

The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan

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1998 Ned Piccinini

1994 Angelo Lanni

1991 Thomas B. Lanni

1985 Dr. Charles Marinelli

1984 Frank DiGiovanni

1981 Hon. Anthony Sanfemio

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.”



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THE GRAPEVINE

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Upcoming EVENTS

MARCH 4, 2009 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

- Villa Penna
43985 Hayes, Clinton Township

APRIL 1, 2009 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

- Eastpointe Manor
24611 Gratiot Avenue, Eastpointe

MAY 6, 2009 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

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

MAY 20, 2009 • WEDNESDAY • FESTA DELLA LIRA

TIME

- 6PM-11PM (see more information on page 5)

LOCATION

- Zuccaro's Banquet Center
46601 Gratiot Avenue, Chesterfield

**JUNE 29, 2009 * MONDAY * GOLF OUTING
26th Annual John B. Agosta Golf Outing**

TIME

- 11:00 AM Shotgun Start

LOCATION

- Fern Hill Country Club, 17600 Clinton River Road,
Clinton Township • For tickets/info contact:
Andy Agosta 248-561-1266



It seem like it was just a short time ago, I was reading President Ron DiBartolomeo's first note to the Chamber, and now it is my turn. Speaking of our Immediate Past President, we really didn't get a good chance in January to thank him for all that he has done during his term. Ron has been instrumental in moving the Chamber forward, bringing us new opportunities, and instilling a renewed sense of purpose in the Chambers' future. He has been the catalyst for many new opportunities including a wonderful networking opportunity with the Italian American Alliance for Business and Technology (IAABT).

The IAABT has expressed interest in working with the Chamber to co-host some very special networking events, and are also extremely interested in establishing joint membership for members of both organizations. If you would like more information on the IAABT, you can get in touch with Tony Rubino, Ron DiBartolomeo, or myself. Back to Ron DiBartolomeo, if you're sensing I will have some big shoes to fill, I would agree with you whole heartedly. With that said, as we move forward this year to strengthen our organization, I would ask for your help. Each individual member of our Chamber brings value in their comments and suggestions. I would ask that you make yourself heard. I promise the entire Board is listening.

It's no secret that the whole country, if not the world, is experiencing some real challenges when it comes to economies. The State of Michigan ranks highest in unemployment for the entire country. Many, if not all of

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Bisogniamo Coraggio & Pazienza
“We need courage & patience”

During these difficult times in business we certainly need these two attributes.

We are in the era of concern, for “the bottom line” is on the minds of our clients or business. It seems like most purchases we make are being discounted to make the sale. This comes naturally when so much of marketing is using this to promote customers.

Store windows and newspaper ads are displaying ads that read 30% - 90% discounts on products they provide. Our challenge as business professionals is to continue to supply the same exceptional service and products that your clients have learned to expect by dealing with you. It seems like the next generation is no longer concerned about the honesty and trust that you as an individual have been giving to your clients in the past years.

This is the challenge that a sincere business person is confronted with. Service you offer to your customers or clients is a combination of efforts, from not only you as owner and professional in your business, but also from each member of your staff. During these times of cutting costs to compete, how do we manage to maintain the same level of service you have always provided?

The other issues are the products that you have provided all these years. People call on you because they trust that you will see to it that only the best products are made available to them. Under the stress of cost based competition, how are you going to continue to give them the same quality of merchandise that you have been using all these years?

This is where courage comes in. Doing what is necessary to maintain the same high level of services you have been so proud to provide for so many years. This will take courageous decisions. You know as a respected business person and professional how important product is to your reputation. Cost cutting in this area can be a disaster to your business, as well as your good standing as a reputable individual that your clients or customers have grown to respect through the years.

It's going to take a great deal of courage to stand your ground in these tough times and not compromise the service and product that you have been known for all these years. Patience is the other key to the future. We have to keep the mind set that things will get better. If we don't truly believe this in our hearts, minds, and actions, things will never turn around.

Continued on page 5

MOTIVATIONAL MOMENTS

Start of 2009 –

Knowing what to believe:

By William A. Morelli, Sr.

I received this inspirational message from a friend. I wanted to share it with you - my friends:

I believe . . . that we don't have to change friends if we understand that friends change.

I believe . . . that no matter how good a friend is, they're going to hurt you every once in a while and you must forgive them for that.

I believe . . . that true friendship continues to grow, even over the longest distances.
The same is true for Love.

I believe . . . that you can do something in an instant that will give you heartache for life.

I believe . . . that it is taking me a long, long, LONG time to become the person I want to be.

I believe . . . that you should always leave loved ones with loving words. It may be the last time you see them.

I believe . . . that you can keep going long after you think you can't.

I believe . . . that we are responsible for what we do, no matter how we feel.

I believe . . . only God has the wisdom and the right to judge.

I believe . . . we can all do more.

This is a great piece of philosophy that works for me. I hope you get something from it too.

Remember: Smile, Give Hugs, Tell Someone You Love Them.

William A. Morelli, Sr.

Grapevine Membership Business Directory

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16010 19 Mile, Ste. 102
Clinton Twp., MI 48038
(586) 263-1000
dlazzara@lazzaracpa.com

Metzler Locricchio Serra & Co., PC

Michael A. Locricchio, J.D., CPA
1800 West Big Beaver Rd.,
Ste. 100
Troy, MI 48084
(248) 822-9010

★ ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

Lucido & Manzella, P.C.
Attorneys and
Counselors at Law

Peter J. Lucido/Vincenzo Manzella
39999 Garfield Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038
(586) 228-3900

Ruggirello, Velardo, Novara & Ver Beek, P.C.

Armand Velardo
65 Southbound Gratiot
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043
(586) 469-8660 – Office
(586) 918-3380 – Cell

Joseph Toia, P.C.

47678 Van Dyke
Shelby Township, MI 48317
(586) 254-1300

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44315 Gratiot Avenue
Clinton Township, MI 48035
(586) 493-7300-office
(248) 521-3043-cell

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Clinton Twp., MI 48038
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(248) 276-0955-fax
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ADVERTISE

You can advertise your business or profession in the "Grapevine Membership Business Directory." For ONLY \$60.00 a year, you will have five lines to list your business in the directory.

26TH ANNUAL JOHN B. AGOSTA GOLF OUTING



MONDAY
JUNE 29, 2009

Fern Hill
Country Club
17600 Clinton
River Road
Clinton Township

For tickets/
info contact:

Andy Agosta
248-561-1266



CELEBRATE WITH ANDIAMO OVER BRUNCH

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WARREN

11 Unique Andiamo locations with one near you. Please visit our website at www.andiamoitalia.com.

EASTER BRUNCH ON APRIL 12

Celebrate with the whole family. Make reservations today for brunch featuring traditional holiday favorites in the banquet center from 10am to 3pm. Or dine in our restaurant with our special holiday menu from 1pm to 8pm. Don't miss visits from the Easter Bunny at Andiamo Italia.

MOTHERS DAY BRUNCH ON MAY 10

Andiamo Italia knows how to treat your mother right. Give Mom the gift of great taste. Make your reservations early for a spectacular gourmet brunch in the banquet center from 10am to 3pm. Or dine in our restaurant with our special holiday menu from 1pm to 8pm.

COMING TO THE CELEBRITY SHOWROOM, SPRING 2009 ...



March 13
Andrew
"Dice" Clay



March 14
The Ultimate
Doo Wop Show



March 21
Impressionist
Bob Anderson



April 17
The
Guess Who



May 14
Sounds of
Sinatra
Mark Randisi,
featuring the Johnny
Trudell Orchestra

TICKETS & EVENT INFO

Andiamo Celebrity Showroom
(586) 268-3200
www.andiamoshowroom.com

Ticketmaster
(800) 745-3000
www.ticketmaster.com

ANDIAMO CELEBRITY SHOWROOM
7696 East 14 Mile Road just west of Van Dyke in Warren
ticketmaster



Notes from the President

Continued from page 1

us, are feeling the strains of these uncertain times. Yet, with every challenge comes opportunity. When we look at the makeup of our organization, now more than ever, is a time for networking. I encourage each member to expand their comfort zone by sitting with different members. There are those of us who really haven't experienced times like these, and then there are those who have. We are blessed to have members who quite frankly "have been there, done that". Engage some of our senior membership in discussions and learn from their experience. You know what they say "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it".

I look forward to updating the membership on some key recruitment initiatives. Look for an email or fax in the near future concerning Business Sponsored membership. We are still working out the details, but I promise to keep you posted.

I am honored that you have chosen me for this position, and I will do everything in my power to retain your confidence.

Best Regards,
Ned R. Piccinini
President

IN MEMORY

The IACCM wishes to express our sincere sympathy and condolences to the following:

- ❖ The Latella family, on the passing of Anthony Latella, Chamber member since 1996, on December 6, 2008.
- ❖ Board of Director Michel Tenaglia and family, on the passing of his wife Audrey on December 15, 2008.
- ❖ The Catenacci family, on the passing of Onorio "Joseph" Catenacci, Chamber member since 1994, on February 2, 2009.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

IACCM MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNTS/OFFERS

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Funeral Home
Paul R. Calcaterra
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Discount on services offered

Creations Salon

Patricia Piccinini
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Crowns, Bridges, Dentures
Partials, Fillings, Etc.
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401(k), HR consulting
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services

Fontana Construction

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Joseph Navaroli
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50% off labor, expires 2008

Kingswood Lanes

Gerardo Pavone
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Corporate/Birthday events

Lucido Insurance Agency, Inc.

Joseph P. Lucido
Auto/Home/Business
Workers Compensation
Occupational group discounts

Marketplace Promotions

Anthony M. Rubino

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Promotional Items
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10% discount

Michigan Box Company

Carl B. Fontana
Manufacturer/Corrugated Boxes,
Packaging/Point of
Purchase Displays
5% discount on first order

Michigan Floors, Inc.

Charles Promesso
Floor Covering, Carpet, Vinyl,
Wood, Laminate & Installation
20% discount on material,
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Appraisal Peter A. Fuciarelli
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10% off gross fee that I receive

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Randazzo Fresh Market

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Ralph J. Koss Financial

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John R. Tatone

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20% discount



IACC Meeting Dec. 3, 2008 At Villa Penna On Hayes



Ned Piccinini says grace before meal



Scholarship Chairman Joseph Toia advises members the IACC presented 12 scholarships in 2008, thanks primarily to the summer golf outing



Steve Stolaruk, president of Star-Batt Inc., is sworn-in by Frank Palazzolo

IACC Meeting Jan. 7, 2009 At Mirage Banquet & Conference Center



The swearing-in of the 2009 Officers and Board of Directors



Guest, Wayne County Executive Robert A. Ficano



(Bottom To Top L-R) Chairman Paul Calcaterra, President Ned R. Piccinini, 1st Vice President Thomas Bommarito, Financial Secretary Joseph Ventimiglia, 2nd Vice President Joseph Toia, Secretary Andrew Agosta and Treasurer Antonio DeLuca



Honorable Peter Maceroni



Letter from the Editor:



The networking committee is going to try something new to the Chamber. In this troubling economic time, we need to really help each other out. In April or May at the general membership meetings, we are going to offer the IACC membership the chance to showcase your business, or what you do.

We will have approximately 20 tables set up for you to use to showcase your business, and tell the members exactly what your business entails. This will be done on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you are interested, please contact Tony Rubino at 586-873-2905. We will be doing this two more times this year, so everyone will have a chance to showcase your work.

We must stick together, because if you succeed, we all succeed as a Chamber. Please try to always use the services of an IACCM member first.

Thank you.
Stefano Militello

FESTA DELLA LIRA

May 20, 2009 6:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Zuccaro's Banquet Center

46601 Gratiot Avenue, Chesterfield

For Tickets and More Information Contact:

Vito Pianello at 586-675-7054

Or Dave Galli at 248-670-5413

Italian-American Chamber of Commerce Birthdays for:



March

3/3 Pini, Ray
3/4 Fuciarelli, Pietro G.
3/5 Shermetaro, Charles G
3/7 DiGiovanni, Frank
3/8 Carnaghi, Donald
3/14 Piccinini, Ned R.
3/17 Rubino, Anthony M.
3/17 Bommarito, Benedict
3/18 Vicari, Joseph
3/21 Colombo, Charles Francis
3/22 Tatone, John
3/23 Santeufemia, Michael
3/24 Santia, Albert M
3/24 Esposito, Gino
3/27 Palumbo, Charles
3/27 Ferrera, Gene P.
3/28 Grosso, Jr., Peter M.
3/30 Picano, Domenic
3/31 Scaccia, John

April

4/3 Aiello, Mark
4/5 Monti, Mario
4/7 Calcaterra, Michael J.
4/8 Marinelli, Charles L
4/12 Poliuto, Valerio
4/13 DiBartolomeo, Richard D.
4/16 Cerroni, Dante

April

4/18 Lazzara, Michael
4/19 Lanni, Angelo S.
4/23 Giacalone, Leonard
4/23 Palazzola, Anthony
4/25 Tundo, Samuel A.
4/29 Randazzo, Sonny
4/29 Vitale, Vincenzo
4/30 Roselli, Antonio

February

5/2 Caccamo, Gaetano
5/4 Russo, Agostino
5/5 Morelli, Jr., Frank A.
5/7 Agosta, Anthony Allan
5/7 Valente Jr., Mark
5/12 Russo, John
5/13 Lucido, Paul G.
5/14 Calcaterra, Paul
5/14 Lucido, Sebastian
5/15 Pirrone, Joseph
5/16 Velardo, Armand
5/17 Giarmarco, Julius H.
5/19 Tudisco, William S.
5/19 Varanelli, Jeffrey
5/23 Scalzi, Frank
5/28 Maniaci, Frank
5/29 Polsinelli, Vincenzo
5/30 Cattaneo, Michael S.

Continued from page 2

As for our Chamber of Commerce, we are continuing to improve what we offer our members. Networking has been the big topic and effort on our minds. Bringing to the minds of the members who you are and what you represent can be one of the most important rewarding advantages this organization can offer you. Maintaining and growing membership is still upper most in the minds of those who run this organization, and this is no easy task these days. This Chamber of Commerce will not give up in always working to ensure that it is one that you will be proud to be a member of. We are doing this with all the courage and patience we can display.

Respectfully: Your Chairman of the Board;
Paul R. Calcaterra