March Roma Lodge Newsletter

2024

7130 Spring Street- Racine, Wisconsin 53406 – (262) 886-8850 – RIWA (262) 886-3610 Also Available in on the Web at http://members.romalodge.com/newsletter.html

Message from the President

Roma Lodge Brothers,

I hope this letter finds you all safe and healthy.

I want to thank all the members that are utilizing the members dining room on Fridays and Saturdays. While we still have the limited menu, Michael will continue to offer a weekly special. The food has been delicious. Please consider our dining room when making plans to dine out on the weekends. We ask that groups of 6 or more on Fridays and Saturdays no longer request separate checks and those groups will have a 19% gratuity added to their bill.

The Wednesday night buffet continues to offer a variety of items. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help on the buffet, even once a month, please contact me. The reservation line is 886-8850. Pricing for the buffet is \$13.00, \$12.00 for seniors 55 and older and \$7.00 for kids.

Reservations for the members' dining room are always recommended as this helps us plan for staffing and food preparation. The reservation line is (262) 886-8850.

Bingo participation has been excellent!

Bingo has always been an important function here at Roma Lodge and requires many volunteers. If you have the time to volunteer, please contact Mike Peratt or Dennis Porcaro. We owe Jim Faraone a debt of gratitude for taking over bingo when we lost Russ Missureli. Jim is retiring from those duties as of the end of this month. Jon Morelli has offered to help and assume some of Jim's duties. Let's all give Jim a big "Thank You" and thank Jon for stepping up once again.

If you have some time to give to the club, please consider being a part of the many committees we have or helping to organize and work some of our many social events throughout the year. You can contact me or any of our board members if you have an area of interest. Our membership involvement and participation will always be the key to our success. A special thank you to all that contribute your time on a regular basis.

Grazie!

I want to thank our outgoing board members, Directors Jack LeRose and Dennis Porcaro for their time and dedication to the Lodge. I have enjoyed working with both of you and hope you

will both consider running for the board in the future. I also want to thank all the officers and directors that I have worked with these last two years. You have all made my job much easier and I look forward to working with many of you again for the next two years. I want to wish good luck to the gentlemen that are running for the open director positions and look forward to working with whomever is elected.

Members with children that will be graduating high school seniors this year should encourage them to apply for the two scholarships that are offered by the club. Scholarship forms and guidelines are available on the Roma Members website. Remember, the last date to turn in the scholarships for judging is Friday, March 29th.

The next Roma Lodge Membership meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 8th at 7:00 PM. The next Roma Lodge Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, March 5th at 6:30 PM.

Che Dio vi benedica! (God bless you!)

Frank L. Bisotti

President

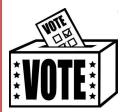
MARCH MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT



The March Membership Meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 8th.

Elections will take place 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM in the Hall of History.

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION



Nominations were made at the February 9, 2024, Membership Meeting.

Voting with take place to elect four (4) director positions for the 2024-2026 term. The candidate statements for the members running for director are included, in the order they will appear on the ballot (per random draw), on pages 6 thru 7.

If you have questions concerning the election or would like to request an absentee ballot, please contact Jon Morelli at roma.secretary.jam@gmail.com - 262-994-2861 or Jeff DeMatthew at dematthew@ameritech.net - 262-880-7474.



DOORS OPEN – 4:00 PM FOOD SERVICE – 4:45 PM BINGO START – 6:00 PM



If you would like to volunteer your time, please contact one of the following

Jon Morelli: 262-994-2861 – roma.secretary.jam@gmail.com
Dennis Porcaro: 262-884-9121 – apprlservices@netscape.net
Don Vena (March Captain): 262-554-2375 – dvena@wi.rr.com

We are always looking for people to help in all areas of bingo. Please consider giving your time. Bingo is an especially important part of Roma Lodge. In 2023 alone, Roma Lodge Bingo paid for \$89,730 in expenses for the lodge.

ROMA LODGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WEEKEND DUTY SCHEDULE

March 1,2 Dave Chiapete
Remaining dates will be updated, and board members notified following the March elections.

Buon Compleanno e Tanti Auguri Happy Birthday to our Roma Lodge Brothers Born in March

March I	James Heck Lawrence Presta	March II	Eric Litrenta Ernie Rossi	March 21 March 23	Nunzio Germanotta Louis Arnone
	leffery Wilkins	March 13	Edward Palladino	March 24	Pete Ciaramita
March 3	Brad Albee	March 16	Egidio Infusino	March 25	David Silvani
	Joseph Matson		David Porcaro	March 27	Kyle George
March 5	Donald Paar	March 18	Frank Angelini	March 28	Gary Krause
March 9	Rich Simpson		Michael Staeck	March 31	James LaBelle

List compiled from the Roma Lodge Membership Files. Contact Pat Tierney, <u>teamtierney@sbcglobal.net</u> if corrections are needed.

MARCH 2024 EVENTS

Friday, March I

Friday, March I

Sunday, March 3

Sunday, March 3 World Wildlife Day Monday, March 4 National Hug a G.I. Day

Tuesday, March 5

Wednesday, March 6

Board of Directors Meeting - 6:30 PM

National Day of Unplugging

Wednesday, March 6

Wednesday, March 6

National Oreo Cookie Day

National Cereal Day

Friday, March 8 Elections – 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM in Hall of History

Members Meeting - 7:00 PM

Saturday, March 9 National Meatball Day

Sunday, March 10 Roma Lodge Cribbage - 12:00 PM

Sunday, March 10

Wednesday, March 13

Thursday, March 14

Daylight Saving Time Starts

National Hug Your Dog Day

National Good Samaritan Day

Pi Day (3.14 – first three digits of Pi)

Thursday, March 14
National Popcorn Lover's Day
Thursday, March 14
National Potato Chip Day
Saturday, March 16
National Corn Dog Day
Sunday, March 17
Kids Bocce - 12:00 PM

Sunday, March 17 Saint Patrick's Day

Wednesday, March 20
Wednesday, March 20
International Day of Happiness
World Down Syndrome Day
Friday, March 22
Saturday, March 23
Spring Equinox (Start of Spring)
International Day of Happiness
World Down Syndrome Day
National Goof Off Day
National Puppy Day

Saturday, March 23

Sunday, March 24

National Chip and Dip Day

Kids Bocce - 12:00 PM

Sunday, March 24 Palm Sunday
Sunday, March 24 National Cheesesteak Day

Monday, March 25
Monday, March 25
National Medal of Honor Day
International Waffle Day

Tuesday, March 26

Thursday, March 28

Thursday, March 28

Thursday, March 28

Thursday, March 28

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28

MLB Opening Day

Thursday, March 28 Milwaukee Brewers open in New York against the Mets

© 12:10 PM Friday, March 29 Good Friday 2024

Friday, March 29 National Vietnam War Veterans Day

Saturday, March 30 National Doctors' Day

Saturday, March 30 Holy Saturday Sunday, March 31 Easter Sunday

Roma Lodge 2024 Kids Bocce

Starts Sunday Feb 4^{th *} (off Feb 11 for Superbowl) Banquet Sunday March 24th

Sundays from 12:00 until 2:00 Hot Dog concessions will be open each week



Come play the Italian traditional game of Bocce!!

Learn from our very own highly skilled players!

Ages 5 and up open to members

children, grandchildren and their friends!



Funeral Service Calling Tree Schedule – January through March

The Calling Tree schedule includes those members whose names are listed on the Membership List between:

Adamowicz, Randy – DaPra, Dominic

If you are notified of a funeral during your scheduled three-month period, you are expected to attend to represent the Lodge. You are not required to attend every funeral; however, you are encouraged to attend at least one during the quarter. Other members are also encouraged to attend. There will be a special Roma Lodge sign in book at the service for members who attend to verify that they are fulfilling their obligation.



Sick and Shut-ins

On behalf of the members of Roma Lodge, the Sick and Shut-ins Committee sends flowers to the funeral of deceased members as well as "Get Well" cards to members who are hospitalized or ailing at home. If you know of a Roma Lodge brother who passed away or is hospitalized or ill at home, contact Steve Rawlinko, srawlinko@wi.rr.com or by phone at (262) 308-7997.

FEBRUARY CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT RESULTS



The February tournament was held on Sunday the 4th

Winners

1st Place (All pools) – Manny Renteria 2nd Place (All Pools) – Frank D'Acquisto 3rd Place (All Pools) – Ray Stibeck 4th Place (All Pools) – Pete Loewen 5th Place (\$10 & \$5 Pools) – Linda Grauwels

We had a great turnout today for the February tournament. Twenty-Five players!!! We invite all members, spouses, and friends to the next tournament on March 10th starting at Noon. Sign in at 11:30 AM.



Roma Lodge Tournaments Cost \$10 per Person

CASH drawing at start of tournament!

March 10th, 2024

OPEN TO MEMBERS, SPOUSES AND FRIENDS

Format: 6 games against 6 different individual opponents

Proposed schedule of games, subject to change if necessary.

Last Tournament April 7th

SIGN UP AT 11:30AM

TOURNAMENTS START AT 12 Noon

Contact Mark Mano 813 523-7052 with questions.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC BRUNCH STARTS AT 9AM
RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED!

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

DIRECTORS

Eric Andersen



To the members of Roma Lodge:

My name is Eric Andersen and I'm running for a Board of Directors position. I have been a member of the lodge for about 30 years. With a name like Andersen, it's hard to believe I'm Italian, but my Mother (Loretta M (Sivoli) Andersen) is full

blooded Italian and a member of the Vittoria Colonna for 52 years.

With that I'm proud to say that there has been a member of my family that has been a member of the lodge since the beginning. The other name from my mom's family was Litrenta.

Now more about me. I've worked the festival for about 40 years and Pancake Day in more recent times. Also, I have been to many functions. I currently work in Interventional Cardiology, Interventional Radiology, and Neuro-Interventional Radiology in Kenosha WI. I'm the treasurer on my condo board of about 250 units. I'm looking forward to helping our lodge move forward in the upcoming years.

So, in closing I would like to say I'm extremely proud to say that I'm from Italian Heritage. Thank you very much for the opportunity to run for your board.

Eric C Andersen.

Michael Garbo



My name is Michael Garbo and I am running for a position on the Board of Directors for Roma Lodge. I have been a member since 2000 when I moved back to the area from Florida. I have worked the annual festival since before I was an actual member and over the years, I have had the

opportunity to be the Bocce League Chairman after I officially became a member.

I have started, sold, and managed multiple businesses which gives me experience and insight to help Roma Lodge move into the future. One thing that I have learned in

business is that what has worked in the past may not be the right way now. As a business you have to adapt your business to the surrounding environment. For this club to continue in a positive direction on the RIWA side and the membership side we need to evolve. If I am elected, I look forward to helping us do just that.

I am proud of my Italian heritage and have fond memories of the Memorial Drive location as a young kid watching my uncles, grandparents and parents be part this community. I look forward to providing that same experience to future generations when you elect me to one of the open Board of Directors positions.

Thank you,

Michael

William D. Pucci



My name is William D. Pucci. I joined the Lodge in 2001 and was first elected to the Board of Directors in 2006. I served under the Presidency of Don Cicero, Buddy Alfano, Sergeant at Arms under Rick Bonnano's two terms, and currently Frank Bisotti.

Early in my service I served as Chairman of the Social Committee responsible for the planning of many Lodge events including Members Christmas Party, Family Picnic, Columbus Day, Super Bowl Party, etc. I have volunteered to work our festival for more than 35 years. Most recently been enjoying Bocce and Roma Golf league.

I am currently acting Chairman of Racine Pancake Day hosted here at the Roma Lodge.

My wife Gale and I, now married over 25 years, have two children Annelise and Will. I am a barber working with my father Bill Sr. a 50+ year member of the lodge and also my proponent for membership. I have always been proud of my Italian heritage. I've been very fortunate to have traveled to Italy 6 times studying the language, learning about the culture and my ancestry.

I'm asking for your support so I can help advance the progress and growth of the Lodge while honoring the Lodge's past and the past contributions of its members. With wise leadership I want to ensure that my son will have the Roma Lodge there to nourish his love of being Italian and what that all means.

Bill

Carmelo Bruno



My name is Carmelo Bruno and I would be honored to receive your vote for one of the open board positions.

I have been a member of the Roma Lodge since 2014. I currently live in Kenosha and have lived there for about half my life. Prior to that, I lived

in Italy. My family comes from Calabria, the Cosenza area and specifically Cerisano and FiumeFreddo Bruzio. I am currently with Inventus Power. We operate in the custom battery business. Customers I manage include Honeywell and Zebra Technologies. Prior to that, I was Director of Sales for a Chinese company called BYD Electronics. The company is 10% owned by Warren Buffett. Prior to that, I was also a manager in various departments at a well-known company called Motorola...yes the phone king!!.

Although I graduated from Bradford High in Kenosha, I went to the Universita degli Studi Della Calabria in Italy. I have two degrees; one in Foreign Languages, and I speak and am fluent in many languages and another degree in International Business Administration (Scienze

Economiche). I did work for the university from 1988 until 1992 as a researcher for the Linguistics department - IndoEuropean Languages and travelled all over Europe.

On a professional level, my resume includes a laundry list of well-known companies I have managed for a revenue forecast of over \$500 Million (USD). Companies include Amazon, Apple, Microsoft, Johnson Controls, Tesla and Harley. The business I have been working in for the last 25 years is EMS - Electronics manufacturing.

I also own or have a major position in other companies including:

C.Bruno Enterprises – focused on sourcing/ wholesale of non Electronics products

Chenguei Technology LLC - focused on sourcing / wholesale of Electronics products

Vinovo Group LLC - focused on Medical products and financing of start ups

I have volunteered at the festival in the pizza booth, on Joe Jardina's team, and at Bingo when I can. You will usually see me at the membership meeting hanging out with Lennie or Art (you know, the louder guys) and sometimes the quiet ones like Mario R. or Rick B. On a personal note, I am single and have a son Giovanni who is now 21. I am in

possession of 3 citizenships and 2 active passports. My very personal goal is to someday be reunited with my son and welcome him into our Roma Lodge.

My hobbies are limited but they include collecting cars (I have several) as well as bike riding. I also have a YouTube channel that discusses how to buy collector cars and what mechanical issues to look out for. Lastly, I would like to travel again both for business and pleasure.

My area of expertise is revenue generation, negotiating and dealing with difficult people. Roma Lodge has provided me the opportunity to escape the demands that my 24/7 job has, and I would like to show my appreciation by serving on its board and help it to thrive in the coming years.

Thank you, I won't let you down,

Carmelo

Greg Pierangeli



Ciao Fratelli!

First, I'd like to thank all of you for trusting me to be a Director on the Board for these last two years. I've truly enjoyed representing all of you.

Furthermore, I also completed one year as the Social Chairman and had the honor of organizing the historic 1923-2023 Roma Lodge Centenario!! It was a pleasure seeing many of you in attendance. I wish to thank

all those who helped me then and throughout the year presenting multiple events at the Lodge.

I also serve on the Futures and Planning/Bylaws Committees. I feel like there's unfinished business which I'd like to continue working on and be a part of the solution.

My family has been involved with the Roma Lodge since its inception, it's always been a part of my life. We all want our Roma Lodge to continue its historic legacy and rise to greater heights.

I'm asking for your vote and support, so I can help carry on the good works of our Roma Lodge.

Sincerely,

Greg Pierangeli



"The Tradition Continues"

Roma Lodge will be hosting the 68th

Annual Pancake Day

Sat. April 27th 6am-3pm

We will be expecting thousands of people from our community that day. We need member support to make this a success, please consider volunteering your time and talents. Help is needed for setup on Friday prior to the event. Captains for the event are also needed.

We are also looking for ticket vendors and company sponsorships.

Please contact Bill Pucci @ 262-939-3452

wmpucci50@gmail.com

Please like and share our Pancake Day Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063781471422

"PLAY BALL"

Reported by Rick Paul Bonanno

With springtime just around the corner, our thoughts now turn to warmer weather and summer activities. Some of these activities include golf, picnics, swimming, sunbathing, festivals, car shows and, of course, baseball. "Back in the days" of the 1970s, Racine's baseball community was alive and well. The Racine Redbirds were still playing at Horlick Field. Additionally, for those who still wanted to "play ball", The City of Racine fielded approximately 500 men's 12" softball teams and 200 women's teams. A version called "pillow ball" or 16" softball was also played.

It was a marvelous time with league games played every day of the week. Additionally, one could find a tournament being played almost every weekend. Games were played at Horlick and Lincoln Fields, the Park High School Bowl and Douglas, Island, Humble, Pershing and Roosevelt Parks. Recognizable sponsors were DeMark's, Douglas Auto Wash, DeRose's, Devine's, The Beautiful Day, Star Haven and Demet and Valenti's among many, many others.

Roma Lodge was no exception to sponsoring softball teams. Fantastic uniforms were provided by the lodge, as can be seen in the accompanying photos. Additionally, team members received jackets with embroidered first names on the front. The Roma Lodge team proudly wore the red, white, and green uniforms with the Italian Flag on the left sleeve.

The Roma Lodge teams not only looked great but also played great. Roma Lodge's 1976 team were dual league champions, winning both the "Collegiate" and "Badger" leagues.



It was a special time, filled with fun and fraternity. Once again, it is almost time to "Play Ball".

1976



Sitting (L to R): Russ Reed, Tris Ruffalo, Larry Lapetina, Joe Lipari, Mike Domanik, Ron Ernst, Dan Litrenta, Jeff Reed Standing (L to R): Vic Matera, Ralph DeRose, Al Totero, Jim Chiappetta, Frank Knautz, Rick Mancuso, Tony Sivoli, Wayne Hansen

Sitting in front of team: Rob Chiappetta (Bat boy)

1978



Sitting (L to R): Bill Binetti, Jeff Reed, Mike Domanik, Joe Lipari, Ron Ernst, Larry Lapetina, Russ Reed Standing (L to R): Jim Chiappetta, Don Smiley, Ralph DeRose, Rick Bonanno, Wayne Hansen, Al Totero, Lyle Santarelli, Vic Matera

Sitting in front of team: Rob Chiappetta (Bat boy)

APRIL 2024 EVENTS

Monday, April I Tuesday, April 2 Thursday, April 4 Thursday, April 4 Sunday, April 7 Sunday, April 7 Sunday, April 7 Tuesday, April 9 Wednesday, April 10 Friday, April 12 Friday, April 12 Friday, April 12 Monday, April 15 Monday, April 15 Thursday, April 18 Monday, April 22 Wednesday, April 24 Thursday, April 25 Friday, April 26 Friday, April 26 Saturday, April 27 Sunday, April 28

Tuesday, April 30

April Fool's Day National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day National Burrito Day International Carrot Day Roma Lodge Cribbage - 12:00 PM National Beer Day World Health Day **Board of Directors Meeting - 6:30 PM** National Siblings Day **Members Meeting - 7:00 PM** American Civil War National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day Patriots' Day Jackie Robinson Day Tax Day Earth Day International Guide Dog Day Take our Daughters and Sons to Work Day Arbor Day Pretzel Day Roma Lodge Pancake Day - 6:00 AM - 3:00 PM

National Superhero Day

International Jazz Day

Roma Lodge Patio Brick Program

Bricks are available to members of both Roma Lodge and Vittoria Colonna.

Each brick serves as a testimony of your support and commitment to a lasting memorial to family and friends for generations to come

BRICK OPTIONS

4" x 8" brick consisting of three lines of type, 12 characters per line is \$75.00. 12" x 12" brick consisting of six lines of type, 15 characters per line is \$200.00. Check must accompany your order

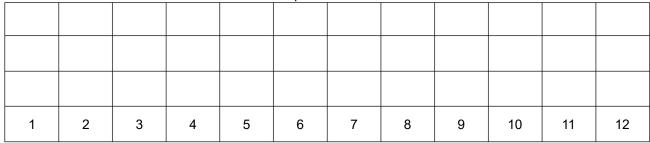
To purchase a brick please contact:

Dennis Porcaro

Phone (262) 884-9121 Email - apprlservices@netscape.net

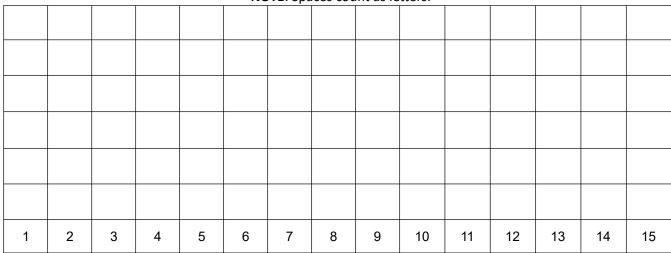
4" by 8" Brick

NOTE: Spaces count as letters.



12" x 12" Brick

NOTE: Spaces count as letters.



BRICKS WILL BE INSTALLED IN EARLY SPRING OF 2024

Roma Lodge Members Restaurant

- 1. <u>Please call to make a reservation</u>. It will help with both food preparation and staffing.
- 2. If you have a party of ten or more, we ask that your reservation is set by 5:30 or after 6:30 to ensure quality service is provided to all. Please keep splitting of checks to a minimum. This takes considerable time and will delay service.

Our Chef, Mike, will continue to create specials each week to add a variety of food options for our members and guests. Along with the weekly specials we will continue to provide a quality reduced menu. We encourage everyone to stop out and enjoy Mike's creations.

The Member's Restaurant is open for the Wednesday Buffet, and every Friday and Saturday for dining.

Thank you

Roma Lodge Clothing Store

Members interested in ordering Roma Lodge clothing can now do so by directly ordering from **The Lettering Machine**.



Visit https://theletteringmachine.com/RomaLodge/shop/home

Feel free to call The Lettering Machine at (262) 652-4177 if you have any questions. Thank you for your business!

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS



Mario Passarelli

Mario's Italian Sports Bar 2322 Lathrop Avenue Racine, Wisconsin 53405 (262) 554-0880 www.mariositaliansportsbar.com



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nita M. FARAONE Phone: 262-652-2592
TAX PREPARER Fax: 262-652-1270



RACINE'S #1 BINGO - Every Thursday Night

\$2,150 Paper Sheet & Last Game for \$400 Prizes! Come for Dinner- Doors Open at 4:00 Games Start at 6:00 pm

Southwest Dental Group

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Dr. David L DeFurio
Dr. Stephen N. Norwich
2601 Taylor Ave 262-632-3156

www.sw-dental.com





Deadline for information for the April 2024 Newsletter is March 20, 2024. Comments, suggestions, and articles of interest to our members are welcome at roma.secretary.jam@gmail.com.

Jon Worelli, Roma Lodge Recording Secretary