

**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 8:01 a.m. on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at the World Headquarters of the YMI in South San Francisco, California.

**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 (via conference call), Mario De Vita, Manuel Drumonde (via conference call), Bob Fiorito, John Kavanagh, Bill Walls (via conference call); Grand President Mike Nelson, Grand Second Vice President Mike Thissen, Junior Past Grand President Michael Dimech; Grand Secretary Michael Amato; Grand Treasurer Jack Albrecht (via conference call); Grand Marshal Bill Avery (via conference call); Grand Inside Sentinel Domenic Carinalli (via conference call) and Grand Outside Sentinel Nick Franceschine (via conference call).

The following Grand Officers were excused by Chairman of the Board, Brother Bob Fiorito: Grand Directors Paul Walsh and Matt Nelson, Grand First Vice President Carlos Rivas, Grand Chaplain Father Agnel De Heredia.

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, District Deputy Grand President Phil Fondale #137 (via conference call), Past Grand President Brother Bob Bartoli, and District Deputy Grand President Alex Schmitt (via conference call).

## **Reading of the Minutes**

The minutes from the November 11, 2017 Meeting of the Board of Grand Directors were reviewed.

**MSC** – De Vita/Fiorito – Unanimous - that the minutes of the November 11, 2017 meeting of the Board of Grand Directors be approved.

## **Communications**

The Business Manager and the Grand Secretary presented the following communications:

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

- Council bulletins have been received from the following Councils: Council #2 (December and January), Council #8 (January), Council #40 (December and January), Council #573 (Fall), Council #613 (December and January).
- Cover letters that were mailed with raffle tickets.
- Cover letter for Assessment #169.
- Christmas card from Notre Dame High School in Belmont, CA.
- Monetary request from Oakland's Elizabeth House.
- Letter from the IRS acknowledging receipt of our annual Council listings.
- Copy of the ICF Bollentino with special note on membership.
- Two copies of the Catholic Voice.
- Bulletin from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond, IN.
- Copy of the Catholic Herald.
- Copy of the Patrician.

## **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 December 20, 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 and where those monies were included on the report. Br. Albrecht reported they were part of the Convention figures. Br. Dimech suggested they be broken out in the future.

The Pasta Bingo made about \$1600. Congratulations.

Brother Fourie asked for an update on the IRS request for monies for late submission of the tax forms. Brother Albrecht reported on his workings with our CPAs and that they were attempting to clear up the issue.

**MSC** - DeVita/Walls – Unanimous - to accept the Grand Treasurer's reports dated December 20, 2017.

### **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. – Brother 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 Grand President, on behalf of Br. Matt Nelson, reported that an e-mail had been sent out the night before which contained the many letters prepared for the Bishops. Pending editing, the Board authorized signing the letters and sending them out.

**MSC** – Fiorito/De Vita – Unanimous - to send the edited letters to the Bishops.

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.

Fund Raising – Brother Bob Fiorito, Chr. – two Super Bowl Pools are presently being circulated and Brother Bartoli is coordinating.

Supplies – Brother Mario De Vita, Chr. – The inventory is to be taken today.

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

Grand President Brother Mike Nelson thanked Brother Tom Fourie for the adventure to Indiana. The Grand President and his wife had a great time on this very structured Official Visit. Indiana is “good people” and membership was discussed at both Councils.

District Deputy reports were highlighted for San Jose, Gold Country, Hawaii (sold hall and moving parishes), Valley North, San Francisco (the future of San Francisco Council #1 is up in the air), and Alameda.

The Walk for Life is referenced in the Institute Journal (page 1).

The Grand President is Hawaii bound in a few weeks.

Brother Tom Fourie added that the first couple of the YMI did a great job in Indiana representing the Order.

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

There has been no contact recently from Brother Rivas.

Brother Fourie reported on the Pro Patria Raffle:

- a. The YLI is down to 68 Institutes and 18 had bought tickets thus far
- b. Only four YMI widows have bought tickets thus far.
- c. Eight of the 14 YMI Councils have bought their tickets.
- d. 142 YMI Brothers have made their purchase.
- e. We have recorded \$3993, which is about one third of our target.

Brother Fourie also reported that not many essays have been submitted as of this date.

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

Br. Thissen is continuing to prepare for the Red and White Mass. He is waiting for responses (see the Institute Journal). There was some discussion by the Board on preparation and participation.

## **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:

Brother Amato spoke to his continuous working with the Website to include the Red and White Mass, Bowling Tournament, Golf Tournament and the Grand President's Event Schedule. He also commented on the update for the Education Foundation's Frank Pignati Matching Funds Program. The Winter 2018 Issue of the Journal is now on the Website as well as Council Newsletters for #2, #8, #32, #40, and #613. Also, the Council of the Year and Man of the Year Applications are available on both the Website and the Journal.

Brother Amato also announced his plans for serving as a Grand Officer for the 2018-2019 YMI year.

Brother Hepburn complained about the time it is taking to receive Death Benefits from the Grand Council Office and would like that time period to be shortened.

Brother Fourie presented the following updates:

- a. He had worked with the Geek Squad technicians to repair the computers following the hacking. All passwords have been changed and we are operational once again.
- b. He thanked everyone who helped with getting the Journal ready for this issue (listed the names). Mailing labels have been started as of now.
- c. He helped with the setup of the Pasta Bingo Event.
- d. Preparation for the November YMI bills was completed and sent out the checks he received from the Grand Treasurer.
- e. He prepared the 2017-2018 Audit forms.
- f. Mailed all the Raffle envelopes.
- g. Accompanied the Grand President and First Lady on the six day Official Visit to Indiana.
- h. Filed for the Seminarian Foundation with the Secretary of State in California.
- i. Hosted a meeting for the Reserve Committee on December 5, 2017.
- j. Began daily recording of raffle returns, which assumes daily trips to the Post Office.
- k. Began the process of putting articles together for the Winter 2018 Journal.
- l. Helped with Council #32's Food Basket Program.
- m. Prepared December bills for YMI, sent checks out after receipt from the Grand Treasurer.
- n. Sent out the November Board Meeting minutes.
- o. Numerous drop-off trips to Albrecht and Bartoli.
- p. Prepared and sent Assessment #169.
- q. Worked on the Institute Journal, different this time, with Cindy Fondale, authors of articles, readers, etc.
- r. Contacted Michele Williams at the El Dorado Hotel in Reno, NV.

Need to get lists of e-mails from Councils for Journal (#1, #2, #8, #32, #40, #44? #54, #137, #613, #94?, #80)

## **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.): The Chairman deferred to Brother Fourie. Brother Tom and the Grand President conducted Audits for the two Indiana Councils during the Official Visit. The Grand President will handle the audit in Hawaii.

**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.): already covered.

**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 be meeting on January 12, 2018. The El Dorado Contract has been signed.

**Institute Journal** (Br. Tom Fourie, Chr.) – already covered under the Business Manager's report.

**Laws and Revisions** (Br. Rob Bartoli, Chr) – no report at this time.

**Man of the Year and Council of the Year** (Br. Bob Bartoli, Chr.) – applications have been printed in the Journal.

**Membership** (Br. Steve Cresci and Br John Kavanagh, Co-Chr): Br. Cresci reported that the committee is very serious about increasing membership. Brother Kavanagh drafted a letter to give ideas to Council Presidents. Brother Fourie suggested that the minutes of the Committee's meetings be included with the letter.

**Organization** (Br. Michael Amato, Chr.): Brother Amato reported that Council #1 needs to consider its future, #8 is having problems as it lost its presence at the church (Brother Fourie will contact Brother Stu) and Vinyes Council #16 lost its sole worker, Brother Gonzales, who passed away.

**Reserve Fund** (Br. Jack Albrecht, Chr.) – Brother Albrecht met with our investment advisor and everything is in good shape. Brother Jack reported the amounts in both the Death Benefit Reserve and the Grand Council Reserve. Brother Fourie reported that he had been

contacted by Mr. Wookcock and he had responded to reducing the equity portion of our investments.

**Resolutions** (Br. Nick Franceschine, Chr.): has no resolutions at this time.

**State of the Institute** (Br. Michael Dimech, Chr.): Br. Michael will be drafting an article for the Journal by March 1.. He has three possible proposals thus far and Brother Hepburn has one more. The chairman will conduct a meeting in late February or early March to review what has been submitted.

**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 to work on more details.

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. There has been no conversation with Brother Carlos Rivas.

110 people attended the Pasta/Bingo Event. It has grown from the initial group of 74 attendees. Thanks to Brothers from Council #613, #32 and #1 for helping.

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

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 asked for a general idea of how many teams might want to play and he requested an answer by the end of January. He would like to ask Councils to sponsor a hole. Monies will go the Council #40 fire victims.

Brother Fiorito asked that Officers confirm that they are coming to Board meetings or will call in so plans can be made.



## **New Business**

Brother Nick Franceschine has prepared an article for the Journal concerning Death Benefits for Associate Members.

Brother Amato reviewed his work on obtaining a bus for the San Francisco District to attend the Red and White Mass. He discussed costs, seats, timeline and responsibilities. A motion was made.

**MSC** – Fiorito/Kavanagh – Unanimous – to rent a bus for YMI Brothers and family members to attend the Red and White Mass from the San Francisco area.

A short discussion ensued on Grand Officers for next year.

Brother Tom Fourie distributed the Council Lists of raffle ticket purchases thus far.

## **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 who could come to play golf...answer..anyone.

The Death Benefit account will need to have more money on hand given the increased dollar benefit. There should be an increase in a base amount.

## **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 9:57 a.m.

Next meeting is March 3, 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**