

Young Men's Institute
Board of Grand Directors
Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2023

Call to Order — Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. PST via a Zoom Conference Call.

Opening Prayer — The opening prayer was offered by Grand Chaplain, Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, GC prior to his leaving for his 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. John's Catholic Church, asking for God's blessings on all Brothers present.

Pledge of Allegiance — the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brother Darrell Fonseca, #99, Grand President.

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:

Grand Officers:

Bill Walls #80, GD
Alex Preciado #2, GD, DDGP
Alex Schmitt #8, GD, DDGP
Tommy Figueira #573, GD
Domenic Carinalli #54, GD
Paul Larson #32, GD
Darrell Fonseca #99, GP
Steve Cresci #32, GFVP
Bill Avery #80, GSVP
Nick Franceschine #54, IPGP
Rev. Angel De Heredia #32, GC
Michael Dimech #613, GS

Jack Albrecht #32, GT

Cosmo Amato #613, GIS

Bob Fiorito #613, GOS

Tom Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager

Bob Bartoli #32, PGP, Assistant Business Manager

Frank DiMaggio #59, PGP, DDGP

Michael Amato #613, PGP, DDGP

Grand Officers who asked to be excused:

Bill McNeany #40, GD, DDGP

Eugene Espinola #94, GD

Phil Fondale #900, GM, DDGP

Clement Gusman #573, DDGP

Grand Officers marked absent:

Steve Ortiz #80, DDGP

Bob Bacchetti #92, DDGP

Scott Vogelgesang #612, DDGP

Approval of the Minutes from the Board of Grand Directors February 4, 2023 Meeting

— Chairman of the Board, Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Grand Director, asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the February 4, 2023 Board of Grand Directors meeting. Brother Bill Walls #80, GD made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 4, 2023 Board of Directors meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Brother Paul Larson #32, GD. There was no discussion. The Board accepted the minutes as presented unanimously.

Communications - Brother Michael Dimech #613, Past Grand President, Grand Secretary had no report from his Office.

Brother Tom Fourie #32, Past Grand President and Business Manager referred all Officers to the e-mail he had sent previously with communications received and distributed from the Grand Council Office. It included the following:

1. Council Bulletins received:
 - a. San Jose Council #2 – January and February (congratulations!!)
 - b. American Council #8 – February and March
 - c. South San Francisco Council #32 – February and March
 - d. Holy Rosary Council #44 – 2023 Schedule of Events
 - e. Sadoc Council #59 – March
 - f. Francis Council #573 – March
 - g. St. John Bosco Council #613 - March
2. One issue of the Catholic Herald (Diocese of Sacramento)
3. One issue of the Catholic Voice (Diocese of Oakland)
4. Fall/Holiday issue of the Voice of YLI
5. Copy of cover letter sent to winners of the Pro Patria Raffle, accompanying the check.

Reports of the Grand Treasurer – Brother Jack Albrecht #32, GT presented the Grand Treasurer's two-page financial report that had been e-mailed to all Officers the week previous. There were no questions at this time. There were no questions on the Grand Treasurer's report. Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors, asked for a motion to accept the report as presented. Brother Paul Larson #32, GD, made the motion to accept and Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD, seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously by the Board of Grand Directors.

Reports of Grand Directors on the Board of Grand Directors Committees for the year 2022-2023 – Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors asked for reports from the Grand Directors assigned to the Grand Directors Committees for the 2022-2023 YMI year:

Charters/Archives: Brothers Eugene Espinola #94, Tommy Figueira #573, and Paul Larson #32, Bill Walls #80

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Finance: Brothers Alexander Schmitt #8, and Paul Larson #32

This committee reviews the monthly bills of Grand Council and two members sign off on each bill. This is usually done around the 15th of the month

in conjunction with the Business Manager and the Grand Treasurer. All the bills were in order as Brother Larson had signed off on the checks.

Long Range Planning: Brothers Alexander Schmitt #8, Alex Preciado #2, Bill McNeany #40, and Tommy Figueira #573

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Council Activities: Brothers Domenic Carinalli #54, Eugene Espinola #94 and Bill Walls #80

Sebastopol Council #54 had submitted an Application for Consent to Sponsor and Conduct Affairs under Article XVI. They planned and celebrated a corned beef and cabbage dinner on March 4, 2023 which netted the Council \$2500. They had the proper insurance certificate in their possession.

Insurance: There were no specific Board Members assigned to this committee as it is handled directly through the Grand Council Office.

The insurance company has notified the Grand Council Office that it is time to review and update the current liability policy which terminates this coming June 2023. The Business Manager informed both the insurance company as well as the Board of Grand Directors that this process will only be able to occur once all the Semi Annual Reports (dated March 31, 2023) have been received by the office. This is standard practice each year. This process will be again followed this year.

Fund Raising: No specific assignments were made at this time.

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Supplies: Brothers Alex Preciado #2 and Eugene Espinola #94

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Grand Council Planning Committee: Joining Brothers Tom Fourie #32, Bob Bartoli #32, Michael Dimech #613, Michael Amato #613 are Darrell Fonseca #99, Steve Cresci #32, Bill Avery, #80 and Tommy Figueira #573

As mentioned at previous Board Meetings, the next Grand Council Convention in 2023 will again take place at Bally's Hotel and Casino in South Lake Tahoe on the week after Father's Day. The two Masses have been confirmed at St. Theresa Catholic Church in South Lake Tahoe. Everything that is needed to be complete at this time has been done. Council packets will be distributed in a timely fashion and the Institute Journal will have details in its next issue. The contract with the hotel has been signed. Father Agnel has been asked to present his letter of good standing from the Archdiocese of San Francisco to

the pastor of St. Theresa. The committee is continuing to work on the Opening Mass, Grand Breakfast, Installation Mass, Grand Banquet, 50/50 Raffle, etc. Council Convention Packets, Delegate Packets and information to be printed in the Institute Journal are all in progress.

Grand President's Report – Grand President Darrell Fonseca #99 reviewed his schedule of Council Visits. The Grand President provided a lengthy and detailed outline of his calendar of events since the February 4, 2023 meeting. It was obvious that he had been very busy in the past several weeks. All officers had copies of this calendar. His calendar was as follows:

February 4 – Attended Grand Board of Directors meeting by Zoom.

February 7 – Had lunch with Br. Jim Mullen of Vallejo Council #13.

February 15 – Met with Brothers from my home Council Dos Palos #99.

February 21 – Along with GFVP Steve Cresci, had pizza and meeting with brothers from Stockton Council #5.

February 25 – Judged 25 Pro Patria Essays.

March 1 – Had dinner meeting with Brothers of St. Columba Council #94 in Chowchilla.

March 2 – Dos Palos Council #99 Brothers Ron Snyder and John Trujillo, GFVP Cresci and GSVP Billy Avery joined me for a lively evening of appetizers, steak dinner and meeting with 40+ members of Tracy Council #92.

March 8 – Judged 50 more Pro Patria Essays.

March 11 – Attended Red & White Mass at St. Anthony Church in Atwater and dinner hosted by St. Christopher Council #80. Good job GSVP Br. Avery! Attended Pro Patria Raffle successfully conducted by GFVP Br. Cresci.

March 12- Assisted with Dos Palos Council #99's Annual St. Patrick's Day Raffle.

March 13 – Extended my best wishes and prayerful support to Brother Phil Fondale #900 prior to his surgery. Called in to the Convention Planning Committee meeting.

On several occasions, telephoned and met in person with Brothers from Bakersfield Council #100 in an effort to solidify the Council's financial situation.

Upcoming Schedule:

March 25 – Pilgrimage to Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus

April 6 – Meet with Madera Council #60

April 11 – Attend funeral of PGP Rudy Albritton in Atwater

April 24 – Education Foundation Meeting

May 4 – Seminarian Foundation Meeting

May 20 – YMI Grand Board of Directors meeting

May 21 – YMI Bowling Tournament in Stockton

June 4 – YMI Golf Tournament in Santa Rosa

June 19- 22 – Grand Convention at Lake Tahoe

The Grand President thanked Brother Steve Cresci and Brother Billy Avery for their work this past YMI year.

An update from the Education Foundation revealed that eight Councils had thus far applied for the Matching Funds Program. There was a need to update the matching funds applications.

An update from the Seminarian Educational Foundation revealed that over 30 applications from Seminararians had been received for this year. Brother Fourie reviewed the grant distribution: \$1000 to Seminararians within 2 years of ordination, \$500 to Seminararians within 4 years of ordination and \$200 to all others.

***Grand First Vice President's Report* – Brother Steve Cresci #32, Grand First Vice President provided all the officers with an email summarizing his activities and they are listed here:**

Worked throughout the months of February and March on promoting the Pro Patria Raffle. Phone calls made to Councils not on target for Raffle sales.

Also, distributing Essays to Contest judges.

Meetings via Zoom:

2/7 – State of Institute Committee Meeting

2/27 – Council #32 By-Laws Revision Committee Meeting

3/13 – Convention Planning Committee Meeting

Other Meetings:

2/9 – Council #32 Business Meeting

2/21 – Official Visit to Stockton Council #5 with Grand President Darrell Fonseca

2/23 – Council #32 Social Dinner

3/2 – Official Visit to Tracy Council #92 with Grand President Darrell Fonseca

3/11 – Red & White Anniversary Mass in Atwater

3/14 – Visit to St. John Bosco Council #613

3/16 – Council #32 Business Meeting

3/23 – Council #32 Social Dinner

Brother Steve announced that there were nearly 500 essays submitted. He thanked all the judges for spending their time reading and evaluating the students work. Most winners were from the Bay Area. Nine Councils sponsored students.

He is organizing a YMI Day at the Oakland Athletics Baseball Game on August 20, 2023 – info to follow in the next Institute Journal.

Grand Second Vice President's Report – **Brother Bill Avery #80, Grand Second Vice President, was pleased and happy for the support for the Red and White Mass. He thanked everyone for coming to both the Mass and the Dinner. There were 86 people in attendance with almost half of them being YMI Brothers. There were 12 YMI Councils represented. He thanked the Brothers and ladies who came down on the bus from the Bay Area. He also thanked Brother Gene Espinola for doing all the cooking. His own family was also a large part of the preparation and decorations and serving. Brother Avery was congratulated by his fellow officers on the job well done.**

Since the last Board Meeting he had visited the Councils in Hilmar, Tracy and Madera.

Grand Secretary's Report/Business Manager's Report

The Grand Secretary reported as follows: I requested several updates from our Webmaster to our YMI Website to include:

Council newsletters that have been received (thanks to all Councils for sending in their newsletters)

I also sent the Bowling and Golf flyers that were recently sent to me to the webmaster for posting on the YMI Website

I attended the recent Red & White Mass that took place on March 11, 2023 (great event)

I would also like to place some pictures from the Red and White Mass on the website. If you have any pictures please send them to my attention.

I also attended Council #613's March Business Meetings and may attend their Essay awards banquet later this afternoon.

I have read as a judge some of the Pro Patria Essays.

I am also working on updating our YMI Council Directory and will be reaching out to some of you for information, hope to complete this shortly.

The Business Manager reviewed the work of the Grand Council Office since February 4, 2023 that was made available on the pre-sent e-mail.

- 1. Prepared YMI bills for February and March, delivered to Grand Treasurer, signed checks and distributed.**
- 2. Continued to record Assessment #189 payments – missing Assessment #188 from Council #92 and Assessment #189 from Bakersfield #100.**
- 3. On-going trips to the Post Office Box in Burlingame, CA.**
- 4. Updated on-going changes into the computer from the new Beneficiary Forms.**
- 5. Prepared and sent minutes from the February 4, 2023 Board Meeting to Officers.**
- 6. Continued to record and deposit Pro Patria raffle returns.**
- 7. Attended Council #32's February and March Business Meetings and Social gatherings.**
- 8. Attended Red and White Mass and Dinner on March 11, 2023.**
- 9. Responded to countless emails and phone calls.**
- 10. Continued to process submitted student essays for the Pro Patria Essay Contest – a very lengthy process.**
- 11. Assisted Brother Steve Cresci #32, GFVP in the serious process of judging all the Pro Patria Essays – very much a time consuming effort.**
- 12. Assisted in updating South San Francisco Council #32's By-Laws.**
- 13. Met with the Convention Planning Committee.**

This is definitely only a partial list.

Reports of Grand Directors to Grand Council Committees: in accordance with the Grand Council By-Laws a member of the Grand Council Board of Directors is to be assigned to each of the Grand Council Committees that are delineated in the Grand President's Program for 2022-2023. In the program, each committee chairman as chosen by the Grand President is listed along with the goals and objectives of each committee.

The following are the Board Appointments and current reports for 2022-2023:

Audit Committee – Brother Alex Preciado #2, DDGP – Brother Bartoli reported that St. John Bosco Council #613 is to be audited on April 11, 2023 and South San Francisco Council #32 will be audited on April 13, 2023. Council #59 still needs to be audited and he will be in touch with the Council to schedule.

Budget Committee – Br. Alex Schmitt #8, District Deputy Grand President – the Grand Treasurer, Brother Jack Albrecht #32, presented the budget for 2013-2014 to the Board of Grand Directors. The total budgeted increased by \$400.00. A motion was made by Grand Director Alex Schmitt #8 to approve the presented budget and it was seconded by Grand Director Brother Paul Larson #32. The motion was approved. The total Grand Council budget came to \$53,290.

Reserve Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32 – the Grand Treasurer reported the balances in the two funds (General and Death Benefit).

Ceremonials Committee – Br. Eugene Espinola #94 – no report

Credentials Committee – Br. Domenic Carinalli #54 – no report

Institute Journal Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32...Brother Fourie announced that the next Institute Journal issue would be the Pre-Convention issue. He is planning to include:

- a. Grand President's Articles
- b. Pictures and Article from the Red and White Mass, Flower Ceremony and Dinner
- c. Convention Registration Form
- d. Candidates for Grand Council Office (boxes) – need more candidates
- e. State of the Institute Report
- f. Summary of the Pro Patria Raffle and Essay Contest winners
- g. Sports Programs
- h. Many additional articles from the Grand Officers
- i. Ed. Memorials, new Members, Deceased Members
- j. Etc.

Laws & Revisions Committee – Br. Bill Walls #80...the chairman of this committee, Brother Rob Bartoli #32 reported that South San Francisco Council #32, Francis Council #573, St. John Bosco Council #613 and Sebastopol Council #54 have all adopted changes to their By-laws to eliminate references to Associate members. Sebastopol Council #54 also amended their By-laws to change their meeting night. All Councils have voted to adopt these updates. The Laws and Revisions Committee has reviewed these changes and recommends that the Board of Directors accept these changes. The Business Manager reminded the Officers that the Grand Council Office needs a copy of these revised Council by-laws. A motion was made by Grand Director Paul Larson #32 and seconded by Grand Director Alex Schmitt #8 to accept these four Councils' newly update By-Laws. The motion was approved.

Man and Council of the Year Committee – One application have been submitted and ads have been published in the Institute Journal and will continue to appear there. Brother Bartoli suggested that the Board might consider the awards being given a second time to a Brother or Council. Need to look in By-laws to see if there are any restrictions on this matter.

Membership Committee – Br. Bill McNeany #40 – no report

Pro Deo Committee – Br. Bill Walls #80 – reference to the prior report of the Red and White Mass – a wonderful experience for all who attended. The event promotes the bringing of members and their families together, and for many it is a time to return to Church.

Pro Patria – Br. Paul Larson #32 – reference to the prior discussion on the Pro Patria Essay and Raffle – another successful year.

Organization Committee – Nothing to report at this time.

Resolutions Committee – Br. Bill McNeany #40... Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD reports that the committee has received four possible resolutions at this time.

State of the Institute Committee – Br. Domenic Carinalli #54, Br. Tommy Figueira #573 – Brother Franceschine reported the committee has completed all of its work, there will be four proposals for changes and they will be published in the next issue of the Institute Journal as well as in the Advance Proceedings.

Workshop Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32 – no report at this time. A final decision on having a workshop at the Convention will be decided in early June by the Grand Council Office Staff.

Chairmen of the Sports Group of Committees: the following announcements were made.

Bowling – Brother Michael Sanzeri #59 – the Bowling Tournament will be held on May 21, 2023 at the Pacific Avenue Bowling Alley in Stockton beginning at 1:00 p.m. A flyer will be sent out and also printed in the Institute Journal.

Bocce – Brother Michael Dimech #613 – save the date of Saturday, September 30, 2023 at Orange Avenue Memorial Park in South San Francisco for the next tournament.

Golf – Brother Bob Fiorito #613 – has a date: June 4, 2023 at the Sugarloaf Golf Course in Santa Rosa with a 12:30p.m. shotgun start. A banquet will follow at St. Rose Catholic Church, the cost for the day is \$100 per person and \$40.00 for a non-playing guest. A flyer will be published in the next Institute Journal.

Unfinished Business –

- A. Grand President Darrell Fonseca did in fact visit Bakersfield Council #100 and spoke with a few of their members. It appeared that another Brother we had not spoken with in the past was now the President. He was requesting documentation from Grand Council on the non-profit status of YMI as he was planning to open a new bank account. This was provided on March 11, 2023 at the Red and White Mass. For two weeks the Grand President nor the Business Manager has heard anything from anyone in the Council.**

After a brief discussion with a general review of all the efforts expended by Grand Council over the past years, Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD made a motion to dissolve Bakersfield Council #100 and the motion was seconded by Brother Paul Larson #32, GD. The motion passed.

The Grand Secretary was instructed to follow the Grand Council By-Laws for Dissolution of a Council. A letter would be sent to each of the 11 remaining Council #100 Brothers notifying them of the dissolution and what options they may have. All steps would be in order following Article 7, Section 8 of the Grand Council By-Laws.

- B. Brother Tommy Figueira #573, GD asked for a discussion and decision on Article 1, Section 7 of the By-Laws whereby Grand Council provides a stipend to those Councils who attend the Grand Council Session in June to help defray the costs of their delegates. The monies come from the Reserve Fund of Grand Council. A motion was made by Grand Director Alex Schmitt #8 and seconded by Grand Director Domenic Carinalli #54 to continue as was done last year in providing Councils with their allotted funding for attending the Grand Council Convention. The motion passed.**

- C. The Business Manager reported that new Beneficiary forms for Brothers moving from Associate status to Benefit status has been reduced to a very slow trickle. There is a large number of Brothers from nearly all Councils who have yet to inform the Grand Council Office of their beneficiaries for the Grand Council Death Benefit. The Officers requested that all Councils receive another mailing detailing the process of notifying their own members and eventually the Grand Council Office of their choice of beneficiary. Michael Amato #613, PGP, DDGP said he would assist with gathering all this information for the Grand Council Office. The Business Manager would then forward to all Councils this information via US Mail. Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD make the motion to send the information to all Councils regarding beneficiary forms, etc. and the motion was seconded by Paul Larson #32, GD. The motion was approved.
- D. The Business Manager reminded those present that Tracy Council #92 had not submitted Assessment #188. Also, Bakersfield had not submitted Assessment #189.

New Business –

- A. The Business Manager reported on an inquiry he made to Councils which are chartered in Dioceses that are or will be filing for bankruptcy. He reported that each of the Councils in question do not have any financial association with their respective Diocese.
- B. As far as the current process for handling death benefit requests is being followed, there will not be any changes as of this time.
- C. Voting at Board of Grand Directors is the responsibility of the eight elected Grand Directors. A quorum is mathematically determined to be five Grand Directors.
- D. All Officers are reminded to provide their input for the Advance Proceedings by May 1, 2023.

Immediate Past Grand President's Report – Brother Nick Franceschine #54, IPGP – He was happy to announce that Council #54's By-Laws were officially approved. Their Council shared a profit of five thousand dollars with the YLI from the corned beef and cabbage dinner. His work on the State of the Institute proposals was complete.

Grand Chaplain's Report – Father Agnel was at Mass.

Good of the Order –

The next Board meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2023.

Closing Prayer - Father Agnel led the closing prayer.

Adjournment - 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Br. Michael Dimech, #613, GS, PGP

Br. Thomas Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager