

**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 8:01 a.m. on Saturday, May 16, 2020 via the YMI Conference Call.

**Opening Prayer**

The opening prayer, led by Past Grand President and Business Manager Tom Fourie, asked for the Lord's intervention into the present world crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**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, 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 Chaplain Father Agnel, 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, District Deputy Alex Schmitt #8 and District Deputy Steve May #40.

## **Reading of the Minutes**

The minutes from the March 21, 2020 Meeting of the Board of Grand Directors were reviewed.

**MSC** – Cresci/Fonseca – unanimous – that the minutes of the March 21, 2020 Meeting of the Board of Grand Directors be approved as presented.

The minutes from the special April 13, 2020 Meeting of the Board of Grand Directors were reviewed.

**MSC** – Cresci/Rohe- unanimous – that the minutes of the special April 13, 2020 Meeting of the Board of Grand Directors be approved as presented.

## **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 (April and May), Council #2 (March and April), Council #8 (April), Council #32 (April and May), Council #40 (May), Council #573 (April), Council #613 (April and May).
- Certificate of recognition sent to Br. William Hansen #10/#900 as a 50-year member.
- Cover letter sent to Pro Patria Raffle Winners.
- List of Council Presidents, telephone numbers and talking points for contacts made regarding the GC Session change.
- Letters from Candidates: Brothers Darrell Fonseca, Cosmo Amato and Alex Schmitt.
- One copy of the Voice of the YLI.
- Two copies of the Catholic Voice.
- One copy of the Catholic Herald.

## **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 April 2020, were the expense spreadsheet and the income spreadsheet for the 2020-2021 year thus far. Very little activity thus far this year.

**MSC** – Carinalli/Fiorito – Unanimous - that the Grand Treasurer's Reports 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. – Brother Fourie provided a lengthy and historical review of the YMI Archives. He reviewed the Archives path beginning at 50 Oak Street in San Francisco, then to the office in Pacifica, followed by a trip to Ripon, California (courtesy of Brother Jerry DeGroot). Each year the Business Manager and Treasurer would bring documents deemed important to the Grand Council and place them in the Archives. Unfortunately, several years ago on their trip to Ripon they found that much of what had been in storage was no longer there. Many items had been taken from the closets and thrown out. Given the health of Brother DeGroot, there was no way to accurately report what happened to these documents. However, what was still remaining was immediately moved to Council #32's YMI closet at All Souls Catholic School in South San Francisco. The boxes, etc. are in need of another cleaning along with other Archive materials that have been uncovered in the YMI cabinet at the home of the Business Manager and in the garages, etc. of other Brothers. A complete inventory of all current Archive items needs to be taken and presented to the Board of Grand Directors. Given the current pandemic, access to the closet at All Souls needs to be arranged. Br. Bartoli will contact Brother Luis Alvarenga #32 for his help in accessing the school as soon as possible. The following Brothers volunteered to be part of a committee to complete this task: Brothers Bob Bartoli, Mike Dimech, Jack Albrecht, Steve Cresci and Tom Fourie. Others would always be welcome. A timeline of June/July is hopeful for this endeavor.

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

Long Range Planning – Br. Matt Nelson, Chr. – the chairman had submitted the committee's report to the Business Manager for the Advance Proceedings.

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 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 following the receipt of all Council's Semi Annual Reports. As in the past, one check is sent to pay the yearly cost and avoid monthly service charges.

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.

## **Grand President's Report**

Grand President Thissen did not have much to report at this time. He did mention that most if not all of the Councils are not meeting at this time due to the pandemic. He had missed the conference call for the Seminarian Meeting. He had nothing to report from the District Deputy Grand Presidents.

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 provide names for new directorships for the Foundation as a part of the internet Grand Council Session this year.

Brother Fourie reported that the Seminarian Foundation did meet using the conference call. He reported that 37 seminarians had applied for financial assistance this year totaling \$21,200. Six Councils sponsored Seminarians this year, however, not the large group from Indiana. Checks will be sent to the sponsoring Councils in June.

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

Brother Michael Amato reported that he had been busy working on his platform/program for next year. He was also involved with the Man/Council of the year committee and reviewing nominations. He also had been exchanging ideas with the Grand Second Vice President concerning next years Pro Patria Essay Contest and Raffle. He then read a thank you letter from one of the students who had been a winner in this year's Pro Patria Essay Contest (Megan Dunbar from Holy Family School in San Jose). He made note of how important the essay contest is to not only the YMI but to the students.

### **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 due to the pandemic. He thanked all Brothers for their support and especially to those Brothers who told Council #54 to keep their reservation money to help pay for any expenses. He is preparing potential essay contest questions for next year and plans to increase the prize monies and raffle monies for the Essay Contest.

### **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 made several updates to the Website as requested by our Brothers and individual Councils, including adding many Council newsletters that have been submitted by our Business Manager.
- If there are any other Councils that would like to advertise an upcoming Council event, please let him know and he will send this information to the Webmaster. Please take a look at our website when you get a chance.
- He attended and participated in the special Board Meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup> and sent the Business Manager the minutes from this meeting.
- He also attended and participated in the Seminarian meeting on May 7, 2020.
- He sent in four articles to the Business Manager that he was responsible for in reference to the Advance Proceedings.

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

- a. Forwarded Pro Patria Raffle Winners to the Grand Treasurer to write checks, then prepared them for mailing.
- b. Prepared Council packet envelopes and mailed and stuffed with student essays, list of winners and winners checks.
- c. Did all necessary work to complete the next issue of the Institute Journal, edit, work with Mrs. Fondale, e-mail.
- d. On-going (daily basis) of gathering all information for the Advance Proceedings (still a work in progress).
- e. Prepare up-to-date information for the Special Board Meeting on April 13, 2020.
- f. Prepared YMI bills for March and April.
- g. Sent 3/21/20 Board Minutes out.
- h. Congratulate the Bartolis on becoming Grandparents..Go Luca!
- i. Send/receive paperwork for Assessment #178 and March 31 Semi Annual Reports.
- j. Review and double check all information contained on the Semi Annual Reports.
- k. Cleaned out YMI cabinet in garage and file cabinet in the office.
- l. Several conference call meetings with the Grand Council Session Planning Committee.

- m. ZOOM meeting for #613's essay awards presentation.
- n. Sent out minutes of the 4/13/2020 Board meeting.
- o. Participated in both the Education and Seminarian Foundation meetings.
- p. Assisted in contacting "quiet" Councils about their participation.
- q. Gathering e-mail addresses for all delegates to the 135<sup>th</sup> GC Session
- r. Personally had positive telephone conversations with over 100 YMI Brothers.
- s. Missing Assessments #178: Council #100 and Council #497
- t. Missing Semi Annual Reports: Council #40, #100 and #497

### **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.): Not much to report. Councils need to review and ask for help on procedures and coordinate with the new Grand President.

**Budget** (Br. Jack Albrecht, Chr.): The committee had met and the Grand Treasurer provided the Board of Grand Directors with the budget and it was accepted. Will appear in the Advance Proceedings for the delegates to vote.

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

**Ceremonials** (Br. Angel Vera #40, Chr.): Nothing to report.

**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 Summer/Fall issue for August.

**Laws and Revisions** (Br. Matt Nelson, Chr) – submitted their article for the Advance Proceedings.

**Man of the Year and Council of the Year** (Br. Bob Bartoli, Chr.) – reviewing all applications submitted.

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

**Organization** (Br. Michael Dimech, Chr.): submitted his report for the Advance Proceedings.

**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.): Brother Amato had e-mailed a request for a resolution and Br. Nick is working on the document.

**State of the Institute** (Br. Michael Nelson, IPGP, Chr.): received one proposal concerning the change in Death Benefits. Has submitted the report for the Advance Proceedings.

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

## **Unfinished Business**

The Golf Tournament has been cancelled. The Golf Course appreciated the cancellation as they were in a quandary on how to run the tournament due to the pandemic. The Tournament will be held in Santa Rosa next year.

Br. Fourie had announced previously that despite the decision on the Grand Council Session, the Advance Proceedings will still be published. He thanked all the officers for submitting their reports by the first week of May. The Proceedings are now at 118 pages and they are being proof read. It appears we will have the largest number of Brothers participating over the internet – 103 possible voting Delegates. We will be using Google to produce the e-mail ballot and this is being prepared by Bob and Nancy Bartoli.

Candidates have been secured for all Grand Council offices.

## **New Business**

Brother Michael Amato has worked on his Grand President's Program (only 32 pages). His theme for next year revolves around St. John Bosco and his philosophy. He has spoken to many Brothers for Committee Assignments and District Deputy positions. He has sought out candidates for Grand Council Office especially in both Hawaii and Indiana. All offices have candidates now and they are running unopposed.



The Board has arranged for a conference call on June 13, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for any delegate to call and ask questions regarding the Advance Proceedings and their voting options. All Grand Officers and representatives from the two Foundations will be on the line to answer any questions.

The next meeting for the Board of Grand Directors will be July 25, 2020. Time will be needed prior to the meeting to collect all the information for Grand Council Session minutes. Brother Steve Cresci will serve as acting Chairman to begin the meeting and then the full Board will elect their permanent Chairman and Vice Chairman for the 2020-2021 year. Following this election, the regular meeting will ensue.

Brother Mario reported that the Business Manger's contract for 2020-2021 has been signed.

Brother Amato thanked the Officers who will be leaving the Board for their service during these past years.

Brother Steve May was asked to work with Grand Director Angel Vera as far as participating in Board Meetings and sharing what was covered in today's meeting.

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

Brother Nelson had already given his report.

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

Father Agnel continues to pray for all of us.

### **Good of the Order**

Br. Amato reported that he still does not have a chairman for a Bowling Tournament next year.

## **Closing Prayer**

The closing prayer was led by Brother Nick Franceschine.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

The next meeting is at the World Headquarters/Conference Call on July 25, 2020.

Respectfully submitted, yours for God and Country,

*Michael Dimech #613*

**Grand Secretary**

*Thomas A. Fourie #32, PGP*

**Business Manager**