

*Young Men's Institute*

*Board of Grand Directors*

*Meeting Minutes of November 18, 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 – arrived late**

**Michael Amato #613, PGP, GD**

**Nick Franceschine #54, PGP, GD**

**Richard Murphy #32, GD**

**Mario Balistreri #613, GD**

**Steve Cresci #32, GP**

**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**

**Clement Gusman #573, DDGP**

**Alex Preciado #2, DDGP**

**Eugene Espinola #94, DDGP**

**Bill McNeany #40, DDGP**

**Frank DiMaggio #59, PGP, DDGP**

**Luther Evans, #80, PGP**

**Grand Officers who asked to be excused:**

**Bill Avery #80, GFVP – funeral**

**Bob Fiorito #613, GOS**

**Grand Officers absent:**

**Bill Walls #80, GSVP**

***Approval of the Minutes from the Board of Grand Directors September 16, 2023***

***Meeting*** – Chairman of the Board, Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Grand Director, asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the September 16, 2023 Board of Grand Directors meeting. Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP, GD asked that his additional paragraph be added to the pre printed minutes. Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP, GD then made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 16, 2023 as amended. The motion was seconded by Brother Nick Franceschine #54, PGP, GD. There was no other discussion. The Board unanimously accepted the minutes as corrected.

***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 – September and October**
  - b. American Council #8 – October and November**
  - c. South San Francisco Council #32 – October and November**
  - d. Sadoc Council #59 – October**
  - e. St. John Bosco Council #613 – October and November**
- 2. Copy of cover letter sent all members of Council #900 – for annual dues, info on the Pro Patria Raffle, Pro Patria Essay Contest, Institute Journal and the 139<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session.**
- 3. Cover letter sent to all Councils requesting payment of Assessment #192.**
- 4. Cover letter, bank form and three page Semi Annual Report forms sent to all Councils for November 1, 2023 submission of the Semi Annual Reports.**
- 5. Two copies of the “Catholic Voice” – Diocese of Oakland.**
- 6. October/November issue of the Catholic San Francisco.**
- 7. Voice of YLI – Convention/Fall Issue 2023.**

**Brother Nick Franceschine reported on Council #54’s Assessment, Roster and By- Laws for his Council.**

**Brothers Amato and Balistreri reported that they would be leaving the meeting at 10:00 a.m. this morning.**

***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. A motion was made by Brother Paul Larson #32, GD to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Brother Nick Franceschine #54, PGP, GD. The report was approved unanimously.**

**Brother Jack Albrecht #32, GT made an announcement that after over 20 years of service as Grand Treasurer he would like to retire effective today, November 18, 2023. Brother Steve Cresci #32, GP thanked Brother Jack for his many years of service and accepted his retirement. As Grand President and in following the By-Laws of Grand Council, Brother Steve Cresci #32 nominated Brother Bob Bartoli #32, PGP and Assistant Business Manager for the position of Grand Treasurer for the remainder of the current YMI year. Brother Bartoli accepted the nomination. Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP, GD made a motion to accept the Grand President’s nomination of Brother Bartoli and it was seconded by Brother Nick Franceschine #54, PGP, GD. The nomination was approved unanimously.**

*Reports of Grand Directors on the Board of Grand Directors Committees for the year*

**2023-2024** – 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 from 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month in conjunction with the Business Manager and the Grand Treasurer. All the bills have been paid at this time.

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

Brother Alex Schmitt said that he needed to set up a meeting with Brother Tommy Figueira, Brother Mario Balistreri, Brother Nick Franceschine and Brother Michael Amato to begin to review the current document, and plan for the next report. He mentioned that he had an email from Brother Rob Bartoli #32 to consider in formulating the next plan.

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

There was no report from 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.

There was no report from this committee at this time.

**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. Brother Steve Cresci will reach out to Brother Dimech in the next two weeks.

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

There was no report from this committee at this time. However, Brother Phil Oberst #32, PGP spoke to the information he had collected with regard to purchasing 25 year and 50 year pins for the Order. He reviewed the cost structure which was considerably less than past pin orders (\$16.61 for a 50 year pin and \$9.55 for a 25 year pin). Brother Michael Amato #613 made a motion to purchase the pins and it was seconded by Brother Alex Schmitt #8.

**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.

On behalf of the Committee, Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP reported that at the request of several members of the committee a different dinner setting for Tuesday night at the Convention might be planned. The committee was looking at a Basque Dinner in Gardnerville, Nevada (over the hill from South Lake Tahoe). For transportation, a bus might need to be reserved to make driving easier on those who wish to attend. Working with the folks at the hotel to pursue this option.

***Grand President's Report*** – Grand President Steve Cresci #32 reported how excited he was working with all the Brothers. He is planning to shortly visit the two YMI Councils in the state of Indiana. He has attended several different local Council meetings and he plans to meet shortly with the Membership Committee. His calendar is as follows:

**9-19: Special visit to San Jose Council #2 – discussion of replacement of Council Treasurer**

**9-20: State of the Institute Committee Zoom Meeting**

**9-30: Participation in the YMI Bocce Ball Tournament**

**10-06: All Souls Festival SSF Council #32 Tri-Tip Dinner**

**10-08: Participation in the Italian Heritage Parade as YMI Grand President**

**10-12: SSF Council #32 Business Meeting**

**10-16: Meeting at YMI Grand Council Headquarters**

**10-17: State of the Institute Committee Zoom Meeting**

**10-21: Official Visit to American Council #8 Oakland Breakfast**

**10-24: Education Foundation Committee Zoom Meeting**

**10-26: SSF Council #32 Social Dinner**

**10-28: Official Visit to Sadoc Council #59 “Woman of the Year Luncheon”**

**11-02: Seminarian Education Foundation Committee Zoom Meeting**

**11-07: SSF Council #32 Food Basket Committee Meeting**

**11-09: SSF Council #32 Business Meeting**

*Grand First Vice President's Report* – Brother Billy Avery #80, Grand First Vice President was excused from this meeting. However, Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP and Business Manager provided a report on the Pro Patria Raffle at this time. The proceeds thus far have tallied \$8,275.00. Eleven Councils have purchased tickets and 20 YLI Institutes have contributed. A total of 105 YMI Brothers have bought tickets. All Councils, etc. have received the entry forms for the Pro Patria Essay Contest. Brother Tommy Figueira #573, GD urged all YMI officers to buy their raffle tickets.

*Grand Second Vice President's Report* – Brother Bill Walls #80, Grand Second Vice President was not in attendance at this meeting.

However, Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP, GD mentioned the possibility of chartering a bus from the Bay Area to bring Brothers and their families to the Red and White Mass in March. He volunteered to look into the bus companies for bids. Brother Phil Oberst would also look into a possible limo company for bids. All Souls Church could again be the meeting point.

*Grand Secretary's Report/Business Manager's Report*

From the Grand Secretary - since our September 16, 2023 Grand Director's Meeting:

Council newsletters received from the Business Manager have been uploaded onto the YMI website.

The Grand Secretary has also asked the webmaster to update the website with the updated Grand Directors Award, the Council of the Year recognition, the Matching Fund letter that was on the website provided by Brother Bartoli.

**Per our Grand Director meeting of September, I have drafted and sent late Assessment letters to Councils #5, #497 and #92.**

**I participated in Council #613's Italian Day Heritage Day Parade in San Francisco on October 8, 2023 with other Brothers from Council #613 and Grand President Steve Cresci.**

**Some pictures that were taken at the Italian Heritage Day Parade were placed on the YMI Website.**

**I also chaired with the help of many YMI Council #613 Brothers, the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Bocce Ball Tournament that took place on September 30 in South San Francisco.**

**I also attended Council #613's Business Meeting.**

**The Business Manager reviewed the work of the Grand Council Office since September 16, 2023 that was made available on the pre-sent e-mail.**

- 1. Prepared YMI bills for September and forwarded to the Grand Treasurer, received checks and distributed.**
- 2. Attended San Jose Council #2's meeting at the American Legion Hall on Minnesota Avenue – to discuss possible closure of the Council due to the retirement of the Council Treasurer.**
- 3. Prepared Assessment #192 statements and envelopes for mailing to all Councils.**
- 4. Prepared Semi-Annual Report documents for mailing to all Councils.**
- 5. Daily trips to YMI PO Box in Burlingame, CA.**
- 6. Recorded Pro Patria Raffle returns on a daily basis.**
- 7. Attended South San Francisco Council #32's September Social.**
- 8. Hosted several meetings for Grand Officer responsibilities.**
- 9. Prepared Council envelopes for Assessments #193 and #194 and March 31, 2024 Semi-Annual reports.**
- 10. Prepared letters and envelopes for Council #900 annual mailing.**
- 11. Prepared and sent Board of Grand Directors Meeting minutes from September 16, 2023 to all Officers.**
- 12. Attended South San Francisco Council #32 Business Meeting on October 12, 2023.**
- 13. Provided Grand Treasurer with list of names for Death Benefit checks, received and mailed.**
- 14. Daily responses to e-mails and phone calls.**
- 15. Prepared YMI bills for October and forwarded to the Grand Treasurer, received checks and distributed.**

16. Began initial collection of articles for next issue of the Institute Journal.
17. Contacted Brothers in Indiana for anticipated Official Visit.
18. Attended Education Foundation Meeting on October 24, 2023.
19. Attended South San Francisco Council #32's Social on October 2, 2023.
20. Prepared and distributed Seminarian Education Foundation Treasurer's report.
21. Attended Seminarian Education Foundation meeting on November 2, 2023.
22. E-mailed November 18, 2023 Board of Grand Directors Meeting Agenda to all Officers.

This is 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 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.

On October 24, 2023 both Council #44 and #80 were audited via Zoom and completed without any issues. Council by-laws for Council #44 and #80 are current. However tied to this Committee report is how the Laws and Revision report fits in as presented below,

The Laws and Revisions Committee has reviewed the revised by-laws of the following Councils: (provided by Chairman Rob Bartoli #32)

- Council #8 (American)
- Council #40 (Santa Rosa)
- Council #59 (Sadoc)
- Council #92 (Tracy)
- Council #94 (St. Columba)
- Council #497 (St. Augustine)

The six Councils have made revisions to their by-laws that eliminate references to Associate members.

In review of these changes, I noticed that, with the exception of Council #59, there was not a change to the length of time a member has to be in good standing for. The requirement is not 5 years for a new member to vest the death benefit. Council #8 (Article 10, Section 1), Council #40 (Article #3, Section 1), Council #92 (Article 9, Section 1) and Council #497 (Article 10, Section 1) all state that "A Benefit Member shall be entitled to the Grand Council Death Benefit, providing he has been a Benefit Member for at least six (6) months and is in good standing with the Council as required for Grand Council Benefits. I also noticed this for Council #54, which I had previously recommended for approval.

The by-laws for these Councils, with the exception of Council #59, will need to be revised to change the time period from 6 months to five years. Currently I would only recommend the approval of Council #59 by-laws.

The Grand Council Office needs a copy of Council approved by-laws.

The Audit Committee and the Laws and Revisions Committee are working hand in hand this year given their respective chairmen.

*Budget Committee* – Board Appointments: Brother Alex Schmitt #8 and Brother Tommy Figueira #573. Committee Chairman is Brother Bob Bartoli #32, PGP, GT.

See Review Information regarding the budget as to increasing the Per Capita Tax. Brother Alex Schmitt made mention to increase the per capita tax for next year.

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

There was no report from this committee at this time.

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

The next issue of the Institute Journal is scheduled to be published in December. All content articles should be submitted to the editor before this time period, especially an article from the Budget Committee (see above). Other articles might be the Man/Council of the Year, Need for Resolutions, Essay Contest, Seminarian and Matching Funds letter, Bowling and Golf.

*Laws & Revisions Committee* – Board Appointments: Brother Nick Franceschine #54, PGP and Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP. Committee

Chairman is Brother Rob Bartoli #32. The report for this committee is contained in the Budget Committee section of these minutes.

There is no other report from the committee at this time.

***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.

Applications for both Man of the Year and Council of the Year will be on the YMI website and in the next edition of the Lamppost. The committee will also be mailing a copy to each Council of both applications.

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

The Grand President reported the Committee is scheduled to meet on December 9, 2023.

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

The Chairman reported that the Church and Mass are ready to go for March 2024. He is working out the details of the dinner with Brother Espinola #94.

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

The committee chairman reported on the mailing of the raffle tickets and the essay entry forms via bulk mail.

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

There was no report from this committee at this time.

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

Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD and Chairman reported that one resolution has been submitted and one more has surfaced given the minutes from this Board Meeting.

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

The chairman reported that there were two meetings thus far with 21 considerations. They hope to reduce this number a lot lower for the delegates to review at the Convention. The next meeting is November 21, 2023 and something will be forthcoming very soon.

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

This committee will announce its plans for next year in May 2024.

### *Report of Sports Committees*

**Chairmen of the Sports Group of Committees: the following announcements were made. (same as from the previous Board Meeting)**

**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. He hopes to have a team from Council #32 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. An article is needed for the Journal now that the Bocce Tournament is complete.**

**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. Council #613 is planning to have 3 or 4 teams. Brother Bob is hoping to have one team from each Council. Council #573 in Hawaii would like to participate by playing their match in Hilo if allowed. Answer – YES**

**Brother Fiorito will have something for the next Institute Journal.**

### *Unfinished Business –*

- A. The Business Manager, Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP, reported on the few Councils who were still behind in their Assessments. Also a few Semi Annual Reports are still outstanding.**

- B. Brother Eugene Espinola #94 brought all the Officers up to date on the steps being taken for Madera Council #60 to merge with Chowchilla Council #94. The goal is have the two combined by January 1, 2024.
- C. Brother Jack Albrecht #32, GT reported that he will once again speak to the tax consultant on the concept of raffles. Since this is an in house situation, there is no need to proceed further with this topic.

*New Business –*

Nothing specific as of this meeting.

*Immediate Past Grand President's Report –* Brother Darrell Fonseca #99, IPGP – He again reported on the work of the State of the Institute Committee.

*Grand Chaplain's Report –* Father Agnel was at Mass praying for us. Brother Fonseca led the prayer.

*Good of the Order –*

Brother Jack was again thanked for all his years as Grand Treasurer.

Brother Tom will be out of the country come January to May. Brothers Bob Bartoli and Michael Amato are stepping up to oversee the Grand Council Office during this time.

The next Board meeting will be held on January 27, 2024.

*Closing Prayer –* The Prayer of St. Francis was recited.

*Adjournment –* 10:29 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

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

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

