The Downriver Italian-American Club®

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55th Year, 1971-2026

**** IMPORTANT DATES **** **November 2026 Newsletter – Issue #346**

Club Board Meeting: ..... ** Board will be notified if scheduled **

General Membership Meeting: .....Sun., Nov. 15, 2026 – 6:00 pm. @ Wyand Boat Club

Happy Thanksgiving - Thur. Nov. 26, 2026

2025 - 2026 CLUB OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

President
LESLIE G. LUPO

Vice President
SAM RANDAZZO

Recording Secretary

Financial Correspond 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
PATRICK FLAHERTY
ALICE PATTON
DENNIS P ATTON
BRETT RICE
PAULA F. RICE
KARL UNDERWOOD

SOCIAL COMMITTEE
JULIE BADEMIAN
PAT CHALMERS
ALICE PATTON
GRACE PIZZO
PAULA RICE

A Message from Club President



Ciao Club Members:
As this year draws to a close, I want to congratulate our **Social Committee** on their hard work and on preparing what promises to be a spectacular 2026 **Christmas Party**. We are all looking forward to enjoying the wonderful plans you have made for this special celebration.

Looking back, these four years have been especially meaningful to me, filled with friendships, memories, celebrations, dinners, events, and countless moments of laughter and camaraderie. Our Club is much more than an organization—it is a community of people who share a love of our Italian heritage and a genuine appreciation for one another.

I sincerely want to thank everyone who supported me throughout my time as President. No President accomplishes anything alone, and I am deeply grateful to all of our officers, committee members, volunteers, and members who generously gave their time, energy, ideas, and encouragement.

Congratulations to the newly elected **2027 DIAC Board**! I wish you all the very best and look forward to seeing our Club continue to grow, prosper, and create wonderful memories for many years to come.

To my family and friends: it is with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of my beloved husband, **Charles Lupo**, on October 10, 2026. In April 2025, Charles was diagnosed with **Lewy Body Dementia,** and for 17 months he suffered from this horrible disease. I was told that there was no cure and that the disease would only get worse. Sadly, that was exactly what happened. Watching him suffer was heartbreaking, and these past 17 months have been hell. As difficult as this journey has been, I find comfort in knowing he is now in a much better place and is no longer suffering.. Rest in peace, my love. You are no longer suffering, and you will forever be in my heart.

As the saying goes, *"*Enjoy life while you can—it can be taken in a heartbeat."**

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

EDITOR NOTE: The DIAC membership expresses their Deepest Condolences to our Club President, Leslie Lupo, on the loss of her husband Charles Lupo.

Nomination & Election Results



The **Nomination and Election Committee** ran the nomination process for the 2027-2028 Club Officers at the October 21, 2026 Membership meeting. The committee put forward nominees for Officer and Trustee positions. The candidates ran **unopposed and are therefore elected to their respective offices by ACCLAMATION. As a result, there** <u>will</u> not be an election in November. The Officers and Trustees elected are as follows:

President – Antonino (Nino) Trupiano
Vice President – Leslie Lupo
Recording Secretary – (Vacant)
Financial Corresp. Secretary – Frank A. Giannotti
Treasurer – Salvatore (Sam) Randazzo
Assistant Treasurer – (Vacant)
Inside Guard – (Vacant)
Outside Guard – Damiano Vitale
Guide – Grace Pizzo

The newly elected Trustees are:
Jim Bademian, Alice Patton, Dennis Patton, and Paula Rice. The elected Trustees have a 4-year term expiring in 2030

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Downriver Italian-American Club

We thank past President **Leslie Lupo** and the 2025-2026 **Officers and Trustees** for their leadership and guidance over the past two years. A special thank-you and job well done to the **Nomination and Election Committee** for running the nomination process. Committee members are **Honor Shoemaker (chairperson), Patricia Chalmers, Janet Flaherty, Dee Phillips, and Joanne Wolfgang.**

Monthly Card Party at K of C



The November Card Party is Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, **3530 Biddle Avenue, Wyandotte, MI 48192**. The event begins at **6:00 p.m. A gift-card prize will be awarded to a lucky member attende**e.

The event coordinator is **Julie Bademian (313) 388-2264.** Call Julie to confirm your reservation. A $2.00 club member and $5.00 non-member service charge applies **to cover food, beverage, hall facilities**, and gratuity.

Evening Membership Meeting @ Wyandotte Boat Club



This November evening membership meeting will be on **Sunday, November 15, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** at the **Wyandotte Boat Club, 1 Pine Street, Wyandotte, MI 48192**. The membership meeting immediately follows the pizza/salad snack.

The meal is free for members and includes pizza, salad, and cookies; cash bar is available. Reserve your spot by calling **Leslie Lupo** at (734)748-8016, no later than one week before the meeting.

Genitti's Hole-in-the-Wall Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2026

The **Social Committee** has chosen a great event for our membership, Genitti's **Hole-in-the-Wall** on **Wednesday, November 18, 2026**. The event includes a bus trip, luncheon, and a hilarious interactive comedy show, **"Dying for a Drink."** The bus leaves **Sam's Club**, 15700 Northline Rd., Southgate, MI. Park your vehicle by the gas station. The bus leaves at 10:00 a.m. and arrives at Genitti's at 10:45 a.m. See flyer in the October newsletter.

On return, the bus leaves Genitti's at approx. 2:30 pm and then stops at **Cantoro's Italian Market** on Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI, shopping pleasure for Italian goods.

Legends Live Report

The **Legend's Live Dinner Show** of October 18, 2026, was an outstanding performance. The live performance featured past musical talents, including those of **Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Neil Diamond, the Four Seasons, and Elvis Presley**.

A Special thank-you to chairperson **Leslie Lupo** for hosting the event. 150 attendees enjoyed the outstanding meal selection. It was a fun night and will be well remembered by those who attended.

DIAC Christmas Party - Dec 6, 2026

This year's **Christmas Party** will take place on **Sunday, December 6, 2026.** Chairpersons are **Grace Pizzo, Paula Rice, Julie Bademian, Pat Chalmers, and Alice Patton**. Live entertainment by **Pino Marelli**. The event is held at the **Bentley Conference Center**, 646 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte, MI 48192. (734)246-4800.

Doors open at 4:30 p.m., with a buffet-style dinner at 5:00 p.m. The meal selection and details are found in the attached flyer. The event is open to member's families and friends.

Buon Compleanno - Happy Birthday



We wish to extend our **Congratulations and Best Wishes to our members who are celebrating their birthdays** this month.

Dolly Chirco (11/1)
Mary Lavine (11/1)
Patricia Lentini (11/01)
Marco Vitale (11/1)
Angelina Carlone (11/2)
Marlene Erno (11/ 3)
Filocia Biundo (11/06)
Marilyn Bomarito (11/7)
Francesca Wolski (11/07)
Chris Dardzinski (11/08)
Emilia Gonella (11/9)
Angelo Norscia (11/11)
Joanne Cuva (11/12)
Marie Molnar (11/13)
Julianne Kuhn (11/14)
Robert Coch (11/16)
Colleen Grazioli (11/16)
Jacqueline Jagiello (11/19)
Angelo Schiraldi (11/22)
Piera Vitale (11/27)

Buon Anniversario – Happy Anniversary



We extend our best wishes to our members celebrating their anniversaries this month, wishing them many happy and healthy years.

Norman and Colleen Tabaka (11/7)
Guy A. and Maria Vitale (11/10)
Vito and Geraldine Altomaro (11/14)
Robert and Susie Coch (11/21)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Joseph and Sharon Pagano (11/22)
Frank and Nina Liberati (11/25)
Phil and Therese Barraco (11/28)
Bruce and Valarie Yinger (11/28)

Welcome New Club Members



Please welcome new club members **Gina T. Badami** (Dearborn, MI), sponsored by **Laura Lee**, and **Joseph Turpen** (Dearborn, MI), sponsored by **Laura Lee**.

Sick and Goodwill Notice



Our **thoughts and prayers** are with our members and their families who may be facing health challenges, undergoing tests, receiving treatments, or preparing for surgeries. We also extend **special blessings** to the many caretakers who selflessly support their ailing loved ones. May God bless them all, and may He continue to watch over and **protect our US troops around the world**.

Get-well wishes to our members and their families who are not feeling well, including **Rose Zerilli, Pauline Barraco, Laura Lee,** who had a foot injury**; Vincenzo Vitale** (Superior), who had hip replacement; **Mary Lonigro**, who will be undergoing surgery; **Randy Rice**, who will also be undergoing surgery; **and others** facing difficulties. May they find strength, healing, and comfort during these times.

Condolences to **Nina Lentini** on the death of her mother, **Vincenza Enia**, who passed away on September 24, 2026, at the age of 95, in Partinico, Sicily. Condolences to granddaughter **Patricia Lentini**. *May her memory be a blessing.*



Condolences to the family of **Charles M. Lupo,** who passed away on October 10, 2026, at age 87. Charles and his wife, **Leslie**, joined our Club in July 1973. Throughout his many years of service, Charles held numerous distinguished leadership positions, including serving as **Club President** during the 1978–1979 and 2013–2014 terms. He also served in various other capacities on the Club Board, consistently demonstrating dedication, vision, and an unwavering commitment to our organization.

Charles played an instrumental role in organizing and supporting many of our Club's most cherished events, including the Pasta events, Italian Festivals at Yack Arena, and countless other activities. Charles and Leslie participated wholeheartedly in nearly every Club function, including trips, dances, parades, picnics, the **St. Joseph Celebration, Christmas parties, Taste of Italy, and The Legends Live**.

Charles was more than a dedicated leader; he was a dear friend, a devoted husband, and a valued member of our Club family. We will never forget his contributions, friendship, and lasting influence. We are deeply grateful for the many years he gave to our organization, and his legacy will continue to inspire us for generations to come. Charles' warmth, generosity, and welcoming spirit touched everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him. ***May his memory be a blessing***.



Prossimi Eventi – Upcoming Events

Nov. 3, 2026, ... DIAC Nov. Card Party
Julie Bademian, (313) 388-2264
Nov. 15, 2026, ... Evening GM Meeting at WBC
Leslie Lupo, (734) 748-8016
Nov. 18, 2026, ... Genitti's Hole in the Wall
Grace Pizzo, (734)379-9491
Dec. 1, 2026, ... DIAC Dec. Card Party
Julie Bademian, (313) 388-2264
Dec. 6, 2026, ... Membership Christmas Party
Grace Pizzo, (734)379-9491

The ***Downriver Italian-American Club Newsletter***
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DIAC Membership Christmas Party

Bentley Banquet & Conference Ctr., 646 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte, MI 48192, 734-246-4800



Sunday, December 6, 2026



Doors Open at 4:30 P.M.

Buffet-Style Dinner at 5:00 P.M.

*Entertainment by **PINO MARELLI** at 6:00 P.M.*



~ Main Entrée ~

Bentley Holiday Salad
Homemade Rolls and Butter
Penne Pasta with Marinara Sauce
Roasted Garlic Whipped Potatoes
Lavender Roasted Heirloom Carrots
Beef Tenderloin Medallion Steak Diane
Rosemary Orange Crust Roasted Chicken Breast

~ Dessert ~

Vanilla Mousse Cake

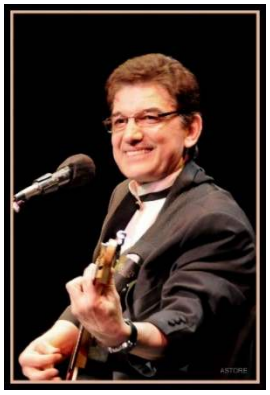


~ Beverages ~

Coffee, Tea, Soft Beverages

Cash Bar Available











Invitation includes your Family and Friends

Members: **$50.00** Non-Members: **$65.00**

Door Prizes & Raffle. Deadline: Friday, November 20, 2026

All reservations must be reserved and paid for in advance

Only a fully paid table of 10 can be guaranteed group seating.

Make checks payable to **Downriver Italian-American Club**

Mail to: Grace Pizzo, 32050 Liparoto Dr., Rockwood, MI 48173-8618

For further information, call: Grace Pizzo (734)379-9491



Julie Bademian (313)388-2264 ☃ Pat Chalmers (734)775-1092 ☃ Alice Patton (734)697-7902 ☃ Paula Rice (734)748-9998

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I/(We) will be attending the DIAC 2026 Christmas Party on Sunday, December 6, 2026.
This coupon and payment must be received no later than Friday, November 20, 2026.

Name: _____ Number of People Attending: ____

Address: _____ Tel: _____

City:_____ State: _____Zip: _____Amount Enclosed: $ _____

Make checks payable to: **Downriver Italian-American Club**.

Mail this coupon and your check to Grace Pizzo ♣ 32050 Liparoto Drive ♣ Rockwood, MI 48173-8618



All reservations must be reserved and paid in advance. Only a fully paid table of 10 can be guaranteed group seating.

If you would like to be seated with a friend (at their table), please print their name(s) here. Otherwise, seating and table location will be assigned to you.