

Young Men's Institute
Board of Grand Directors
Meeting Minutes of August 5, 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, 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:

Paul Larson #32, GD

Alex Schmitt #8, GD, DDGP

Tommy Figueira #573, GD

Domenic Carinalli #54, GD

Michael Amato #613, PGP, GD

Nick Franceschine #54, PGP, GD

Richard Murphy #32, GD

Mario Balistreri #613, GD

Steve Cresci #32, GP

Billy Avery #80, GFVP

Bill Walls #80, GSVP

Darrell Fonseca #99, IPGP

Rev. Angel De Heredia #32, GC

Michael Dimech #613, GS

Jack Albrecht #32, GT

Phil Fondale #900, GM

Cosmo Amato #613, GIS

Tom Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager

Bob Bartoli #32, PGP, Assistant Business Manager

Frank DiMaggio #59, PGP, DDGP

Clement Gusman #573, DDGP

Alex Preciado #2, DDGP

Bill McNeany #40, DDGP

Eugene Espinola #94, DDGP

Grand Officers who asked to be excused:

Bob Fiorito #613, GOS

Approval of the Minutes from the Board of Grand Directors May

23, 2023 Meeting – Chairman of the Board, Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Grand Director, asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the May 23, 2023, Board of Grand Directors meeting. Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP, GD made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 23, 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.

Approval of the Minutes from the 138th Grand Council Session, June 19-21, 2023

Meeting - Chairman of the Board, Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Grand Director, asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the June 19-21, 2023 138th Grand Council Session. Brother Paul Larson #32, GD made a motion to accept the minutes from the June 19-21, 2023 138th Grand Council Session as presented. The motion was seconded by Brother Nick Franceschine #54, PGP, GD. There was no discussion. The Board accepted the minutes as presented unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes from the Special Meeting of the Board of Grand Directors,

June 21, 2023 – Chairman of the Board, Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Grand Director, asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the Special Meeting of the Board of Grand Directors on June 21, 2023. Brother Nick Franceschine #54, PGP, GD made a motion to accept the minutes from the Special Meeting of the Board of Grand Directors on June 21, 2023. The motion was seconded by Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP, GD. 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 received Council newsletters and had forwarded them to the Webmaster for publication.

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 – May, June and July
 - b. American Council #8 – July
 - c. South San Francisco Council #32 – June, July and August
 - d. Francis Council #573 – July and August
 - e. St. John Bosco Council #613 – June, July and August
2. Thank you note from United For Life of Merced County – 50/50 Raffle recipient from the 138th Grand Council Session
3. Letter accompanying Council reimbursements for the 138th Grand Council Session
4. Confirmation email from Laws and Revisions Committee on the By-Law changes for San Jose Council #2
5. Cover letter for Assessment #191
6. One copy of the Catholic Herald – Diocese of Sacramento
7. Three copies of the Catholic Voice – Diocese of Oakland
8. Letters regarding the merger of Council #60 with Council #94

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 Michael Amato #613, PGP, GD made the motion to accept and Brother Nick Franceschine #54,

PGP, 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 assigned the following Grand Directors to the respective Committees for the 2023-2024 YMI year with a brief description of their duties:

Charters/Archives: Brothers Nick Franceschine #54, PGP as Chairman, Dominic Carinalli #54, and Tommy Figueira #573

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Finance: Brothers Michael Amato #613, PGP as Chairman, 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.

Long Range Planning: Brothers Alexander Schmitt #8 as Chairman, Mario Balistreri #613, Nick Franceschine #54, PGP, and Michael Amato #613, PGP

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Council Activities: Brothers Domenic Carinalli #54 as Chairman, Paul Larson #32, and Richard Murphy #32

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Insurance: Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP will be available to represent the Board as the insurance issues (should they arise) are handled directly through the Grand Council Office.

Fund Raising: No specific assignments were made at this time as Brother Michael Dimech #613, PGP, GS will need to discuss this topic with the Grand President.

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Supplies: Brothers Mario Balistreri #613 as Chairman, Richard Murphy #32 and the staff of the Grand Council Office.

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Grand Council Planning Committee: Joining Brothers Tom Fourie #32, PGP, Bob Bartoli #32, PGP Michael Dimech #613, PGP & GS, and Michael Amato #613, PGP, GD, will be Steve Cresci #32 as Grand President to complete the committee in August. A meeting will be scheduled very soon in August.

Grand President's Report – Grand President Steve Cresci #32 reported how excited he was working with all the Brothers. Today's meeting was a great start and he is looking forward to working with everyone this year. He reported that he had sent his Grand President's program to each District Deputy Grand President.

He reviewed his calendar since the Grand Council Session.

7/11 – Attended Council #613's Business Meeting

7/13 – Attended Council #32's Business Meeting

7/18 - President's Meeting with Grand Officers & District Deputies

He had communication via email with District Deputy Eugene Espinola concerning the merger of St. Columba Council #94 and Madera Council #60.

He had communication with Br. Tommy Figueira #573, GD on Committee Assignments.

He sent letters to District Deputies who did not attend the Grand Council Session.

He began scheduling his Official Visits.

He organized a YMI Day at the Ball Park for August 20, 2023.

Grand First Vice President's Report – Brother Billy Avery #80, Grand First Vice President provided all the officers with an email summarizing his meetings and activities as they are listed here:

First I wish to give THANKS to all of my Brothers for having faith in me to serve as your 2023-2024 Grand First Vice President of the Young Men's Institute.

Attended Council #80's June 28, 2023 meeting and reported Grand Council Session updates to my Council. I helped with plans for our August 13, 2023 YMI/YLI Picnic and our October 8th Chicken BBQ.

Attended the July 15, 2023 meeting with Brothers from Madera Council #60 and Chowchilla Council #94 regarding announcement of intent to merge the two Councils.

Attended the Grand President's July 18, 2023 Zoom Meeting with Grand Officers and District Deputies.

Had a meeting with Grand Second Vice President Bill Walls on July 22, 2023 to discuss travel plans to attend other Council meetings.

Traveled with Br. Michael Nelson #80, PGP on July 25, 2023 to visit seminarians from the Fresno Diocese during their retreat at St. Theresa's in Three Rivers, CA. and personally distributed grants provided by the YMI Seminarian Foundation. Personally, for me it was a very rewarding event to meet the men who are dedicating their lives to follow Jesus as priests. We got to hang out, attend Mass and have lunch with the seminarians and learn more about their lives.

Attended Council #80's June meeting, advised the Brothers of the invitation to attend the Sebastopol Council #54 BBQ on August 23, 2023 and discussed travel arrangements.

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

The Red and White Mass is scheduled for March 16, 2024 at Immaculate Conception Church in Atwater, California. The dinner will be at St. Anthony's Hall afterwards.

I attended the Educational Foundation Committee Meeting last month.

I also attended the Grand Officers meeting.

Grand Secretary's Report/Business Manager's Report

Since our June Grand Council Session the Grand Secretary reports:

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

- a. Council newsletters that have been received from the Business Manager and they have been uploaded onto the YMI Website.**
- b. Some pictures that I had taken from the Opening Day Mass at St. Theresa's Catholic Church on June 19, 2023.**
- c. I will be updating other sections of the Website for any changes that took place at the Grand Council Session.**

- d. I submitted my notes from the Grand Council Session to the YMI Business Manager.

I also attended:

- a. Council #613's July Business Meeting
- b. The Education Foundation meeting and also took notes at this meeting.

Will have more to report under the Sports Committee Reports.

The Business Manager reviewed the work of the Grand Council Office since May 20, 2023 that was made available on the pre-sent e-mail.

1. Continued to add reports to the Advance Proceedings document.
2. Continued to update Delegate registration information for the 138th Grand Council Session.
3. Participated in "Zoom" Convention Planning meetings.
4. Attended South San Francisco Council #32's May Social and June Business meetings.
5. Worked with Organist and Soloist (Br. Guaraldi) on hymns for Convention Masses.
6. Prepared materials for Delegate Registration Packets.
7. Daily trips to the YMI Post Office Box in Burlingame, CA.
8. Prepared ballots for State of the Institute voting.
9. Frequent calls to contact person of Group Sales at Bally's Hotel and Casino in South Lake Tahoe.
10. Worked with Father Agnel on prayers for the two Convention Masses.
11. Prepared and sent to beneficiaries several "death benefit requests".
12. Prepared regalia for Immediate Past Grand President.
13. Emailed Advance Proceedings document to all registered delegates.
14. Delivered Brother Cresci's Program (2023-2024) to the printer and picked it up upon completion.
15. Received and prepared for distribution – "Liability Insurance Certificates" for Councils (2023-2024).
16. Prepared 59 letters, checks and envelopes for distribution to Councils sponsoring Seminarians.
17. Hosted "Delegate Envelope stuffing party".
18. Attended and participated in the 138th Grand Council Session of the YMI in South Lake Tahoe.
19. Responded to daily emails.
20. Prepared and sent minutes to Grand Council Officers from the May 20, 2023 Board of Grand Directors Meeting.
21. Responded to daily phone calls.
22. Prepared May and June bills for the Grand Treasurer.

23. Prepared and issued new Grand Council Officers list.
24. Prepared mailing of checks to Councils for Convention participation.
25. Mailed Assessment #191 to all Councils.
26. Processed Education Foundation Memorials.
27. Entered new members into the computer.
28. Attended Council #613 July Business Meeting, assisting with the installation of new Grand Council Officers.
29. Attended South San Francisco Council #32's July Business Meeting and installed new Council Officers.
30. Began the process of preparing minutes from the 138th Grand Council Session to send to all delegates.
31. Began work on August 5, 2023 Board of Grand Directors meeting agenda.
32. Attended and participated in the Grand President's Zoom meeting of July 18, 2023.

This is definitely only a partial list as of August 5, 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 2023-2024. 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 2023-2024:

Audit Committee – Board Appointments: Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP and Brother Domenic Carinalli #54. Committee Chairman is Brother Bob Bartoli #32, PGP.

Budget Committee – Board Appointments: Brother Alex Schmitt #8 and Brother Tommy Figueira #573. Committee Chairman is Brother Jack Albrecht #32, GT.

Reserve Committee – Board Appointments: Brother Nick Franceschine #54, PGP and Brother Richard Murphy #32. Committee Chairman is Brother Jack Albrecht #32, GT.

Institute Journal Committee – Board Appointments: Brother Paul Larson #32 and Brother Mario Balistreri #613. Committee Chairman is Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP.

Laws & Revisions Committee – Board Appointments: Brother Nick Franceschine #54, PGP and Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP. Committee Chairman is Brother Rob Bartoli #32.

Man and Council of the Year Committee – Board Appointments: Brother Paul Larson #32 and Brother Richard Murphy #32. Committee Chairman is Brother Bob Bartoli #32, PGP.

Membership Committee – Board Appointments: Brother Alex Schmitt #8 and Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP. Committee Chairman is Brother Robert Laxner #59.

Pro Deo Committee – Board Appointments: Brother Richard Murphy #32 and Brother Paul Larson #32. Committee Chairman is Brother Bill Walls #80, GSVP

Pro Patria – Board Appointments: Brother Mario Balistreri #613 and Brother Nick Franceschine #54, PGP. Committee Chairman is Brother Bill Avery #80. GFVP.

Organization Committee – Board Appointments: Brother Tommy Figueira #573 and Brother Mario Balistreri #613. Committee Chairman is Brother Michael Dimech #613, GS.

Resolutions Committee – Board Appointments: Brother Domenic Carinalli #54 and Brother Tommy Figueira #573. Committee Chairman is Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD.

State of the Institute Committee – Board Appointments: Brother Paul Larson #32 and Brother Richard Murphy #32. Committee Chairman is Brother Darrell Fonseca #99, IPGP.

Workshop Committee – Board Appointment: Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP. Committee Chairmen are the Staff of the Grand Council Office.

Report of Sports Committees

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

Bowling – Brother Michael Sanzeri #59 – the Bowling Tournament will be held on April 21, 2024 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. Six teams have already signed up and we will have a tournament this year.

Golf – Brother Bob Fiorito #613 – has a date: May 19, 2024, at the Valley of the Moon Golf Course in Santa Rosa with a 1:00 start. Brother Bob Fiorito #613, GOS will chair and be assisted by Brother Paul Larson #32.

Unfinished Business –

- A. The Business Manager, Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP, reported that several Councils are late in making their Assessment payments from the past year: St. Augustine #497 in Indiana, Tracy #92 in Tracy, Sadoc Council #59 in Pittsburg. A total of \$3,300 in monies is outstanding.**

New Business –

- A. The Business Manager thanked Bothers Brother Steve Cresci #32, GP and Brother Darrell Fonseca #99, IPGP for submitting their articles for the next Institute Journal. August 15, 2023 is the deadline date for submission of articles.**
- B. The Business Manager reported that he is beginning to complete the electronic filing for Council taxes for this past year. Both Federal and State filings are due by August 15.**
- C. The consolidation of Madera Council #60 with St. Columba Council #94 in Chowchilla was reviewed beginning with the summary letter prepared by Brother Eugene Espinola from Council #94. Meetings with both Councils have taken place and a merger date is set for December 31, 2023. It was basically a memorandum of agreement. A motion was made by Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD and seconded by Brother Nick Franceschine #54, PGP, GD to consolidate Council #60 with Council #94 per Article 7, Section 4 of the YMI Grand Council By-Laws. The motion passed. Madera Council #60 will need to relinquish its Charter, closure of all bank account paperwork and any other property not needed for the merger to the Grand Council.**
- D. A question was raised concerning the regulated gambling (50/50 raffle) held during the Grand Council Session. Was it legal, etc. The raffle did not take place in California, rather in Nevada. Brother Jack Albrecht would speak to our accountant, Brother Ed Sutton on this issue.**
- E. Future dates for Board Meetings were provided: September 16, 2023, November 18, 2023, January 27, 2024, March 23, 2024 and May 18, 2024. Also another reminder that the Red and White Mass is set for March 16, 2024 in Atwater.**

Immediate Past Grand President's Report – Brother Domenic Fonseca #99, IPGP – He was happy to report and thanked everyone who supported the

Grand Council Session. He was working on his article for the Institute Journal that will summarize the meeting. He welcomed Brother Mario Balistreri and Richard Murphy to the Board of Grand Directors and to the work done by the State of the Institute Committee. He is planning to attend the YMI Day at the Baseball Game in Oakland.

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

Good of the Order –

Brother Tommy Figueira welcomed both Brothers Richard Murphy and Mario Balistreri to the Board of Grand Directors. Francis Council #573 will be erecting a YMI wall in the Church where their Council meets. Council #54 is celebrating their 100th anniversary as members of the YMI with a BBQ on August 23, 2023..everyone is invited. The YMI Day at the Ballpark is August 20, 2023, tickets being sent out by our Grand President this week.

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

Adjournment – 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Br. Michael Dimech, #613, GS, PGP

Br. Thomas Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager