

7130 Spring Street – Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin 53406 – (262) 886-8850 – RIWA (262) 886-3610
Also available on the Roma Lodge Members website

----- President's Message -----

Roma Lodge Brothers:

We are experiencing the coldest stretch of the year, so why not warm up by sharing a dinner with fellow members at our wonderful lodge?

Frank Caruso will host the Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 8th at the lodge. There is space for more—sign up to watch the game with members and friends

On February 14th, Dennis Porcaro introduces “*Puzzle Challenge Night*”, a new event at Roma Lodge. Join us for dinner beforehand and stay for the challenge.

We lost two longtime members of Roma Lodge this past month. On January 4, 2026, David Ricchio passed away at the age of 85 having been a member of the lodge for 49 years. On January 22, 2026, Larry Presta passed away at the age of 100. Larry was a member for almost 75% of the time that Roma

Lodge has been in existence. I want to extend my condolences to the families of both Dave and Larry.

The terms of lodge directors Eric Andersen, Carmelo Bruno, Greg Pierangeli, and Bill Pucci expire in March. As of this writing we have not confirmed whether any of these gentlemen will accept board nominations. Open nominations will be accepted at February's Membership meeting, with elections held before the March meeting (Friday, March 13th). Please consider running for a board position and giving your talents to the lodge.

We are planning several projects for the members restaurant & bar, Vittoria Hall, and both Roma Halls this year. To involve our members, I want to gather information about their skills and professions so we can consider their businesses when seeking quotes. Email me your name, profession,

skills, and company so we can include you on the quote list.

The members restaurant is open on Wednesday evenings for the buffet, as well as Friday and Saturday nights with a full menu. Please check your emails weekly for the Wednesday buffet menu and weekend specials.

Reservations are encouraged to help us plan staffing and food preparation. The reservation line is 262-886-8850.

Buffet pricing:

- \$14.00 for adults
- \$13.00 for seniors 55 and older
- \$8.00 for children

BINGO! attendance remains excellent, with many new participants joining Roma Lodge BINGO!. This important club function relies on numerous volunteers. As you can see from the

(Continued On Page 2)

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captain's schedule in this newsletter, we are in need of captains for May, July, August and October. As captain, it is your job to get people to sell extra sheets on the floor. It is not a difficult job and people that sell sheets find it an enjoyable time with friends. If you can help, please contact Dennis Porcaro, Mike Peratt, or me.

If you are interested in becoming more involved,

please consider joining one of our many committees or helping to organize and run social events throughout the year. For any other area of interest, feel free to contact me or any board member. Member involvement and participation remain essential to our ongoing success.

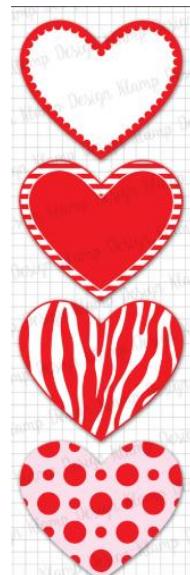
- The next Roma Lodge Membership meeting: Friday, February 13th, 7:00 PM.

- The next Board of Directors meeting: Tuesday, February 10th, 6:30 PM.

All members are welcome at the board meeting. If you wish to speak, please request permission ahead of time by contacting me.

Jon Morelli
President

Happy Valentines Day!!



Buon Compleanno e Tanti Auguri!
Happy Birthday!!! to our Roma Lodge brothers born in February

February 1	Mitch Nyffeler	February 9	Bendt Bendtsen III	February 22	Gerald Nosotti
	John Passarelli	February 10	Garrett Wilkins	February 24	Arthur Simmons
February 2	Frank Caira		Jeffery Wilkins	February 26	Tim Nelson
February 3	Alan Tripp	February 16	Alexander Garbo	February 28	David Chiapete
February 4	William Gullo	February 19	Michael Kroes	February 29	Frank Sullivan
February 6	Jeff D'Acquisto		David J. Ricchio		
	Chuck Mano		Robert Vallone		
February 7	Joe DeMatthew	February 20	Rob Spatz		
	Jason Evitts	February 21	Benjamin Cupertino		
	Ryan Massman		Eugene Modesti		

List compiled from the Roma Lodge Membership File.
Contact Pat Tierney, teamtierney@sbcglobal.net if corrections are needed.

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

There are four (4) director positions with terms expiring in March of 2026. Nominations will be made at the February 13, 2026 membership meeting for these director positions for the 2026-2028 term. The directors whose terms expire are Eric Andersen, Carmelo Bruno, Bill Pucci, and Greg Pierangeli. *There are no officer positions expiring this year.*

The election will be held on Friday, March 13, 2026.

To be a nominee, a prospective candidate must:

- Be a member in good standing as of February 2026
- Have been a member of the Lodge for at least two years and completed his probationary period.
- Accept the nomination at the time it is presented at the February meeting. If he is unable to be present, he must have a representative deliver his written acceptance of the nomination at the meeting.
- Not be a purveyor to the Lodge
- Not work in a paid position for the Lodge or receive a salary or hourly wage from the Lodge, except for those positions on the Board that are salaried.

Information on how to submit nominations prior to the February, 2026 meeting will be forthcoming and will be communicated via future e-mails.

Those who accept nominations must submit a candidate's statement to Michael Garbo at romalodge.secretary.msg@gmail.com by Sunday, February 15, 2026, highlighting their history with the Lodge and why they wish to serve as a Roma Lodge Board member. These statements will be published in the March, 2026 Newsletter.

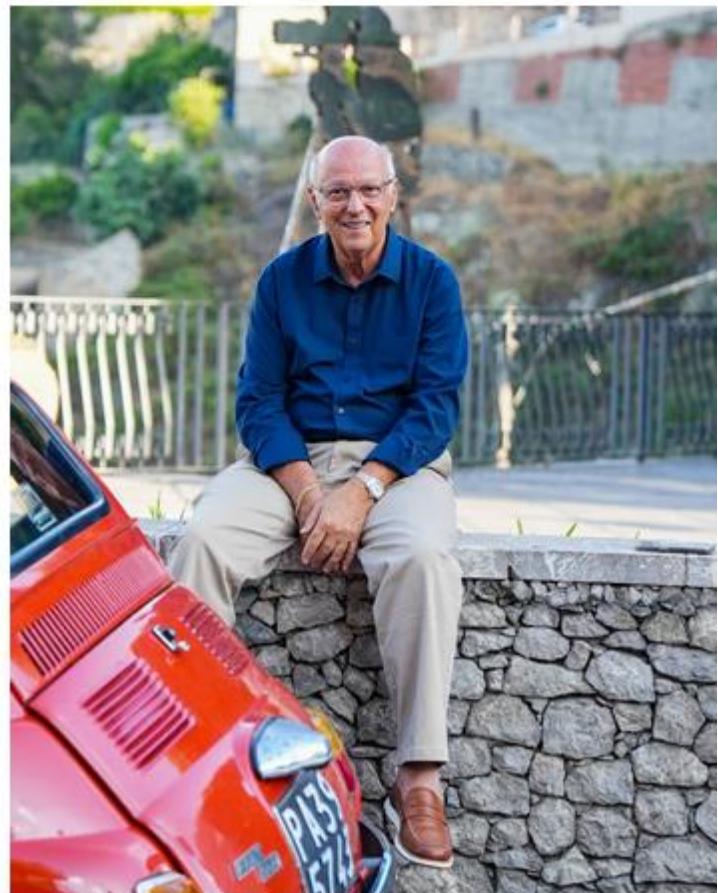
A Journey Through Sicily

With The Ciaramita Family

Christi Toman
christitoman@gmail.com

During the summer of 2024, Roma Lodge member Pete Ciaramita and his youngest daughter and her family embarked on an unforgettable journey through Sicily, experiencing the island's breathtaking landscapes, rich history, and warm hospitality. From volcanic islands to ancient cities, each destination offered its own sense of wonder and adventure. We enjoyed the Sicilian cuisine. From granitas, olives, capers, (even caper ice cream!), to the vast seafood spreads, not to mention a private tour at a stunning local winery.

Our travels began in the Aeolian Islands, where we spent several idyllic days on the lush island of Salina. Surrounded by deep blue water and dramatic cliffs, Salina felt like a peaceful retreat from the world. Each evening, we were treated to a spectacular natural show as we watched the active volcano on nearby Stromboli glow and rumble from our hotel window — a sight that never grew old. We were treated to a home cooked meal from a local family. They graciously opened their home for us, cooked a delicious meal and taught us so much about the slower paced life on the islands!



A Journey Through Sicily

With The Ciaramita Family

We spent one day out on the water, soaking up the Tyrrhenian Sea and exploring hidden coves of these volcanic islands by boat. We learned of the incredible volcanic history of this area, discovering that the biggest part of the volcano that once was above the water, was actually miles deep underwater. Island life, combined with the stunning scenery, made Salina a place we wished we could stay forever.

From there, we traveled to Taormina — our favorite stop of the entire trip. Perched high above the sea, the town offered sweeping views of Mount Etna and the Ionian coastline. Wandering through its charming streets felt like stepping into a postcard. One highlight was our Godfather tour in 3 vintage Fiats, which brought famous scenes from the iconic film to life and added a cinematic touch to our Sicilian adventure. One of our tour guides was present during the actual filming of the movie and recounted how it helped improve the economy and brought the once dilapidated area back to life.

We toured Mt. Etna on foot and by van....4 days later, the day we left Sicily Mt. Etna erupted, closing the Catania airport for the entire day!!



Our journey continued through southeastern Sicily with visits to Noto and Siracusa. In Noto, we were captivated by its architecture and its laid back quiet calm. Siracusa was filled with ancient ruins that fascinated us. We were treated to a personal cooking class in the home of a local Sicilian woman, what a treat! She had us walking through these storied streets, to the farmers market to buy the freshest meal we have ever had, and we gained a deeper appreciation for Sicily's layered history and cultural richness.

A Journey Through Sicily

With The Ciaramita Family

From volcanic islands and sparkling seas to hilltop towns and ancient ruins, our Sicilian journey was filled with moments we will treasure forever. It was fun experiencing the connection of this storied island and all of its history with our dad Pete and enhancing our knowledge of our own family history. What an unforgettable connection—one that left us wanting more! We are already looking forward to the next time we are able to return.



Sports Collector Show

The Wisconsin Sports Collectors Association (WSCA) is having another SPORTS SHOW at ROMA LODGE on Sunday, February 22nd from 9am to 2pm (I feel that it is busiest and MOST exciting in the first 3 hours – but you decide). Founded back in 1975, the shows have grown from dozens to nearly 400 people at each of these events. Our shows feature generations of our families actively participating. Each show consists of over 60 dealers' tables with vendors from numerous states. Memorabilia includes sports cards, autographs, bobble heads, NASCAR, other non-sports fun and so much more. We feature an entertaining auction running simultaneously around 9:45am until 11:30am with a large variety of items. Every show brings different surprises! There may be "signing" guests at some of our shows as well. Please pass along the word to friends and family.

If YOU have a few items to sell (up to 8 "lots") come early and ask me or MIKE if you could submit them into the auction (15% commission to charity) – and walk away with money. Honestly. What are they doing stuffed away in boxes? Bring them – sell them – make a collector happy (it's either that or your kids might sell them for a DOLLAR at their Rummage Sale)!

WSCA has fostered a great niche in the sports collecting business by combining our shows with charitable giving. As a "nonprofit organization" our profits go to various charities including, but not limited to the MDA, Lighthouse Youth Center, Children's Hospital, Special Olympics, Autism Society, Juvenile Diabetes, Veterans Charities and many others. We have led local assistance events for families by providing Thanksgiving dinners, back-to-school supplies and Christmas presents.

We even had SANTA CLAUS (he looked VERY familiar to Roma Lodge members) do a part of our December auction!!

I have volunteered with the Wisconsin Sports Collectors Association since the 1980s (nearly 35 years) and I'm thrilled to bring the WSCA to Roma Lodge every other month. My specialty has been procuring the items for the auction as well as running the auction at each event. Another Roma Lodge Member, John Gehring, has also been a part of WSCA for many years – both as a dealer and as a helpful guest.

This is a "FAMILY" event, and we encourage all Roma Lodge members to bring their families - their children and/or their grandchildren - as they build their own sports collectibles hobby in this healthy event.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

A splendid time is guaranteed for all.

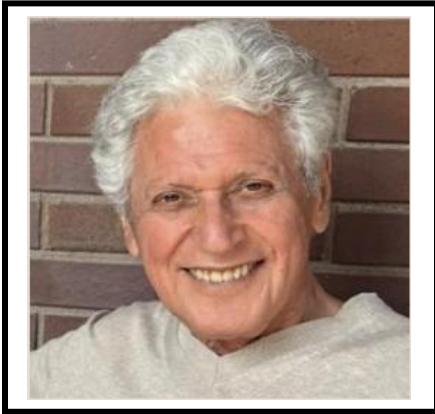
Thank you.

Paul Costanzo
414-425-2525
pcostanzo90@gmail.com



WISCONSIN SPORTS COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Obituaries



David John Ricchio

February 19, 1940 - January 4, 2026

David John Ricchio passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 4, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. Born on February 19, 1940, in Racine, Wisconsin, Dave was the son of the late Tristram and Edith (Bertola) Ricchio.

Dave was a graduate of St. Catherine's High School, attended Marquette University, and proudly served as a member of the Army Reserve. A talented artist and true visionary, Dave possessed a remarkable gift for capturing and recreating the beauty of the world around him on canvas. His creativity and artistic eye were evident in everything he pursued.

In 1970, Dave turned his artistic talent into a successful career by founding Wisconsin Screen Process, Inc. As President, he built the business through hard work, unbridled creativity, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. In 2004, Dave sold the company, but retirement did not slow him down. Instead, he redirected his creative genius into the music industry, founding The Ricchio Connection, LLC. with his cousin, Danny Ricchio. Both spent countless hours composing original melodies, writing lyrics, and recording more than 50 original compositions. His music will live on for generations to enjoy.

On December 13, 1989, Dave married Sandra Jones, the love of his life. Together, they recently

celebrated 36 years of marriage and lived life to the fullest. Whether residing on Lake Michigan, Pewaukee Lake, or the Gulf in Marco Island, Florida, Dave enjoyed nothing more than taking out his boat and sharing sunny afternoons with Sandy and their many friends.

Dave deeply loved his family. He enjoyed his dogs, tennis, golf, gardening, painting at his easel, cooking, and cheering on the Green Bay Packers—along with shopping trips with Sandy. Dave loved fast cars, and over the years owned many two-seater European sports cars.

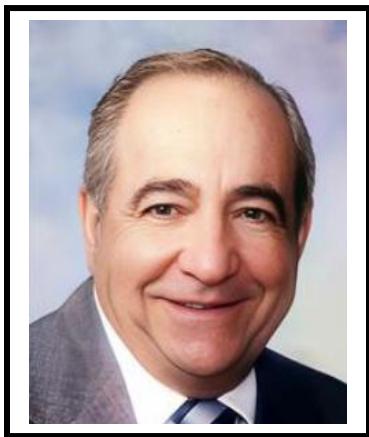
Friendship was central to Dave's life. He especially treasured his friends in both Racine and Florida. In Racine, Dave founded a Thursday lunch group known as "The Keepers," intentionally rotating restaurants each week to support local business owners. In his honor, "The Keepers" plan to continue this weekly tradition.

Dave never took anything for granted and lived his life guided by faith, gratitude, humility, and an appreciation for God's grace. With his bright smile, warm hugs, natural charisma, and unmistakable sparkle in his eyes, Dave had a way of drawing everyone into his world. He was a longtime member of Racine Country Club, Roma Lodge, and the Racine Founders Rotary Club.

Dave is survived by his wife Sandy, his daughters, Michelle (Dr. Joseph) Shea, Amy (Kevin) Hobert and Courtney (Phil) Dugliss; grandchildren, Megan (Dr. Charles) Lamberton, Kaitlin (Dr. Max) Behrend, Molly Hobert, Jack Hobert; great grandchildren, Leo and Patrick; brother, Robert (Kay) Ricchio; sisters, Renee (David) Benjamin and Deborah (Robert) Wiesner.

A celebration of Dave's life was held at Maresh-Meredith & Acklam Funeral Home, 803 Main Street, on Thursday, January 22, 2026. Relatives and friends Gathered prior to the service from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Obituaries – (continued)



Lawrence "Larry" L. Presta

March 1, 1925 - January 22, 2026

Lawrence Louis Presta, age 100, passed away January 22, 2026, at North Point Senior Living in Kenosha, Wisconsin. He was born in Kansas City, Missouri on March 1, 1925, son of the late Frank and Elizabeth (Nee: Aceto) Presta.

Lawrence proudly served his country as a Corporal in the US Army. On May 7, 1949, he was united in marriage to Rose Sivoli, who preceded him in death October 28, 2021. He was employed by SC Johnson & Sons for 28 years until his retirement in 1987. He was a long-time member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and choir member. He was a lifetime member of Roma Lodge. Larry raised hunting dogs, raced pigeons and enjoyed golfing, bow hunting and fishing.

He was loved dearly and will be sadly missed by his daughter, Sandra (Dwight) McClure; son, Mark Presta; grandchildren, Daniel (Erin) McClure, and Matthew McClure; great grandchildren, Carter, Cameron and Claire; nieces, nephews, other relatives and dear friends. In addition to his parents and wife he was preceded in death by his twin daughters, Renee and Roxanne Presta, his sister, Florence (James) Aiello and his brother, Louis (Joanne) Presta.

A Mass of Christian Burial celebrating Larry's life was held at 11:30 am, Friday, January 30, 2026, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 2201 Northwestern Ave., with Rev. Timothy Sanchez officiating. Entombment with Full Military Honors followed at Holy Cross Garden Mausoleum. Relatives and friends were welcome to meet with the family on Friday at 10:30 am until time of Mass at the church. Memorials to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital have been suggested by the family.

A special thank-you to the staffs at North Point Senior Living and Legacy Hospice for their loving and compassionate care.

Editor's Note: Upon the recent passing of Lawrence "Larry" Presta, Rick Bonanno felt compelled to resubmit an article that was originally published in the April, 2016 newsletter. Thanks to Rick for the suggestion!

BLAKE AVENUE GARDENS ARE RAIDED AGAIN

The Black Arrow Gang is Suspected

(Racine, Wisc. Circa 1940 reported by Rick Bonanno)

Vegetable gardens on and around Blake Avenue have been victims of raiders again. In one instance, Tony Litrenta went out to his lavish vegetable garden early in the morning at 1440 Blake Avenue only to find the majority of his ripening crop of tomatoes gone. While there are many kids in the neighborhood that could have perpetrated this heinous crime, the likely suspects are "The Black Arrow Gang". This unruly group of hoodlums has been known to cause havoc throughout the neighborhood. They have been spotted roaming on Blake, Summit, Carlisle and Woodrow Avenues. They have also been seen on Forest, Prospect, Hamilton and Albert Streets. The gang helps themselves to the abundant cherries, apples, plums and pears grown by local gardeners. The gang is also suspected of taking wooden boards from Horlick's factory fence along Summit Avenue. The boards, measuring 10 inches wide and 8 feet long, were taken sometime in the evening hours. Coincidentally, similar boards were used in the construction of the gang's clubhouse located at 1500 Blake Avenue. "The Black Arrow Gang" is led by Lawrence "Larry the General" Presta. Other gang members include; Charles "Chullo" Arnone, Lawrence "Weef" Presta, Louis "Lou Lou" Presta, Santo "Zuddy" DeRose, Adam "Eddie" Domanico, Charles "Charlie Boy" Domanico, John "Johnnie Boy" Domanico, Phillip "Phil" Litrenta, Mike "Ape" Aceto and Carl "Desh" Marinac. The photo shows some of "The Black Arrow Gang" posing as little league baseball players for Sam DeRose's Tavern.



Front row (l to r) Lawrence Presta, Louis Presta, Peter LaBrasca, Santo "Zuddy" DeRose
Back row (l to r) Carl Marinac, Charles Arnone, Peter Barry, Lawrence (Larry) Presta, Charles Domanico

WARNING...Don't be fooled by the angelic faces in this photo. "The Black Arrow Gang" is very dangerous. If you encounter any of these juvenile delinquents approach them with extreme caution, grab them and...IMMEDIATELY BRING THEM HOME TO THEIR MOTHERS FOR A GOOD SPANKING!!!

FEBRUARY, 2026 MEMBERSHIP MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next Membership meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 13th at 7pm.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!



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



To volunteer your time, please contact one of the following:
i: 262-994-2861 – roma.secretary.jam@gmail.com
caro: 262-884-9121 – aprlservices@netscape.net

The table at the right lists currently scheduled BINGO! Captains for 2026. We need people interested in being captains to step up and volunteer. for the months that are unassigned..

Each captain is required to secure volunteers to sell cards on the floor.

In addition to captains, we need volunteers to step up to learn the role of selling game cards (this job requires you to be at BINGO! from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM at a minimum). We can also use volunteers to learn the other jobs of BINGO!.

Please consider giving your time on a Thursday afternoon and/or evening. BINGO! is an important source of income for Roma Lodge.

BINGO! CAPTAINS	
JANUARY	Ed Morelli
FEBRUARY	Ken Scolaro
MARCH	Don Vena
APRIL	Jason Evitts
MAY	
JUNE	Rich Nygro
JULY	
AUGUST	
SEPTEMBER	Jon Morelli
OCTOBER	
NOVEMBER	Frank Bisotti
DECEMBER	Jon Morelli



Funeral Service Representation – January through March

Lodge members whose names are within the range **Adamowicz, Randy – DeMatthew, Jeffrey** are expected to attend deceased members' funeral services, to represent the Lodge, during the calendar quarter listed above.

You are not required to attend every funeral; however, you are encouraged to attend at least one, if the occasion arises, during the quarter. All Roma Lodge members are encouraged to attend the funeral services of their deceased brothers. A special Roma Lodge sign-in book will be on hand at the service for members to log their attendance.



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, is hospitalized or ill at home, contact Steve Rawlinko, srawlinko@wi.rr.com or by phone at (262) 308-7997.

ROMA LODGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WEEKEND DUTY SCHEDULE

February 2026			
Friday		Saturday	
6th	Dennis Porcaro	7th	Dennis Porcaro
13th	Michael Clementi	14th	Michael Clementi
20th	Mike Garbo	21st	Mike Garbo
27th	Pat Tierney	28th	Pat Tierney



Bocce Schedules

To view Bocce Schedules, click the following link:

<https://www.romalodge.org/members/league-schedulesroster-sheetbocce-rules>

February 2026 EVENTS

Sunday, February 8

Superbowl LX (sixty)

Tuesday, February 10

Board Of Directors Meeting – 6:30pm

Friday, February 13

Membership Meeting – 7pm

Saturday, February 14

Valentine's day

Saturday, February 14

Puzzle Challenge Night – 7pm

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday

March 2026 EVENTS

Tuesday, March 10

Board Of Directors Meeting – 6:30pm

Friday, March 13

Membership Meeting – 7pm

Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday

😊 Wintertime Chuckles 😊

What bites but doesn't have teeth? Frost.

Who is Frosty's favorite relative? Aunt Arctica.

What do you call a snapshot from the North Pole? A polaroid.

Why did the bear keep getting fired? He always disappeared in the winter.

What did the tree say after a long, cold winter? What a re-leaf!

What do you call a ghost in the winter? Casp-brrr.

Roma Lodge Patio Brick Program

Become a permanent fixture at Roma Lodge!!

Consider the Roma Lodge Patio Brick Program

Some ideas are:

- Your name and when you joined Roma Lodge.
- For deceased family members – when they were members.
- In memory of a loved one.
- All Family members' names.
- Imagine a brick and add it to the patio.

If interested, please fill out the order form on the next page and return to Dennis Porcaro. You can also order by scanning the QR code below or going to <https://roma-lodge.square.site>

Orders taken will be completed and installed as time and conditions permit.



4" x 8" Brick
\$75.00



12" x 12" Brick
\$200.00

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.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	

12" x 12" Brick

NOTE: Spaces count as letters.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
												14
												15

BRICKS WILL BE INSTALLED AS TIME AND CONDITIONS PERMIT

Buyer Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Roma Lodge Clothing Store

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



TO ORDER FROM THE WEBSTORE:

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

President	Jon Morelli	romalodge.president.jam@gmail.com	262-994-2861
Vice President	Dennis Porcaro	apprlservices@netscape.net	262-994-3111
Parliamentarian	Michael Clementi	clementi3415@gmail.com	262-939-3416
Recording Secretary	Mike Garbo	romalodge.secretary.msg@gmail.com	262-939-6291
Membership Secretary	Pat Tierney	teamtierney@sbcglobal.net	262-960-2855
Treasurer	Pat Diem	Pjdiem@outlook.com	414-530-2988
Director – '24-'26	Carmelo Bruno	carmelo.bruno8888@gmail.com	847-533-8888
Director – '24-'26	Greg Pierangeli	idocgregtpier@yahoo.com	870-882-1715
Director – '24-'26	Eric Andersen	e.c.andersenstable.llc@gmail.com	262-989-4276
Director – '24-'26	Bill Pucci, Jr.	wmpucci50@gmail.com	262-939-3452
Director – '25-'27	Matt Montemurro	m.montemurro@sbcglobal.net	262-989-1477
Director – '25-'27	Steve Rawlinko	srawlinko@wi.rr.com	262-308-7997
Director – '25-'27	Dave Silvani	dsilvani@live.com	262-321-1604
Director – '25-'27	Keith Stannis	keithstannis@gmail.com	262-939-6008
Past President	Frank Bisotti	fbisotti@ameritech.net	262-914-1880

The submission deadline for information to be published in the March, 2026 Newsletter is February 26, 2026 at 5pm.

Comments, suggestions and articles of interest to our members are welcome and will only be acknowledged and/or acted upon if submitted to roma.newsletter.mpk@gmail.com. **Items submitted for publication must pertain to Roma Lodge members and/or membership functions and contain complete information.**