

Young Men's Institute
Board of Grand Directors
Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2023

Call to Order — Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. PST via a Zoom Conference Call.

Opening Prayer — The opening prayer was offered by Grand President, Brother Darrell Fonseca #99, asking for God's blessings on all Brothers present.

Pledge of Allegiance — the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brother Phil Fondale #900, Grand Marshal.

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 Schmitt #8, GD, DDGP

Tommy Figueira #573, GD

Domenic Carinalli #54, GD

Eugene Espinola #94, GD, DDGP

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

Phil Fondale #900, GM

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

Clement Gusman #573, DDGP

Grand Officers who asked to be excused:

Alex Preciado #2, GD, DDGP

Bill McNeany #40, GD, DDGP

Paul Larson #32, GD

Approval of the Minutes from the Board of Grand Directors March 25, 2023, Meeting

– Chairman of the Board, Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Grand Director, asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the March 25, 2023, Board of Grand Directors meeting. Brother Domenic Carinalli #54, GD made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 25, 2023, Board of Directors meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Brother Cosmo Amato #613, GIS. There was no discussion. The Board accepted the minutes as presented unanimously.

Communications - Brother Michael Dimech #613, Past Grand President, Grand Secretary reported that he had three communications from Officers who could not make this meeting and therefore asked to be excused. He also had two communications asking for registration forms for the Grand Council Session. He referred these inquiries to the YMI Website.

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 – March and April

- b. American Council #8 – April and May
 - c. South San Francisco Council #32 – April and May
 - d. Santa Rosa Council #40 – April
 - e. Francis Council #573 – April and May
 - f. St. John Bosco Council #613 – April and May
2. Thank you card from Brett Brewer – essay winner from Novato High School, sponsored by Sebastopol Council #54
 3. Acceptance receipt from California Secretary of State, Business Programs Division – Statement of Information, Nonprofit Corporation
 4. Copies of paperwork sent relative to the dissolution of Bakersfield Council #100
 5. Thank you message from Father Agnel for check for Masses said on behalf of Grand Council this year
 6. Response to Grand President from Eric Lopez #100, on dissolution of Council
 7. Copy of mailing sent to all Councils (April 1) – need for updated Beneficiary Forms
 8. Cover letter sent to Councils accompanying returned essays and award checks
 9. Copy of email sent requesting raffle prizes for the Convention
 10. Copy of the winter issue of the Voice of YLI
 11. Copy of April 2023 issue of the Catholic San Francisco
 12. Copy of May and June Catholic Herald – Diocese of Sacramento
 13. April and May issues of the Catholic Voice – Diocese of Oakland

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 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 Alex Schmitt #8, GD, made the motion to accept and Brother Eugene Espinola #94, 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

There was no report for this committee at this time.

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. The Planning Committee is scheduled to meet on May 22, 2023, to review all registrations received, stuffing of Delegate Envelopes, staffing the registration table, meals,

Installation of Officers, Masses, raffles, etc. Everything that is needed to be completed at this time has been done.

Grand President's Report – Grand President Darrell Fonseca #99 reviewed his schedule of Council visits including his most recent with Madera Council #60. He was honored to report that he had visited each and every YMI Council during his year as Grand President. He has been busy assisting the Business Manager and all other Grand Council Officers in preparing their respective reports for the Advance Proceedings document. He too is preparing for his role as “master of ceremonies” for the convention. He had attended the Education Foundation meeting and learned that eleven Councils had participated in the Frank Pignati Matching Scholarship Program and that checks had been sent to the Councils. He attended the YMI Seminarian Foundation meeting and learned that 59 seminarians were approved for financial assistance this year totaling \$35,000 to be distributed via the sponsoring Councils.

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

3/25 – Board of Grand Directors Meeting

4/6 – Madera Council Meeting

4/13 – Council #32 Business Meeting

4/24 – Education Foundation Committee Meeting

4/27 – Council #32 Social Dinner

5/4 – Seminarian Foundation Committee Meeting

5/11 – Council #32 Business Meeting

He reported that checks to the student winners of the Essay Contest had been sent out to all the participating Councils. There were 30 winners, 15 in each of the Middle School and High School divisions. The Pro Patria raffle was a success generating over fourteen thousand dollars.

Grand Second Vice President's Report – Brother Bill Avery #80, Grand Second Vice President, provided all the officers with his report via email. It is recorded here:

Feb. 2 – attended the Zoom meeting for the Seminarian Educational Foundation

Mar. 1 – attended Chowchilla Council #94 YMI Meeting

Mar. 2 – attended Tracy Council #92 meeting with the Grand President and Brother Bill Walls #80, GD

Mar. 22 – attended YMI Council #80 monthly meeting and dinner

Mar. 25 – attended the Zoom meeting of the Board of Grand Directors

Apr. 26 – attended YMI Council #80 monthly meeting and dinner

May 3 – attended Chowchilla Council #94 meeting with Brother Bill Walls #80, GD

May 4 – attended the Seminarian Educational Foundation meeting via Zoom

May 21 – planning to attend the YMI Bowling Tournament at Pacific Lanes in Stockton

Grand Secretary's Report/Business Manager's Report

Since our March 25, 2023, Business Meeting:

I requested several updates from our Webmaster to our YMI Website to include:

- a. Council newsletters that have been received**
- b. The spring version of the Lamp Post and the YMI Day at the Ballpark flyer**
- c. I also placed several pictures from the Red & White Mass on our website. If you have any pictures, please send them to my attention**
- d. Per our March 25 Grand Council meeting, I drafted a dissolution letter for Bakersfield Council #100. The letter was dated April 2, 2023. Our YMI Business Manager, Brother Tom Fourie, sent the letter out to the remaining eleven Council #100 members**
- e. With the assistance of Brother Tom, I also updated the YMI Council directory based on current information. Should there be any changes pertaining to the President or Secretary of your individual Council, please let me know**
- f. I am also preparing for this year's June Session**
- g. I also attended Council #613's April and May Business Meetings as well as the Council's Ladies Night Dinner**

The Business Manager reviewed the work of the Grand Council Office since March 25, 2023 that was made available on the pre-sent e-mail.

1. Prepared and mailed to all Councils paperwork to be completed for the March 31, 2023 (Semi Annual Report).
2. Provided Grand Treasurer with names of Pro Patria Essay Contest Winners – to write checks.
3. Prepared congratulatory letters/envelopes for Pro Patria Essay Contest winners.
4. Daily trips to YMI Post Office Box in Burlingame.
5. Prepared Council packets and mailed student essay, certificates and winners checks.
6. On-going recording of Beneficiary update forms.
7. Prepared credentials (Grand Officers and Council Delegates) for the 138th Grand Council Session.
8. Prepared Death Benefit requests – forwarded to Grand Treasurer.
9. Responded to daily emails.
10. Worked with the Grand Secretary on all paperwork in dissolving Bakersfield Council #100.
11. Collected and reviewed all Seminarian applications in preparation for the May 4, 2023, meeting.
12. Prepared and edited all articles for the next issue of the Institute Journal.
13. Prepared and sent minutes to Grand Council Officers from the March 25, 2023, Board of Grand Directors Meeting.
14. Responded to daily phone calls.
15. Attended April 11, 2023, Council #613's Business Meeting – assisted with Council Audit.
16. Prepared Council Convention packets and sent.
17. Attended April and May Business Meetings of South San Francisco Council #32.
18. Attended and participated in South San Francisco Council #32's Social hosting 13 student essay winners and their parents on April 27, 2023.
19. Began the lengthy process of entering reports/data into the Advance Proceedings document for the 138th Grand Council Session.
20. Prepared April YMI bills for the Grand Treasurer.
21. Assisted Council #94 on issues with a death benefit.
22. Attended St. John Bosco Council #613 "Ladies Night" on May 7, 2023.
23. Attended the YMI Educational Foundation meeting.
24. Processed Assessment #190 from Councils
25. Began processing Semi Annual Reports from Councils.
26. Attended May 4, 2023, Seminarian Education Foundation meeting
27. Began processing delegate registration forms for the 138th Grand Council Session.
28. Worked in collaboration with the Grand President on a variety of issues pertaining to the 138th Grand Council Session

29. Forwarded the Agenda for the May 20, 2023, Board of Grand Directors Meeting.

This is definitely only a partial list.

The Business Manager is still waiting for two Assessment Checks:

- a. Council #92 – October 2022**
- b. Council #497 – Spring 2023**

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's audit was successful, and Sadoc Council #59 was scheduled for May 24, 2023.

Budget Committee – Br. Alex Schmitt #8, District Deputy Grand President – the Grand Treasurer, Brother Jack Albrecht #32 reported that the 2022-2023 budget had been completed and he was working on the 2023-2024 budget.

Reserve Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32 – the Grand Treasurer did not report on the balances in the two funds, however, there was more than sufficient funds in each.

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 was the Pre-Convention issue. It had been completed and sent to all Brothers via email.

Laws & Revisions Committee – Br. Bill Walls #80...the chairman of this committee reported that there was not a current report to be given.

Man and Council of the Year Committee – Four applications for Man of the Year have been submitted and ads have been published in the Institute Journal and will continue to appear there. Brother Bartoli had no nominations as of yet for Council of the Year.

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, however, a report has been submitted for the Advance Proceedings.

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

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 have been published in 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. The tournament will not be cancelled this year.

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 12:30 p.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 was published in the next Institute Journal. The chairman was disappointed in the turn out of players thus far. He needs 40 players to go forward. Two checks are required for the tournament and banquet at this time. The Grand President chimed in that he had a foursome from Council #99.

Unfinished Business –

- A. There had been no response from any of the remaining members of Bakersfield Council #100 on the letters sent regarding their dissolution.

- B. Several Councils have been hard at work in collecting the updated Beneficiary Forms from their members. Others have yet to even begin. This topic will be addressed at the Grand Council Session.

New Business –

- A. The Business Manager reported that candidates for Grand Second Vice President have yet to appear. There is also a vacancy for at least three more candidates for the Board of Grand Directors.
- B. The following current Grand Directors are going off the Board this year: Brother Alex Schmitt, Brother Eugene Espinola, Brother Alex Preciado and Brother Bill McNeany.
- C. The Business Manager reminded the Grand Officers that there were still some outstanding reports needed to complete the Advance Proceedings: Grand First Vice President, Grand Second Vice President. Long Range Planning, Membership, Resolutions, Sports and a few district reports as well.
- D. Candidates are still needed to fill the spots on both the Education Foundation and the Seminarian Foundation.
- E. From the responses received by the Grand Council Office, the number off delegates to the 138th Grand Council Session should be the same as last year.
- F. General membership has fallen for the Order, we are down another 82 members from last year.

Immediate Past Grand President's Report – Brother Nick Franceschine #54, IPGP – He was happy to report that the work of the State of the Institute Committee has been completed and it had been forwarded for the Institute Journal and the Advance Proceedings.

Grand Chaplain's Report – Father Agnel was at Mass and he is planning to be present for the Grand Council Session in South Lake Tahoe.

Good of the Order –

The next Board meeting will be scheduled after the elections at the 138th Grand Council Session.

Closing Prayer - Brother Bill Avery #80, GSVP led the closing prayer.

Adjournment – 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Br. Michael Dimech, #613, GS, PGP

Br. Thomas Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager