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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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SUMMER • 2008



Editor Steve Militello **Contributing Editors** Chuck Maniaci William A. Morelli, Sr. Joseph Toia Gus Russo

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JUNE 4 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

 Petruzzello's Banquet Center 6950 Rochester Road, Troy

GUEST SPEAKER

 John Carroll Detroit Regional Economic Partnership

JUNE 30 • MONDAY • 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

SEPTEMBER 3 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

Scholarship Awards Evening

TIME

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

LOCATION

 Italian Cultural Center 43843 Romeo Plank Road, Clinton Township Spouses, guests, and significant others invited, for \$40.00 fee (per person)

OCTOBER 1 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME

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

LOCATION

 Club Venetian 29310 John R Road, Madison Heights



It has been said that outside of the Christmas holiday, springtime is the busiest time of year. You are either spending time at soccer fields or baseball diamonds watching your kids or grandkids, attending recitals, communions, graduations, and when you can squeeze in the time, take care of the yard work. The same can be said about the Chamber.

We have just completed another successful Festa Della Lira event this past month at the Mirage. I would like to congratulate all of the winners, thanks to our host John DiGiuseppe for a wonderful meal and atmosphere, and I would like to give special thanks to Joe Bellanca and Tom Caramagno, the co-chairs of this event, along with their committee.

On Wednesday, June 4th at our general membership meeting to be held at Petruzzello's, we have invited a delegation from the Italian American Alliance and Business Technology (IAABT). As I have mentioned previously, IAABT is an organization of companies and business people who do business both here in the United States and Italy. Ned R. Piccinini has promised another outstanding speaker for the evening. I hope you make every effort to attend and welcome our guests that evening.

At the end of the month, June 30th, Andy Agosta and his committee will be hosting the 25th Annual John B. Agosta Scholarship Golf Outing to be held at Fern Hill Country Club. This has always been one of our marquee events. To date, the Chamber has given out over \$200,000 in scholarship money to recipients. It is, without a doubt, one of the most important missions of our organization. It has been a sellout every year. Let's keep that streak alive!

Also at the end of June, you will be receiving a packet in the mail which will contain a membership directory, a membership card, updated by-laws and a directory of businesses that are participating in membership services at a discounted fee. Special thanks to Vito Pianello, Mike Locricchio and Ned R. Piccinini for making this happen.

Lastly, on Thursday, July 24th, Michel Tenaglia has organized a wine tasting event at Champagne's in Warren. This is a fund raiser, with the

Continued on page 5



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Chi lascia la via vecchia per la nuova, sa quell che lascia ma non sa quell che trova .

Which means: He who takes the new path rather than the old knows what he leaves behind but not what will unfold.

Our Chamber has taken some new roads in the past few years. I believe this was done because the old roads have left us somewhat stagnant. Our membership base had stalled; if not starting to decline. Taking a new young and innovative approach to increasing membership seems to be working. New steps are being taken to make us a more recognizable as a true chamber of commerce. We also will have a membership card which can be used at many different businesses to receive a financial or service consideration? We are creating a website that will be comparable to any other chamber of commerce. We have been wise enough to take wisdom and advice from the developers of the old road and combine them with the thoughts and ideas of the developers of the new to achieve our goals in the future. With respect for their wisdom in mind, we are forming ways to increase the voting power and input on the Board of Directors from our Past Presidents.

As some of you may or may not know, we have received applications of two qualified, young professional women. This has not happened in centuries. The first readings were accepted at the last full board meeting. How is that for a new road? As the American's say "Nothing ventured – Nothing gained ".

Our world has come a long way in the acceptance of women in what was often thought of as a man's place in business, professions, society, and as far reaching as politics. The graduating classes of many licensed professions and businesses have now the majority being women. This revelation and fact has become an important part in our way of life. Their presence and input bring fresh, comparable and if not equal talents to many walks of life. So, why not within our membership? The Italian American Chamber of Commerce has been confronted with this issue for many years and the decision has always been to cross that bridge when it comes. Well gentlemen the bridge has appeared in our road and the first step has been taken. Many of us have had reservations on this issue; however my eyes have been opened, not only in my profession but in many other businesses and professions that I have observed. There is a lot to be said as to the value of having women serve in the same roles as men.

In conclusion, I believe it is important that we keep an open mind during these ever changing times we live in. New roads must be taken to be successful; however it is very important to keep in mind what we learned on the old road in our endeavor to reach our goal.

Respectfully: Your chairman of the board; Paul R.Calcaterra

MENTORING PROGRAM



This year we will attempt to begin a mentoring program here at the Chamber. The program has two parts that consist of a wine tasting, and a career day.

The wine tasting will be held at Champagne's on 13 Mile Road on July 24th. Many of you may know the place as Pic-A-Nut. The event will feature the tasting of fine Italian wines at a cost of \$20-\$25 per person. To make this a successful event, we need to have between 125 and 150 attendees.

Using the proceeds from the wine tasting event, we will rent a bus and bring as many of our children and grandchildren, from 9th grade thru college senior's, who can attend to a career day. We will travel to Rock Financial, Quicken Loans, the Chrysler CTC building, and finally to Park West Gallery. There is also the possibility that we may be able to stop at one of the General Motors facilities as well. The career day will take place on August 12, 2008.

If you have children or grandchildren that would be interested in attending, or for more information about the mentoring program, please call Michel Tenaglia at 586-531-2616

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Grapevine Membership Business Directory

* ACCOUNTANT/CPA

Lazzara & Co, P.C., CPA's
David Lazzara
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 39999 Garfield Road Clinton Township, MI 48038 (586) 228-3900

Bufalino & Palazzolo Associates, PLLC Frank J. Palazzolo/ Nunzio G. Provenzano

33830 Harper Clinton Township, MI 48035 (**586**) **415-1200**

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

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

Finkel, Whitefield, Selik Mark E. Merlanti

32300 Northwestern Highway Suite 200 Farmington Hills, MI 48334 (248) 855-6500

★ AUTO DEALER Lochmoor Chrysler Jeep, Inc

Gus Russo 18165 Mack Ave. Detroit, MI 48224 (313) 886-3000 (586) 615-3576 Cell

*** BANQUET CENTERS**

DeCarlo's Banquet & Convention Center Gary A. DeCarlo 6015 E. 10 Mile Rd. Warren, MI 48091 (586) 759-6500

* BANQUET CENTERS Club Venetian Banquet &

Conference Center William R. Marchiori 29310 John R. Road Madison Heights, MI 48071 (248) 399-6788

Fern Hill Golf & Banquet Center

Fred Severini, Jr. 17600 Clinton River Rd. Clinton Twp., MI 48035 Showers, Weddings, Funeral Luncheons, and Retirement Parties from 70 to 900 persons (586) 286-4700

* CARBIDE GRINDING

Wit-O-Matic, Inc. Anthony Palazzola 10505 Enterprise Dr. Davisburg, MI 48350 (248) 922-0590 Special Machine Builder

* CONCERT/ THEATRE VENUE Freedom Hill/Hillside

Productions, Inc. 14900 Metropolitan Parkway Sterling Heights, MI 48312 586-268-7820 freedomhill.net

* CONCRETE SUPPLIER

Utica Transit Mix and Supply James L. Yearego 42380 Yearego Dr. Sterling Hts., MI 48314 (586) 731-1474

★ CONTRACTORSCorrado Contracting, LLC

Paul D. Corrado 27530 Fairfield Warren, MI 48088 (586)758-3732

* EYE DOCTOR/ OPTOMETRY

St. Clair Eye of Shelby Charles G. Shermetaro, O.D. 48873 Hayes @ 22 Mile Road Shelby Twp., MI 48315 (586) 247-2121 Complete Optometric Services

* FUNERAL HOMES

Bagnasco & Calcaterra Funeral Homes

Paul R. Calcaterra, President 13650 E. 15 Mile Rd. Sterling Hts., MI 48312 (586) 977-7300 25800 Harper Ave. St. Clair Shores, MI 48081 (586) 777-0557 www.bcfh.com

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* INVESTMENTS Bassev and Selesko PLC

Mark Merlanti, Esq. 27777 Franklin Road Suite 1400 Southfield, MI 48034 (248) 355-5000

Business Transactions/Tax/Estate Planning/Real Estate

Business Litigation/Shareholder Disputes/Construction/Collections/ Landlord-Tenant

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Securities offered through LPL Financial Member FINRA/SIPC

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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.



Proud to Be an American! By Rick DiBartolomeo

Back in March, I had the privilege and honor of being selected as a Distinguished Visitor (DV) of the United States Navy. As a DV, I



along with eleven other DV's spent a day onboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt (TR). The TR is a Nuclear Powered, Nimitz Class U.S. Naval Aircraft Carrier whose active service began in October 1986. The TR is a 97,000 ton floating city of 5,500 men and women from

every state in the Union. The TR is a key element of our country's forward-deployed defense strategy. Tasked with maintaining open sea lanes of trade and communications, TR is capable of projecting air superiority to all points of the globe. For further information regarding the TR go to www.tr.surfor.navy.mil.

The TR was about 100 miles off the coast of Virginia when we "hooked a line" and landed on the flight deck in our Navy transport plane. For the next 24 hours, I and the other DV's

witnessed first hand, the long hours that these young men and women of our country put in each and every day.

We spent time (both day and night) on the flight deck and in the tower watching planes land and get catapulted off. We had lunch with the sailors, dinner with the Captain and his officers, midnight rations (mid rats) with the pilots and were able to walk around (escorted) and talk with the sailors.

Probably the most rewarding part of the visit was to be able to show our appreciation to the sailors for all that they do. The IACC, along with several other organizations, friends and family donated money, gas cards, phone cards, gift certificates, etc. which in turn were passed out to the sailors. To see the look on their faces! You would have thought it was Christmas Day. The majority of these men and women are 19-22 years old and do not make a lot of money. The phrase, "Thank you, sir" was repeated several times during our visit. I could not have asked for a more rewarding experience.

As we prepared to be catapulted off the ship, the men and women on the flight deck saluted us and wished us a safe trip. I saluted back and said to myself, I am proud to be an American! If anyone is interested in viewing the pictures I took onboard, write me at rick.dibartolomeo@rehmann.com and I will be glad to give

you the internet link, www.snapfish.com.

E Italian American Cultural Society

43843 ROMEO PLANK ROAD, CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN 48038 Phone (586) 228-3030 • Fax (586) 228-1678 • www.iacsonline.net – Email: iacs@iacsonline.net

Festa Otaliana July 18th-20, 2008

Join the Italian American Cultural Society for this favorite Italian festival. The weekend opens with a special memorial dedication in honor of Reno Garagiola's 40 years as the Festival chairperson for the IACS. A permanent park bench will be dedicated in remembrance and placed in Freedom Hill Park. Afterwards, a parade of the Italian Clubs begins at 6 p.m. and the introduction of this year's Columbus Queen and her Court at 8 p.m.

Dino Valle is Master of Ceremonies with Coro Italiano performing. Live entertainment throughout the weekend includes Pino Marelli, Al Martino and Julius La Rosa shows, Gino's Market from Canada, Ray Battani, Mark Randisi, Ciaro with Nino Di Benedetto, "An Evening at the Opera" with Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan's Artist - Soprano Eva Evola, Mezzo Soprano Lisa Agazzi, and Pianist Martin Mandelbaum.

A children's area will feature games, moonwalks, rock climbing and a youth tent with a DJ all weekend. Also taking place on Saturday will be the annual Meat Ball Contest, Spaghetti Eating contest, Lamborgini/Ferrari Car Show, the Club Terrasini La Festa Degli Schietti will be near the back of the Independence Building at 4 p.m.

Traditional Mass is Sunday at 11 a.m. The Beautiful Baby Contest is at 2 p.m. A BMW will be raffled off Sunday evening along with

an Arizona resort vacation, compliments of Authorized Cellular. Raffle tickets are on sale, \$10/ticket or three tickets/\$20 – six tickets/\$40, and will be available through the Italian Cultural Center and at the festival all weekend.

Visit a variety of your favorite local vendor booths including Randazzo Fresh Market, Andiamo, Nino Salvaggio International Marketplace, Stroh's Ice Cream, Pizza Machine, IACS Activities Club, IACS Concessions, Authorized Cellular, National Coney Island, Villa Bella, Picano's, Larco's Restaurant, Biggby Coffee, Lucido's Jewelry, and many more. New this year will be the Italy for Life Hospitality Mobile Exhibit, which will immerse visitors in the beauty, culture and destinations within Italy. The cafe-style trailer has seating, coffee, photomurals, touch screen monitors and a library of sorts on destinations in Italy.

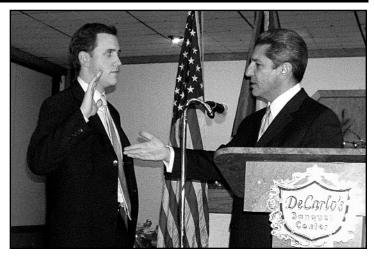
In conjunction with this year's festival, the IACS Soccer Tournament will take place Saturday and Sunday at Bethesda Church next to the park, (3v3 and 11v11). For further information on the tournament www.borderstartpride.com. Festival hours Friday, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday, noon to 11 p.m. Sunday, noon to 11 p.m. Admission is free, parking is to be determined. For more information www.iacsonline.net.



IACCM Meeting March 5, 2008 at DeCarlo's Banquet Center



(L-R) Angelo Lanni accepts guest speaker award from IACCM President Ron DiBartolomeo



(L-R) New Member Dante Cerroni is sworn in by Joe Toia

IACCM Meeting April 2, 2008 at Andiamo's 14 Mile Road

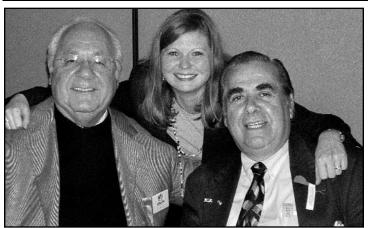


(L-R) Ned R.Piccinini and Lori DiBartolomeo present 50/50 prize to the winner John Buffa



(L-R) Guest Speaker Mr. Littman who spoke about the current economic problems, accepts guest speaker award from IACCM President Ron DiBartolomeo

IACCM Meeting May 7, 2008 at Eastpointe Manor



(L-R) Ramo Salermo, Dominic LaRosa and (Center) Guest Speaker Kristina Marshall, President and CEO of Winning Futures, an innovative mentoring program for Michigan, enjoy the meeting.



Mark Valente, Jr. celebrates his 81st birthday at the May 7th meeting



Long-time and active member Tony Rubino speaks up for the Mentoring Program

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Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan John B. Agosta Memorial 25th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing

MONDAY, **JUNE 30, 2008**

Fern Hill Country Club

17600 Clinton River Rd. (1/4 mile west of Garfield)



\$150/Person Dinner Only \$60

(\$90 Tax Deductible)

(\$25 Tax Deductible)

Continental Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner • Refreshments • Hole in One Contest

First Hole In One WINDS NEW 2008 CHRYSLER ASPEN

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Check#:	_Amount
Golf Tickets @ \$150/each = \$	Hole Sponsor @ \$150 = \$
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MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO:	
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Notes from the President

Continued from page 1

proceeds to be used for the Chamber's newly formed mentoring program. On August 12th, Michel and his committee will be taking a group of school aged children, 13-19 years of age, to different companies to learn who they are, what they are and what they do. If you have a child, grandchild, niece or nephew that is interested, please see the article in this issue of the Grapevine for further details.

I would also like to inform you that I have been invited by the Consul of Italy to sit in on discussions with representatives from Metropolitan Airport, IAABT and COMITES in an effort to make available a daily nonstop flight from here to Italy. Air One, which is based out of Italy, has narrowed it down to Detroit or Washington, D.C. A decision will be reached shortly, with service to begin hopefully in March of 2009. I will pass on the information as I receive it.

Finally, I would like to recognize a few of our members that have been very active in giving their time for worthy causes. First is John DiGiuseppe. John is co-sponsor of 1st Candle, which is a large benefit dinner held each March. The proceeds of that event goes to the continue research of SIDS. Second is Tony Rubino. As all of you are probably aware by now, Tony has his annual "Thrilla at the Villa" night each May to raise to raise money for MS, and third is Dr. Anthony Benenati and Ned R. Piccinini of Wings of Mercy, which is an organization that provides no cost private air travel for individuals with financial need that require out-of-state medical care. Please be sure to support these groups.

Again, I thank you for your continue support, and I wish all of you a safe and wonderful summer, and look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Best regards, Ronald A. DiBartolomeo President

Remembering Our Friend...

The members of the Italian American Chamber of Commerce are saddened by the passing of a long time active and loyal member of our organization.

Fred Severini, Jr., passed away on Friday,

March 28, 2008. He was born April 1, 1930 in Detroit. For many years, he has been the

owner of Fern Hill Golf and Country Club on Clinton River Road in Clinton Township. Fred is survived by his wife, Barbara; children, Frederick (Gloria), Mark (Elizabeth), and Joanne Oakey.

Fred was the President of the IACCM in 2002, he was also a member of the Clinton Township Kiwanis Club and Legatus. Fred has hosted the Chamber's Festa Del Vino, and the annual John B. Agosta Memorial Golf Outing at Fern Hill every year. It just won't be the same without him.....

We will miss you, Fred!

Officers & Board of Directors IACCM

Italian-American Chamber of Commerce Birthdays for:

June

6/1 . . Viviano, Anthony J.

6/2 . . Locricchio, Michael

6/2 . . Catenacci Jr., Onorio

6/3 . . LaRosa, Dominic J. 🗅

6/7 . . Benenati, Dr. Anthony V.

6/16 . Notte, Richard

6/16 . Severini III, Fred

6/17 . Corsetti, Tonino 6/22 . Provenzano, Nunzio

6/26 . DiGiuseppe, Jr., John

6/26 . Bonaldi, Ezio

6/28 . Santia, Alfredo

6/29 . Ruggeri, Philip

July

7/1 .. Pompa, Frank

7/2 . . Morelli Sr., William A

7/2 . . Bernabei, Frank A.

7/4 . . Scaglione, Albert P.

7/7 . . Navaroli, Joseph

7/12 . Lentine, Joseph S.

7/14 . DeCarolis, John 7/15 . Varano, Sal Mario

7/15 . Fontana, Carl

7/18 . Galli, David

7/18 . Timpa, James

7/19 . Iacobelli, Mark A.

July

7/19 . Ficano, Robert

7/25 . Caramagno, Thomas A.

7/29 . Bugli, Leonardo

7/29 . Simone, MD, Piero A.

7/30 . Grimaudo, Joseph

7/31 . Lucido, Peter J.

August

8/1 . . Cuglietta, Luigi

8/1 . . Ternullo, Stephen

8/2 . . Seleno, Andrew A.

8/3 .. Toia, Joseph

8/4 . . Pascaretta, Antonio

8/9 . . Bellanca, Joseph

8/10 . Piccinini, Dr. Robert

8/11 . Maceroni, Peter

8/12 . Bossio, Alan J.

8/14 . Paluzzi, III, Joseph

8/19 . Militello, Stefano

8/23 . Zuccaro, Dino

8/23 . Catenacci, Onorio Joe

8/25 . Salerno, Sr., Ramo A.

8/26 . Petruzzello, Frank

8/29 . Ventimiglia, Sam P.

8/29 . Torcolacci, Angelo1

8/30 . DiGiuseppe, Christopher

8/30 . Pizzo, John

John A. Buffa



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