ROMA LODGE NEWSLETTER



7130 Spring Street- Racine, Wisconsin 53406 – (262) 886-3610 – Fax (262) 886-6286 Also Available in Full Color on the Web at <u>http://members.romalodge.com/newsletter.html</u>

April 2021 Issue

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Roma Lodge Brothers,

It is truly an honor to serve you as the 29th President of Roma Lodge. I am looking forward to working with all of you for the next two years to keep Roma Lodge the great organization it has always been.

It has been a difficult year for everyone, and we have had to face challenges that are unprecedented. Hopefully, with more people receiving vaccinations, we are on the verge of turning the corner. RIWA recently held a fundraising event where the event sponsors said it was their most successful ever. Maybe this is a sign that people are eager to get together again with family and friends. This would be great news for us.

Our members' lounge and dining room has not been what it once was. I welcome all suggestions that will help make it a place that our members are proud of and a place they look forward to coming to each week.

Our next membership meeting will be Friday, April 12th at 7:00 PM. I hope to see many of you there. We will continue to do everything we can to keep our meetings as safe as possible for our members.

I would like to congratulate our incoming officers and directors and I look forward to working with them over the next two years.

Vice-President: John Pisanello Recording Secretary: Jon Morelli Membership Secretary: Mike Peratt Treasurer: Pat Diem Parliamentarian: Jeff DeMatthew Past President: Dave Chiapete

Directors 2021-2023 Frank Caruso Matt Montemurro Dave Silvani Pat Tierney

Directors 2020-2022 Jason Evitts Dennis Porcaro

Directors 2021-2022 Jack LeRose Bill Pucci, Jr.

Finally, I want to give a special shout out to Doug Goebel who has given so many years of service to this club as our Membership Secretary. Thank you for your dedication! Please thank him personally when you see him at the club.

Buona Pasqua (Happy Easter)!

Frank L. Bisotti, President

APRIL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT April 9, 2021

All members must wear a mask. Facemasks will be provided if you need one. You are also encouraged to social distance. Please try to make the meeting so we can be assured a quorum.

2021 Roma Lodge Golf League

(by Pat Tierney)



The Roma Lodge Golf League will begin its 2021 season on Monday, May 17th at Ives Grove Golf Course. The league is open to all members of the Roma Lodge, and is nonmandatory, so you are not committed to every scheduled outing to participate. The 2021 season will consist of 12 golf dates spread over the summer and early fall with at least one scramble each month. The League will conclude its season this year on October 11 with a banquet at the Lodge. All golf dates are on Mondays with tee times between 11:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. followed by a light dinner at the Lodge for

those able to attend. Depending on your schedule, you can either play 9 or 18 holes.

A detailed schedule, including fees, for the year will be available for interested members at the April 9th membership meeting. A schedule can also be sent to interested members by contacting Pat Tierney at 262-960-2855 or teamtierney@sbcglobal.net.

April 2021 EVENTS

Thursday, April 1, 2021 Thursday, April 1, 2021 Thursday, April 1, 2021 Friday, April 2, 2021 Sunday, April 4, 2021 Tuesday, April 6, 2021 Friday, April 9, 2021 Thursday, April 22, 2021

April Fool's Day Holy Thursday MLB Opening Day Good Friday Easter Board of Directors Meeting Membership Meeting Earth Day



Funeral Service Calling Tree Schedule

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

Suspended Until Further Notice



BINGO NOTICE

Jim and his team are looking at the logistics needed to begin bingo as soon as possible. We need volunteers to work and would like members that are interesting and willing to work to contact Jim Faraone at 262- 657-1244 or jfaraone@wi.rr.com.

Roma Lodge Face Masks Now Available

Support the club while wearing a stylish Roma Lodge Face Masks for sale.



Price: \$10.00 each



To get yours stop by the member's bar or the front office!!!

OBITUARIES

Rosemary Cicero

August 30, 1944 – February 24, 2021



Rosemary Cicero was born into this world on August 30, 1944. She passed away in Racine, Wisconsin February 24, 2021.

Born of Raymond and Gladys Karnel, she grew up in Wauwatosa, WI where she attended Pius High School and then college at

Edgewood in Madison where she obtained a degree in Early Childhood Education. She would later receive a master's degree in Education.

Throughout her life she worked as a schoolteacher to children of all ages. She initially taught at Goodland Elementary School in Racine, WI and went on to start the Kindergarten program at St. Mary's Grade School in Burlington, WI where she raised her family. Many years of additional work with the Racine Unified School District in different teaching roles showed her dedication to the education of children and the work she enjoyed.

As a member of Vittoria Colonna – she held several volunteer positions including President from 2004-2005 and was the current Treasurer. She enjoyed Bocce League with her teammates and all the other events associated with the Roma Lodge.

"Rosie" loved her Bridge groups, Ski Club, and being surrounded by her friends and family. She enjoyed cooking, baking, gardening, and spending time with kids and grandkids, which included attending their many school, sporting, and dance events. She was greatly loved in return, and the memories of baking Christmas cookies with Grandma will live on forever.

Survived by her husband Donald Cicero, married for 51 years, her four children Anthony (Lori) Cicero, Theresa (Frank) Caruso, Joseph (Jennifer) Cicero, Angela Cicero and nine grandchildren (Phillip, Madeline, Evan, Dominic, Leah, Sofie, Emily, Carmine, and Gianni), and her sister Karen Karnel. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Jeanne (Alan) Olson.

Our sincere condolences go out to fellow members Don, Joe, Frank Caruso, and the rest of Rosemary's family.

Steven Maritch

September 8, 1928 - March 21, 2021



Steven Maritch, 92, passed away at the Wisconsin Veterans Home – Boland Hall in Union Grove on Sunday, March 21, 2021.

A lifelong resident of Racine, he was born on September 8, 1928, the son of the late Vendel and

Elizabeth (nee Schveidler) Maritch. He attended Washington Park High but was drafted in 1946 and proudly served his nation with the US Marine Corps.

After his military service he worked as a firefighter with the Racine Fire Department. On June 2, 1951 he married Donna T. Ruffalo. As they started their family, he left the fire department and worked for the First National Bank for over the next 20 years. He retired with the Bank of Elmwood in 1991.

Steve was a longtime member of St. Lucy Catholic Church and Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church in Bradenton, FL where they spent the winter months. He was also a member of the Roma Lodge where he enjoyed playing Bocce and working at the annual festival. Steve was also an avid golfer, wood worker and bowler.

He is survived by his daughter, Tracy (Richard) Simpson of Racine; his son, Todd Maritch of Jonesboro, AR; his daughter-in-law, Connie Maritch; his 11 grandchildren, Tim (Kazumi) Flack, Nicole (fiancé, Nick Heiniger) Maritch, Stacey Morgan, Michael (Alex) Maritch, Dawn Maritch, Maggie (James) Sewell, Kyle Simpson, Mikayla and Joshua Maritch, Charlie Maritch and Kim Flack; as well as 22 great grandchildren; 1 great-great grandchild and many nieces and nephews. Steve was also preceded in death by his wife, Donna T. (Ruffalo) Maritch on January 31, 2004; his son, Toby Maritch; his grandson, Scott Flack; his brother and sisters, J. George (June) Ontko, Betty (William) Cousins, Helen (Emil) Quadracci and his father-in-law and Mother-in-law, Charles and Mary Rose Ruffalo.

Family and friends are invited to meet at St. Lucy Catholic Church (3101 Drexel Ave) on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 for a visitation from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. The celebration of his life and memorial Mass will follow at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Thomas Vathappallil officiating. Military honors will follow. A private interment will take place at Holy Cross Cemetery Mausoleum in Caledonia.

Our sincere condolences go out to Steve's family.

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

April 1	William Chiappetta	April 10	Frank Caruso	April 21	Richard P. Sarto
	John LeRose III	April 14	Keith Bouterse	April 22	Adam Britten
April 2	David Pagliaroni	April 16	Brian Hart	April 23	James Silvani
April 5	Robert DeRose	April 17	Tom Garbo	April 24	Patrick DeGrace
	Aldo Fallico		Ronald Ruffalo		Thomas Wood
	Victor Pettavino	April 19	John Anzalone Jr.	April 26	Darel Suokko
April 9	Jeffrey Ciaramita		David Purdy	April 28	Edward Staconis
	Ronald Lucas	April 20	Jeffrey Collova	April 30	Donald Pfaffl

List compiled from the Roma Lodge Membership Files. Contact Mike Peratt, mperatt22@yahoo.com if corrections are needed.



PRESIDENTS OF ROMA LODGE

Frank Bisotti was elected the 29th President of Roma Lodge on March 12, 2021. Frank continues a long line of men who have dedicated their time and talents for the good of the lodge. In the next few newsletters, we will be highlighting the nine living past presidents (#17 John Lapetina, #19 Eugene Presta, #21 Ralph Nicotera III, #23 Peter Ciaramita, #24 Joseph Porcaro, #25 Don Cicero, #26 Buddy Alfano, #27 Rick Bonanno and #28 David Chiapete).

JOHN LAPETINA – 17th President (Served 2 terms – 1971, 1972)



John Lapetina cannot remember a time when he was not a member of Roma Lodge having joined when he was a young man. John became a member on July 7, 1960 and his proponent was Joseph R. DeRose. Born to Rocco and Josephine (nee: Presta) Lapetina on July 16, 1939 in Racine, WI. John is married to Diane (who is also a Vittoria Colona member) and has three children – Gina, Michael, Ryan and five grandchildren.

John spent his professional career in production management in the manufacturing field before moving into the realty profession.

In the early days of the club on Albert Street and Forest Drive (Memorial Drive) slot machines were popular and brought in a good deal of the money to build the clubhouse just south on Memorial Drive. That clubhouse served the club well, but it became necessary to look at how to grow the club and accommodate the expanding membership. John served as chairman of the committee to build the new club on Spring Street.

John remembers fondly the 50th Anniversary of Roma Lodge when Governor Patrick Lucy served as the featured guest. During his time as a member of Roma Lodge he served as Recording Secretary, Vice President and the in 1971 became the 17th President. John also enjoyed playing bocce and working with Cheech in the Italian beef booth at the festival for many years.

John's advice to the younger members is to get involved in committees and work to take the club over as the membership ages.

EUGENE PRESTA – 19th President (Served 2 terms – 1979, 1980)



The 19th President of Roma Lodge was Eugene Presta. Gene was born on April 5, 1935 to Joseph and Margaret (nee. Rago) Presta in Racine. Becoming a member on May 1, 1970 with his proponent being Edward R. Aiello, John was very active in the club. John is the father of three children, Joseph, Laura and Christine and has four grandchildren.

Mark Mano remembers meeting Gene in 1957 when they both worked at Christaino's Grocery store where Gene was a butcher at the Mead Street location. Gene spent the majority of his professional career working in the area of sales, selling greeting cards to drug stores in the Midwest.

When Gene started his membership, the lodge was located on Memorial Drive and like many of the men of that era he was instrumental in the lodge moving to Spring Street.

Ralph Nicotera is profiled on page 6 of the newsletter. The next two issues of the Roma Lodge Newsletter will feature the remaining living past presidents. After that time, we will rely on member submissions for this column.

Please submit your stories for future articles. The purpose of this feature is to highlight members hobbies, jobs, travels, etc. and allow us to get to know our fellow members. Articles for future newsletters will be selected from member submissions.

If you would like to submit a story for a future newsletter, please send it to me. (Jon Morelli – <u>roma.secretary.jam@gmail.com</u>)

RALPH NICOTERA III – 21st President (Served 4 terms – 1983, 1984, 1993-1994, 2001)



Ralph was President in 2001 when he relocated to the Charlotte NC area when Jacobsen Textron (where he had a 36-year career) moved out of Racine. He currently lives in Fort Mill, SC. in a 55+ community of 5,5000, playing a lot of golf, and bocce! With 4 bocce courts! In 2019 Ralph and Diane were champions of the winner's tournament.

Ralph has maintained membership in Roma since moving and he visits the Lodge whenever in Racine.

In 1969 Ralph became a member of Roma Lodge. His Nano Nicotera insisted that once reaching 17, the boys had to apply for membership, with their Dads as their proponents. That was the case with a lot of Blake Avenue friends whose fathers and grandfathers were members. His Nano & Nana lived across the alley from the lodge on Blake Ave, where Ralph lived when he was small, and again after he married. He would see my Nano go to the Lodge every night for a game of Briscola. One of his best friends in the neighborhood was Frank Pulice. His grandma & grandpa, Francis & Frank Pulice were the custodians at the Lodge. Ralph remembers when with Frank they would sort soda bottles, from the bar business the night before, smelling the cigars (perogies & Dutch Masters), and the stale smell of beer and whiskey from the parties! Every year growing up he looked forward to the Roma Lodge Picnic at Johnson Park, and the Children's Christmas Party.

When of age and home from college he would bartend at the Lodge for the outside weddings and events (fondly remembering the great times Frank Pulice and PJ Litrenta)!

Ralph graduated from college in 1973 and took his first job at Jacobsen in January 1974. In 1975 Ralph married and ran for the Board at the Lodge as a Trustee (Director), spending 3 years on the Board. Ralph took a few years off to have two children in 1977 and 1979. In 1981 Ralph ran for Vice President, and spent 2 years working with President Mike Corona, and then ran for President in 1983. At 32 years old he was President of Lodge, working full time, traveling, and raising 2 children with Diane, truly busy times.

Early on he was impressed with the members of the Roma Lodge, the passion for their Italian heritage, how proud they were of their families and their accomplishments since immigrating to the United States. Their work ethic was unbelievable, and their desire to show the local community how they helped one another, and made their organization one of the best around, the foundation of our great Lodge.

Ralph is proud that many of the initiatives started when he was involved as an Officer of the Lodge are still going today. In the late 70's Bingo started as well as the Scholarship Program and the Festival. We discontinued our membership in the Order Sons of Italy in America, and became our own 501 C3 Organization, and started our involvement in WisItalia. All these initiatives were possible, due to strong leadership and member support!

In the years past we had a men's softball team, in the winter months we had a couples bowling league on Sunday afternoons and started a dartball league. All these initiatives were run by members and for the enjoyment of members and spouses!

Ralph is proud of the fact that the Nicotera family has been incredibly involved in the lodge holding many officer and board positions. Father, Ralph Jr. (President 1960), Uncle Joe Cefalu (President 1957, 58), Uncle Frank Nicotera (Director), Cousin Jim Cefalu (Director), former brother-in-law Dennis Garbo (Director), brother-in-law John Pisanello (Director, now VP) and nephew Brian Hart (Director). For many years Ralph Jr. and Ralph III were the only Father and Son to hold the position of President. Ralph is happy to see our new President Frank Bisotti follow in the footsteps of his Father as President!

I asked Ralph what advice he could give to the members. He feels the success of our Lodge greatly depends on each member giving of their time and talent, as they can. The business model (RIWA) has changed dramatically, and we must look at how we as an organization need to change. Please value your membership and with declining membership we need members that are willing to help make our club successful going forward. We owe that to our forefathers that worked hard to give us the best fraternal organization in Racine and possibly the State of Wisconsin.

May 2021 EVENTS

Saturday, May 1, 2021 Sunday, May 2, 2021 Wednesday, May 5 Saturday, May 15, 2021 Monday, May 31, 2021 May Day Kentucky Derby Cinco de Mayo Armed Forces Day Memorial Day

Roma Lodge Scholarship Update



Application deadline March 26, 2021 Recipients selected by April 30th, 2021 Recipients notified and awards presented May 2021



OFFICERS 2021 - 202	23					
President	Frank Bisotti	fbisotti@ameritech.net	262-914-1880			
Vice President	John Pisanello	jpisanello@yahoo.com	262-939-5650			
Parliamentarian	Jeff DeMatthew	dematthew@ameritech.net	262-880-7474			
Recording Secretary	Jon Morelli	roma.secretary.jam@gmail.com	262-994-2861			
Membership Secretary	Mike Peratt	mperatt22@yahoo.com	262-206-9930			
Treasurer	Pat Diem	Pjdiem@outlook.com	262-530-2988			
<u>DIRECTORS 2021 – 202</u>	23					
	Frank Caruso	<u>frank.caruso@dos-xrx.com</u>	262-914-1026			
	Matt Montemurro	m.montemurro@sbcglobal.net	262-989-1477			
	Dave Silvani	dsilvani@live.com	262-321-1604			
	Pat Tierney	teamtierney@sbcglobal.net	262-960-2855			
DIRECTORS 2020 - 2022						
	Jason Evitts	jevitts@johnsonfinancialgroup.com	262-994-1926			
	Dennis Porcaro	apprlservices@netscape.net	262-884-9121			
<u>DIRECTORS 2021 – 2022</u>						
	Jack LeRose	lerosecpa@gmail.com	262-939-0732			
	Bill Pucci, Jr.	wmpucci50@gmail.com	262-939-3452			

Roma Lodge Members Bar Menu

Basket of Fries \$2.50
Basket of Cheese Fries \$4.75
Fried Meatballs \$6.95
Fried Ravioli \$5.50
Fried Ravioli/Meatball Combo \$6.50
Mozzarella Sticks \$5.00
Appetizer Combo \$6.00
Chicken Tenders \$4.95 Buffalo Chicken Wings 10/\$8.50 20/\$16.00 20/\$16.00
*Hamburger w/Fries \$6.75 (Served w/ Lettuce, Tomato, & Pickle)
*Cheeseburger w/Fries \$7.25 (Served w/ American Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, & Pickle)
Grilled Chicken Sandwich w/Fries \$7.25 (Served w/ Lettuce, Tomato & Pickle)
*Filet Medallion Bomber \$9.95 (Mushrooms, Onions & Peppers mixed with Cheddar Cheese)
Large Pizza \$11.95
Additional Toppings\$2.00(Sausage, Pepperoni, Onion, Mushroom, Peppers, Tomato, Black Olives, Giardiniera, etc.)
Angel Hair w/Red Sauce or Garlic & Oil \$7.50 (Served w/ 2 Meatballs & 2 Breadsticks)

Friday

Pork Chops -- \$11.95

(Served w/ Peppers, Onions, & Side of Applesauce) Friday Night Fish Fry All You Can Eat & Served w/ Coleslaw & Fries

\$9.95

<u>Saturday</u>

Pork Chops -- \$11.95 (Served w/ Peppers, Onions, & Side of Applesauce) Lasagna --- \$9.95 (Served w/ 2 Breadsticks)

*Whether dining in or preparing food at home, consuming raw or under-cooked meats, seafood, shellfish, or eggs may increase your risk of food borne illness



7130 Spring St. Mt. Pleasant, WI 53406

<u>Roma Lodge</u>

<u>Dine-in Menu</u> Friday's from 4pm-8pm

accurations, please call 262,006

For reservations, please call 262-886-3610 SPECIALS

Grilled Chicken Sandwich w/ Fries - \$8.95

Topped w/ lettuce, tomato & garlic aioli

Pizza Burger w/ Fries - \$8.95

Chicken Caprese Sandwich w/ Fries - \$10.95

Grilled Chicken Breast topped with tomato, basil, mozzarella, and drizzled with Balsamic Glaze.

PIZZA

16" Cheese - \$12.95 Additional Toppings - \$2.00 Toppings Include: sausage, pepperoni, green peppers, giardiniera, mushrooms, onions, tomatoes, & black olives.

CHICKEN

4pc Chicken Plate - \$10.95 Served w/ potato, coleslaw, & bread.

SANDWICHES

Meatball Bomber w/ Fries - \$6.95 Served w/hot/mild giardiniera + Mozzarella Cheese - \$1.00

PASTA

Mostaccioli & Meatballs Plate - \$8.95 Served w/ Bread House Lasagna - \$12.95 Served w/Salad & Bread Sticks

<u>FISH</u> Fried Cod (4pc) - \$12.95

Fried Cod (All you can eat) - \$14.95 Fried Perch (5pc) - \$13.95 Fried Perch (All you can eat) - \$15.95 *ALL include: Choice of Potato, Coleslaw, Tartar Sauce, & Bread

EXTRAS

Large Salad - \$3.95 Mozzarella Sticks (4) -\$4.95 Fried Meatballs (8) - \$7.50 Bread Sticks (12) - \$7.95

<u>DESSERT</u>

2 Mini Cannoli - \$3.00 Vanilla Ice Cream (Pint) - \$3.00 Spumoni (Pint) - \$3.00



7130 Spring St. Mt. Pleasant, WI 53406

<u>Roma Lodge</u> Carryout & Curbside Menu

To order please call 262-886-3610

Thursday's - Saturday's 4pm - 8pm Grilled Chicken Sandwich w/ Fries - \$8.95 Topped w/ lettuce, tomato & garlic aioli

Chicken Caprese Sandwich w/ Fries - \$10.95 Grilled Chicken Breast topped with tomato, basil, mozzarella, and drizzled with Balsamic Glaze.

Pizza Burger w/ Fries - \$8.95

PIZZA

16" Cheese - \$12.95 Additional Toppings - \$2.00 Toppings Include: sausage, pepperoni, Green peppers, giardiniera, mushrooms, Onions, tomatoes, & black olives. Family Pizza Dinner - \$39.95 2-16" 1-Topping Pizzas, ½ Pan of Salad

and 12 Bread Sticks

<u>FISH</u>

Fried Cod Plate (4pc) - \$12.95 Fried Lake Perch Plate (5pc) - \$13.95 Fried Cod Family Dinner (10pc) - \$29.95 Fried Perch Family Dinner (12pc/1 lb) - \$31.95 ***Pasta served w/bread *** ALL include: Choice of potato, Coleslaw, tartar sauce, & bread.

DESSERT

2 Mini Cannoli \$3 Vanilla Ice Cream (Pint) - \$3 Spumoni (Pint) - \$3

CHICKEN

4pc Plate w/Potato, coleslaw, & bread. - \$10.95 8pc Bucket -\$13.95/ Family Dinner - \$19.95 12pc Bucket-\$17.95/ Family Dinner - \$23.95 16pc Bucket-\$22.95/ Family Dinner- \$28.95 *** Dinners include: Choice of potato, Coleslaw, tartar sauce & bread.

SANDWICHES

Meatball Bomber w/ Fries - \$6.95 Served w/hot/mild giardiniera +Mozzarella Cheese for \$1

PASTA

Mostaccioli & Meatballs Plate – \$8.95 / Family - \$19.95 served w/Bread House Lasagna - \$12.95 w/ Salad & Bread Sticks

EXTRAS

Bread Sticks (12) - \$7.95 Large Salad - \$3.95 Mozzarella Sticks (4) -\$4.95 Fried Meatballs (8) - \$7.50



Deadline for information for April 2021 *Newsletter* is April 20, 2021. Comments, suggestions, and articles of interest to our members are welcome at roma.secretary.jam@gmail.com.

Jon Morelli, Roma Lodge Secretary