



54rd Year, 1971-2025



The Downriver Italian-American Club®

P.O. Box 1797 ♣ Southgate, MI 48195-0797 ♣ Tel. (734)282-1257 ♣ Email: diac1971@gmail.com ♣ Web: www.diac.us

** IMPORTANT DATES **

February 2025 Newsletter – Issue #332

Club Board Meeting: Wed., Feb. 19, 2025 – 11:00 a.m. @ Bentley? (TBA)
General Membership Meeting: Wed., Feb. 19, 2025 – 1:00 pm. @ Bentley

Grease – the Over 50 Version - Feb. 23, 2025

A Message from Club President



Ciao Club Members:

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2025! Time seems to be flying, doesn't it? With the holidays now behind us, we're ready to embrace the beauty of Michigan's winter and look forward to the promise of springtime ahead.

I've received so many wonderful comments about our **Christmas Party**, and I'd like to extend a heartfelt grazie to our fabulous **DIAC Social Committee** for their outstanding work! Their dedication truly made the event a memorable one.

Looking ahead, the **Social Committee** has planned an exciting outing to see the classic play **GREASE** on February 23. There are only 25 tickets available, so be sure to reserve yours early to avoid missing out.

Don't forget about our monthly card parties! These gatherings are held at the **Wyandotte Knights of Columbus** on the first Tuesday of every month, starting at 6:30 PM. It's a perfect opportunity to spend a fun-filled evening with friends, playing your choice of cards or board games. There's a cash bar available, and the **Social Committee** always provides a delightful selection of snacks to enjoy.

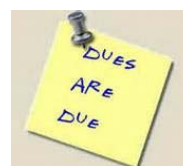
Mark your calendars for our **General Meeting on February 19** at the beautiful **Bentley Banquet Center** in Wyandotte. Lunch will be served at noon, with the meeting beginning promptly at 1 PM. To ensure an accurate count for the chef, please call me at 734-282-1257 to confirm your attendance.

As we continue to celebrate both special moments and everyday joys, let's take a moment to appreciate the happiness we

share, for life's precious moments can change in the blink of an eye.

Ciao, - **Leslie Lupo – Club President**

2025 Club Membership Dues



The 2025 club annual membership dues are now payable. The Club Board recently approved a motion to increase the annual dues by \$10.00 per

person due to the rising cost of postage, printing, and envelopes. The dues are now \$40.00 for a single member and \$80.00 for a married couple. The dues can be paid at a General Membership meeting, or you can mail a check or money order (payable to **Downriver Italian-American Club or DIAC**). Mail to:

Frank A. Giannotti
14823 Williamsburg Blvd.
Riverview, MI 48193-7703.

For regular members, your 2025 Dues Invoice is contained in this newsletter.

For **Honorary Members** (those with 25+ years of continued membership), there are **NO dues** to be paid..

The deadline for dues is **March 31, 2025**

Monthly Luncheon @ Bentley



The Club luncheon will be on **Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 12:00 noon**, at The **Bentley Conference Center**, 646 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte, MI 48192. The monthly General Membership meeting will immediately follow the luncheon

The cost of the luncheon is **\$15.00 per person** (meal and gratuity). Make your lunch reservation by calling **Leslie Lupo** at **(734)282-1257** no later than one week before the luncheon.

2025 - 2026 CLUB OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

President
LESLIE G. LUPO

Vice President
SAM RANDAZZO

Recording Secretary

Financial Correspondent
Secretary
FRANK A. GIANNOTTI

Treasurer
NINO TRUPIANO
Assistant Treasurer

Inside Guard
CHARLES M. LUPO

Outside Guard
DAMIANO VITALE

Guide
GRACE PIZZO

TRUSTEES
JAMES BADEMIAN
JULIANN BADEMIAN
SUE BYRD
PATRICK FLAHERTY
ALICE PATTON
DENNIS P. ATTON
PAULA F. RICE
KARL UNDERWOOD

SOCIAL COMMITTEE
JULIE BADEMIAN
SUE BYRD
ALICE PATTON
GRACE PIZZO
PAULA RICE



GO LIONS



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Downriver Italian-American Club

Card Party at K of C

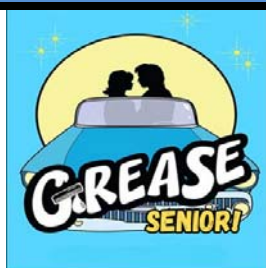


A Club **Card Party** is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 4, 2025**, at the **Knights of Columbus Hall**, 3530 Biddle Avenue, Wyandotte, MI 48192.

The event starts at 6:30 p.m. Club members and their guests are welcome. Chips, pretzels, and fruits are provided. Cash bar service is available.

There is a service charge of \$2.00 per person for using the hall facility and gratuity. Grace Pizzo chairs the event; give her a call at (734)379-9491 and let her know you are attending.

Grease - the Over 50 Version



The **Social Committee** has chosen another excellent event for our membership: **Grease – the Over 50 Version** at the **2nd Street Performing Arts Center**, 1123 2nd Street, Wyandotte, MI, on **Sunday, February 23, 2025**.

The program starts with a luncheon at **Major Biddle's Restaurant**, 930 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte MI, 48192 at 12:30 p.m. You select one of the 5 meals selection/person (see flyer). Tickets are \$40.00 for club members and \$55.00 per non-member. There are only 25 tickets available on a first-come, – first-serve basis. Return the completed coupon as soon as possible.

The musical event (starting at 3:00 p.m.) is titled "**Grease – the Over 50 Version**." Arrive at the location no later than 2:45 p.m. to pick up your tickets. There are limited tickets; please reserve your commitment early. See the attached flyer for event details.

Feast of St. Joseph - March 23, 2025



The **47th Annual Feast of St. Joseph Celebration - Sunday, March 23, 2025**. The event is at **Copeland Center**, 2306 4th Street, Wyandotte, MI 48192. The Celebration starts at 2:00 p.m. The cost is \$20.00 per person. Personal donations can be made at the **Alter of the Saints**. The Club will match 100% of the donated money. The March membership meeting will immediately follow the **St. Joseph** event.

This event is a Sicilian tradition passed down by our parents and grandparents. They set up altars with statues of saints and opened their homes to friends and neighbors. After a short pageant, they enjoyed a meal and left a donation to help a needy family. We follow

the same tradition. An altar is set up with statues brought in by members - candles, bread, and fruits are placed on the Altar. We serve a meal of pasta, beans, and veggies. Each person is given a package of a roll, an orange, and a few cookies. There is a blessing of the food before the meal. We follow the tradition of our families as much as possible. We have held this event for the past 44 years. All donations are given to needy families and organizations helping children. If you would like to make cookies or help us (in any way), please get in touch with **Sam Randazzo** (734) 676-8463 or **Grace Pizzo** (734)379-9491. Invite your friends and family to help us celebrate this charitable club event. If you are unable to attend, you can still donate. Make your check payable to **Downriver Italian American Club**, and please write at the bottom that it is for the **Feast of St. Joseph**. Send your donation to

the same tradition. An altar is set up with statues brought in by members - candles, bread, and fruits are placed on the Altar. We serve a meal of pasta, beans, and veggies. Each person is given a package of a roll, an orange, and a few cookies. There is a blessing of the food before the meal. We follow the tradition of our families as much as possible. We have held this event for the past 44 years. All donations are given to needy families and organizations helping children. If you would like to make cookies or help us (in any way), please get in touch with **Sam Randazzo** (734) 676-8463 or **Grace Pizzo** (734)379-9491. Invite your friends and family to help us celebrate this charitable club event. If you are unable to attend, you can still donate. Make your check payable to **Downriver Italian American Club**, and please write at the bottom that it is for the **Feast of St. Joseph**. Send your donation to

Sam Randazzo
3391 Brookshire
Trenton, MI 48183-3970.

Again, we need members to donate cookies – please call **Grace Pizzo** at (734)379-9491. RSVP your reservation by calling **Sam** or **Grace** no later than March 16, 2025, so a headcount can be established.

Sam Randazzo - (734) 676-8463
Grace Pizzo - (734) 379-9491

A flyer will appear in the March newsletter.

DIAC 2025 Honorary Members

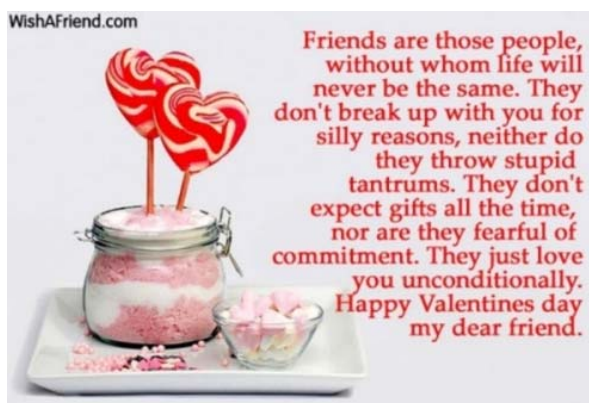


The following Club members have attained twenty-five (25) consecutive years in the **Downriver Italian-American Club** and are eligible for the position of "**Honorary Member**." In accordance with the By-Laws, Article I-Membership, Section 2-C, such member(s) shall have all the rights enjoyed by a Regular Member but shall not pay dues.

The following member, in good standing since 2000, qualifies for the status of "**Honorary Member**."

Leona Vizzini (02/2000)

The Club Membership has 100 Honorary Members.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Downriver Italian-American Club

Make My World Go Round.

On this Valentine's day
 I just want to say:
 Friends make the world go round.
 Friends that understand and will always be around.
 Love may fill us with pleasure and delight,
 But friendship is an unending source of light.
 So on Valentine's Day, I want to say
 You help make my world go round, Happy Valentine's Day!

Welcome New Club Member



Please welcome new club members **Louis and Carol Beafore** of Livonia, MI, sponsored by **Frank and Liliana Giannotti**.

Happy Birthday - Buon Compleanno



We extend our congratulations and best wishes to our members who are celebrating their birthdays this month.

Birthdays this month.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Mona Austin (2/3)</i> | <i>Marlene Wellman (2/18)</i> |
| <i>Ciccina Vitale (2/4)</i> | <i>Nick Lonigro (2/19)</i> |
| <i>Grace Asteriou (2/5)</i> | <i>Leona Vizzini (2/19)</i> |
| <i>Elisa Norscia (2/6)</i> | <i>Florence Coleman (2/23)</i> |
| <i>Frank Liberati (2/7)</i> | <i>Henry LeSage (2/25)</i> |
| <i>Philip Barraco (2/9)</i> | <i>Pat Mastrogiacomo (2/25)</i> |
| <i>Delores Phillips (2/11)</i> | <i>Donald Jenson (2/26)</i> |
| <i>Daniel Prone (2/12)</i> | <i>Vita Alastria (2/28)</i> |
| <i>Christopher Dingell (2/13)</i> | <i>James Verdone (2/29)</i> |
| <i>Dennis Randazzo (2/14)</i> | |

Happy Anniversary – Buon Anniversario



We congratulate and best wishes for many happy and healthy years to our club members celebrating their anniversary this-month.

- Robert and Jacqueline Jagiello (2/1)*
Gary and Arlene Roberts(2/22)



Sick and GoodWill Notice



Our thoughts and prayers go to our members and their families who may be under the weather, having tests, getting treatments, or having surgeries. Also, special blessings to our many caretakers of ailing family members. May God bless them all. May God bless our troops. Get Well Wishes to our members (and their families) who are not feeling well: **Miriam Lumia, Charles Lupo, and ???**

Time is ...
*Time is too slow for those who wait,
 too swift for those who fear,
 too long for those who grieve,
 too short for those who rejoice.
 But, for those who love, time is eternity.*
 ~© Henry Van Dyke

Calendar of Future Events

- Feb. 4, 2025, **DIAC February Card Party**
 Julie Bademian, (313) 388-2264
- Feb. 23, 2025, **Grease – the Over 50 Version**
 Grace Pizzo, (734) 379-9491
- Mar. 4, 2025, **DIAC March Card Party**
 Julie Bademian, (313) 388-2264
- Mar. 23, 2025, **Feast of St. Joseph Celebration**
 Sam Randazzo, (734) 676-8463
 Grace Pizzo, (734) 379-9491
- Apr. 1, 2025, **DIAC April Card Party**
 Paula Rice, (734)748-0998
- May 2-3, 2025, **Tulip Time Festival, Holland, MI**
 Sue Byrd, (734)258-2822

Additional Events are at the club website:
<https://www.diac.us>

The **Downriver Italian-American Club Newsletter**
 Published monthly for the Downriver Italian-American Club membership. Forward comments, corrections, and items of interest to
 Frank A. Giannotti
 (Newsletter Editor) 14823 Williamsburg Blvd.
 Riverview, MI 48193-7703
 Editor Phone (734)283-7394
 Editor e-mail frankgiannotti@comcast.net
 Club Website www.diac.us
 Club email diac1971@gmail.com
 Leslie Lupo - President (734)282-1257

Copyright© 2025 **The Downriver Italian-American Club**. All rights reserved. The DIAC logo is a trademark of the Downriver Italian-American Club. This newsletter, or any part thereof, may not be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, storage in an information retrieval system, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the **Downriver Italian-American Club**.



Downriver Italian-American Club

P.O. Box 1797, Southgate, MI 48195-0797 Tel. (734)282-1257 (Club President)



\$40.00 per Club Member
\$55.00 per Non-Member
Deadline: February 9, 2025

Grease – the Over 50 Version

Sunday, February 23, 2025



2ND STREET PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

1123 2nd Street, Wyandotte, MI 48192,

Doors Open at 2:45 PM, Musical Starts at 3:00 PM

25 Tickets are Available on a First-Come, First-Serve Basis.



Here is Rydell High's senior class of 1959: duck-tailed, hot-rodding "Burger Palace Boys" and their gum-snapping hip-shaking "Pink Ladies" in bobby sox and pedal pushers, evoking the look and sound of the 1950s in this rollicking musical. Performed by a cast age 50 and older, head "greaser" Danny Zuke and new (good) girl Sandy Dumbrowski try to relive the high romance of their "Summer Nights" as the rest of the gang sings and dances its way through such songs as "Greased Lightnin'," "It's Raining on the Prom Night," "Alone at the Drive-In Movie" recalling the music of Buddy Holly, Little Richard, and Elvis Presley that became the soundtrack of a generation. An eight-year run on Broadway, two subsequent revivals, and innumerable school and community productions place Grease among the world's most popular musicals.



Major Biddle's

930 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte, MI 48192 - Tel (734)283-3228

Luncheon at Approximately 12:30 PM



Choose 1 Menu item:(Select one meal per person and enter their number(s) in the return coupon below.

1. Fish and Chips – Light Batter with Cole Slaw.
2. Half Slab of BBQ Ribs – with Fries and Cole Slaw.
3. Michigan Cherry Salad – with Grilled Chicken.
4. Scampi Chicken – Chicken Breast with White Wine, Bell Peppers, Onions, Lemon and Linguini.
5. John Jamison Cheese Burger – with Fries, Angus Steak, Whiskey BBQ Sauce, Cheddar Cheese, Grilled Onions on a Brioche Bun.

Meal Includes Coffee, Tea, or Soft Drink Cash Bar Available for Alcoholic Drinks.



Julie Bademian 313-388-2264 • Grace Pizzo 734-379-9491 • Sue Byrd 734-258-2822 Paula Rice 734-748-0998

Please fill in this form and return it with your payment to **Downriver Italian American Club** before February 9, 2025, or until the tickets are sold out. Make checks payable to DIAC and mail to: *Grace Pizzo, 32050 Liparoto Dr., Rockwood, MI 48173-8618.* Meal Number Selected: _____ Event **Grease - the Over 50 Version**

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

E-mail _____ Cell phone _____

In case of emergency, please notify _____ Phone # _____