

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

**Call to Order**

Chairman of the Board, Brother Mario De Vita, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 2, 2019 at the World Headquarters of the YMI in South San Francisco, California.

**Opening Prayer**

The opening prayer, led by Grand Outside Sentinel Christopher Mc Cann 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 Billy 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 Mario De Vita, Bob Fiorito, Darrell Fonseca (via conference call), Steven Cresci (via conference call), Jim Rohe (excused with Bartoli as proxy vote), Domenic Carinalli (excused with Fourie as proxy vote), Grand President Mike Thissen (via conference call), Grand First Vice President Michael Amato, Grand Second Vice President Nick Franceschine (via conference call), Grand Secretary Mike Dimech, Grand Treasurer Jack Albrecht, Grand Marshal Bill Avery (via conference call), and Grand Outside Sentinel Chris Mc Cann.

The following Grand Officers were excused by Chairman of the Board, Brother Mario De Vita: Grand Director Angel Vera, Grand Chaplain Father Agnel, and Grand Inside Sentinel Charlie Wallin, Immediate Past Grand President Mike Nelson, Grand Director Matt Nelson

The following YMI Brothers were in attendance: Brother Tom Fourie

#32, PGP and Business Manager, Brother Bob Bartoli #32, PGP and Technology Consultant, Brother Alex Schmitt #8, DDGP (via conference call).

## **Reading of the Minutes**

The minutes from the September 14, 2019 Meeting of the Board of Grand Directors were reviewed.

Brother Fourie noted that the dates for the next Grand Council Session should read June 21 – 25, 2020 at the Silver Legacy Hotel in Reno, Nevada.

**MSC** – Fiorito/De Vita – unanimous – that the minutes of the September 14, 2019 of the Board of Grand Directors be approved as corrected.

## **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 #1 (October), Council #32 (October and November), Council #40 (October), Council #59 (November), Council #80 (July), Council #613 (October and November).
- Death Benefit acknowledgement from Mrs. Evelyn Pedroni of Council #54.
- Cover letter with the mailings of Tax Filings for Councils.
- Two copies of the Catholic Voice.
- One copy of the “Voice of YLI”.

## **Grand Treasurer’s Report**

Brother Jack Albrecht’s two reports which were e-mailed to all Grand Council Officers the week previous were reviewed. These reports, dated October 2019, were the expense spreadsheet and the income spreadsheet for the 2019-2020 year thus far. Money has been transferred from the Reserve Fund to pay year ending bills. There

was a discussion concerning the recent cost increase for the YMI telephone bill. Both Brother Fourie and Brother Bartoli reported on their inquiries. Brother Fourie was informed that our additional costs were due to the increase in the basic plan which came about since our previous basic plan was no longer current (the phone company does not inform their customers when this happens). Also the average monthly cost for the 800 number is \$25.00. Brother Bartoli reported on his phone call with respect to the monthly base cost and worked with AT & T to bring it down for the next year to about \$110.00 per month. We need to contact AT & T next November 1 to maintain the lower rates.

**MSC** – Fonseca/Rohe by proxy – Unanimous - that the Grand Treasurer’s Report be accepted as presented.

### **Board of Grand Directors’ Committees**

Chairman of the Board, Brother Mario De Vita, requested reports from the various Grand Director’s Committees:

Charters/Archives – Brother Angel Vera, Chr. – Br. Bartoli and Br. Fourie reported that the work to provide more room for storage was a work in progress.

Finance: Brother Bob Fiorito, Chr. – committee members reported all bills were in order and they had been paid for October.

Long Range Planning – Br. Matt Nelson, Chr. – the chairman had nothing to report at this time.

Council Activities – Br. Domenic Carinalli, Chr. – nothing to formally report by the chairman at this time.

Insurance – Br. Cresci, Chr. – having nothing to report the chairman turned the report over to Br. Fourie. Br. Tom reported that the Grand Council By-Laws do not have any reference to the Liability Insurance policy and subsequent member assessment. The committee was asked to provide a new assessment for the next YMI

yearly budget to the Budget Committee before their meeting in the new year.

Fund Raising – Brother Bob Fiorito, Chr. – the Pasta/Bingo Dinner is set for November 16, 2019 at St. Veronica Parish in South San Francisco (need more attendees), gift cards are being requested from Councils for the raffle, only 20 reservations so far. Br. Bartoli presented the Super Bowl pool for square purchases (\$10).

Supplies – Brother Domenic Carinalli, Chr. – The inventory of supplies (rings) was taken by the Business Manager. He reported the following in stock:

- Zero 50 year pins
- 37 - 40 year pins
- Zero 30 year pins
- 62 - 25 year pins
- Zero 20 year pins
- 45 – 15 year pins
- Zero 10 year pins

- 190 large lapel membership pins
- 53 small lapel membership pins

- Many Past Council President pins (166) - large
- Many Past Grand Council Officer pins
- Past Grand President regalia pins (22)
- Past Council President pins (24) small

Given the current cost of ordering new pins (100 minimum for each quantity) and cost (\$15.00 per pin plus shipping and handling), the Board directed the Business Manager to place a notice in the next Journal concerning our current supply numbers and inquire about any future orders.

Continued discussion on this topic will take place at the January 2019 Board meeting.

There will be no need to have another inventory taken in February.

## **Grand President's Report**

Grand President Thissen reported on the following items:

He visited Bakersfield Council #100 and met with three of its current members. Evidently they have not been meeting on a regular basis. It appears they are waiting for Br. Joe Reza to bring the Council back together. They supposedly have the money to pay their past two assessments.

He has been making visits to Councils in the Valley.

He is looking forward to the Official Visit in Indiana at the end of November.

He needs to have a telephone number for Michael Bacchetti of Tracy Council #92.

He has spoken to a few of the current District Deputies.

Brother Bartoli reported on the recent Education Foundation Meeting. The Matching Funds Program will continue this year and has been raised from \$750 to \$800. This increase was acted upon over the objection of the Foundation's financial advisor. There was not a roll call vote taken. There are still three children on the roll collecting benefits from the Foundation, with one graduating next year.

The Seminarian Foundation is scheduled to meet on November 7, 2019.

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

Brother Michael Amato commented on the great Bocce Ball Tournament, the Salute to Elvis Night at #613, the Italian Heritage Parade (waiting for judges decision), and planning to attend Council #40's Dinner/meeting the next week.

He then directed his remarks to the Pro Patria Essay Contest and accompanying raffle.

Brother Fourie provided the following information on the status of the raffle:

- a. 1774 raffle letters with tickets were mailed September 1, 2019 to the YMI Brothers.
- b. 82 letters with tickets were mailed to YLI Institutes.
- c. 21 letters with tickets were mailed to YMI Councils.
- d. As of October 28, 2019 26 YLI Institutes have bought tickets, 7 YMI Councils have purchased tickets and 125 YMI Brothers (7%) have responded by buying tickets.
- e. The total sales is at \$7425.00

Brother Amato is reaching out to the District Deputies to advertise both the essay contest and the raffle. There is a current lull in sales especially with those Councils in direct line of the recent wild fires. He reminded everyone of the tax write-off with the sales. He has personally spoken to Scott Vogelgesang in Indiana as well as others. Brother Fonseca spoke to the fact that his Council (#99) has appointed a Pro Patria Chairman to get each member of their Council to participate. Br. Franceschine spoke of his Council's plan to have each and every member present at their next meeting to buy at least one ticket at the meeting.

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

Brother Nick Franceschine reported that they were once again operational in Sebastopol following their evacuation due to the fires.

He commented again on his efforts to sell raffle tickets.

The Red and White Mass is going ahead smoothly for March 14, 2020 in Sebastopol. He is trying to solidify the menu and cost for the Dinner. He was reminded that a flyer needs to be provided asap for the Institute Journal. Also, Br. Rod Ordonia from Council #613 is willing to help make the flyer, he just needs the pictures and info. He is planning to visit Council #40 in January as an Official Visit.

Brother Bill Avery brought up the topic of renting buses for the March trip to Sebastopol. He knows that the Valley would like to do it again this year, and along with a bus from the Bay Area, we could have a great crowd present. Based on last year's funding of \$750 for a bus, the Board directed Br. Avery to research this year's cost with possibly having two buses to rent. He will get back to the Board asap.

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

Br. Michael Dimech reported on a list of activities he had been involved in since the last Board Meeting.

- He has made several updates to the YMI website pertaining to the changes that were made at the June Grand Council Session as requested by our Brothers including the In Memoriam section of the website.
- He also placed a couple of new pictures in the photo section of the Website including a picture of the first place winners in the recently held Bocce Ball Tournament.
- A picture from Council #613's Tribute to Elvis event and the Italian Heritage Day Parade that was in San Francisco on October 13, 2019 was added.
- He has requested the webmaster to place Council #40's upcoming Breuer Webbered Turkey Holiday event on the site.
- The website has been updated with all the current Council newsletters that have been received to date.
- If anyone has a newsletter that they want to be placed on the website, please send it to me. I am only getting a few.
- He attended Council #613's business meeting in September and October and plans to continue advertising the Pasta Bingo dinner scheduled in two weeks.
- He will be attending Council #613's Hour of Memory Mass and Dinner tomorrow and will be handing out flyers for the Pasta Bingo Dinner as well.
- He attended Council #613's Italian Heritage Day Parade.
- He made contact with the SSF Police Department and the ABC Alcohol Beverage Commission to obtain a permit and license to hold the Past Bingo event and to serve alcoholic beverages.

- He coordinated with Council #613, #32 and #1 Brothers to put on the Pasta Bingo event and did a lot of running around to pick up food and material that is needed.
- He also purchased 50 YMI hats, picked them up and delivered them to the World Headquarters.

Br. Tom Fourie reported on a lengthy list of activities completed by the Grand Council Office since the last Board meeting on September 14, 2019, which included the following:

- a. Completed the updating of Council #92's membership paper work.
- b. Updated YMI computer file for YMI By-Law changes from Convention.
- c. Prepared and sent out the September 14, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting minutes.
- d. Attended High School Night for future students to learn that the cost per year is now at \$22,000 per child per year as a base tuition fee.
- e. Traveled for 10 days to Westfield, New Jersey
- f. Prepared the YMI October bills.
- g. Opened and recorded Pro Patria Raffle returns.
- h. Made flight, car and hotel reservations for the Indiana Official Visit.
- i. Attended #613's Elvis Tribute Night.
- j. Attended #32's Business Meeting and Anniversary Social
- k. Spent three days in the wine country before the fires.
- l. Spent several phone calls, etc. with Br. Scot Blessinger of Council #497.
- m. Welcomed home for nine days our daughter and two grand children from New Jersey.
- n. Performed an inventory of the supply of current YMI pins.
- o. Forwarded the agenda and Grand Treasurer's reports for the November 2, 2019 Board Meeting.

Brother Fourie reported on missing Semi Annual Reports: Council #8 (Page 1), Council #40, Council #54, Council #60 (breaking news, it arrived), Council #94, Council #100, Council #497, Council #573 and Council #612.



Brother Fourie reported on missing assessment payments: Council #40, Council #59, Council #80, Council #94, Council #100 (two assessments in arrears), and Council #573.

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

Chairman of the Board, Brother Mario De Vita, requested reports from Grand Directors serving on Grand Council Committees.

**Audit** (Br. Steve Cresci, Chr.): No report at this time, however, several Councils need to be visited (e.g. #100) as soon as the Semi Annual Reports are turned in this September. (Still waiting for the reports).

**Budget** (Br. Jack Albrecht, Chr.): The committee will begin meeting in February 2020. Will need information on future Insurance Assessments.

**Coordinating** (Br. Mike Thissen, Chr.): Nothing to report.

**Ceremonials** (Br. Angel Vera #40, Chr.): No report at this time.

**Grand Session Planning Committee** (Br. Tom Fourie, Chr.) – nothing has happened since the last meeting..contract signed.

**Institute Journal** (Br. Tom Fourie, Chr.) – Brother Fourie reported that the Winter Issue is in the process of being put together. He needs articles on the following topics:

- a. Two pages from the Education Foundation (received)
- b. Possible page from the Seminarian Foundation (11/7 ??)
- c. Grand President's article for Page 1
- d. Essay and Raffle Reminder Article
- e. Bocce Ball summary article
- f. Parade Article (?)
- g. State of the Institute (received)
- h. Br. Franceshine's article (Xmas) (received)
- i. Grand Council Session article
- j. New Members
- k. Deceased Members
- l. YMI pins
- m. Red and White Mass
- n. Ed. Memorials
- o. Anything else we can think of

**Laws and Revisions** (Br. Matt Nelson, Chr) – nothing to report at this time.

**Man of the Year and Council of the Year** (Br. Bob Bartoli, Chr.) – form needs to be updated.

**Membership** (Br. Steve Cresci and Br Darrell Fonseca Co-Chr.): Brother Cresci said he would be in touch with Br. Darrell in the immediate future. Twenty new members from Tracy Council #92.

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

**Reserve Fund** (Br. Jack Albrecht, Chr.) – The balances in the reserve funds were read by the Grand Treasurer. All is well at this time.

**Resolutions** (Br. Nick Franceschine, Chr.): no report at this time but is always open to suggestions for next year.

**State of the Institute** (Br. Michael Nelson, IPGP, Chr.): Journal Article has been received.

**Workshop Committee** (Brother Tom Fourie): will be ready in June 2020.

## **Unfinished Business**

The 135<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session will be held at the Silver Legacy Hotel in Reno, Nevada on June 21-25, 2020. The contract has been signed.

The Bowling Tournament will not be held in 2019.

Br. Franceschine reported he had received the statistics from Br. Fourie regarding birth years of Benefit members (1222 members). He has reviewed all the information regarding the balances in our Death Benefit Reserves and its future disposition. He made a positive suggestion that the Benefit could be raised to \$2000 without any problem for the Order. This change needs to be in the form of a proposal sent to the State of the Institute Committee for their review and possible presentation at the Grand Council Session in 2020 for a vote. The Insurance Committee Chairman, Br. Cresci, will work on this proposal with Br. Franceschine.

## **New Business**

Brother Amato requested that the Grand Council Session Committee consider Lake Tahoe for the 2021 Grand Council Session.

### **Immediate Past Grand President Report**

Brother Nelson's reports are listed previously in these minutes.

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

Father Agnel continues to pray for all of us.

### **Good of the Order**

Brother Fourie surfaced comments made during the Education Foundation's recent meeting. These comments revolved around the current Pro Patria Essay Contest and Raffle. Brother Fourie made it very clear that the Pro Patria Essay Contest and Raffle are not the business in any way of the Education Foundation. The Contest and Raffle are under the auspices of Grand Council and specifically the Grand First Vice President.

### **Closing Prayer**

The closing prayer was led by Brother Mc Cann said by all, thanking all for participating and to please remember all veterans and also to pray for all YMI Brothers in poor health and those recently deceased .

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

The next meeting is at the World Headquarters on January 11, 2020.

Respectfully submitted, yours for God and Country,

*Michael Dimech #613*

**Grand Secretary**

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