

The Grapevine

A Publication From
The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan
Winter/Spring Issue • 2022
Volume 21 • Number 1
Visit Our Website at: www.iaccm.net



Upcoming EVENTS



Notes from the PRESIDENT

FEBRUARY 9, 2022 • 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 2, 2022 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

- TIME** • 6:00 PM Board Meeting
• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Zuccaro's
46601 Gratiot Avenue, Chesterfield

APRIL 6, 2022 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

- TIME** • 6:00 PM Board Meeting
• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Eastpointe Manor
24611 Gratiot Avenue, Eastpointe

MAY 4, 2022 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

- TIME** • 6:00 PM Board Meeting
• 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Andiamo Italia
7096 E. 14 Mile Road, Warren

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



Happy New Year to everyone and best wishes for a healthy, peaceful, and prosperous 2022. I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas with family and friends. Thank you to the Past Presidents Council for inviting me to serve as your President for a second year. It is an honor to be part of this remarkable organization that continues to grow even in these difficult times.

I would like to welcome returning Board Members Joe DiVozzo, Jim Timpa, and Pete Fuciarelli, along with our new Board Members Alexandria Salvaggio and Aaron Marentette. We look forward to their participation and enthusiasm in upholding the Chamber's mission.

This past year has been very challenging for all businesses. Government intervention, medical mandates, general fear fostered by the media, and internet censorship and misinformation has created many roadblocks for traditional businesses going forward. As the new year unfolds, this is a great opportunity to develop relationships in the Chamber that can further your business interests. I hope all members utilize our membership handbook to seek out products and services that fellow members provide. Please help support each other, now more than ever!

The general membership meeting calendar for 2022 has been set and emailed to all members. Notable dates for 2022 include: Monday, June 27th for the Golf Outing, July 17th weekend for the Italian Festival, and Wednesday, October 5th for the Festa Della Lira. We look forward to a busy year



Chairman's CORNER

Happy New Year! I particularly like this year specific to being an even number. I always like even numbers from sports numbers on my jersey to Keno and other lucky games or raffles.... Anyway, enough about me.

As we embark on 2022, I want to let you know that the Italian American Chamber of Commerce Michigan has had much success in our membership growth in 2020 and 2021. In 2021 our biggest growth number increased by 18 new members, along with 10 in 2020. The other significant statistic is the increase of Women with 5 new members. I consider this a great accomplishment and want to continue this in 2022. My goal is to bring in 50 members, with a significant percentage being women.

My vision is to keep this message front and center with the Italian community and get more Italian's involved in our Chamber. Our Membership application is on our website www.IACCM.net. Please encourage your family, friends and co-workers to join our great organization. If each of you bring in one new member in in 2022 look at that picture – we would be at 300+ members. So, please join me in my New Year's Resolution, encourage others to enjoy the membership benefits and get connected with some wonderful people. By joining, they can be involved with our many events and ongoing networking with each other monthly. With the growth we have had, we have really opened avenues for many to have their businesses grow and new relationships made. Bring a first-time, potential member to one of our monthly meetings to see for themselves what they are missing.

Regards,

Charles Moran (Garavaglia)
Chairman of the Board

of meetings, events, and networking opportunities.

I would also like to thank the many members who continually participate and give of their time and talents to keep the Italian Chamber going strong into our 103rd year. The list is long of those who volunteer, and it includes all those on our various committees as well as Past Presidents and Board Members. The greatest reward of participation is in forming the relationships with other business owners in our thriving Italian Community.

Grazie mille,

Charles Shermetaro, O.D.
President

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2022 OFFICER/BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS

At the January 5th IACCM meeting, the newly elected 2022 Officers and Board of Directors were sworn in. Congratulations to the following:

OFFICERS

- President – Charles Shermetaro, OD
- 1st Vice President – Mark D. Garagiola
- 2nd Vice President – Michael Locricchio
- Secretary – Philip J. Maniaci
- Treasurer – Frank Coppola

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

- Charles Moran

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

~ Term Ending 2024

- Joseph Divozzo
- Aaron Marentette
- Alexandria Salvaggio

~ Partial Term ending 2022

- Peter A. Fuciarelli
- James Timpa

PAST PRESIDENTS 2022

Andrew Agosta • Vito Pianello



IACCM / Holy Family Memorial Mass and Pancake Breakfast November 7 2021, Holy Family Church

Pictured L-R: Paul Calcaterra, Dan Galli, Andy Agosta, Vickie Jozefiak, Charles Shermetaro, OD., Mark Garagiola, Gary Rogensues

Italian-American Chamber of Commerce Birthdays for:

February		3/30	Picano, Domenic
2/1	Guerrieri, John	April	
2/3	Gagnon, Greg	4/3	Aiello, Mark
2/4	Forlini, Anthony	4/3	Calunas, William A.
2/7	Gatti, Hon. Julie	4/7	Calcaterra, Michael J.
2/9	Fuciarelli, Peter A.	4/12	Poliuto, Valerio
2/11	Magnotte, Gerald	4/13	Buffa, Ross
2/12	Piccinini, Patricia A.	4/17	Canzano, Roger
2/17	DeLuca, Antonio	4/18	Minoletti, Gary
2/19	Notte, Michael R.	4/19	Lanni, Angelo S.
2/20	DiLorenzo, Frank	4/25	Rocca, Larry
2/24	Lucido, III, Peter J.	4/25	Tundo, Samuel
2/24	Jozefiak, Victoria	4/26	Biondo, Joe
2/27	Gaglio, Philip J.	4/27	Cipriano, Joseph
2/27	Salerno, Dr. Ramo A.	4/29	Vitale, Vincenzo
March		4/30	Gallo, Tony J.
3/4	Fuciarelli, Pietro G.	May	
3/5	Shermetaro, Charles G.	5/4	Russo, Agostino
3/6	Pippi-Soave, Angela M.	5/7	Agosta, Anthony Allan
3/8	Carnaghi, Donald	5/8	Salvaggio, Alexandria
3/12	Bonanni, Jeffrey A.	5/8	Picciche, Vincent
3/14	Piccinini, Ned R.	5/14	Calcaterra, Paul R.
3/17	Rubino, Anthony M.	5/14	DiCicco, Joseph
3/17	Bommarito, Benedict	5/16	Velardo, Armand
3/18	Vicari, Joseph	5/17	Giarmarco, Julius H.
3/23	Santeufemia, Michael N.	5/17	Paglia, Enzo
3/23	Lucido, Alex	5/17	Rogensues, Gary
3/24	Esposito, Gino	5/19	Varanelli, Jeffrey
3/26	Giannetti, Frank	5/23	Scalzi, Frank
3/30	Garagiola, Mark D.	5/30	Lawroski, Eric

ITALIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEW MEMBERS 2021

Anthony J. Palomba – Palomba Landscape, Inc.
 Juanita Hickmon – MY3ANGELS, LLC
 Frank A. Mercurio, Jr. – Gompers, Cornish & Barr
 Robert Shermetaro – Becton, Dickinson & Company
 Victoria Jozefiak – Oasis Senior Advisors
 Matthew Mauro – Medical Mary HQ, LLC
 Gary Rogensues – State of Michigan
 Anna Marie Russo – Westwood Inn Senior Living
 Michael L. Ricciardello – DeMatteis & Ricciardello, PLLC
 Rosario Esposito – O & E Investments
 Anthony DeMatteis – DeMatteis & Ricciardello, PLLC
 Lori Maceri – Maceri Produce
 Philip D'Anna – Retired, PJD Consulting
 Anthony Forlini – Macomb County Clerk
 Dominic G. Torres – Keller Williams Realty
 Raymond Confer – Highlands Restaurant
 Vincent Picciche – Woodcrafting, Inc.
 James Schmelzer – Elite Photographic Studio

October 20, 2021 • 1st Annual Pasta Cookoff Hosted by Hard Rock Stone Works



Chef Mike Cardella, Dave Galli,
and Anthony Licata III



Vito Pianello & Dr. Charles
Shermetaro, OD



Gary Rogensues with his raffle
prize donated by
I magio Glass Design



Mike Tenaglia
announcing some raffle
winning numbers



Charles Moran having a
good time cooking!



1085 – The chefs – Mike Cardella, Paul Meli,
Charles Moran, & Peter Fuciarelli



Lori & Anthony Maceri



Peter Fuciarelli simmering his
vegetarian sauce



Pasta cookoff winner -
Charles Moran

October 6, 2021 • Festa Della Lira/Mirage Elegant Banquet Center



The Happy Winners!



Deb and Festa Chairman Dr. Anthony Giordano ready to give our some \$\$\$



Tony Rubino and our host Johnny DiGiuseppe



President Shermetaro and our emcee for the night Mark Garagiola



Peter Lucido III, Prosecutor Peter Lucido, Larry Rocca, and Joe Lucido



Representing Macomb County proudly, Prosecutor Peter Lucido and Treasurer Larry Rocca



Frank Coppola and John DiPiazza getting their winning raffle tickets!



Honorable Joseph Toia swearing in our newest members



President Charles Shermetaro and new member Michael Ricciardello



Dominic LaRosa and Joe Biondo ready to eat some amazing appetizers



President Charles Shermetaro and new member Anthony DeMatteis



President Charles Shermetaro and new corporate member Rosario Esposito

Frank Coppola had the lucky basket-of-cheer raffle ticket!



Paul Calcaterra giving the blessing before our meal



November 3 • Andiamo Italia



A full house at Andiamo!



Leo Terzo, Aaron Marentette, and Sam Palazzolo



Newly sworn in members Thomas Terzo and Lori Maceri with the Honorable Joseph Toia and Membership Chairman Charles Moran



2022 Italian Consul of Italy Paola Allegra Baistrocchi speaking to the group along with Mark Garagiola



So proud of our elected officials in Macomb County; Honorable Joseph Toia, Honorable James Maceroni, Honorable Julie Gatti, and Prosecutor Peter Lucido

December 8, 2021 • Palazzo Grande



Newly elected board member Aaron Marentette with Joe Ventimiglia and Honorable Joseph Toia



Lori Maceri, Alexandria Salvaggio, Deb Demick, Lisa Esposito, Anna Marie Russo, Debbie Gasperoni, Vickie Jozefiak, Katie Catlin....and Roy Schnepfer! What a fun table!



Roger Canzano, our host Joe Vicari, and Joe Biondo

Italian American Chamber of Commerce

2022 Installation of Officers/Board of Directors

January 5th, 2022 • Fern Hill Golf Club



2022 Officers & Board of Directors

Seated L-R: Immediate Past President Daniel Galli, Secretary Philip Maniaci, 1st Vice President Mark Garagiola, President Charles Shermetaro, OD., 2nd Vice President Michael Locricchio, Treasurer Frank Coppola, Anthony Licata III **Back L-R** Paul Calcaterra, James Timpa, Vito Pianello, Aaron Marentette, Alexandria Salvaggio, Peter Fuciarelli, Chairman Charles Moran, Joseph Burke
Not pictured: Financial Secretary Michael Divozzo, Andy Agosta, Michel Tenaglia, Joseph Divozzo



2022 Officers

Secretary Philip Maniaci, 1st Vice President Mark Garagiola, President Charles Shermetaro, OD., 2nd Vice President Michael Locricchio, Treasurer Frank Coppola
Not pictured: Financial Secretary Michael Divozzo



Past President's in Attendance

Front L-R David Galli, Daniel Galli, Paul Calcaterra, Vito Pianello
Back L-R Sam Ventimiglia, Thomas Bommarito, Honorable Joseph Toia, Joseph Ventimiglia, Ronald DiBartolomeo



Anthony Licata III....last call for 50/50!



Honorable Joseph Toia with Philip D'Anna



The official swearing in of the 2022 Officers & Board of Directors



←
Honorable Joseph Toia with Anthony Forlini



→
Honorable Joseph Toia with Dominic Torres



Honorable Joseph Toia swearing in our newest members Vincent Picciche, Dominic Torres, Anthony Forlini, and James Schmelzer



←
Honorable Joseph Toia and James Schmelzer



→
Honorable Joseph Toia with Vincent Picciche

→
President Shermetaro presenting an award to Angela Pippi-Soave for her dedicated service as a Board of Director and Secretary



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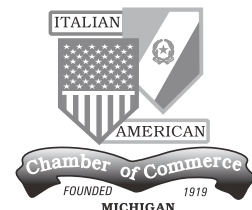
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The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan

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Charles Shermetaro, OD

1ST VICE PRESIDENT
Mark Garagiola

2ND VICE PRESIDENT
Michael Locricchio

SECRETARY
Philip J. Maniaci

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Michael Divozzo

TREASURER
Frank Coppola

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN
Charles Moran

PAST PRESIDENTS 2022
Andrew Agosta
Vito Pianello

TERMS ENDING 2022
Peter A. Fuciarelli
Michel Tenaglia
James Timpa

TERMS ENDING 2023
Joseph Burke
Paul Calcaterra
Anthony C. Licata, III

TERMS ENDING 2024
Joseph Divozzo
Aaron Marentette
Alexandria Salvaggio

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Daniel Galli

PAST PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

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."



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