It is hard to believe that the 2012 Olympics are now over. As usual, there were surprises, but nothing more surprising than little Gabby Douglas winning her Gold medal in Women's Gymnastics, and then following with Gold in the Team Women's Gymnastics. Michael Phelps also proved his worth in gathering more medals than anyone in history and, of course, our pro basketball players out shined Spain for another Gold. There were many more who did better than expected, but the greatest achievement was by the Jamaican Runners who brought fame to their little country. We all should feel a sense of pride when the United States Flag is raised and our National Anthem is played. But the real Heroes are the parents that encouraged their youngsters to follow that dream, and may have sacrificed much money to reach that goal. It is always inspiring to me to see how far the parents have gone to support their children.

As we go through the balance of this year, let us remember that youngster that is dreaming about representing his country – your country – at the next Olympic Games. Encourage them and support them in what ever manner you can. I, for one, look forward to the next time our Stars & Stripes flies as first, and our National Anthem is played.

Before I close, I must also pay tribute to all the young men and women that are serving in the Military. It is hard to believe that this volunteer military has the duty and the responsibility of defending this great nation and its people. When you see someone in uniform, try to remember to shake their hand and say "Thank You". It doesn't cost anything... but it will go a long way toward making that service man/woman know that we appreciate what they are doing.

Ciao

UPCOMING 2012 FUNDRAISERS

October 18-21

Cada's Poker & Sports Grill

44935 Hayes Road, Sterling Heights

November 27-30

The River Poker Lounge

48762 Van Dyke, Shelby Township

A great place for poker or blackjack lovers...

Play cards, socialize, and win cash!

Full bar and Big Screens to watch all your favorite sports games.

This is a great way to raise money for the IACCM

YOUR HELP IS DESPERATELY NEEDED

These are fun and very lucrative fundraisers!

Please contact Debbie at the IACCM office to sign up!

Italian American Chamber of Commerce

**June 6, 2012 meeting
Mirage Banquet Center**

New Members

Joseph W. Ventimiglia,
Battery Giant, and
Samual Crudo,
CIA Financial Group,

being sworn in by Frank Palazzolo



Newest Corporate Members,
Dario Lanni and Jeff DiCaro,
Fern Hill Golf Club, with President
Joseph Ventimiglia



ARCHIVE UPDATE

The Archive Committee proudly presents for your information our Chamber Memorial. This list of names contains people who were, at some time during their life, members of this organization. Some of the people were members when they passed; others had left the Chamber prior to their passing.

If you feel we may have missed someone whose name should be remembered, please contact an Archive Committee member.

Take a minute, go over the list. Honor and remember those you knew and also enjoy the beauty of those fine Italian names of those that you did not know.

God bless you all!

Archives Committee

Paul Calcaterra, Gino Esposito and Frank Pompa

In Memoriam



Peter M. Grosso, Jr.
IACCM member since 2000, passed away in
Florida at the age of 74 on April 28, 2012.



Charles Palumbo
Long time IACCM
member, and past
Board of Director since
1974, passed away at
the age of 91 on May 17,
2012

Italian American Chamber Of Commerce Of Michigan Memorial

We honor and remember these people who have blessed us with their membership participation and with their efforts and talents to make this the fine organization that it is today. Thank you for being proud of our heritage.

MAY YOU REST IN PEACE

PIETRO CARDIELLO---FOUNDER AND THE FIRST PRESIDENT

Raymond Cuomo
Andrew Maglia
Dr. Panfilio De Loreto
Ross Amicucci
John B. Agosta
Hon. Lido Bucci
Thomas Angott
Samuel Prete
Emil Moro
Domenico Volpe
Peter Cipriano
Loreto Gervaci
Joseph Ternello
James Tassoni
Nunzio Giasone
Martin (Reno) Garagiola
Onorio (Joe) Catenacci
Frank Di Giovanni
Charles Palumbo

Dr. Vincent Mancuso
Frank Loverde
Samuel Gigante
Joseph Ferriolo
Joseph Pavone
Joseph Spano
Philip Greco
Joseph Craig
Arthur V. Angott
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Dante Santavicca
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Fred Severini Jr.
John De Nardo
Frank D Stella

Joseph Schippacasse
Dr. Louis Carbone
Alfredo Adamo
Anthony Spina
Emil Notarangelo
Amperio Carli
Vincent Marinelli
Ilio Benvenuti
Joseph A. Quasarano
Pat Battaglia
Joseph Aldini
Frank S. Valenti
Sam J. Lafata
Steve Aiello
Peter Bartholomew
Robert J (Ripper) Ripullo
Anthony Buscemi
William S. Tudisco

Anthony Sperti
Mark Valente Sr.
Marion Macioce
Nunzio Giasone
Louis Calcaterra Jr.
Hon. Frank Jeannette
Oliver Fratti
Samuel Angott
Andrew J. Sinelli
A. I. Cappizzi
Ralph L. Vigliotti
Albert Mazzei
Berardino Pettinaro
Russell Gambino
Edward Rondina
Anthony (Tony) Latella
Hon. Anthony Sanfemio
Peter Grosso

Festa Italiana 2012



July 20- 22, 2012 • Downtown Mt. Clemens



Italian American Chamber of

June 26, 2012 • John B. Agosta Memorial • 29th Annual Go



Associate members Christine and Jaclyn Ventimiglia helping Debbie at check-in



Paul Calcaterra and Gino Esposito enjoying some lunch!



Chef John DiGiuseppe making sure everything is perfect for lunch



Joseph Toia and guest awaiting the shotgun start!



Mark Garagiola working hard at #17 hole-in-one!



Pete Lucido ready for action



Cocktail reception!



Guests enjoying delicious food and wine!

f Commerce

If Outing • Scalawags Golf Club



"Happy Birthday to You!"
being sung to
John DiGiuseppe!



Sam Ventimiglia
introducing Man of the
Year Honoree Gus Russo



Golf Chairman Andy Agosta thanking
everyone for attending



Dan Galli and guest checking with Bill Morelli to see if
they are closest to the pin on #11

Italian American Chamber of Commerce John B. Agosta Memorial 29th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing



As another year is quickly passing and I just wanted to thank all the Chamber members, their friends and associates, who supported this years golf outing, we had a record 146 golfers and 35 Hole Sponsors, which netted a profit of over \$12,000. I am sure this event's co-founders, my brother John and Fred Severini, were beaming down on us and provided that beautiful day. 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 will help 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 Di Giuseppe for the great food, Steve Messina for hosting this years' event and all my committee members who contributed a great deal of time and talent to this event. A special acknowledgment to this years' honoree Gus Russo 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

2012 Scholarship Recipients

Joshua Reside
Anthony Pecchia
Jaclyn DiBartolomeo
Jason Lazzara
Alexander DiBartolomeo
Christopher DeLuca
Dominique DiPiazza
Marina Bommarito
Jaclyn DiPiazza
Alessandra Lucido



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
9/14 Agosta, Andrew
9/18 Crudo, Samual
9/20 Costa, David J.
9/21 Lazzara, David A.
9/22 Pianello, Vito
9/28 Promesso, Charles
9/28 Ventimiglia, Jaclyn C.

October

10/4 Cancro, Frank
10/5 Messina, Steve
10/7 Palazzolo, Frank J.
10/12 Meli, Paul
10/23 Scrafano, Carmen J. Duke
10/24 Del Pup, Armen
10/30 Penna, George

November

11/2 Beaudette, Floyd C.
11/2 DiBartolomeo, Ronald A..

November

11/10 Marchiori, William R.
11/11 Marino, Al
11/15 Koss, Ralph
11/17 Milkey, James A.
11/18 Galli, Daniel A.
11/18 Gentilia, John J.
11/25 Calcaterra, Lawrence
11/26 Pellegrino, Joseph R.

December

12/1 Apruzzese, Mario
12/1 Lochirco, Salvatore
12/1 Cervone, Matthew D.
12/5 DeCarlo, Gary A.
12/7 Gallo, Frank
12/11 Marchiori, William L.
12/13 DiCicco, Lucia
12/14 Piccinini, Ned
12/17 Caretti, Richard
12/17 Bonadeo, David C.
12/26 Bonnell, James E.
12/26 LaGrasso, Sam
12/27 Tenaglia, Michel

Notes From The President

Continued from page 1

• Wednesday, September 26, 2012 is our 2nd annual Italian Heritage Night @ Comerica Park, as the Detroit Tigers take on the Kansas City Royals at 7pm. We are looking forward to another fun night and hope that all of you will use the flyer that was emailed to you, or go to www.tigers.com/italian to purchase your tickets. We are hoping to have a larger turnout this year and to continue this tradition for years to come. GO TIGERS!

• October 28, 2012 is the IACCM/ Holy Family Memorial Mass. I am proud to say that we have members who have agreed to take care of any costs involved so everyone can enjoy a beautiful Sunday mass with each other, along with your families. The mass will take place at 11:30 am, followed by a pancake breakfast. Buses will be available in the morning at approximately 10 am from the IACS to take everyone down and return after breakfast. This event requires signing up NOW and includes your families, so please sign up at the September 5th meeting to hold your spot.

We have welcomed quite a few new members this year, including corporate, regular, and associate. Let's keep working on growing the Chamber membership thru networking and inviting our friends and relatives to join. Remember to check our website, iaccm.net for Chamber updates and events! Next time you are at the IACS, be sure to check out the new bocce courts and the IACCM bench that was purchased to commemorate the Chamber.

Thank You and God Bless the Italian American Chamber of Commerce!

Joseph P. Ventimiglila

2012 Scholarship Night • Mirage Banquet Center • June 6, 2012



Scholarship recipient Dominique DiPiazza with her parents John and Cindy, along with Joseph Toia



Joseph Toia with scholarship recipient Marina Bommarito, along with her parents Tom and Angela



Scholarship recipient Jaclyn DiPiazza with her parents John and Cindy and Scholarship Chairman Joseph Toia



Scholarship Judges George Sassini and Geary Maiuri with Scholarship Chairman Joseph Toia



Joe Toia presenting scholarship check to Jason Lazzara, pictured with his Father Dave, and Mother Michelle



Scholarship recipient Christopher DeLuca with his Father Tony, his Mother Christina, and Joseph Toia



Scholarship recipient Alessandra Lucido with Joseph Toia and her Mother Maria



A full house at the Mirage for scholarship night!

Grapevine Membership Business Directory

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MY MACOMB. MY HOME. SM



"Macomb NOW magazine has allowed us to further positively position First State Bank's brand image, expertise and hometown roots. Macomb County is our market and it is a pleasure to be able to advertise in a high quality publication that is distributed to the heart of our market."

— Kathleen Zenisek, Marketing Director - First State Bank
Page: 56-57

"A lot of clients and community leaders have commented on our ad in Macomb NOW. It has been a great way for us to get exposure throughout the county!"

— Ralph J. Koss, First Vice President,
Raymond James & Associates, Inc.
Page: 3

"We have received such accolades for our ad in the Macomb NOW Magazine. It is such a great way to advertise locally, especially since it circulates to an immense amount of businesses and people in the Macomb County area."

— Michael Locricchio,
CPA Metzler Locricchio
Serra & Company, P.C.
Page: 59

Macomb NOWTM Magazine

Did you know that Macomb NOW Magazine is Macomb County's highly sought after premier upscale quarterly lifestyle publication? Call to learn how you can purchase 3 issues of advertising and receive 1 free!

1+855-Macomb-1 (1+855-622-6621)

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LUNCH!**

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**MACOMB COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARK HACKEL
BARBARA ROSSMANN, PRESIDENT & CEO,
HENRY FORD MACOMB HOSPITALS**

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Macomb County Business & Professional Expo

\$150 per display table.
Includes 10 free tickets for
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Additional tickets are \$15.
Limit of 100 displays.

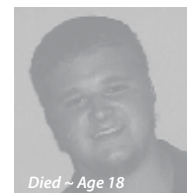
Contact Debbie at IACCM
at (586) 228-2576 or Joe
Lucido at (586) 286-8200.

**Oct. 24, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Mirage Banquet Center**

**PRESENTED BY MACOMB COUNTY CHAMBER, ITALIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE OF MICHIGAN AND METRO NETWORKING PROFESSIONALS**

ATTEND FAN FALL FEST

SUPPORT THOSE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY. TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE



THE NEW FACE OF ADDICTION • RAISING AWARENESS OF THE SILENT EPIDEMIC



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For ticket or sponsorship information, call 586.435.8500 or fanevents@yahoo.com.

All proceeds benefit Families Against Narcotics' (FAN) educational program on the dangers of abusing prescription painkillers and the potential to lead some to illegal narcotics. FAN is a 501(c)3 organization based in Macomb County, Michigan.



43843 Romeo Plank Road • Clinton Twp., MI 48038
586.228.2576 • Fax: 586.228.2579 • www.iaccm.net

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Joseph Toia

PAST PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL

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

1998 Ned Piccinini

1994 Angelo Lanni

1991 Thomas B. Lanni

1985 Dr. Charles Marinelli

1979 Frank Pompa

1978 Mark Valente, Jr.

1976 Sam Ripepi

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."