

**Young Men's Institute**  
**Board of Grand Directors**  
**Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2021**

**Call to Order** – Chairman of the Board, Brother Steve Cresci #32, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**Opening Prayer** – The opening prayer was led by Brother Michael Amato #613, GP praying for all our Brothers during this time of the Covid-19 pandemic and especially the members of the YMI who had died recently as well as their family members.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brother Bob Fiorito #613, GM.

**Roll Call** – Brother Michael Dimech #613, GS, called the roll for all Grand Council Officers and District Deputy Grand Presidents as well as other Brothers in attendance. He found that the following Brothers were present:

Steve Cresci #32, GD

Jim Rohe #612, GD

Bill Avery #80, GD

Alex Schmitt #8, GD and DDGP

Paul Larson #32, GD

Angel Vera #40, GD

Tommy Figueira #573, GD and DDGP

Michael Amato #613, GP

Nick Franceschine #54, GFVP

Darrell Fonseca #99, GSVP and DDGP

Michael Thissen #94, IPGP

Michael Dimech #613, GS

Jack Albrecht #32, GT

**Bob Fiorito #613, GM**

**Cosmo Amato #613, GOS and DDGP**

**Christopher McCann #8, Grand Inside Sentinel**

**Tom Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager**

**Frank DiMaggio #59, DDGP**

**Bob Bartoli #32, PGP, Assistant to the Business Manager**

**Paul Flores #100, DDGP**

**Alex Preciado #2, DDGP**

**The following Brothers were marked as either excused or absent:**

**Domenic Carinalli #54, GD as excused**

**Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, GC as excused**

**Kurt Kuczynski #497, DDGP as absent**

**Steve Ortiiz #80, DDGP as absent**

**Bob Bacchetti #92, DDGP as absent**

**Scott Vogelgesang #612, DDGP as absent**

## **Approval of the Minutes from the Board of Grand Directors**

**January 23, 2021 Meeting – Chairman of the Board, Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the January 23, 2021 Board of Grand Directors meeting. There was one correction at this time: Brother Alex Preciado #2, DDGP was present. Brother Jim Rohe #612, GD made the motion to accept the minutes of January 23, 2021 as corrected and Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously via conference call to accept the motion of the minutes as corrected.**

**Communications - Brother Michael Dimech #613, GS had received one communication – an e-mail from Brother Michael Thissen #94, IPGP concerning the State of the Institute Committee report. He then referred all the Officers to the e-mail previously sent by Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP and Business Manager, who then read the following:**

- 1. Council Bulletins received:**

- a. Council #2: March 2021
  - b. Council #8: February 2021
  - c. Council #32: February 2021 and March 2021
  - d. Council #44: entire calendar year
  - e. Council #573: February 2021
  - f. Council #613: February 2021 and March 2021
2. Acknowledgement card from Mrs. Virginia Schnellenberger on her receipt of the Death Benefit for her husband – Br. Tom Schnellenberger #497 (a member since 1949 and five times President of his Council).
  3. 2021 Bishop’s Annual Appeal brochure for the Sacramento Diocese.
  4. Copy of the “Voice of YLI” – Fall Issue.
  5. One copy of the “Catholic Herald” – Diocese of Sacramento.
  6. Two copies of the “Catholic Voice” – Diocese of Oakland.

**Reports of the Grand Treasurer – Brother Jack Albrecht #32, GT, referred all the officers to the two reports dated February 20, 2021 that had been e-mailed the week prior to this meeting. He assumed that all Officers had received them and had an opportunity to review them. He asked if there were any questions and heard none. Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD asked for a motion to accept the reports as presented. Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD, DDGP made the motion to accept and Brother Paul Larson #32, GD seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously by the Board of Grand Directors. The Grand Treasurer commented on the balances of most of the Grand Council accounts. We were definitely under budget as of this meeting and most of that was of course due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the limited expenses for the Grand Council Officers. Everyone sacrificed much this year.**

**Reports of Grand Directors on the Board of Grand Directors  
Committees for the year 2020-2021 – Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD reviewed the eight committees listed in the meeting agenda.**

- a. Charters/Archives: Brothers Paul Larson #32, GD and Steve Cresci #32, GD – serving as co-chairs
  - i. Brother Larson reported that the committee concluded it would be extremely expensive to outsource the copying of all YMI documents in the Archives – upwards of thousands of dollars. He suggested the purchase of a scanner to copy the documents. This suggestion was tabled until the May meeting of the Board of Grand Directors. Brother Alex

Schmitt #8, GD, DDGP suggested contacting a local library to possibly assist.

- b. **Finance: Brothers Steve Cresci #32, GD as chair, Brother Paul Larson #32, GD**
  - i. This committee reports that all the YMI bills have been paid, signed off and returned to the Grand Council Office.
- c. **Long Range Planning: Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD , DDGP as chair, Brother Tommy Figueira #573, GD, DDGP**
  - i. Brother Schmitt #8, GD reported that he had sent out a draft to the members of the committee. He would once again forward the file to the members so that they can produce the report for the Advance Proceedings this year. At this time, Brother Fourie reminded all Officers that end of year reports for the Advance Proceedings are due to him in the Grand Council Office no later than May 1, 2021. He does not want to use the words “no report submitted” for any committees in the Advance Proceedings.
- d. **Council Activities: Brother Domenic Carinalli #54, GD as chair, Brother Tommy Figueira #573, GD, DDGP, Brother Angel Vera #40, GD**
  - i. Brother Fourie stated there was nothing to report at this time.
- e. **Insurance: Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD as chair, Brother Jim Rohe #612, GD**
  - i. There was nothing to report at this time, however, membership numbers from the March 31, 2021 Semi Annual Report will be needed for the next Insurance cycle beginning on June 18, 2021.
- f. **Supplies: Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD, DDGP as chair, Brother Paul Larson #32, GD**
  - i. There was nothing to report as nothing was purchased this year and very few items were ordered by the Councils.
- g. **Grand Council Session Planning: On behalf of the Committee, Past Grand President Tom Fourie #32 and Business Manager, reported on the work that had taken place by Brothers Michael Amato #613, GP; Bob Bartoli #32, PGP; Michael Dimech #613, PGP, GS and himself. Their efforts were expended on the two hotels in Reno and Lake Tahoe. The committee had reviewed the current restrictions put forth by the Governor of Nevada, information provided by our contacts at the two hotels and the timeline with which we had to work with before June 2021. Grand President Michael Amato #613 felt we were beyond the time to have an in-person meeting at any other site and, as the presiding Grand President, determined it would be best if we have another virtual Convention with more of a complete Zoom session for all delegates.**

- The committee therefore made a motion to have a virtual 136<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session this June 2021. The motion was seconded by both Brother Paul Larson #32, GD and Brother Tommy Figueira #573, GD, DDGP. The motion passed by a vote of 6-1. Brother Fourie again reminded that all reports for the Advance Proceedings were due into the Grand Council Office by May 1, 2021. The committee will hold its next meeting on March 25, 2021 to formally begin the preparations.
- h. Fund-Raising: Brother Domenic Carinalli #54, GD/Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD/Brother Bill Avery #80, GD/Br. Bob Fiorito #613, GM
    - i. There was nothing to report on this topic due to the fact that Covid-19 had kept all opportunities out of the question.

**Grand President's Report** – Grand President Michael Amato #613 had sent out an e-mail containing an outline for his report. All Officers should have received this report. His activities included but were not limited to the following:

- a. He reported on the virtual Council meetings he had participated in including South San Francisco Council #32 together with St. John Bosco Council #613, Francis Council #573, and is planning an outdoor meeting with Sadoc Council #59 and another Zoom conference call with Dos Palos Council #99. A trip to Holy Rosary Council #44 is still possible pending receipt of the Covid vaccination(s).
- b. He has been working with the Grand Secretary to formulate and present a possible By-Law proposal change concerning the eligibility age of becoming a Benefit Member up to age 65.
- b. He did participate via conference call on February 5, 2021 with the Seminarian Education Foundation. The Foundation is on track to award seminarian grants in the Spring of 2021. Their next meeting is scheduled for the first week of May, 2021.
- c. He participated in the January 26 meeting of the Education Foundation and reminded everyone of the April 1, 2021 deadline for participating in the Matching Funds Program. Their next meeting is April 27, 2021.
- d. The Grand President has been actively participating in the work of the Membership Committee and has declared May as Membership Recruitment Month.
- e. On behalf of the YMI and in particular San Francisco Council #1, he was able to present a check of \$100,000 to the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank that will help provide 200,000 meals for those in need.

- f. Additional YMI donations, thanks to San Francisco Council #1, will be presented to Sacred Heart Cathedral and Riordan High Schools.
- g. Spent time trying to work with Bakersfield Council #100 via phone calls and e-mails to bring them back into compliance with Grand Council.
- h. Attended Zoom meetings of St. John Bosco Council #613.

**Grand First Vice President's Report – Brother Nick Franceschine #54,** GFVP updated the Officers on the conclusion of the Pro Patria Essay Contest and corresponding Pro Patria Raffle (the winning tickets are to be pulled during this Board Meeting). He noted that the Business Manager had completed the collection of all essays, prepared and processed them for judging, determined the winners and requested their prize checks. Brother Fourie read off the names of the student winners along with their school and Council sponsorship. Brother Nick reviewed the unique challenges that existed in attempting to have the students participate. Brother Fourie commented on the variety of saints chosen by the middle school students with St. Francis of Assisi being the most popular. The Pro Patria Raffle had ticket sales totaling \$16,419.00 with 15 Councils purchasing tickets, 232 (13.63%) Brothers buying tickets and 28 YLI Institutes supporting the raffle. Brother Nick calculated an additional \$3500 profit from this year's raffle which could be considered for upgrading future prize monies. The raffle was conducted and all congratulated the lucky winners.

**Grand Second Vice President's Report – Brother Darrell Fonseca #99,** GSVP commented on how happy he was to join in the Council #573 Zoom meeting. He reported on the ongoing conversation and planning for the Red and White Mass. He had spoken with Father Agnel as to different scenarios that could be considered as we approach the Grand Council Session (live-stream a Mass from the Grand Chaplain's Parish in connection with the Convention, etc.). Efforts will be continued and a final decision should be forth coming very soon. Now that a final decision has been made for a virtual convention, a serious decision can be made on the Mass. He will be working with the Grand Chaplain along with the Convention Planning Committee and soon we will be able to pray together.

**Grand Secretary's Report -** The Grand Secretary highlighted the following for his report:

- a. He requested several updates from our Webmaster to our YMI Website.
- b. Council newsletters that were received from the Business Manager have been uploaded onto the YMI website.
- c. He attended Council #613's February and March Business meetings as he is the Secretary for that Council.
- d. He attended Francis Council #573's February 21, 2021 Business Meeting that was coordinated by Br. Tommy Figueira #573, GD, DDGP over Zoom.
- e. The Grand Secretary reported that he attended both the Education Foundation meeting on January 26 and the Seminarian Education Foundation Meeting on February 5.
- f. He has spent a great amount of time working on a By-Law proposal for the State of the Institute which will be discussed later in this meeting.
- g. He also met with the State of the Institute Committee on March 4, 2021.
- h. The Grand Secretary met with the Convention Planning Committee on March 2, 2021 and again will meet on March 25, 2021.
- i. He is continuing to work on updating the history section of the YMI website.
- j. He also assisted in judging Pro Patria essays.

**Business Manager Report** - The Business Manager reviewed the work of the Grand Council Office since January 23, 2021 that was made available on the present e-mail.

- a. Delivered Council newsletters to the Grand Secretary
- b. Processed Death Benefit claims thru the office of the Grand Treasurer
- c. Participated in monthly Zoom meetings of South San Francisco Council #32
- d. Participated in a Zoom meeting of Francis Council #573 in Papaikou, Hawaii
- e. Collected and recorded Pro Patria Raffle ticket sales almost daily
- f. Collected all entries for the Pro Patria Essay contest, prepared each entry for judging, prepared packets to distribute to judges, distributed packets, recorded scoring by all judges, determined winners of the contest, prepared a certificate of participation for each entrant, requested prize checks from the Grand Treasurer, prepared return packets for each Council
- g. Prepared YMI bills for February and March 2021
- h. Met with members of the Grand Council Session Planning Committee
- i. Attended YMI Educational Foundation Meeting
- j. Sent out Board Meeting Minutes from January 23, 2021
- k. Attended YMI Seminarian Education Foundation Meeting

- I. And much more**
- m. Preparing for Assessments, Semi-Annual Reports, Institute Journal, Advance Proceedings, etc.**

**Grand Directors Reports from Grand Council Committees – Br. Cresci #32, GD requested reports from Grand Directors on the following committees:**

**Audit Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80, GD: Br. Darrell Fonseca #99, GSVP: Nothing to report at this time.**

**Budget Committee – Br. Steve Cresci #32, GD: Brother Albrecht #32, GT reported that given this year' uniqueness, the same Budget for Grand Council from 2020-2021 will be used for next year 2021-2022.**

**Reserve Committee – Br. Steve Cresci #32, GD: Brother Albrecht #32, GT gave his report and the Officers were appreciative.**

**Coordinating Committee – Br. Alex Schmitt #8, GD: There was nothing to report at this time.**

**Ceremonials Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32, GD: The Committee Chairman (Br. Phil Oberst #32, PGP) has already submitted his report for the Advance Proceedings.**

**Institute Journal Committee – Br. Jim Rohe #612, GD: Brother Fourie #32, PGP and Journal Editor: currently the editor is attempting to pursue the following articles for the next issue – GP article (complete), Membership Committee article (complete), Educational Memorials (complete), pictures from newly ordained priest and SF/Marin Food Bank (complete), Deceased Brothers (complete), Essay Winners (now complete), Candidates for Grand Council Office (incomplete), New Members (complete), Man of Year/Council of Year (incomplete), State of Institute Proposals (incomplete), Red and White Mass (incomplete), Convention (incomplete), etc.**

**Laws & Revisions Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80, GD: Brother Fourie read a report from the Chairman of the Committee, Brother Rob Bartoli #32. The report detailed the receipt of updated By-Laws from Sebastopol Council #54 which had been reviewed and found to be in order and the committee urged a motion to accept the updated By-Laws document. A motion by Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD, seconded by Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD, DDGP was made and the Grand Directors voted unanimously to accept the report.**

**Man and Council of the Year Committee – Br. Domenic Carinalli, #54, GD: Brother Bartoli #32, PGP inquired if the Grand Officers would like to continue this**



tradition given the Covid-19 restrictions. The Officers said to advertise this program again this year.

**Membership Committee – Br. Steve Cresci #32, GD, Br. Jim Rohe #612, GD:** The hard working Brothers of the Membership Committee have been meeting. A summary article of their efforts (Membership Corner) will appear in the next issue of the Institute Journal. Also, May has been declared Membership Month by the Grand President.

**Organization Committee – Br. Tommy Figueira #573, GD:** Nothing to report at this time.

**Resolutions Committee – Br. Angel Vera #40, GD:** Nothing to report at this time. Any submissions should be received by the third week of April by the Committee.

**State of the Institute Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80, GD:** Brother Thissen #94 IPGP reported he had received a proposal for a change to Article IV, Section 5. The committee had reviewed the proposed change and have forwarded it to the Grand Council Office to be published in the Institute Journal as well as the Advance Proceedings. A vote will be taken on this proposal during the Grand Council Session. A second proposal also was received concerning age of Benefit members. Given the nature of this change the committee has asked that it be reviewed by a knowledgeable lawyer and reported back. Brother Frank Lima was mentioned as the first to contact. A group of Grand Council Officers will proceed with this effort and get back to the State of the Institute Committee. A vote was requested for funds to pursue the legal question involved with this proposal. A motion by Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD and seconded by Brother Angel Vera #40, GD to provide the necessary funds for a legal inquiry was made and passed unanimously by the Board. Given the nature of the proposal, the Officers stated that it should be done in a correct and formal manner. The committee consisted of Br. Dimech #613, PGP, GS; Br. Amato #613 GP; Br. Avery #80, GD; Br. Thissen #94 IPGP and Br. Franceschine #54, GFVP.

**Workshop Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32, GD:** Nothing to report at this time.

**Chairmen of the Sports Group of Committees were announced as follows:**

**Bowling – no chairman as of this date, no report**

**Bocce – Brother Michael Dimech #613, PGP, GS - postponed**

**Golf – Brother Bob Fiorito #613, GM – no tournaments can be scheduled at this time. Looks like we will have to cancel the tournament this year. The Grand Directors concur to cancel this year's tournament.**

## **Unfinished Business –**

**At the beginning of this meeting, Brother Paul Flores #100, DDGP was able to join the phone conference and asked that the matter of Council #100 be taken up at that time. The Board agreed and were briefed by Brother Flores on the situation in Bakersfield, CA. He stated that there were 10 members who wished to see the Council continue. He was reminded that the Council had been suspended and nothing could be accomplished until past assessments were paid and an up to date Semi-Annual Report was received by the Grand Council Office. He claimed that the check was in the mail. The Grand Directors discussed the current situation and determined that the suspension would be in place until the May Board Meeting when Brother Fourie would report on receiving the missing documents and check. At that time a decision on the dissolution or re-instatement of the Council would be considered. A motion by Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD, DDGP and seconded by Brother Bill Avery 80, GD to extend the current suspension of Bakersfield Council #100 to the May meeting of the Board of Grand Directors was made and unanimously approved by the Board.**

**New Business – there was none presented.**

**Immediate Past Grand President's Report – Brother Michael Thissen #94, IPGP – no report at this time.**

**Grand Chaplain's Report – Father Agnel was absent due to celebrating Confirmation at his parish.**

**Good of the Order –**

**The next Board meeting is set for May 15, 2021 via a Zoom call.**

**Closing Prayer – Benediction was recited and Br. Charlie Wallin was kept in our prayers for continued good health.**

**Adjournment – 12:06 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Br. Michael Dimech, #613, GS, PGP**

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