

**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, March 21, 2020 via the YMI Conference Call.

**Opening Prayer**

The opening prayer, led by Past Grand President and Business Manager Tom Fourie as provided by Grand Chaplain Father Agnel asked for the Lord's intervention into the present world crisis of the coronavirus. This prayer was provided at the request of Grand Director Steve Cresci.

**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 all via the conference call: Grand Directors Mario De Vita, Bob Fiorito, Darrell Fonseca, Steve Cresci, Jim Rohe, Domenic Carinalli , Matt Nelson; Grand President Mike Thissen, Grand First Vice President Michael Amato, Grand Second Vice President Nick Franceschine, Grand Secretary Mike Dimech, Grand Treasurer Jack Albrecht, Grand Marshal Bill Avery, Grand Chaplain Father Agnel and Immediate Past Grand President Mike Nelson.

The following Grand Officers were excused by Chairman of the Board, Brother Mario De Vita: Grand Director Angel Vera, Grand Inside Sentinel Charlie Wallin, and Grand Outside Sentinel Chris McCann.

The following YMI Brothers were in attendance: Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP and Business Manager, Brother Bob Bartoli #32, PGP and Technology Consultant.

## **Reading of the Minutes**

The minutes from the January 11, 2020 Meeting of the Board of Grand Directors were reviewed.

Brother Cresci requested a change on page 7 to the Membership Report stating that the meeting was in November at the Rolling Pin restaurant.

**MSC** – Fonseca/De Vita – unanimous – that the minutes of the January 11, 2020 Meeting 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 (February and March), Council #2 (February), Council #8 (February and March), Council #32 (February and March), Council #40 (February and March), Council #59 (March), Council #80 (February), Council #497 (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter), Council #573 (February), Council #613 (February and March).
- Cover letter from March 1 inviting all Grand Officers, DDGP, and PGPs to the Convention.
- Cover letter from March 5 for Council Convention Packets.
- Copy of the Council Participation List.
- Copy of the March 9 letter thanking judges for the Essay Contest.
- Assessment #178 letter.
- SAR letter for March 31.
- E-mail special message to Grand Officers from February 23.
- One copy of the Voice of YLI.
- One copy of the Catholic Herald.
- Five copies of the Catholic Voice.

## **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 February 2020, were the expense spreadsheet and the income spreadsheet for the 2019-2020 year thus far.

**MSC** – Fiorito/Carinalli – 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. – there has been no change since the January 11, 2020 Grand Directors Meeting.

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

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

Brother Fourie reported on an aspect of future Long Range Planning connected with the written history of the YMI. The last document was published in 2000 and previously had been published in 1948. Given the state of the current archives, this type of record could serve the order well. It will also provide the Archives Committee and the Long Range Planning Committee some very serious and necessary work for this coming YMI year.

Council Activities – Br. Domenic Carinalli, Chr. – nothing to formally report by the chairman at this time, however, Br. Fourie reported that the Grand Council Office had received two announcements (one from Council 54 for their Corned Beef Dinner and one from Council #40 for their Polenta Dinner).

Insurance – Br. Cresci, Chr. – having nothing to report the chairman turned the report over to Br. Fourie. Br. Tom reported the receipt of an e-mail reminding the YMI that the present policy ends on June 18, 2020 and if there was anything the group wanted to change for the next year's policy. Br. Fourie asked that the current policy remain in place for next year with new membership figures of the YMI being provided sometime during the month of May.

Fund Raising – Brother Bob Fiorito, Chr. – there was nothing to formally report at this time.

Supplies – Brother Domenic Carinalli, Chr. – The chairman had nothing to report at this time. Br. Fourie informed the Officers that he had ordered and received the next three Grand President pocket lapel insignias. These symbols are presented to the Grand President when he completes his term of office.

## **Grand President's Report**

Grand President Thissen reported on the following items:

He had nothing to report from the District Deputy Grand Presidents.

He visited the San Francisco District in January and the Hawaii District in February and both were very good trips and enjoyed them.

Brother Bartoli, on behalf of the Education Foundation reported that there were still three students on the rolls receiving checks from the YMI towards their education. The Foundation will meet again April 2020.

Brother Fourie reported that the Seminarian Foundation is scheduled to meet the first week of May and will consider seminarian requests for financial assistance at that time.

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

Brother Michael Amato reported that he had sent an e-mail out to the Officers the previous Monday outlining his report. He spoke to the

good year of the Essay Contest and the Pro Patria Raffle (\$17,000.00). Eighteen of the twenty-one Councils bought tickets. Given the fact that the raffle was not held the week previous due to the cancellation of the Red and White Mass, the raffle drawing will take place now. Pat Fourie pulled the winning tickets from the Lunardi grocery bag at the World Headquarters and Br. Fourie announced the names on the tickets. He thanked Br. Fourie for all the raffle updates and the coordination of the essay judging.

All present congratulated Br. Amato on this fantastic report and especially for his work and support of the contest and essays. He was applauded by everyone from their homes.

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

Brother Nick Franceschine reported he had a brief report given the fact that the Red and White Mass had to be cancelled. He reported that he had sent out an e-mail on the cancellation and thanked all the Brothers, especially from his Council, who had helped with all the preparations. He specifically thanked several members of Grand Council for the support and input.

### **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 continues to update the information on the Website.
- He is working on the ordering of new polo YMI shirts and will look into having a picture of the logo and the possibility of long sleeve shirts.
- He reported that he had a tentative date for the next Pasta/Bingo Dinner in November of 2020.

Br. Tom Fourie reported on a lengthy list of activities that had been e-mailed to all the Officers earlier:

- a. One of two major efforts was recording the daily sales of Pro Patria Raffle tickets and preparing the bank deposits.

- b. Second major effort (time wise) was helping with the judging of the Pro Patria Essays together with Br. Mike Amato. A very time consuming job, but worth it for about 1000 essays. Preparing the packets to be judged; distribute; record scores; prepare essays, entry forms and individual certificates, request checks for winners and prepare envelopes to return to the Councils.
- c. Attended the Grand President's Official Visit at Council #613.
- d. Expedited Death Benefit requests.
- e. Prepared Grand Council bills for February and March.
- f. Hosted the Convention Planning Committee Meeting, then arranging the Monday Dinner at the Church, gathered other reservations, prepared the registration form and sent to Officers, etc. and then prepared the Council packets and mailed (very time consuming).
- g. Replaced the drum and toner in our new copy machine.
- h. Attended #32's meetings and socials.
- i. Hosted the Education Foundation Meeting
- j. Many calls to Council #100.
- k. Worked as nurse for two weeks (Pat had cataract surgery on both eyes).
- l. Hosted the YMI Budget Committee meeting.
- m. Provided information to Br. Nick Franceschine for the R & W Mass/Dinner.
- n. Prepared for mailing Assessment #178 and the Semi Annual Reports for March 31, 2020.
- o. Numerous other little things – e-mails, phone calls, etc.

Brother Fourie updated late Assessment payments. Council #59 had been contacted and they sent in their check. Council #40 was contacted (spoke to their President Brother Vera) and learned that their Treasurer was in the hospital and he would take care of it. **BREAKING NEWS SINCE THE MEETING...THE CHECKS FROM #40 HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.**

As far as Bakersfield Council #100 is concerned, they received the letter from the Grand Secretary about their financial situation and charter as a Council, yet there was no response. Last week Br. Fourie contacted his one Brother in Bakersfield that was doing his best, and found out that they thought there was some form to fill out.

They were told there was not a form, just a check to get back into good graces. The day before this meeting a check was received paying all owed Assessments.

## **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.

**Budget** (Br. Jack Albrecht, Chr.): The committee had met and the Grand Treasurer provided the Board of Grand Directors with the Operating Budget of YMI for the year 2020-2021. He reviewed those items which were changed from previous budgets and explained why. He answered questions

**MSC** – Fiorito/Nelson – unanimous – that the 2020-2021 YMI Operating Budget presented be accepted.

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

**Ceremonials** (Br. Angel Vera #40, Chr.): It was reported at this time that PGP Luther Evans had been awarded an honor by the City of Atwater, CA for his work in service protection at the February City Council Meeting in honor of Black History Month.

**Grand Session Planning Committee** (Br. Tom Fourie, Chr.) – defer to Unfinished Business.

**Institute Journal** (Br. Tom Fourie, Chr.) – Brother Fourie reported that he is preparing the Spring Issue and that he is still in need of the following articles:

- a. Grand President's article for Page 1
- b. Final List of Candidates for Grand Council Office
- c. State of the Institute Report
- d. Any additional info on Br. Evans award
- e. Article from Br. Amato – final report on Raffle/Essay Contest
- f. Article from Br. Dimech – Bocce Tournament
- g. Anything else one would like to offer

This issue will be completed by March 31, 2020.

**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.) – the application forms are printed in the Institute Journal and also appear on the website.

**Membership** (Br. Steve Cresci and Br Darrell Fonseca Co-Chr.): - nothing to report at this time.

**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. We have been informed by our chief investor to continue business as usual.

**Resolutions** (Br. Nick Franceschine, Chr.): no report at this time but is always open to suggestions for next year. The deadline is June 1, 2020.

**State of the Institute** (Br. Michael Nelson, IPGP, Chr.): nothing to report at this time, still waiting for the proposal that was promised at the last meeting. Br. Cresci will send another copy right away.

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

## **Unfinished Business**

Given the current pandemic throughout the world, the decision on the 135<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session will be made on Monday evening, April 13, 2020 in a special meeting of the Board of Grand Directors. The meeting will be a conference call meeting for all Officers. An e-mail will be sent out by the Chairman of the Board reminding all of this most important meeting.

The status of the Grand Council Golf Tournament will also be determined at this April 13, 2020 meeting.

Br. Fourie announced that despite the decision on the Grand Council Session, the Advance Proceedings will still be published. He had sent out an e-mail earlier this week, listing all the reports that were needed and which YMI Brothers were responsible. The deadline for all these reports is May 1, 2020.



## **New Business**

Brother Fourie reported on those Brothers who have announced their candidacy for Grand Council Office 2020-2021.

Grand President – Br. Michael Amato #613  
Grand First Vice President – Br. Nick Franceschine #54  
Grand Secretary – Br. Michael Dimech #613  
Grand Treasurer – Br. Jack Albrecht #1  
Grand Marshal – Br. Bob Fiorito #613  
Grand Outside Sentinel – Br. Christopher McCann #8  
Grand Director – Br. Jim Rohe #497  
Grand Director – Br. Bill Avery, #80

Openings still exist for Grand Second Vice President, Grand Inside Sentinel and two positions as Grand Director.

Those interested are to contact Br. Fourie as soon as possible.

Grand Director Mario De Vita asked Br. Fourie if he and his staff would consider staying on in their positions for the next YMI year (2020-2021). After careful consideration Br. Fourie agreed to remain for another year.

**MSC** – Carinalli/Fiorito – Unanimous – to extend the current contract of the Business Manager for one additional year.

## **Immediate Past Grand President Report**

Brother Nelson had already given his report.

## **Grand Chaplain's Report**

Father Agnel briefly reported on the position of the Church during this pandemic. He asked that all pray, go to Mass on-line, and do the best we can for all.

## **Good of the Order**

Happy Birthday to Br. Domenic Carinalli.

Brother Bob announced that he had submitted \$300 from the Super Bowl Pool.

The SSF #32 Bocce tournament for May 9, 2020 is on hold.

Everyone commented on the best Pro Patria raffle in history – again congratulating Br. Amato for his job.

Brother Fonseca reminded everyone to pray the rosary during these terrible times.

### **Closing Prayer**

The closing prayer was led by Father Agnel, asking blessings on all families, medical personnel, firemen/police, and may all remain safe.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

The next meeting is at the World Headquarters/Conference Call on May 16, 2020.

Respectfully submitted, yours for God and Country,

*Michael Dimech #613*

**Grand Secretary**

*Thomas A. Fourie #32, PGP*

**Business Manager**

