



7130 Spring Street – Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin 53406 – (262) 886-8850 – RIWA (262) 886-3610

Also available in full color on the Roma Lodge Members website at www.romalodge.org/members/roma-lodge-newsletter

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

Roma Lodge Brothers:

Fall is my favorite season, with its colorful leaves and crisp mornings. It also marks the start of football season, though the Packers' early performance suggests a challenging year. At least we have the Brewers: as of this writing, they have won 100 games with three remaining. *Hopefully, this is their year!*

That brings to mind how much fun we had on the Brewers-Cubs bus trip On September 9th. The Brewers won, we enjoyed a great meal at the lodge beforehand, and we avoided the hassle of game-day traffic. Thank you to **Dawn and Pat Tierney** for organizing the event. Dawn must have excellent connections to have secured such great seats. We even appeared on the Jumbotron, and Linda Litrenta caught a foul ball that was featured on the Brewers broadcast.

The Columbus Day dinner is Saturday, October 10th, and there is still time to sign up. Thank you to Carmelo Bruno, Frank Bisotti, Vittoria Colonna, and their team for their hard work organizing the event.

The final *Coffee and Cars* event of the 2026 season was held Saturday, September 12th, in perfect weather. It also served as *Safety Awareness Day*, with representatives from the South Shore and Caledonia fire departments and the Mt. Pleasant Police Department in attendance. The event featured 75 cars, including many unique first-time entries. Thank you to **Keith Stannis** for his work coordinating our first responders.

Coffee and Cars will return next June.

A team of Roma Lodge members is preparing a proposal to host the 2027 *United States Bocce Federation National Tournament* at our facilities. Many hours have already gone into the bid, which is due November 1st, and we are competing against clubs from across the country. Winning would be a major achievement, with the tournament scheduled for late summer 2027. Thank you to committee members Dave Silvani, Derek Anzalone, Michael Garbo, Bill Pucci, Jim Silvani, Rick Bonanno, and Nick Rossi. Special recognition goes to Nick Rossi for his excellent work on the bid package. Rick Bonanno and I also met with Matt Prochaska at the Village of Mt. Pleasant, which supports our proposal and has agreed to collaborate with us to make the event a success when we win the bid. We will keep members updated.

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

If you have been to our restaurant in a while, please consider joining us. The food has been excellent. I had a group of friends come to dinner this past Saturday and they all enjoyed their meals very much. One of my friends had the salmon and told me it was the best salmon he has ever had.

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

262-886-8850. For parties of six or more, a 19% service charge will be included, and there will be one check for tables of ten or more.

Pricing for the Wednesday night buffet is:

- \$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. Dennis is always looking for card sellers. This job requires that you be at BINGO! from 3:30 PM – 6:00 PM.

At their meeting, Vittoria Colonna members voted to support BINGO! regularly. I thank everyone who has volunteered to help. I am encouraged by the collaboration between our clubs on BINGO!, the festival, Columbus Day, and the many other events we organize together.

We are also looking for people interested in training as callers and callback workers. If you can help, please contact Dennis Porcaro 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 Board of Directors meeting is Tuesday, October 6th at 6PM.

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

The next Roma Lodge Membership meeting is Friday, October 9th at 7PM.

At our **October social meeting**, the Festival Committee will present the results of this year's festival. You are welcome to bring your spouse or

significant other.

Jon Morelli
President

Buon compleanno ai nostri fratelli della Roma Lodge nati a Ottobre!!!
(Happy Birthday to our Roma Lodge brothers born in October!!!)

October 1	Joel Beck	October 8	David Hotchkiss	October 25	Brett Ekes
October 2	Paul Costanzo	October 12	Thomas Linden		Frank Maritato
	Frank Perugini		John Ponio	October 26	Joseph Fazzari
October 3	Ronald Ernst	October 13	Mark Meyers		John Perugini
October 4	Albert Kosterman		Bernard Polzin	October 27	Randall Chiapete
	Michael Lafratta	October 14	Andrew Paar		Jason Johnson
October 5	Joe Jardina		Brandon Silvani		Richard Onyon
October 6	Adam Anzalone	October 15	Andrew Buechler	October 29	Alessandro Dalvecchio
	Andrew Kallenbach	October 20	Guy Schetter	October 30	Charles Christiano
	Anthony R Porcaro	October 21	Randal M. Marvin	October 31	Joe Derosé
October 7	Tom Janikian	October 24	Dominic Anzalone		
	Matthew Russell		Joseph Nemec		

List compiled from the Roma Lodge Membership File.

Contact Pat Tierney, teamtierney@sbcglobal.net if corrections are needed.

Candidates For Roma Lodge Membership

The following membership candidates have been approved or conditionally approved by the Membership Committee and the Board. Action by membership is required for final approval. Voting will take place during the October 9, 2026 membership meetings.

To be voted on at the October 9, 2026 membership meeting:

Andrew O'Neil, age 41, resides in Beach Park, IL. He is single with no children. His Italian link is through genetics (*Conditional approval subject to genetic records being submitted and approved by the Membership Committee*). Andrew is employed as a delivery driver for Amazon. His proponent is David Silvani.

Mario Passarelli, age 55, resides in Kenosha, WI. He is single with no children. His Italian link is through his parents. Mario owns and operates Mario's Sports Bar. He is a former Roma Lodge member that went on hiatus from the club due to business obligations. His proponent is Rick Bonanno.

Ned Povolo, age 68, resides in Caledonia, WI. He is married to Neva and has two children. His Italian link is through his father. Ned is a retired accountant. His proponent is Steve Ramig.

**** Roma Lodge Membership Contact Information ****

We are updating our membership contact information! We are asking that you respond to the email blast that will be coming out in the near future asking you to confirm your current cell phone number. We will be using it, in the future, to send text messages regarding important membership announcements, events, and activities going on at Roma Lodge. We will continue to send out information to your email address. Text messaging will allow us to reach members that may not check their emails or do not receive them due to their spam settings.

You may also email your *CURRENT CELL PHONE NUMBER* to: romalodge.secretary.msg@gmail.com. It is important to make sure when you email back, to include your full first and last name so it can be cross referenced with our membership list.

Thank you for helping us keep our membership information up to date!

Bylaw Change Proposal

The Roma Lodge Board is proposing to expand the guest ratio for the Roma Lodge Members Christmas Party and the Roma Lodge Columbus Day Dinner within *Article IX Miscellaneous, Section 9* of the Bylaws. We are asking you to consider making the change of adding a *3 guests per member limit* to the two events. We will be voting on the change at the November 13, 2026 membership meeting.

The current bylaw reads as follows:

ARTICLE IX MISCELLANEOUS

Section 9:

The Roma Lodge Christmas Party shall be "member's only function". The Columbus Day Dinner may be attended by members of Roma Lodge or the Vittoria Colonna Lodge and one guest. The Members Christmas Party must be held on a Saturday night. [Amended May 2, 2008, January 2, 2009, and October 14, 2016]

The changed bylaw would read as follows:

ARTICLE IX MISCELLANEOUS

Section 9:

The Roma Lodge Christmas Party shall be a members-only function with a 3 guests per member limit. The Columbus Day Dinner may be attended by members of Roma Lodge and the Vittoria Colonna Lodge with a 3 guests per member limit. The Members Christmas Party must be held on a Saturday night.

ROMA LODGE BOCCE CAPTAINS and PLAYERS MEETING

(submitted by Dave Silvani on behalf of the Roma Lodge Bocce Committee)

The Captains/Players Meeting for the 2026–2027 Bocce Season will take place on Monday, October 5th at 6:30pm in the Members Lounge.

All players and anyone interested in playing are welcome to attend!

This is the one time each year that any rule changes can be discussed and implemented. Your participation is encouraged, as this is a great opportunity to share ideas, discuss potential changes, and help prepare for the upcoming season.

The 2026–2027 bocce season begins on Monday, October 12th, 2026!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting and getting ready for another great season of bocce!

Christopher Columbus Day/Roma Lodge History

In 1913, an Italian immigrant (and lifetime Roma Lodge member), Servario (Sam) Aiello began working with Milwaukee attorney Angelo Cerminara to recognize Columbus Day in Wisconsin as a holiday. In 1929, Servario's efforts came to fruition when the Wisconsin State Legislature passed a bill recognizing Christopher Columbus Day (October 12) as a "Special Observance Day" for state schools. On April 30, 1929, the legislation was signed into law by Governor Walter J. Kohler Sr.

There were many accomplishments achieved by Servario. So much so, including serving as a supervisor on the Mount Pleasant board from 1922 to 1939, that the Italian government recognized him with the *Stella della Solidarietà Italiana* (Star of Italian Solidarity). Two hundred fifty Italian-American guests attended the 1953 Columbus Day celebration where the Italian Vice Consulate, Dr. Uberto Bertozzi presented the award.

Roma Lodge has a deep history embedded in Racine County since the early 1900s. More of these stories to come in the future.

Il tuo Fratello Italiano,

Greg Pierangeli

Annual Membership Dues Notice for 2027

Dear Roma Lodge Members,

As we are preparing for another year at Roma Lodge, we want to begin by thanking you for your continued membership, support, and commitment to our lodge. Your membership is what makes Roma Lodge a special place for our members, families, and community.

We understand that **every dollar matters**, and we recognize that our members are sensitive to increases in costs. We have carefully considered this decision and want to be transparent about the changes we are making.

Annual Dues for the Upcoming Year

Beginning with the upcoming membership year, annual dues will be **\$240.00 (\$20.00/month)**. As part of this change, we will no longer be providing the \$50 gift card that was previously included with annual dues. Dues notices for 2027 will be mailed to existing members in November of this year. Payments may be made via check, money order, or credit card. Checks should be made payable to Roma Lodge and either mailed to the Roma Lodge office or dropped off in the mail slot by the Board Room door. Electronic payments are processed by scanning the barcode at the bottom of the invoice.

At the September, 2026 Board meeting, with a recommendation by the Membership Committee, the Board approved the following fee structure for 2027:

Level	Age Range	Years of Membership	2027 Dues
1	21-64	0-24	\$240.00
2	65-79	25-49	\$120.00
3	80+	50+	\$0.00

This decision was not made lightly. Roma Lodge, like many organizations, is experiencing increased operating expenses, including:

- **Utility costs:** Higher expenses from our utility providers.
- **Maintenance costs:** Increased costs to maintain and care for our building and facilities.
- **Vendor service costs:** Rising prices for services and support provided by our vendors.
- **Insurance Costs:** Insurance Premiums for General Liability and Building Coverage have risen year after year.
- **Property Tax:** Property taxes fluctuate and typically increase annually.

These increases have placed additional pressure on our operating budget. Adjusting our dues will help Roma Lodge manage these expenses and continue providing a well-maintained facility and services for our membership.

We understand that this change may be difficult for some of our members, and we want you to know that we have taken your concerns about affordability into consideration. Our goal is to be responsible with our finances while continuing to preserve the value of your membership.

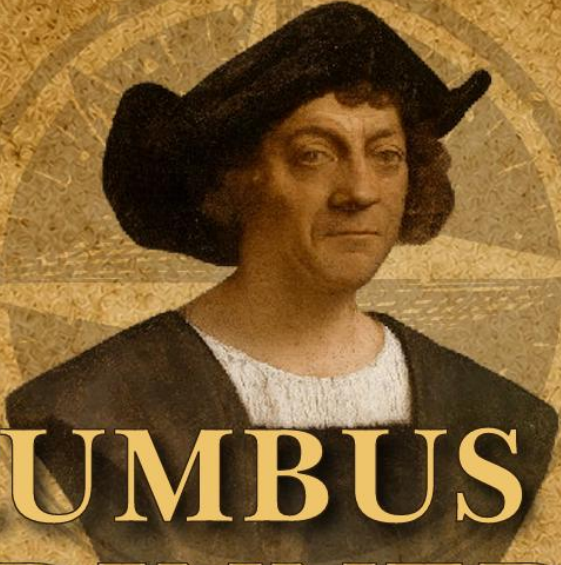
Roma Lodge is more than a building. It is a place where friendships are built, families gather, traditions continue, and our members come together. Your continued support helps us maintain that sense of community for years to come.

We value your understanding and loyalty to Roma Lodge. Your continued membership will help us move forward together.

If you have any questions regarding your annual dues, please contact Pat Tierney, at 262-960-2855, or any of the Board members.

With sincere appreciation,

Roma Lodge
Membership Committee / Board of Directors



COLUMBUS DAY DINNER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026

5:00^{PM} - 10:00^{PM}

Cash Bar at 5:00^{PM} • Family-Style Dinner at 6:00^{PM}

Members Dining Room
\$40 Per Person

FAMILY-STYLE MENU

Caprese Salad • Angel Hair Pasta with Garlic & Oil
Chicken Florentine • Sicilian-Style Pork Chopse • Pasta Bolognese
Italian-Style Fried Potatoes • Italian Green Beans • Dessert
A Bottle of Red and White Wine per Table

GUEST SPEAKER:
Ernie Rossi

50/50 Raffle
Raffle Baskets



SCAN FOR TICKETS

RESERVATIONS

VC Member Contact:

Denise Rossi: 262-909-9004

Roma Lodge Contact:

Carmelo Bruno: 847-533-8888



Presented by Roma Lodge & Vittoria Colonna

Roma Lodge & Vittoria Colonna Members May Each Invite 1 Guest



Congratulations to the "ROMABOYZ" Bocce Team!!



The ROMABOYZ: Jim Silvani, Woody Zanella, Dave Silvani and Joe Cicero

Roma Lodge was well-represented by the ROMABOYZ at the **2026 ABC (American Bocce Company) Open**.

The tournament, held on September 11-13, took place in Lake Orion, in the northern outskirts of the Metro Detroit area. This was the fifth year the team competed in Lake Orion. For three of the five years they played in the championship game, coming up short *until this year*.

The team, comprised of Joe Cicero, Dave Silvani, Jim Silvani and Woody Zanella won the Silver Division. They lost their first game Thursday night, September 11th (*after a 7 hour drive*). The ROMABOYZ then ran a string of eight straight wins, finishing 8-1 and garnering the Silver Division win.

Dave Silvani was selected as the MVP of the Silver Division.





Trunk Or Treat

Sunday October 25

**1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
please have your trunk
ready by 12:30 pm
stay after for the packer game**

**Please have treats for 100 kiddos
Juice boxes, hot dogs and chips provided!**

Roma Lodge member parking lot

RSVP to Silvani 262 995 3340

Coffee & Cars

Safety Day Event

Nicholas Rossi

marketing.romalodge@gmail.com

Roma Lodge's final Coffee & Cars event of 2026 drew a great turnout on September 12. The morning featured Safety Awareness Day, with fire trucks from South Shore Fire Department and Caledonia Fire Department. The Mount Pleasant Police Department also attended, giving visitors a chance to meet local first responders while enjoying the vehicles on display. A Best in Show trophy was presented.

Roma Lodge President Jon Morelli attended alongside past presidents Rick Bonanno, Frank Bisotti, and Don Cicero, as well as other Lodge members. Pat Tierney and Greg Pierangeli were on hand with membership applications and information about Roma Lodge for anyone interested in learning more.

Coffee & Cars will return next year, and all vehicles are welcome to display. As the event's tagline says, "If it's special to you, it's special to us!" Thank you to the first responders, vehicle owners, and community members who helped make this year's events a success.



SAFETY AWARENESS DAY



Coffee & Cars

Safety Day Event



SEPTEMBER "COFFEE & CARS" (Bonus!!)



"Best In Show"

1965 Ford Thunderbird
Owned by Rick Bogan



Rick Bonanno brought his *fleet* of Chevrolet automobiles to *Coffee & Cars*.



1957 Bel Air 2 Door Hardtop



1967 Chevelle SS



1975 Monte Carlo



1996 Corvette

SEPTEMBER "COFFEE & CARS" (Bonus!!)



**Joe Nemec and his
1970 Oldsmobile 442**



**Ken Bichanich and his
1970 Kenworth**



**Jeff Hoey and his 1969
Chevrolet Chevelle SS**

Christopher Columbus

Advocating for Italian American Recognition

Ernie Rossi
erniesrossi@gmail.com

To my Roma Lodge brothers: As you may know, there is a small Christopher Columbus monument in downtown Racine, located on a green space just north of Festival Park. There is an accompanying section of road named "Columbus Causeway" under county ownership, leading to the Marina. There was previously a longer section of the same name that went into Racine, but this was changed by the City Council to "Kipikawi," as that section falls under city jurisdiction.

A fellow Racine County board supervisor brought a motion to the county board to rename the remaining section still bearing Columbus' name to "Kipikawi," which was then referred to the public works committee, which I am a member of. On 3/12/2026, the committee had planned to hear arguments and potentially vote to send this item back to the full board for approval.

I am happy to report to you that the motion failed that night, and the Columbus name will remain, at least for the time being. Had this passed, surely the removal of the monument would have followed. That evening, I read a statement which explained the importance of Christopher Columbus to the Italian American community, and many in attendance were surprised by the history surrounding Columbus and Columbus Day. This statement is attached for your review.

I want to thank Vince Ruffolo, David Chiapete and Keith Stannis for writing letters to the County Board expressing opposition to the name change. These were critical in helping the committee understand the importance of the issue, and ultimately, make the right decision.

Respectfully,

Ernie Rossi

Italian-American Heritage Month

The Stories We Carry Forward

Nicholas Rossi
marketing.romalodge@gmail.com

October is Italian-American Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the traditions, relationships, and stories that connect generations. At Roma Lodge, that heritage is present throughout the year—in meals shared with family, conversations around the bocce courts, volunteer work, and friendships formed at Lodge gatherings.

Many of these traditions began long before the people who practice them today. A favorite recipe may have been passed down through several generations. A family story may explain how a relative came to Racine or why a particular celebration still matters. Taking time to ask about those memories, record them, and share them with children and grandchildren helps keep Italian-American heritage alive.

Heritage Month is also a chance to learn about the wider history behind those family stories. Italian immigrants and their descendants contributed to American communities while facing barriers to acceptance. That history helps explain why recognition of Italian Americans in public life has mattered so deeply to many families.

The article by Ernie Rossi that follows was originally published in the April newsletter. It offers his perspective on that history and on the Christopher Columbus Causeway in Racine. Readers are encouraged to take time with Ernie's words and consider the experiences that shaped the generations before them.

Roma Lodge and Vittoria Colonna members will gather for the annual Columbus Day Dinner on Saturday, October 10, with Ernie as this year's guest speaker. The dinner offers an opportunity to celebrate together and continue the conversation.

This October, members can honor their heritage in ways both large and small: attend a gathering, share a family photograph, make a familiar meal, or ask a relative to tell a story. Every story shared helps carry that heritage forward.



Christopher Columbus

Advocating for Italian American Recognition

Statement of Supervisor Ernie Rossi

Racine County Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item 9 — Renaming of Christopher Columbus Causeway

I urge this committee to retain the Christopher Columbus Causeway name for the county-controlled portion of the road. Before we act, we should understand what the Columbus name actually represents in the American context—and the violent history that made it necessary. This is not an abstract culture-war debate. It is a question with a documented historical record that this committee should consider before casting a vote.

The 1891 New Orleans Lynchings

On March 14, 1891, a mob of thousands stormed the Orleans Parish Prison in New Orleans and murdered eleven Italian immigrants. The victims—fruit peddlers, stevedores, a cobbler, a tinsmith, and others—had been charged in connection with the October 1890 murder of Police Chief David Hennessy. The day before the lynching, six of the defendants were acquitted by a jury and three received mistrials. No guilty verdicts were returned. The mob killed them anyway.

This is widely documented as **the largest single mass lynching in American history** by number of victims killed at one time and place. The victims were targeted primarily because of their Italian ethnicity, not because of established criminal culpability. After Hennessy's death, New Orleans Mayor Joseph Shakspeare ordered police to arrest any Italians found on the street. Hundreds were rounded up in a dragnet. Local newspapers fueled the hostility, with *The Daily Picayune* denouncing Italian immigrants as "paupers" and "criminals."

The mob that carried out the killings was not a fringe element. It included some of the city's most prominent citizens—future mayors and governors among them. A grand jury was convened afterward, but the presiding judge was a personal friend of several mob participants. No one was ever charged or prosecuted for the murders. Theodore Roosevelt privately wrote that the victims "got what they deserved." Prominent newspapers, including the *Boston Globe*, ran approving headlines.

The killings triggered an international diplomatic crisis. Italy formally protested, recalled its ambassador from Washington, and severed diplomatic relations with the United States. Members of the Italian parliament introduced a resolution discussing retaliatory naval action against the American eastern seaboard. The U.S. reciprocated by withdrawing its legation from Rome. The crisis persisted for over a year. President Benjamin Harrison eventually addressed the lynchings in a message to Congress, calling them "a most deplorable and discreditable incident" and "an offense against law and humanity." At his instruction, the U.S. government paid a \$25,000 indemnity—approximately \$760,000 in today's dollars—to the families of three victims who held Italian citizenship.

How the Lynchings Created Columbus Day

In 1892—one year after the lynchings and coinciding with the 400th anniversary of Columbus's first voyage—President Harrison issued a proclamation calling for a national Columbus Day observance. Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing the president to designate Friday,

Christopher Columbus

Advocating for Italian American Recognition

October 21, 1892 as a general holiday. Encyclopedia Britannica draws the connection directly: the U.S. government “paid \$25,000 in reparations to the families of the murdered men and issued a proclamation recognizing Columbus Day as a national celebration in 1892.”

The proclamation served a dual purpose: it was a conciliatory gesture toward Italy to restore diplomatic goodwill, and it was a public signal to Italian Americans—who were increasingly visible as a community—that the federal government recognized them as legitimate participants in American public life. Harrison was also facing a difficult re-election campaign in 1892 and needed to rebuild support among Italian-American voters, which the lynchings had severely damaged.

Columbus Day did not arise as hero worship. It arose because Italian immigrants in the late 19th century faced systematic nativist hostility, structural discrimination, and lethal mob violence. They needed a public civic symbol that could assert their legitimacy in a country that frequently treated them as racially suspect, culturally inferior, and disposable. Columbus—an Italian-born navigator already embedded in American civic imagery through the national personification of “Columbia”—offered exactly that. He allowed Italian Americans to connect their immigrant identity to the American founding narrative.

The Knights of Columbus and other Italian-American civic organizations spent decades advocating for the holiday’s institutionalization. In 1934, Congress authorized President Franklin Roosevelt to proclaim October 12 as Columbus Day annually. In 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed legislation making it a federal holiday, effective in 1971. That advocacy was not about glorifying exploration. It was about securing a permanent civic marker that said: Italian Americans belong in this country’s public life.

The Broader Pattern of Anti-Italian Persecution

The 1891 lynchings were not an isolated event. Italian Americans were the second-largest ethnic group to be lynched in the United States. Anti-Italian discrimination was reinforced by the Ku Klux Klan, which added Italian immigrants to its list of targeted groups. Nativist organizations pushed for immigration restrictions specifically aimed at southern and eastern Europeans. The word “Mafia” entered the American vocabulary through the 1891 crisis and was weaponized for decades afterward to justify discrimination against all Italian Americans regardless of any individual’s conduct.

During World War II, more than 1,800 Italian Americans were interned as “enemy aliens,” and over 600,000 were subjected to restrictions nationwide—their property seized, their movements curtailed, their loyalty questioned. Their only offense was Italian ancestry. On Columbus Day 1942, President Roosevelt announced the removal of the “enemy alien” designation for Italian Americans, further cementing the holiday’s role as a vehicle for restoring civic dignity to a persecuted community.

What This Means for This Committee’s Decision

Removing Columbus’s name from a public road is not a neutral act of updating a street sign. For many Italian Americans, it registers as the removal of one of the few civic markers that recognized their community’s struggle for acceptance in this country—a struggle rooted in the largest mass lynching in U.S. history, decades of discrimination, and wartime internment.

Christopher Columbus

Advocating for Italian American Recognition

This committee is not being asked to evaluate Christopher Columbus's 15th-century conduct. That is a matter for historians and educators. This committee is being asked whether Racine County should erase a civic marker that, in the American context, has functioned as a symbol of immigrant inclusion—one that arose directly from anti-Italian violence and an international diplomatic crisis.

If the committee wishes to honor Indigenous heritage along the causeway, it can do so through **additive measures**: interpretive signage, educational programming, companion recognition, or dedicated public art. History is better served by adding context than by subtracting identity. Removal does not create understanding—it creates erasure and division, and it disproportionately affects the Italian-American community at a moment when their civic presence is, once again, being questioned.

I respectfully ask that this committee vote to retain the Christopher Columbus Causeway name.

Obituaries



Santo "Zuddy" Rocco DeRose

November 19, 1928 - September 5, 2026

Santo Rocco "Zuddy" DeRose, age 97, passed away peacefully and comfortably on September 5, 2026. Santo was born in Racine Wisconsin on November 19, 1928, son of the late Raffaele and Assunta (Susie), (Née: Capizzano).

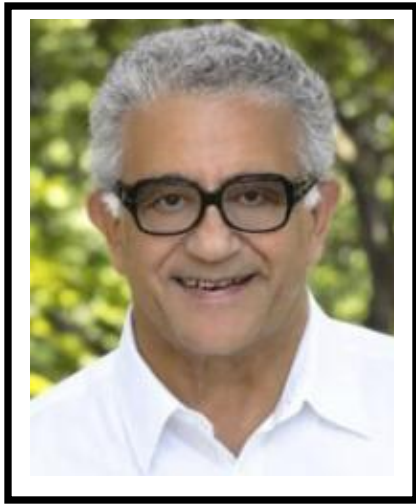
Santo was raised as part of the Blake Avenue Italian immigrant community of which he enjoyed lifelong friendships. He was a graduate of William Horlick High and was an outstanding athlete in several sports. Santo served in the US Army during the Korean War stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia where he was selected for special services to play football for the base. With honorable discharge he attended Florida State on a football scholarship where Lee Corso was a teammate. Upon returning to Racine, he continued playing semi-pro football for the Racine Hornets and Raiders. Santo married Sharon (Nee: Hinsman) on February 6, 1953, at Holy Name Catholic Church and enjoyed a 66-year union.

Santo was a longtime employee of the City of Racine Department of Public Works and enjoyed an early retirement to further pursue his passions of: mushroom hunting, golf, bocce ball, softball, preparing and sharing his family Italian dishes. Count yourself lucky if you were on his very short list for "Zuddy's Famous Giardiniera". He was a dedicated Cubs diehard fan and thrived on second-guessing every in-game manager decision. Santo treasured watching and supporting his four sons become accomplished competitive athletes.

Surviving are his four sons: Ralph (Cindy) DeRose, Daniel DeRose, Dino (Donna) DeRose and Robert DeRose; grandchildren Natalie (Tony) Abbott, Lauren Jackson, Dylan DeRose, Dominic DeRose, Devin DeRose, Katelyn Lackovich, Lukas Goetz; great grandchildren, Gavin, Jaiden, Cameron, Logan, Ava, Emma, A.J. and Reign; sister Josie (Don) Pfaffl; brother Joesph DeRose; nieces, nephews, other relatives, friends and teammates. In addition to his parents, Santo was preceded in death by his sisters Alberta (Dominic) Lipari and Mary (Lucky) Hansen.

Relatives, friends and teammates were invited for visitation at the funeral home, Saturday, September 19th, from 9-10:30am. A prayer service was held at 10:30am. Entombment with full military honors followed at Holy Cross Cemetery, Hwy 32 where Santo joined his wife Sharon in eternal rest.

Obituaries (continued)



Leonard J. Montalbano

May 17, 1938 - September 12, 2026

Len Montalbano passed away peacefully at the age of 88, surrounded by his loving wife of sixty years and two devoted sons, on September 12, 2026. He leaves behind a unique and loving legacy, and he will be deeply missed.

Len was born in Rockford, Illinois on May 17, 1938, the middle of three sons born to Dominic and Virginia Montalbano (née Piccione). He attended high school in Oregon, Illinois where he was active in sports and held the school record in the discus throw his senior year. He attended Bradley University, majoring in Business and Light Building Construction. In 1958, he left college to join the Army Corps of Engineers and was sent to Tripoli, Libya, for topographic mapping and later to Matera, Italy, as part of NATO, surveying for future missile bases.

In 1961, Len returned to Bradley and obtained his academic degree. He moved to Milwaukee and worked for various builders and shortly thereafter met his future wife, Theresa Fazzari. They were married on November 6, 1965, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Len worked for the Milton LaPour Agency as a loan originator and appraiser and operated a home construction company for several years.

In 1970, Len started his own business, Montalbano Realty, and for the next 54 years specialized in real estate appraisals of all types, as well as buying and selling residential and commercial real estate. A highlight of his career was training and mentoring his son Jim in appraising, property management, and real estate investments while Jim worked with him in Racine.

Always active in sports, Len loved playing handball at the YMCA and coaching youth sports. In later years, Len took up road biking. But by far his most enthusiastic hobbies involved his Italian heritage. He loved all things Italian—the history, culture, food, and language. Theresa nurtured Len’s interest in Italian cuisine by preparing his favorite Italian meals. He believed a good meal was never complete without a glass (or two) of Italian red wine. An active home winemaker for 35 years, Len won “Best of Show” and “Best in Class” ribbons at the Wisconsin State Fair. He was a member of the Wisconsin Vintners Association, American Wine Society and was a certified wine judge. He and Theresa traveled annually to the American Wine Society Convention and were able to tour many cities in the U.S. as part of those trips.

Although Len did not grow up speaking Italian, he sought lessons and opportunities to practice speaking the language through trips to Italy to visit relatives, and he worked with Italian tutors whom he appreciated greatly for helping him increase his love and knowledge of Italy. Len was a longtime member of the Roma Lodge.

Aligned with his pride in his Italian heritage was his immense pride in his family. He was proud that his son Jim followed in his footsteps with a career in commercial real estate and that his son Joe attended medical school, becoming a radiologist. “Nonno” made each grandchild feel special, telling them bedtime superhero stories when they were little, and

Obituaries (Len Montalbano -continued)

taking them on pirate's treasure hunts at the Racine beach where he secretly hid "golden doubloons" for them to find.

The annual weekend at Wisconsin Dells with the whole family highlighted each summer, and Len's grandkids also enjoyed spending quiet time with him playing chess or cribbage. When they were in high school, Len traveled to watch tennis tournaments and ballet performances, and during Covid tuned in to watch basketball and volleyball games via live stream. He enjoyed conversing with them one on one when they became adults, and he was very proud that all four chose careers in finance.

Len had a close relationship with his many nieces and nephews. In recent years, special weekly visits by Gordon, Charleigh, and baby Louis Bock brought extra joy to his later years.

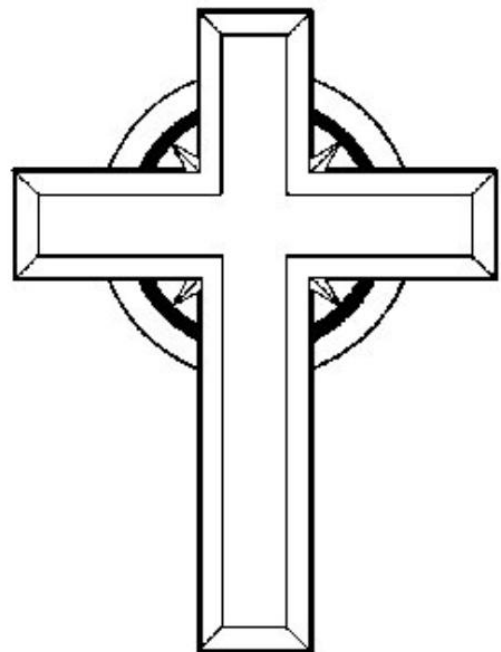
In 1993, Len underwent a kidney transplant with a kidney donated by his brother Mike. He lived with that kidney for the next 33 years. Although he faced numerous unrelated health challenges throughout his life, Len handled them with acceptance, grace, and strength. Len appreciated having his son Joe, a physician, there to help guide him through these multiple health issues. His life is an inspiration to many, and he will live deeply in the hearts of all those who loved him.

Len was preceded in death by his parents, brothers and sister-in-law, Anthony (Loretta) Montalbano, Michael Montalbano, and John IIs, father-in-law and mother-in-law, Peter and Serafina Fazzari, brothers-in-law and sister-in-law, Louis Fazzari and Richard (Angie) Vallin. Len is survived by his loving wife, Theresa Montalbano, sons James (Patricia) Montalbano and Joseph (Catherine) Montalbano, grandchildren Michael, Daniel, Nina and Vincent Montalbano, sister Elizabeth (Donald) Cline,

sister-in-law Judith Montalbano, and many nieces and nephews who maintained a loving relationship with their Uncle Len through the years.

Len's family would like to thank the medical staff at Ascension All Saints Hospital for their outstanding care and support, especially those in the Inpatient Rehabilitation wing and the Cardiac Care floor. Also, a special thanks to the organ transplant team at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Rita Catholic Church, 4339 Douglas Avenue in Racine, on Wednesday, September 30, at 11:30 a.m. with visitation at the church before the mass starting at 10:00 a.m., and continuing until 11:30 a.m. with a break from 10:15-10:25 a.m. for a brief Roma Lodge ceremony. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Racine Health Care Network, 500 Wisconsin Ave, Racine, WI 53403, or your favorite charity.



COUPLES BOCCE

League Schedule



10-24 — LEAGUE STARTS

11-7 — LEAGUE NIGHT

11-21 — LEAGUE NIGHT

1-9 — LEAGUE NIGHT

1-23 — LEAGUE NIGHT

2-6 — LEAGUE NIGHT

2-20 — LEAGUE NIGHT

3-6 — LEAGUE NIGHT

3-20 — BANQUET & GAMES FOR PRIZES



*PLEASE BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE

RSVP TEAM NAME TO DAVE SILVANI

262-321-1604 DSILVANI@RINGDU.COM



PLEASE BE SURE TO CALL FOR
RESERVATION IF DINING BEFORE!



Roma Lodge & Vittoria Colonna



Childrens Christmas Party

Sunday December 6th from 11:00 - 2:00

MUST RSVP to Briana Silvani 262-995-3340 or complete form below by Dec 1st

\$15.00 per adult (Children under 12 free)

** will be \$25.00 per adult at the door *



Meet Santa and get your photo

Family Photo Backpack

Mrs. Claus games and activities

Glitter Tattoos

Make an Ornament

Decorate a Cookie

Holiday Music

Please Join us for this wonderful event open to children and grandchildren of Roma Lodge and Vittoria Colonna Members



Name _____

Child Name _____ Age _____

Child Name _____ Age _____

Child Name _____ Age _____

Child Name _____ Age _____

How Many Adults _____ Cash.

Menu

Chicken Tenders

Pasta with Red Sauce

Pasta with Butter

Meatballs

Fries

Novalty Ice Cream





Roma Lodge Members Christmas Party

Saturday, December 12, 2026

Save The Date

Celebrate the season with fellow Roma Lodge members at the annual Christmas Party. Enjoy an evening of friendship, holiday cheer, and Lodge tradition. More details will be shared soon.

Roma Memories

Preserving Our Story, One Photo At A Time

Nicholas Rossi

marketing.romalodge@gmail.com

Along the walls of Roma Lodge, our Hall of History quietly tells the story of who we are.

Each photo represents more than a moment in time. It reflects the people, tradition and commitment that built this Lodge into what it is today. These images capture generations of members who gave their time, shared their culture and helped create the community we continue to enjoy.

As a fraternal organization, Roma Lodge exists to promote fraternal & social relationships while supporting charitable, educational and cultural activities for our members and the broader community. Our history is not just something to remember, it is something to carry forward.

With that in mind, I am exploring an effort to continue highlighting and preserving the stories behind the photos displayed throughout the Lodge.

We Need Your Help

Many of the faces in these photos are familiar, but all of their names and stories may not be documented. That is where the members come in.

If you recognize individuals in these photos, or have memories, stories or connections to the events shown, I would love to hear from you.

Who are the people in the photo? What was the occasion? What do you remember about that time at Roma Lodge? Even small details can help bring these moments back to life.

Why This Matters

A core strength of Roma Lodge has always come from its members. Participation and involvement are key to our continued success. By sharing these stories, we are doing more than identifying photos, we are preserving our heritage, honoring those who came before us and strengthening the connection between past and present members.

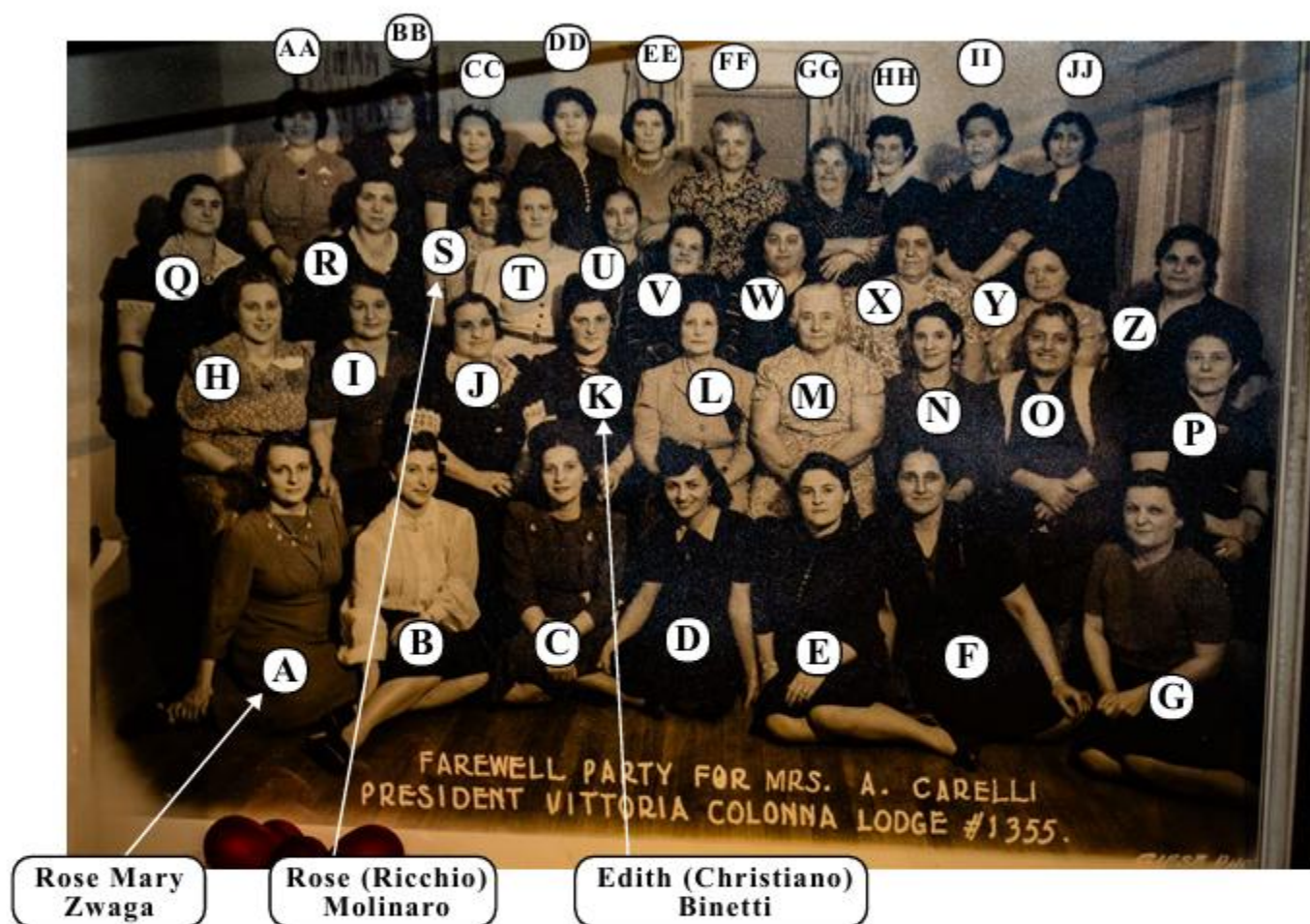
If you have information to share, it can be emailed to marketing.romalodge@gmail.com

Let's continue building our history together!



Roma Memories

May 2026 Newsletter Photo Update



Nicholas Rossi
marketing.romalodge@gmail.com

Last month, we continued to share the same photo from Roma Lodge's Hall of History as part of our ongoing Roma Memories effort. The goal remains simple: to help identify the people, stories and moments behind the photos displayed throughout the Lodge.

Thanks to the help of our members, we are happy to share that additional information has now been provided for the photo featured in last month's article.

Some of the individuals shown in the photo are:

A-Rose Mary Zwaga

Thank you to Dennis Zwaga for identifying Rose Mary Zwaga!

K-Edith (Christiano) Binetti

Thank you Rose Monfeli for identifying Edith (Christiano) Binetti!

S-Rose (Ricchio) Molinaro

Thank you Maribeth (Molinaro) Osmundsen for identifying Rose (Ricchio) Molinaro!

What's Next?

I will continue to send this to the newsletter until we identify everyone in this photo!

If you have information, names or memories connected to other photos displayed throughout the Lodge, I would love to hear from you. Even small details can make a lasting impact.

Let's continue putting names to the faces that make up our history.

roma packer **game schedule**

Sun 9-13

VS

Vikings

open at 3:00 pm

Sun 9-20

VS

Jets

open at 11:30 am

Sun 10-4

VS

Buccaneers

open at 11:30 am

Sun 10-11

VS

Bears

open at 3:00 pm

Sun 10-25

VS

Detroit

open at 3:00 pm

Sun 11-8

VS

Patriots

open at 3:00 pm

Sun 11-15

VS

Vikings

open at 11:30 am

Sun 12-6

VS

saints

open at 11:30 am

Sun 12-20

VS

Dolphins

open at 11:30 am

Sun 1-10

VS

tbd

October, 2026 MEMBERSHIP MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT



The next Membership meeting is scheduled 
for Friday, October 9th at 7pm. ****SOCIAL MEETING****



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



If you would like to donate 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

At the right is a table of BINGO! Captains for 2026. We need people interested in being captains to volunteer. The empty months in the table need captains.

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 – October through December

Lodge members whose names are within the range **Porcaro, Anthony R . – Zwaga, Dennis** 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

October 2026			
Friday		Saturday	
2nd	Matt Montemurro	3rd	Matt Montemurro
9th	Greg Pierangeli	10th	Greg Pierangeli
16th	Steve Rawlinko	17th	Steve Rawlinko
23rd	Dave Silvani	24th	Dave Silvani
30th	Keith Stannis	31st	Keith Stannis

Bocce Schedules



To view Bocce Schedules, use the following link:

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

OCTOBER 2026 EVENTS

Monday, October 5	Men's Bocce Captains/Players Meeting – 6:30pm
Tuesday, October 6	Board Of Directors Meeting – 6pm
Friday, October 9	Membership Meeting – 7pm (Social Meeting)
Saturday, October 10	Columbus Day Dinner – 5pm
Monday, October 12	Men's 2026-2027 Bocce Season Commences
Saturday, October 24	Couples' Bocce Season Commences
Sunday, October 25	"Trunk Or Treat" 1pm
Saturday, October 31	Halloween

NOVEMBER 2026 EVENTS

Tuesday, November 10	Board Of Directors Meeting – 6pm
Friday, November 13	Membership Meeting – 7pm (Dinner at 6pm)
Thursday, November 26	Thanksgiving Day

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: _____

Prizes Turkeys
& much more!!



3rd Annual Turkey Shoot Out Doubles Tournament

Sunday November 22

\$100 per team

Registration at 8:00am

Games start at 9:00am sharp!

Text your team name and roster
to Dave Silvani at 262-321-1604
Roma Lodge Racine, WI

Breakfast Provided Cash Bar & Food Mid Day



ROMA LODGE

7130 SPRING STREET RACINE, WI
www.romalodge.com

WINTER BOCCE *Tournament*

\$300

4 PERSON TEAM

*ADDITIONAL PLAYERS \$75 EACH

**SATURDAY
JANUARY 23RD**

9:00 AM PLAY BEGINS

8:00 AM Kringle and Coffee

****Cash Bar & Food available for purchase made to order all day ****

**** Free Nacho bar for players at noon ****

**CHECKS MADE OUT TO - ROMA LODGE BOCCE TOURNAMENT
or use QR CODE above**

RULES AND REGULATIONS

ROUND ROBIN / SINGLE ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT

**CAN USE OWN BALLS IF 107 MM 920 GRAM BOCCE BALLS ROMA LODGE
HOUSE BALLS AVAILABLE FOR USE AS WELL**

EMAIL - ROMABOYZBOCCE@GMAIL.COM

**Dave Silvani 262-321-1604, Dave Chiapete 262-939-5914,
or Derek Anzalone 262-308-7557**

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 – '26-'28	Carmelo Bruno	carmelo.bruno8888@gmail.com	847-533-8888
Director – '26-'28	Greg Pierangeli	idocgregtpier@yahoo.com	870-882-1715
Director – '26-'28	Eric Andersen	e.c.andersenstables.llc@gmail.com	262-989-4276
Director – '26-'28	Adam Britten	abritten13@yahoo.com	262-994-8055
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 November, 2026 Newsletter is October 29, 2026 at 5pm (subject to change if circumstances warrant it).

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.**