

The Grapevine

A Publication From
The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan
Spring/Summer Issue • 2022
Volume 21 • Number 2
Visit Our Website at: www.iaccm.net



Upcoming EVENTS

JUNE 1, 2022 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Scholarship Awards Dinner

TIME

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

LOCATION

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



JUNE 27, 2022 • MONDAY

38TH Annual John B. Agosta Memorial Golf Outing

TIME

- Lunch served 10:30 AM
- 12:00 noon shotgun start

LOCATION

- Fern Hill Golf Club
17600 Clinton River Road, Clinton Township



July 15/16/17, 2022

Festa Italiana

Times & Entertainment Schedule TBD

LOCATION

- Freedom Hill County Park

SEPTEMBER 7, 2022 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

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

What crazy times we are living in! While the world around us seems to be unraveling out of control with inflation, gas prices and so many segments of our society in a mess, I am happy to report that the IACCM is steadily growing and managing our fiscal responsibilities at the same time.

Last year our Treasurer, Frank Coppola, alerted the Board that our spending was out pacing our expenses and that would eventually lead to fiscal problems down the road. As a result, we set up a financial committee to investigate our situation. This committee consisted of Tom Lanni, Ron DiBartolomeo, Dave Galli, Mike Tenaglia, along with myself and was headed up by Frank Coppola. The goals of the committee were to analyze our financial statements, the membership census and produce a preliminary budget for 2022. The committee met in November and December of 2021. We reviewed, updated, and finalized the proposed budget. This budget was based on previous years income and expenses along with expected increases in our meeting costs due to the current run-away inflation. In January, the Chamber board adopted the proposal, and the result is a 2022 budget with a \$6,300 deficit.

There was a variety of items discussed on ways to eliminate the deficit by simply increasing income or decreasing expenses. Sounds like an easy formula to put into place, but not so easy to undertake. Everything was looked at and analyzed with the idea that raising membership dues would be in the last resort column.

So, to make a long story short, a lot of great things are happening with our chamber. Since January we have added 10 individual and 4 corporate memberships to our census! This alone nearly wipes out the annual deficit and it's not even June. In addition, our 50/50 raffle at our membership dinners is on track to have a record year thanks to the efforts of Anthony Licata, III. Our monthly meeting dinner costs as well as our board meeting expenses are being reviewed closely by our office administrator



Chairman's CORNER

Greetings my fellow Italians,

Seems like we skipped over spring and summer is upon us, unless it's just how time fly's these days. I want to continue to converse on the direction of the IACCM and our membership. We continue to grow in this area, and it is much needed as costs continue to rise in just about every area of our membership IE: Dinners, Events, and Operations. We have been able to stay away from raising dues and I strongly agree to try to keep our dues where they are currently.

The last quarter of 2021, the IACCM formed a finance committee, and in January of 2022 they presented, to the Board of Directors, a budget recommendation for the fiscal year. It was great to have down on paper because you can talk about areas of need but if it is not written, can be hard to attain. To our gratitude, adding 14 new members - 10 individual / 4 corporate, increased 50/50 sales at our events and member dinners, working with our vendors to keep cost low as possible, and committee chairpersons eliminating unnecessary off-site meetings, we are surpassing that budget. By having a heightened awareness of the cost and being able to cut where we can, we have been able to stay out of the "red". Furthermore, we are bringing back the 50/50 raffle at the Italian Festival, with proceeds benefiting the IACCM charities. Our goal is raising \$10,000. Also, we have been building our networking events with the help of our vision committee which will bring in more revenue to our bottom line. So, by reading this you can tell we are not standing still and continue making decisions that will improve our membership offerings.

The next few months is the busiest time of the year for the IAACM. Our next event up is our Scholarship Awards dinner. With the proceeds from our annual golf outing, we can give out thousands of dollars to our young talented men and woman for their high achievements in academic and community efforts. Next up is 38th Annual John B Agosta Golf Outing June 27th, proceeds go toward next year's scholarships. Then, as mentioned above our beloved Italian Festival, July 15-17. Please find time to visit the event with great entertainment, great food by local vendors and don't forget to buy 50/50 tickets!! You won't want to miss this one either...we are set for the 2nd Annual Pasta Sauce Cook-Off, held at Hard Rock Stone Works. I was fortunate enough to have won last year, and I know you all will be gunning for me this year. The rules this year will be a tad different to make it a success! More details to follow. There is rumor of a wine tasting in the works as well. Our Vision Committee is hard at work planning events, both this year and next.

Again, thanks for your continued support and schedule to come out to all or several of the events we have planned for you. Check out the website for further details at IACCM.net

Enjoy your summer,
Charles Moran
Chairman of the Board

Notes From The President (continued)

Deb Demick. All the committee chairpersons are reviewing their expenses and cutting costs where they are able. The chamber is holding a 50/50 raffle for the Festa Italia event in July. This should bring in added revenue to help offset the rising costs of our monthly meetings due to the inflation we have to deal with. The Festa Della Lira Basket of Cheer proceeds will go to the donation committee to help cover the costs of the IACCM charities we contribute to. We are also planning a networking event in October similar to last year's spaghetti cook-off and this is another source of revenue for the Chamber. So along with the golf outing in June, the Festa Della Lira in October as well as the other events already mentioned, we are on solid ground financially.

I would like to personally thank all the members of the Finance Committee for their time and expertise in putting together the budget and making recommendations on areas where we can tighten our financial belts. I would also like to thank the efforts of our Membership Committee led by Charles Moran and Joe Divozzo who have been so instrumental in obtaining new memberships to the chamber.

I also would like to thank the entire Italian American Chamber membership for the support that you all give to this organization! We are in our 103rd year and going strong as our membership is up to 193 members! All of this during some difficult times for our country, so most importantly, we truly thank God for His Blessings on the IAACM!

Ciao,

Charles G. Shermetaro, O.D., President

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f: 586.228.5802
c: 586.295.9375
e: taxmanfj@yahoo.com
w: frankcoppola.com

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.

NEW GUEST FEE

Effective with the meeting that was held May 4th at Andiamo, 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!

SAVE THE DATE

JULY 15, 16, 17

**ITALIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE OF MICHIGAN**

Proudly Presents

Festa Italiana 2022

Freedom County Hill Park

Festa Italiana will take over Freedom Hill County Park for three fun-filled, family-friendly days again this July. It is a fantastic event for all ages.

Italian music and heritage - More than 30 food vendors serve the best Italian food in metro Detroit. Taste the finest Italian wines, beer, and cocktails.
More details to follow.

Italian-American Chamber of Commerce Birthdays for:

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 M.
5/16 Velardo, Armand
5/17 Giarmarco, Julius H.
5/17 Paglia, Enzo
5/17 Rogensues, Gary
5/19 Varanelli, MD, Jeffrey
5/23 Scalzi, Frank
5/30 Lawroski, Eric

July

7/4 Scaglione, Albert P.
7/14 DeCarolus, Dr., John A.
7/15 Varano, MD, Sal M.
7/15 Fontana, Carl
7/18 Galli, David F.
7/18 Mazza, Thomas
7/18 Timpa, James
7/19 Viviano, Paul
7/22 Baffo, Matthew
7/24 Schnepfer, Roy
7/29 Simone, MD, Piero A.
7/30 Grimaudo, Joseph
7/31 Accica, Andrea
7/31 Lucido, Peter J.

June

6/2 Locricchio, Michael
6/3 LaRosa, Dominic J.
6/3 Shermetaro, Robert
6/4 Marentette, Aaron
6/7 Benenati, Dr. Anthony V.
6/7 Ricciardello, Michael L.
6/9 Burke, Joseph A.
6/9 Confer, Raymond
6/12 Pavlick, Marty
6/19 DiGiorgio, Frank
6/21 DeMatteis, Anthony
6/22 Provenzano, Nunzio
6/25 DeAngelo, Peter C.
6/26 DiGiuseppe, Jr., John
6/26 Bonaldi, Ezio
6/27 Lombardo, Kenneth
6/28 Monicatti, Timothy
6/29 Ruggeri, Philip

August

8/2 Seleno, Andrew A.
8/3 Toia, Joseph
8/6 Guerrieri, Robert
8/7 Belcastro, Domenico
8/9 DiPiazza, John
8/11 Maceroni, Hon. Peter
8/12 Bossio, Alan J.
8/12 Sorrentino, Benedetto
8/14 Rubino, Daniel
8/17 Bergmann, John P.
8/18 Talluto, II, Michael
8/19 Militello, Stefano
8/22 Giordano, Dr. Anthony
8/23 Maceri, Lori
8/23 Zuccaro, Dino
8/26 Petruzzello, Frank
8/29 Ventimiglia, Sam P.
8/30 DiGiuseppe, Christopher



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February 2, 2022 • Italian American Cultural Center



Joseph Cipriano, Jacqueline Ventimiglia Standing, and her proud father Joseph Ventimiglia



Honorable Julie Gatti swearing in our newest member Jacqueline Ventimiglia Standing, Baylor University



Nice turnout and excellent food at the Italian American Cultural Center



Leo Terzo, Aaron Marentette, and Anthony Licata, III

March 2 • Zuccaro's Banquet Center



Honorable Joseph Toia swearing in our newest members, Joseph Iacona of Keller Williams Realty, Suzanne Adamek of Interior Designs by Suzanne, William Castiglione of Castle Audio & Surveillance and Jeff Furest of First Financial Coaching.



Assistant Prosecutor Steve Fox, Major Mark Vaught (Selfridge Air Show Director), Macomb County Prosecutor Peter Lucido, and Jim Timpa



Our hosts for this evening of fine food and comradery, Dino & Mark Zuccaro



See Anthony Licata to get your 50/50 tickets for a chance at tonight's big jackpot. →



April 6 • Eastpointe Manor



Macomb County Prosecutor Peter Lucido swearing in Paul Paglia and Edward Wolf, along with President Charles Shermetaro and Membership chair's Charles Moran and Joe Divozzo



President Charles Shermetaro, OD with Macomb County Assistant Prosecutor Steve Fox



Joe Burke and guest Vince Ciruallo



Sandra Tornberg and President Charles Shermetaro, OD



Peter DeAngelo and Jeff Bonanni



Roger Canzano and Enzo Paglia



Eastpoint Manor host Benny Bommarito with Prosecutor Peter Lucido



May 4 • Andiamo Italia



Our newest members; Gasper Randazzo, Andrea Accica, Dominic Maratta, and David Gagnon.



Everyone loves coming to Andiamo Italia Warren, always a full house!



Andiamo never disappoints with their delicious appetizers!



So nice to have Mr. Joe Vicari join us, thank you for hosting!



Our speaker for the night, John Paul Rea, Macomb County Planning Commission



Jim Schmelzer, Roy Schnepfer, Alexandria Salvaggio, Tony Rubino, Al Marino, and Danny Rubino

Member Spotlight



Alexandria Salvaggio

Alexandria has been in the financial industry for over 10 years. Currently, she is a Director at Hall Financial. She has experience in content creation, recruiting, sales and business development. Alexandria is passionate in everything she does, and is involved in the community. Ms. Salvaggio is one of the newest Italian American Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and also serves on various Chamber committees, is on the Thrilla at the Villa Board, mentors with the Oakland University Mentorship Program, and volunteers at the Festa Italiana and Columbus Day Celebration.

Italian Festival

50/50 RAFFLE

All the proceeds from this raffle will benefit the various charities that the IACCM supports year-round. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Please consider assisting us in selling tickets to help raise money for these worthy causes.

The drawing will be held at the Italian Festival, July 17th at 7 p.m. at Freedom Hill County Park. You need not be present to win.

For ticket information contact
Dan Galli, 248-670-4912
or Philip Maniaci, 586-703-6885

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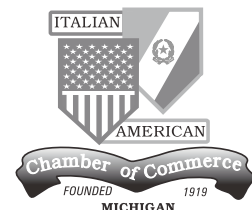
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2009 Ned R. Piccinini
2008 Ronald A. DiBartolomeo
2007 Salvatore P. Ventimiglia
2004 Paul Calcaterra
2000 Benedetto Marrocco
1999 Augustino Russo
1994 Angelo S. Lanni
1991 Thomas B. Lanni
1974 Joseph Grimaudo

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."



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