

**YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE**  
**BOARD OF GRAND DIRECTORS BI-MONTHLY MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

Chairman of the Board, Brother Bob Fiorito, called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. on Saturday, November 11, 2017 at the World Headquarters of the YMI in South San Francisco, California. There were telephone technical problems which caused the 15 minute delay in the beginning the meeting.

**Opening Prayer**

The opening prayer, led by Grand Director and Past Grand President Manuel Drumonde requested God's guidance on the officers and their deliberations throughout the meeting. He acknowledged all veterans and thanked them for their service.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

In a true spirit of fraternalism, the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Grand Marshal Bill Avery, was recited in a strong voice by those assembled. All were asked to remember our country's service men.

**Roll Call**

The roll call was taken and the following Grand Officers were present: Grand Directors Steve Cresci, Mario De Vita, Manuel Drumonde (via conference call), Bob Fiorito, John Kavanagh, Matt Nelson (via conference call), Bill Walls, and Paul Walsh (tardy); Junior Past Grand President Michael Dimech; Grand Secretary Michael Amato; Grand Treasurer Jack Albrecht; Grand Marshal Bill Avery; and Grand Outside Sentinel Nick Franceschine (via conference call).

The following Grand Officers were excused by Chairman of the Board, Brother Bob Fiorito: Grand President Mike Nelson, Grand First Vice President Carlos Rivas, Grand Second Vice President Mike Thissen, Grand Chaplain Father Agnel DeHeredia and Grand Director Domenic Carinalli.

The following YMI Brothers were in attendance: Brother Tom Fourie

#32, PGP and Business Manager, District Deputy Grand President and Past Grand President Frank Hepburn #2 and District Deputy Grand President Phil Fondale #137.

## **Reading of the Minutes**

The minutes from the September 16, 2017 Meeting of the Board of Grand Directors were reviewed.

**MSC** – De Vita/Walls – Unanimous - that the minutes of the September 16, 2017 meeting of the Board of Grand Directors be approved.

## **Communications**

The Business Manager and the Grand Secretary presented the following communications: (note: the YMI computer at the World Headquarters Office was hacked the week before). The following report is up to date except for the last work week.

Brother Fourie reported on the following from the Grand Council Office:

- Council bulletins have been received from the following Councils: Council #1 (October, November), Council #2 (October, November), Council #32 (October, November), Council #40 (October, November), Council #573 (November), Council #613 (October, November).
- Acknowledgement from Mrs. Alice Hafer for the Death Benefit in honor of her husband Br. Kenneth Hafer of Manteca Council #88.
- California Franchise Tax Board requests for information Councils #76, #84, #83 and #614.
- Cover letters for Assessment #168 and the September 30, 2017 Semi-Annual Report.
- IRS Notice to update Council listings (Councils #9, #93 and #111 were dropped).
- Three cover letters written by the Business Manager for three separate mailings of the Pro Patria Raffle.
- Three copies of the Catholic Voice.
- Copy of "Update", the Sulpicians booklet.

## **Grand Treasurer's Report**

Brother Jack Albrecht referenced his two reports which were e-mailed to all Grand Council Officers the week previous. These reports, dated October 22, 2017, were the expense spreadsheet and the income spreadsheet for the 2017-2018 year thus far. He opened the floor for any questions. Brother Michael Dimech asked about the shirts and hats from the Grand Council Session....Brother Albrecht acknowledged that the amount was a mistake and it be would corrected. Brother Albrecht alerted the Board that the IRS had requested \$4000 for taxes for the past year and he also said this was a mistake as the YMI had never paid taxes given its status as a non-profit organization. This too will be looked into.

**MSC - DeVita/Walls – Unanimous - to accept the Grand Treasurer's reports dated October 22, 2017 with corrections.**

## **Board of Grand Directors' Committees**

Chairman of the Board, Brother Bob Fiorito, requested reports from the various Grand Director's Committees:

Charters/Archives – Brother Bill Walls, Chr. – Bother Walls reported there was no change. Brother Walls asked Brother Fourie if he had found a new location for the archives....Brother Fourie responded no.

Finance: Brother Bob Fiorito, Chr. - reported all bills were in order and they have been paid.

Long Range Planning – Br. Matt Nelson, Chr. – the Chairman reviewed the letter he had prepared to send to the Bishops of the Dioceses in which YMI Councils exist. It has been circulated to the Grand Chaplain and the Grand President along with all other Grand Officers. He had been busy during October and was still putting a list of Councils within dioceses. Once the letter is finally drafted he will send a copy to all Grand Directors so that he can meet his goal of issuing the letter before the end of 2017.

Council Activities – Br. Paul Walsh, Chr. – no requests had been received since the last Board meeting.

Insurance – Br. Franceschine reported that there were no changes to his knowledge and Brother Fourie agreed. Brother Fourie reported that he had been successful in ascertaining a one day liability insurance coverage for the Pasta Bingo Fundraiser in November. He had given the document to Brother Dimech.

Fund Raising – Brother Bob Fiorito, Chr. – the Pasta/Bingo event is set for November 18, 2017 at the St. Veronica's Falcon Hall. Thus far 60 people have made reservations. The setup will take place on Friday evening, November 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Help is always needed in the kitchen. Brother Bartoli will be contacted to discuss the Super Bowl Pool(s)???

Supplies – Brother Mario De Vita, Chr. – The report for the year will be presented after the inventory is recorded in January 2018.

### **Grand President's Report**

Grand President Brother Mike Nelson is presently in Guadalajara, Mexico on a service project for his Rotary organization. Please refer to the written letter he provided to the Officers and was read by the Business Manager.

### **Grand First Vice President's Report**

The wife of Brother Rivas continues to struggle with poor health and could certainly use our prayers.

Brother Fourie reported on visiting with Santa Rosa Council #40 to present their new by-laws. 90 Brothers were in attendance. Given the present circumstance within Council #40 and the need for Grand Council to step up with the raffle preparations, he announced he had the tickets printed, letters and envelopes were also done, and now we need to stuff them. Four Brothers volunteered to process the

envelopes with the tickets and get them back to World Headquarters so that the mailing labels could be affixed and all could be mailed.

## **Grand Second Vice President's Report**

Br. Thissen had completed and forwarded the flyer for the Red and White Mass. It was two pages in length and will have to be reduced to one page for the next Journal...which is possible. Br. Amato offered to help with this task if needed.

## **Grand Secretary's Report/Business Manager's Report**

Grand Secretary Michael Amato and Business Manager Tom Fourie reported on a lengthy list of activities completed by the Grand Council Office since the last Board meeting, which included the following:

- Throughout the two months since the September 16, 2017 meeting, the Business Manager worked with officers and committee members of Santa Rosa Council #40 to update their Council By-Laws. This culminated last Tuesday evening with my attendance at their monthly meeting and reviewing all the changes made. In front of 90 Brothers, I went through the changes and why. They voted unanimously to approve and the updates were forwarded by me to the Laws and Revisions Committee.
- Completed the preparations for the Grand President's Official Visit to Indiana in late November. Made air, car and hotel reservations along with Council meeting agendas.
- Completed the next issue of the Institute Journal (thanks for the help with the seals), put on labels, etc. and mailed.
- Prepared Assessment #168 to be mailed.
- Prepared September 30, 2017 Semi-Annual Reports to be mailed.
- Attended Council #32 meetings/socials and Council #40's meetings.
- Sent our September 16, 2017 Board Meeting minutes to officers.

- Secured the Insurance Liability Form for the Pasta Bingo Fundraiser.
- Worked for several days with Brother Tommy Figueira #573 providing information as they have to start from scratch following Brother Wendell's death.
- Prepared the paperwork for the next group of Death Benefits.
- Prepared letters for the three different mailings for the Pro Patria Raffle.
- Sent surveys to Br. Nick Franceschine.
- Prepared YMI bills for September and October.
- Worked through Educational Memorials.
- Hosted the October 24, 2017 meeting of the Educational Foundation.
- Beginning this coming Tuesday and next Thursday..repair of computers from hacking and scaming.
- The Business Manager will need a new printer for the office.

Assessment #168 has not been received from Council #16, #59, #99, #497 and #612.

Semi-Annual Reports which are incomplete or not received: #1 (Check with Br Mario), #5 (only page 1), missing all of #16, missing all of #40, #44 (only the financial pages), missing all of #59, #94 (only the financial pages), missing all of #99, missing all of #100, #497 has 12 new members listed, yet no applications, missing all of #573 and missing all of #612.

## **Grand Directors Report on Grand Council Committees**

Chairman of the Board, Brother Bob Fiorito, requested reports from Grand Directors serving on Grand Council Committees.

**Audit** (Br. Steve Cresci, Chr.): No report at this time, however, Br. Fourie stated that all Councils need to be audited again and in particular Councils #5, #16, #59, #92, #94, #99, #497, #573 and #612.

**Budget** (Br. Jack Albrecht, Chr.): The next meeting of the committee will be on January 10, 2018 - 7:00 p.m. at World Headquarters.

**Coordinating** (Br. Mike Nelson, Chr.): no report at this time.

**Ceremonials** (Br. Manuel Drumonde, #44, PGP): no report at this time.

**Grand Session Planning Committee** (Br. Tom Fourie, Chr.) – the committee of Brothers Fourie, Amato, Carinalli and Bartoli will need to meet in December.

**Institute Journal** (Br. Tom Fourie, Chr.) – Brother Fourie is getting ready now for the next issue (Winter 2017). He has listed the following items he hopes to include in this next issue: Italian Heritage Parade, Membership Committee minutes, Flyers for both bowling and golf, Red and White Mass, Article on the raffle and essays, State of the Institute, Bocce Tournament, Educational Foundation commentary, application for matching funds, GP article, etc.

Br. Dimech commented on the electronic mailing of the Journal in order to save money. Br. Fourie listed the following Councils (#613, #40, #1, #2, #32, #8, #137 and #54) are ones he hoped he could get names of those Brothers who regularly receive their Council bulletins by e-mail and see how the Journal could follow.

**ACTION ITEM;** These Councils need to send their list of e-mail names to Br. Tom to eliminate printing Journals. As soon as the file for the issue is ready, Br. Tom would send it to the Council Officer who in turn would send it to their members.

**Laws and Revisions** (Br. Rob Bartoli, Chr) – Br. Fourie reported on behalf of the committee. Santa Rosa Council #40's pending By-Law changes were received by the Committee. The Laws and Revision Committee approved them for Grand Council approval.

**MSC** – DeVita/Walls – unanimous – to accept the report of the Laws and Revisions committee with regard to the updated By-Laws for Santa Rosa Council #40.

Br. Manuel Drumonde asked that he receive a copy of the new By-Laws for Santa Rosa #40.

**Man of the Year and Council of the Year** (Br. Bob Bartoli, Chr.) – the Committee will meet and prepare an article for the Institute Journal by November 30, 2017.

**Membership** (Br. Steve Cresci and Br John Kavanagh, Co-Chr): Br. Cresci reported that the committee met on October 14, 2017. In attendance were Brothers Cresci, Kavanagh, Andreatta and Dimech. They focused on Councils wanting to bring in new members. Lots of ideas were shared and to think about them appearing in the next issue of the Institute Journal. Br. Dimech noted that membership has steadily declined and we need to do something outside of the box. The Committee presented a written report to distribute to the Grand Officers...this report was recommended to appear in the next Journal. Two Councils were noted for increased membership: Santa Rosa Council #40 and St. Augustine Council #497. Brother Kavanagh asked if these Councils have an action plan.

**Organization** (Br. Michael Amato, Chr.): no report at this time

**Reserve Fund** (Br. Jack Albrecht, Chr.) – Brother Albrecht covered the amount of funds in both the Death Benefit Reserve Fund and the Grand Council Operating Budget Reserve Fund. Several Brothers noted the amount of investments in equity funds and asked if a conversation could be held with the investor. Br. Albrecht agreed to set it up. Br. Franceschine felt we were considerably over funded in equities.

**Resolutions** (Br. Nick Franceschine, Chr.): has no resolutions at this time. May need a resolution of the efforts of Santa Rosa Council #40.

**State of the Institute** (Br. Michael Dimech, Chr.): Br. Michael had nothing to report at this time, but will have something for the next Institute Journal.

**Workshop Committee** (Brother Tom Fourie): will be ready in June 2018.

## **Unfinished Business**

The update on the 133rd Grand Council Session in Reno is that the contract is in place and the committee will get together in December.



There was no information for the 134<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session, although the Santa Rosa Brothers would like to have it in their area. Nothing confirmed as of yet.

Br. Nick Franceschine sent out an e-mail describing what the surveys reflected. Simply put, the membership does not want to support a Death Benefit program for Associate Members.

The Bocce Ball Tournament had 68 participants from seven Councils in the Tournament. On A Roll from #32 was the winner with The Pall Bearers from #32 in second place. Next year's tournament will take place on the last Saturday in September, 2018.

Br. Fiorito gave a glowing report of the Italian Heritage Parade in San Francisco with the Grand President and the Man of the Year riding in one of the 10 antique cars provided to Council #613. There was also a 1938 Muni bus in the parade and YMI was joined by four sailors. Council #613 came in second place....congratulations.

The Grand Council Bowling Tournament will take place April 29, 2018 at the same venue in Stockton at the same price as last year.

Brother Fiorito reported that the Grand Council Golf Tournament will take place on June 3, 2018 at the Oakmont Golf Course in Santa Rosa, CA. Cost is \$100 per person. He is looking for help: hole sponsors from Councils or individuals, contests for longest drive and closest to the pin. He is aiming for 60 players. Profits from the tournament to go to Santa Rosa Council #40's fund for fire victims Tee off time is set for 11:00 a.m. Non-golfers invited to come to the dinner as well.

## **New Business**

Brother Amato presented his findings on a bus rental for the Red and White Mass in March. It appeared a 50 passenger bus would work and he will have all the final numbers for the January 6, 2018 meeting.

Brother Fourie reported on the efforts of the Santa Rosa Brothers as a result of the Northern California Fires. He had visited with the Council several times and learned the following:

- 17 members of the Council lost their homes
- Many family members of the Councils were affected
- Cardinal Newman High School burned down
- The council was designating funds from their treasury to help the victims (\$5000).
- Their Polenta Dinner profited \$9000
- Lots of discussion about impacts and what we can do
- Councils/Brothers who would like to help to send checks to Grand Council made payable to Santa Rosa Council #40 Fire Relief

### **Junior Past Grand President Report**

No specific report at this time. See above for all his activities.

### **Grand Chaplain's Report**

Father Agnel continues to pray for all of us.

### **Good of the Order**

Brother Drumonde asked if there has been any discussion of non-members (non Catholic).

Remember all who have died: Br. Wendell Serrao and Mel Nelson (father of our Grand President)

### **Closing Prayer**

The closing prayer was led by Brother Bill Walls, thanking all for participating and to please remember all veterans and the folks in Santa Rosa.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Next meeting is January 6, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, yours for God and Country,

*Michael Amato #613*  
**Grand Secretary**

*Thomas A. Fourie #32, PGP*  
**Business Manager**