



# DANTE'S INFERNO



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Ron Pane*

### *Facing our challenges requires all to pitch in*

First and foremost, I want to thank everyone for their support. I am truly humbled that I was a write-in candidate and was elected president of the Dante Club. My hope is to fulfill your expectations of me.

I would like to express to you what I believe is most important. I hope we all understand where the Dante Club is today and where we need to go in the future.

As our first president, Vittorio Panattoni in 1926, and our past manager, John Petrokos, would say at the end of general membership meetings: "Men, the club is only as good as the membership." It is our obligation to carry on the legacy of the Dante Club.

As you know, substantial changes are taking place in the Sacramento region. We live in the most diverse city in the state. We must make sure we address this diversity in our efforts to

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Sworn in Jan. 20 as the Dante Club's new president was Ron Pane, left. Among new board members for 2020, right, are Ralph DiLiberio, Joe Porata and Ernie Tomassilli. Not pictured is Mark Pedroncelli.

## Club welcomes 2020 officers and directors

New Dante Club officers and board members for the coming year were sworn in Jan. 20.

Taking the leadership reins as president is Ron Pane. He will work with Ron Cristoni, first vice president; Tom Novi, second vice president; Ron Fiorica, secretary; and Tom Mezzanares, treasurer.

Serving on the board of directors for 2020 are Rich Battistessa, Frank Calcagno, John Caselli, Ron Cristoni, Ralph DiLiberio, Jim Dimino, Ron Fiorica, Bill Giovannetti, Bob Guidera, Tom Mezzanares, Michael Micciche, Tom Novi, Pat Orelli, Ron Pane, Mark Pedroncelli, Joe Porata and Ernie Tomassilli.

DiLiberio, Pedroncelli, Porata and Tomassilli are all new to the board. Here's a bit of information about them:

**Ralph DiLiberio:** A 10-year resident of Sacramento, orthopedist Ralph DiLiberio previously lived in Los Angeles for 45 years. He works for the state of California and volunteers at the Sacramento VA Medical Center two days a week.

**Mark Pedroncelli:** Mark Pedroncelli has been a chiropractor for 25 years. He was born and raised in Geyserville and graduated from California State University, Sacramento.

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## NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

**Ladies Auxiliary**

A full house of 126 members and guests attended the Ladies Auxiliary's first dinner meeting of 2020 on Monday, Jan. 13.

Dante Club chef Jessi Moreno provided a delicious chicken cacciatore meal, and diners enjoyed traditional Italian music by two accordionists from the Sacramento Accordion Society.

After dinner, the auxiliary held its annual installation of officers. Past president Gloria Tomei welcomed 18 new and returning members to the board.

Trustee callers for 2020 are Mary Ann Chivaro, Sandy Calcagno, Phyllis Kieholtz, Rosemary Micciche, Nancy Doyle, Margaret Lynch, Janet Gatejen, Brenda Gardner and Debra Jefcoat.

Returning to their board positions are Debra Cattuzzo and Carole Stefani Chivaro, co-presidents; Helen Manfredi Pierson and Heidi Pesce Veneman, co-vice presidents; Debbie Duccini Hansen and Tina Luchini Bowers, co-treasurers; and Judy Farina, secretary.

Karol Bucola remains on the board as past president.

A raffle followed the installation of officers. In addition to giving each member one free raffle ticket, the auxiliary will also sell tickets at its dinners, with at least five prizes to be awarded monthly.

Selling raffle tickets was a huge success when it was first tried out in November. Members loved it, and the auxiliary made more than \$200.

In 2020, the sale of raffle tickets and the increased number of prizes will become part of all monthly dinners.

Some proceeds will be donated to various local charities.

The Ladies Auxiliary is accepting new members. Six women joined in January.

The auxiliary's dinner meetings are fun, with delicious food and Italian camaraderie.

Call Debra Cattuzzo at 916-442-2266 for an updated membership application.

**Newsletter ads welcomed**

As previously mentioned, the board has decided to make *Dante's Inferno* a more interactive marketing vehicle for club and auxiliary members. The response has been very positive.

Members Johnny "The Barber" Waldron, Tom "Mixed Bag" Novi, Jim Relles of Relles Florist and Mark Pedroncelli of Pedroncelli Chiropractic, as well as Ladies Auxiliary board member Helen Manfredi of Medic Ambulance, have all made annual advertising commitments for their businesses. We also welcome the Italian Cemetery in Colma and, starting this month, Realtor Pat Vogeli. Many thanks to all for being our first sponsors.

Other members with businesses who would like to participate should contact John Caselli at [Jac6652@aol.com](mailto:Jac6652@aol.com).

**Bus trip**

Ladies Auxiliary member Gloria Tomei is planning a March 3 bus trip to the Hard Rock Casino in Wheatland. The bus will leave at 9 a.m. from Holy Spirit Church, 3159 Land Park Drive, and continue to the Dante Club to pick up more passengers. Cost of the trip is \$40. Gloria said at least 30 sign-ups are needed to cover the bus cost.

To sign up, mail a check by Feb. 18 to: Gloria Tomei, 2785 14<sup>th</sup> St., Sacramento, CA 95818. Questions? Email Gloria at [gtomei@comcast.net](mailto:gtomei@comcast.net).

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UPCOMING EVENTS  
Reserve and pay online at:  
[http://www.danteclub.com/  
calendar.php](http://www.danteclub.com/calendar.php)

**February 17****Meeting Night Dinner**

**Time:** 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. meeting

**Menu:** Caesar salad, chicken cacciatore, polenta, wilted greens, spumoni

**Cost:** \$13 by deadline; \$18 after deadline  
*Reserve by 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 14.*

**March 3****Tuesday Night Dinner**

**Time:** 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner

**Menu:** Radicchio and citrus salad with burrata, pork shoulder braciola with ragu, turnip greens with Parmesan, orecchiette with greens and sausage, grilled peaches with vanilla ice cream

**Cost:** \$13 by deadline; \$18 after deadline  
*Reserve by 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 28.*

**March 7****Cioppino Dinner**

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. cocktails, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. dancing

**Menu:** Antipasti, insalata, risotto, cioppino, dolce

**Cost:** \$55 adults; \$45 children ages 5 to 10  
*Event open to the public. Reserve by 10 a.m. Monday, March 2.*



## 2020 Committees and Assignments

### COMMITTEES

#### ADVISORY AND OPERATIONS

Ron Cristoni, chairman; Michael Micciche, vice chairman  
Members: Tom Novi, Frank Calcagno, Ron Pane, Richard Battistessa

#### BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Ernie Tomaselli, chairman; Joe Porata, vice chairman  
Members: Bill Giovannetti, Ron Pane, Bob Guidera

#### BYLAWS

Ron Fiorica, chairman; Tom Novi, vice chairman  
Members: Michael Micciche, Richard Battistessa, Ralph DiLiberio

#### FINANCE

Tom Novi, chairman; Pat Orelli, vice chairman  
Members: Tom Mezzanares, Ralph Diliberio, Ron Cristoni, Mark Pedroncelli

#### INVESTIGATION

Bill Giovannetti, chairman; Bob Guidera, vice chairman  
Members: Pat Orelli, Ernie Tomassilli, Frank Calcagno

#### MEMBERSHIP

Bob Guidera, chairman; Bill Giovannetti, vice chairman  
Members: Pat Orelli, Ernie Tomassilli, Frank Calcagno

#### PUBLICITY

John Caselli, chairman; Tom Mezzanares, vice chairman  
Member: Mark Pedroncelli

#### SCHOLARSHIP

Rich Battistessa, chairman; Jim Dimino, vice chairman  
Members: Joe Porata, Mike Battistessa, two Ladies Auxiliary representatives

#### SOCIAL

Michael Micciche, chairman; Joe Porata, vice chairman  
Members: Bill Giovannetti, Pat Orelli, Mark Pedroncelli, Colin Orelli, two Ladies Auxiliary representatives

#### PERFORMANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY (special committee)

Tom Novi, chairman; Ralph DiLiberio, vice chairman  
Members: Jim Dimino, Rich Battistessa, Pat Orelli

#### VOLUNTEERS (special committee to recruit members to assist with painting, plumbing, electrical, landscaping, social activities, internet, website and other club needs)

Ron Cristoni, chairman; Ron Fiorica, vice chairman  
Members: Michael Micciche, Frank Calcagno, Jim Dimino

### ASSIGNMENTS

Bocce: Rich Battistessa and Ladies Auxiliary

Dante Club apparel: Mark Pedroncelli

General membership meetings: John Caselli, Joe Porata, Ron Bacher

Sergeant-at-arms: John Fiorica, general meeting

Ladies Auxiliary liaison: Richard Battistessa

## 2020 DANTE CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

- Ronnie Pane, president: [repane@icloud.com](mailto:repane@icloud.com)
- Ron Cristoni, first vice president: [roncristoni@aol.com](mailto:roncristoni@aol.com)
- Tom Novi, second first president: [tomnovi@aol.com](mailto:tomnovi@aol.com)
- Ron Fiorica, secretary: [rbfiorica@frontiernet.net](mailto:rbfiorica@frontiernet.net)
- Tom Mezzanares, treasurer: [tjmezzan@gmail.com](mailto:tjmezzan@gmail.com)

### BOARD MEMBERS

- Richard Battistessa: [drbattistessa@comcast.net](mailto:drbattistessa@comcast.net)
- Frank Calcagno: [fscal@comcast.net](mailto:fscal@comcast.net)
- John Caselli: [jac6652@aol.com](mailto:jac6652@aol.com)
- Ron Cristoni: [roncristoni@aol.com](mailto:roncristoni@aol.com)
- Ralph DiLiberio: [ralph.diliberio@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:ralph.diliberio@dhcs.ca.gov)
- Jim Dimino: [jkdimino@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jkdimino@sbcglobal.net)
- Ron Fiorica: [rbfiorica@frontiernet.net](mailto:rbfiorica@frontiernet.net)
- Bill Giovannetti: [wgiwannetti@comcast.net](mailto:wgiwannetti@comcast.net)
- Bob Guidera: [robertguidera@att.net](mailto:robertguidera@att.net)
- Tom Mezzanares: [tjmezzan@gmail.com](mailto:tjmezzan@gmail.com)
- Michael Micciche: [michael.micciche@gmail.com](mailto:michael.micciche@gmail.com)
- Tom Novi: [tomnovi@aol.com](mailto:tomnovi@aol.com)
- Patrick Orelli: [pat@apcpagroup.com](mailto:pat@apcpagroup.com)
- Ron Pane: [repane@icloud.com](mailto:repane@icloud.com)
- Mark Pedroncelli: [pddc@surewest.net](mailto:pddc@surewest.net)
- Joe Porata: [jporata@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jporata@sbcglobal.net)
- Ernie Tomassilli: [ca.ernest@pacbell.net](mailto:ca.ernest@pacbell.net)

### Officers

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**Joe Porata:** Redwood City native Joe Porata has lived in Auburn for 20 years and is married and retired. He enjoys bocce, golf, sporting events and concerts.

**Ernie Tomassilli:** Ernie Tomassilli hails from Ohio and moved to Sacramento in 1968. He retired in 2010 after a career in medical equipment and pharmaceutical sales. He joined the Dante Club in 2008.

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

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**Club apparel**

Members can purchase Dante Club-branded clothing, including aprons and four styles of sweatshirts and polo shirts.

Clothing comes in sizes for men, women and children.

To order items, email Mark Pedroncelli at [peddc@surewest.net](mailto:peddc@surewest.net).

**Save pull tabs**

Members are asked to continue collecting pull tabs from their used aluminum cans for donation to a program at UC Davis Medical Center that recycles pull tabs to raise funds.

Proceeds from the effort support the Adopt-A-Family Program, which helps subsidize lodging costs at the Ronald McDonald House.

Parents traveling from outside the Sacramento area so their children can undergo medical treatment at UC Davis Medical Center can stay at the Ronald McDonald House during their children's treatment.

In December, board member Ron Cristoni dropped off our donations to the Ronald McDonald House.

When he asked the receptionist how much parents are charged to spend a night there, she answered: "\$20 a night, if they can afford it."

We have delivered a total of 1,025 pounds of pull tabs since we started donating to the program.

So if the Ronald McDonald House receives \$1 per pound of pull tabs, our club members have

donated 51 nights of lodging for out-of-town parents.

A big hand to all! Thank you, and please continue to donate.

**Everything Italian**

We like to think the Dante Club is the best Italian club in Sacramento, but several other groups in the area may interest our members, too:

- Arberesh — [arbereshofsacramento.org](http://arbereshofsacramento.org)
- Italian Cultural Society — [italianculturalsociety.com](http://italianculturalsociety.com)
- Piemonte Reale — John Lancara, Societa Piemonte Reale, 3621 E. Lincoln Ave, Sacramento, CA 95818
- Romulus Club — John L. Boze, Romulus Club, 400 Capitol Mall, Suite 1850, Sacramento, CA 95814

**Annual dues past due**

Yearly \$100 membership dues for 2020 were due on Jan. 31.

Any member who did not meet that deadline are asked to pay their dues immediately.

Payment can be made at <https://www.danteclub.com/members.php>.

To pay by check, make checks payable to the Dante Club and mail to:

Dante Club of Sacramento  
Attn. Tom Mezzanares, treasurer  
2330 Fair Oaks Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dues also can be paid anytime in person by cash, check or credit card at the Dante Club.

**Cioppino dinner**

From Genoa to San Francisco and then to the Dante Club. Ten years of great food prepared by our own members.

That's our annual Cioppino Dinner, the Dante Club's signature event of the year.

On March 7, Michael Talani, Richard Battistessa, Jim Casali and Chris Masdeo, with help from a great crew of sous chefs, will treat diners to the finest cioppino in town. Mark your calendars!

As always, reservations are a must and can be made online. We will fill our Venetian Room first and then move to the Sicilian Room, so first come, first served.

Music and a raffle will be part of the evening's festivities.

Funds generated from the event will benefit our scholarship fund for the coming year.

**New members**

On Jan. 20, we inducted Paul Di Quattro and Al La Roca, both sponsored by new board member Joe Porata.

We will interview Chris Troughton, sponsored by Doug Troughton, and we have three possible applicants waiting in the wings. Because of a busy schedule, Ryan Dimino will delay his interview until the fall.

This month, Ernie Tomassilli will assume leadership of the membership committee.

Please give him and our club support by recruiting new members to boost our numbers and to enhance our financial situation.



# CRAB FEED 2020

Members and guests got into the gustatory spirit of the Dante Club's annual Crab Feed on Jan. 24. The all-you-can-eat affair featured bountiful bowls of fresh crab accompanied by antipasto, mixed salad, rigatoni with meat sauce, seasonal vegetables, dessert, coffee and, of course, wine.





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## ADVERTISER LISTING

Mixed Bag. Gifts for all reasons. 24th and K. 9-6 M-SA, 10-5 SU. 10% discount to club members. Tom & Linda Novi, proprietors. 916-447-6123. [mixedbagsac.com](http://mixedbagsac.com).

**THIS SPACE AVAILABLE**

For details, contact John Caselli at [jac6652@aol.com](mailto:jac6652@aol.com) or 916-217-6482.



**President's Corner**

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move the club forward.

We have many challenges, but we need to focus on some specific ones to help us attract new clientele. We will continue to have this conversation throughout the coming year.

I believe one of our primary challenges is updating our club website and our marketing efforts.

We also must update our building, making repairs and replacing equipment inside and outside.

These challenges will require financial resources. Unfortunately, we are not able to make even minor changes at this time. So my current overarching goal is to

ask our members to help us with these challenges.

We have a tremendous amount of experience and expertise among our members. It will take all of us to recruit members who can help us overcome our challenges and move the Dante Club forward.

With members' continued support, I believe we can make a significant change in a positive direction and continue the club legacy.

I need your help to make this happen. Please reach out to members you know and ask them for help in areas such as advertising, marketing, painting, plumbing, electrical, heating and air conditioning, and landscaping.

Also, if you know members who would like to make financial donations to help the club, please let me know. I am happy to discuss this with them.

Furthermore, fundraisers will be an integral part of our success. Please be ready to participate in these activities and to help out.

Finally, and most importantly, we need to get the word out that the Dante Club is accepting new members.

With your help and continued support, I believe we can make this happen.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any comments or concerns. You can reach me via email at [repane@icloud.com](mailto:repane@icloud.com) or cell at 916-798-0111.

# DANTE'S REMINDERS



**Member volunteers**

To volunteer, contact club president Ron Pane or social chairman Michael Micciche to offer your services. You can reach Ron at 916-798-0111 or [repane@icloud.com](mailto:repane@icloud.com). You can contact Michael at 916-550-1122 or [michael.micciche@gmail.com](mailto:michael.micciche@gmail.com).

**Donations**

Donate to our scholarship or building funds in memory of a loved one or a friend to keep their legacy going. And buy raffle tickets! Donations can be made easily online at <http://www.danteclub.com/donation.html>.

**Dante Club apparel**

If you'd like to purchase club shirts or other specialty clothing items, contact Mark Pedroncelli at 916-812-6729 or [peddc@surewest.net](mailto:peddc@surewest.net) or speak to him at a members meeting. You must present cash or a check to place an order.

**Newsletter photos and news**

Submit photos and news items for *Dante's Inferno* to John Caselli at [jac6652@aol.com](mailto:jac6652@aol.com). Items must be received by the 20th of each month to be considered for the following month's newsletter. Publication depends on available space and is not guaranteed. To post news and photos on Facebook, log in to your Facebook account and search for "Dante Club."

**Contact information**

Have you recently changed your address or phone number? Please alert our club treasurer, Tom Mezzanares, at 916-467-7483 or [tjmezzan@gmail.com](mailto:tjmezzan@gmail.com).