

**MINUTES OF THE YOUNG MEN’S INSTITUTE**  
**134th GRAND COUNCIL SESSION**  
**SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, NEVADA**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2019**

**Opening Ceremonies**

Mike Nelson #80, GP, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Evergreen B Meeting Room of the MontBleu Casino Resort in South Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

Bill Avery #80, GM, reported on the readiness of the Grand Council chambers. He stated that the meeting chamber was properly prepared and all present were entitled to remain.

The Opening Prayer was led by Father Agnel De Heredia #32, GC.

The Opening Song was led by Richard Guaraldi #32, PGP and the YMI chorus chimed in on the “YMI Song”.

All delegates were asked to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance led by Bill Avery #80, GM.

**Roll Call**

Grand Secretary Michael Dimech #613, PGP called the Roll. The Roll Call of the 134th Grand Council was updated to reflect those in attendance and those not on the roll at the time of printing. The following represents attendance for each day of the Session.

**134th Grand Council Session Roll Call by Council**

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Date of<br/>Initiation</i> | <i>Attendance</i> |         |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------|
|             |                               | 6/18/19           | 6/19/19 |

**San Francisco Council #1 ~ San Francisco, CA ~ Organized 1883**

| Name                               | Date of<br>Initiation | 6/18/19 | 6/19/19 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|
| Br. Jack Albrecht, Grand Treasurer | 01-22-1957            | Present | Present |
| Br. Edward DeLaTorre, PGP          | 07-28-1953            | Excused | Excused |
| Br. Carl Franke, PGP               | 08-07-1957            | Excused | Excused |

|                                  |            |         |         |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------|---------|
| Br. Mario DeVita, Grand Director | 10-06-1982 | Present | Present |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------|---------|

**San Jose Council #2 ~ San Jose, CA ~ Organized 1885**

|   |            |                                     |                                     |
|---|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Br. Frank Hepburn, Past Grand President     | 11-09-1982 | Present                             | Present                             |
| Br. Alex Preciado, Council Elected Delegate | 08-06-2013 | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del |
| Br. Stan Martinez, Council Elected Delegate | 03-03-1998 | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del |
| Br. John Dias, Council Elected Delegate     | 12-01-2012 | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del |
| Br. Richard O'Brien, DDGP                   | 07-23-2010 | Absent                              | Absent                              |
| Br. John Salvador, Council Elected Delegate | 10-08-2009 | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del |
| Br. Paul Chavez, Guest                      | 03-19-2019 | Absent                              | Absent                              |

**Stockton Council #5 ~ Stockton, CA ~ Organized 1885**

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**American Council #8 ~ Oakland, CA ~ Organized 1885**

|  |            |         |         |
|--|------------|---------|---------|
| Br. Alex Schmitt, PGD & DDGP                     | 11-12-2002 | Present | Present |
| Br. Christopher McCann, Council Elected Delegate | 08-11-1998 | Present | Present |

**Vallejo Council #13 ~ Vallejo, CA ~ Organized 1885**

|  |            |         |         |
|--|------------|---------|---------|
| Br. James Mullen, Council Elected Delegate | 12-13-1983 | Excused | Excused |
|--|------------|---------|---------|

**South San Francisco Council #32 ~ South San Francisco, CA ~ Organized 1946**

|  |            |         |         |
|--|------------|---------|---------|
| Rev. Agnel Jose De Heredia, Grand Chaplain | 06-14-2001 | Present | Present |
| Br. George Terry, PGP                      | 10-15-1993 | Present | Present |
| Br. Thomas Fourie, PGP                     | 08-14-1986 | Present | Present |
| Br. Philip Oberst, PGP                     | 10-12-1972 | Present | Present |
| Br. Richard Guaraldi, PGP                  | 02-13-1975 | Present | Present |
| Br. John West, PGP                         | 03-12-1992 | Excused | Excused |
| Br. Bob Bartoli, PGP                       | 06-11-1992 | Present | Present |
| Br. John Musgrove, PGP                     | 05-12-1994 | Excused | Excused |
| Br. Clifford Smethurst, PGP                | 04-11-1985 | Absent  | Absent  |
| Br. Paul Larson, Council Elected Delegate  | 12-09-2010 | Present | Present |

|   |            |                                     |                                     |
|---|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Br. Larry Andreatta, Council Elected Delegate | 11-09-1989 | Present                             | Present                             |
| Br. Paul Walsh, Grand Director                | 09-14-1989 | Absent                              | Absent                              |
| Br. Steve Cresci, Grand Director              | 05-02-1990 | Present                             | Present                             |
| Br. Brian Dunbar, Council Elected Delegate    | 05-08-2003 | Present                             | Present                             |
| Br. Jerry Ginier, Council Elected Delegate    | 10-10-2002 | Present                             | Present                             |
| Br. Luis Alvarenga, Council Elected Delegate  | 12-13-2012 | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del |

**Santa Rosa Council #40 ~ Santa Rosa, CA ~ Organized 1954**

|  |            |                                     |                                     |
|--|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Br. Bill McNeany, Council Elected Delegate     | 06-14-1980 | Present                             | Present                             |
| Br. Steve May, DDGP                            | 11-04-1997 | Present                             | Present                             |
| Br. Angel Vera, Council Elected Delegate       | 10-06-2009 | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del |
| Br. Richard Pasquini, Council Elected Delegate | 01-06-2009 | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del |
| Br. Harry Licursi, Council Elected Delegate    | 03-04-2008 | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del |
| Br. Butch Bondi, Council Elected Delegate      | 09-02-2014 | Present                             | Present                             |

**Holy Rosary Council #44 ~ Hilmar, CA ~ Organized 1951**

|  |            |                                     |                                     |
|--|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Br. Manuel Drumonde, PGP & GD                            | 04-18-1974 | Present                             | Present                             |
| Br. Mario Borba, Council Elected Delegate                | 08-25-2016 | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del |
| Br. Christopher Freeberg, PGD & Council Elected Delegate | 08-03-1989 | Present                             | Present                             |
| Br. Daniel Santos, Council Elected Delegate              | 02-12-2015 | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del |
| Br. Duarte Monteiro, Council Elected Delegate            | 11-14-2002 | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del |

**Sebastopol Council #54 ~ Sebastopol, CA ~ Organized 1923**

|   |            |         |         |
|---|------------|---------|---------|
| Br. Nick Franceschine, Grand Outside Sentinel | 06-11-1986 | Present | Present |
| Br. Domenic Carinalli, Grand Inside Sentinel  | 02-09-1966 | Present | Present |
| Br. George Guy, Council Elected Delegate      | 12-12-1980 | Present | Present |
| Br. Charles Wallin, Council Elected Delegate  | 02-11-1998 | Present | Present |

**Sadoc Council #59 ~ Pittsburg, CA ~ Organized 1926**

|   |            |         |         |
|---|------------|---------|---------|
| Br. Michael Sanzeri, Council Elected Delegate | 04-01-1997 | Present | Present |
| Br. Salvatore Enea, PGP                       | 10-19-1948 | Excused | Excused |
| Br. Frank Di Maggio, PGP                      | 11-07-1989 | Present | Present |
| Br. Jeremy Vitug, DDGP                        | 10-17-2017 | Excused | Excused |

**Madera Council #60 ~ Madera, CA ~ Organized 1927**

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**St. Christopher Council #80 ~ Atwater, CA ~ Organized 1935**

|  |            |                                     |                                     |
|--|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Br. Luther Evans, PGP                        | 09-27-2000 | Present                             | Present                             |
| Br. Billy Pimentel, Council Elected Delegate | 10-26-1964 | Excused                             | Excused                             |
| Br. Mike Nelson, Grand President             | 05-22-1996 | Present                             | Present                             |
| Br. Matt Nelson, Grand Director              | 06-23-2004 | Present                             | Present                             |
| Br. Bill Avery, Grand Marshal                | 08-25-2010 | Present                             | Present                             |
| Br. Bill Walls, Council Elected Delegate     | 08-25-2010 | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del | Present<br>1 <sup>st</sup> time del |
| Br. Steve Ortiz, Council Elected Delegate    | 10-22-2003 | Present                             | Present                             |
| Br. Gary Frago, Council Elected Delegate     | 12-19-2001 | Present                             | Present                             |
| Br. Richard Dodson, Council Elected Delegate | 08-25-1999 | Present                             | Present                             |
| Br. Larry Silva, PGP                         | 01-28-1959 | Excused                             | Excused                             |
| Br. Rudy Albritton, PGP                      | 03-26-2003 | Excused                             | Excused                             |

**Manteca Council #88 ~ Manteca, CA ~ Organized 1947**

|                        |            |         |         |
|------------------------|------------|---------|---------|
| Br. Jerry DeGroot, PGP | 11-21-1967 | Excused | Excused |
|------------------------|------------|---------|---------|

**Tracy Council #92 ~ Tracy, CA ~ Organized 1940**

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**St. Columba Council #94 ~ Chowchilla, CA ~ Organized 1941**

|   |                   |                |                |
|---|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Br. Mike Thissen, Grand First Vice President</b> | <b>03-01-1983</b> | <b>Present</b> | <b>Present</b> |
| <b>Br. Eugene Espinola, DDGP</b>                    | <b>12-02-1981</b> | <b>Present</b> | <b>Present</b> |

**Dos Palos Council #99 ~ Dos Palos, CA ~ Organized 1946**

|  |                   |                |                |
|--|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Br. Darrell Fonseca, Council Elected Delegate</b> | <b>05-14-1991</b> | <b>Present</b> | <b>Present</b> |
|--|-------------------|----------------|----------------|

**Bakersfield Council #100 ~ Bakersfield, CA ~ Organized 1946**

|  |                   |                |                |
|--|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Br. Joseph Reza, PGP &amp; DDGP</b> | <b>11-18-2006</b> | <b>Excused</b> | <b>Excused</b> |
|--|-------------------|----------------|----------------|

**Our Lady of the Pines Council #137 ~ Pioneer, CA ~ Organized 2009**

|   |                   |                |                |
|---|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Br. Phil Fondale, PGD &amp; DDGP</b> | <b>10-17-1989</b> | <b>Present</b> | <b>Present</b> |
|---|-------------------|----------------|----------------|

**St. Augustine Council #497 ~ Huntingburg, Indiana ~ Organized 1898**

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**Francis Council #573 ~ Hilo, Hawaii ~ Organized 1901**

|   |                   |                |                |
|---|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Br. James Mullen, PGP</b>                        | <b>11-10-1966</b> | <b>Excused</b> | <b>Excused</b> |
| <b>Br. Clement Gusman, Council Elected Delegate</b> | <b>03-25-2983</b> | <b>Present</b> | <b>Present</b> |
| <b>Br. James S. Souza, DDGP</b>                     | <b>09-27-1949</b> | <b>Excused</b> | <b>Excused</b> |

**Gonzaga Council #612 ~ Richmond, Indiana ~ Organized 1907**

|  |                   |  |  |
|--|-------------------|--|--|
| <b>Br. Jim Rohe, Grand Director</b>            | <b>07-09-1980</b> | <b>Present</b>                             | <b>Present</b>                             |
| <b>Br. Scott Vogelgesang, DDGP</b>             | <b>07-25-1973</b> | <b>Excused</b>                             | <b>Excused</b>                             |
| <b>Br. Bob Crowe, Council Elected Delegate</b> | <b>07-04-1984</b> | <b>Present<br/>1<sup>st</sup> time del</b> | <b>Present<br/>1<sup>st</sup> time del</b> |

**St. John Bosco Council #613 ~ San Francisco, CA ~ Organized 1908**

|   |                   |                |                |
|---|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Br. Michael Amato, Grand Second Vice President</b> | <b>09-14-2004</b> | <b>Present</b> | <b>Present</b> |
| <b>Br. Michael Dimech, IPGP &amp; Grand Secretary</b> | <b>11-28-2006</b> | <b>Present</b> | <b>Present</b> |

|   |            |         |         |
|---|------------|---------|---------|
| Br. Richard Pisciotta, Council Elected Delegate       | 11-08-1960 | Present | Present |
| Br. Cosmo Amato, DDGP                                 | 01-27-1970 | Present | Present |
| Br. Bob Fiorito, Grand Director                       | 05-08-2007 | Present | Present |
| Br. Jeff Morrow, Council Elected Delegate             | 11-11-2014 | Present | Present |
| Br. Joseph Soracco, Council Elected Delegate          | 04-13-2010 | Present | Present |
| Br. John Kavanagh, Grand Director                     | 11-12-2018 | Excused | Excused |
| Fr. Joseph Landi, Chaplain & Council Elected Delegate | 03-12-2013 | Present | Present |

### **Communications**

The following communications were read by Michael Dimech #613, GS:

- Several letters from Brothers asking to be excused from attending this Grand Council Session due to poor health or work responsibilities: Brother John Kavanagh #613, GD; Brother John Musgrove #32, PGP; Brother Jerry DeGroot #88, PGP; Brother Ed DeLaTorre #1, PGP; Brother Carl Franke #1, PGP; Brother John West #32, PGP; Brother Jim Mullen #573, PGP; Br. Billy Pimentel #80; Br. James Mullen #13; Br. Joseph Reza #100 and Br. Jeremy Vitug #59.

Brother Richard Pisciotta #613 and his committee members conducted the first 50/50 Raffle.

### **Opening Remarks and Special Committees**

Mike Nelson #80, GP, made a few opening remarks to the delegates and then reviewed the appointment of Special Committees.

- Assistant to the Grand Secretary – Tom Fourie #32, PGP
- Assistant Marshal – Joseph Soracco #613
- Parliamentarian – Christopher Freeberg #44, PGD
- Elections – Jim Rohe #612, GD & Darrell Fonseca #99
- Remembrance Ceremony – Tom Fourie #32, PGP

### **Rules of the Session**

Mike Nelson #80, GP, referred to the Rules of the Grand Council Session on page 17 of the Advance Proceedings. He expressed hope that all had read the Rules, however, since there were first time delegates present, he asked that the Grand Secretary, Michael Dimech #613 & PGP, read the Rules aloud. Following the reading, the Grand President asked if there were any questions. Hearing none he entertained a motion to accept the Rules.

**MSC** – Frank DiMaggio #59, PGP/Bill McNeany #40, – to accept the Rules of the 134th Grand Council Session as presented. Passed unanimously

### **Unfinished Business**

Mike Nelson #80, GP, asked the Grand Secretary if there was any unfinished business from the 133rd Grand Council Session. Michael Dimech #613, GS & PGP, answered there was none.

At this time Grand President Mike Nelson #80, appointed the following Brothers to fill in the unoccupied seats of Grand Council:

- Brothers Clement Gusman #573 and Mario Borba #44, to the Board of Grand Directors.

### **Credentials**

The Credentials Committee chairman, Michael Dimech #613, GS & PGP, reported that in attendance were 61 delegates thus far, all of whom had submitted their credentials in proper order. There were two additional delegates who had registered, however, they had contacted the Grand Secretary to say they would not be able to come at the last minute.

### **Charity Box**

Mike Nelson #80, GP, designated the Bread and Broth Program which was associated with St. Theresa Catholic Church and the greater community of South Lake Tahoe to be the recipient of the charity box monies (one-half of the 50/50 raffles). The group provided food (breakfast, lunch and dinners) for young children who were in need in the community.

### **Session Announcements**

Grand Council Session Committee representative, Thomas Fourie #32, PGP, welcomed everyone on behalf of the Committee and encouraged all participants to have a good time. He made a strong appeal to all the delegates present that the present planning committee for the Grand Council Session would sincerely appreciate some “new blood”. Brothers and their wives, currently on the committee, have been serving for many years (up to eighteen) and would like to pass the torch to others. Anyone who is interested was asked to contact the Business Manager. He reminded everyone to have their green tickets available to receive the bag lunch later in the day and that the bus would leave at 5:00 p.m. for the MS Dixie Dinner Cruise later that evening.

### **Grand Chaplain's Report**

Rev. Agnel Jose De Heredia #32, GC, welcomed everyone to the Grand Council Session and extended Father's Day greetings to all present. His presentation is summarized below:

- He reminded us that as YMI Brothers we are stewards of our Faith.
- He educated all that the Pope, Pope Francis was a Jesuit. He, Father Agnel, was also trained by the Jesuits.
- All priests as well as we as members of the YMI are called to holiness in our own individual way.
- We need to help our priests during this difficult time in the Catholic Church. The current environment has become toxic for many and the representatives of the Church, namely the priests, need our help.
- The priests need time to pray and have tremendous demands on their time.
- He spoke about the sex scandal throughout the Church in the United States, Europe and Australia. The effects of this world wide issue has seriously hurt the Church.
- There must be a healing process as we move forward.
- Evil is in the Church, the Devil is in the Church, but so is Jesus in the Church, in fact, Jesus is the Church. We must pray to overcome these obstacles.
- Human behavior is very difficult to predict but we are all human.
- Pray for your priests.

### **Nomination of Grand Council Officers**

Nomination of Officers for Grand Council: all candidates were referred to Rule #5 on page 17. All nominees accepted their nomination.

- Alex Schmitt #8, DDGP, nominated Christopher McCann #8 for the office of Grand Outside Sentinel, which was seconded by Michael Sanzeri #59, PGO.
- Nick Franceschine #54, GOS, nominated Charlie Wallin #54 for the office of Grand Inside Sentinel, which was seconded by Bill McNeany #40, PGO.
- Mike Thissen #94, GFVP, nominated Bill Avery #80, GM, for the office of Grand Marshal, which was seconded by Steve Ortiz #80.
- Manuel Drumonde #44, PGP, GD, nominated Darrell Fonseca #99, for the office of Grand Director, which was seconded by Eugene Espinola #94, DDGP.
- Bob Bartoli #32, PGP, nominated Steve Cresci #32, GD, for the office of Grand Director, which was seconded by Paul Larson #32.
- Bill McNeany #40, PGO, nominated Angel Vera #40, for the office of Grand Director, which was seconded by Harry Licursi #40.
- Nick Franceschine #54, GOS, nominated Domenic Carinalli #54, GIS, for the office of Grand Director, which was seconded by Bill McNeany #40, PGO.

- Manuel Drumonde #44, PGP, nominated Jack Albrecht #1, GT, for the office of Grand Treasurer, which was seconded by Bill McNeany #40, PGO.
- Michael Amato #613, GSVP, nominated Michael Dimech #613, PGP, GS, for the office of Grand Secretary, which was seconded by Tom Fourie #32, PGP.
- George Guy #54, nominated Nick Franceschine #54, GOS, for the office of Grand Second Vice President which was seconded by Charlie Wallin #54 and Domenic Carinalli #54, GIS.
- Cosmo Amato #613, DDGP, nominated Michael Amato #613, GSVP, for the office of Grand First Vice President which was seconded by Mike Dimech #613, PGP, GS, and Tom Fourie #32, PGP.
- Eugene Espinola #94, DDGP, nominated Mike Thissen #94, GFVP, for the office of Grand President which was seconded by Luther Evans #80, PGP, and Gary Frago #80.

Mike Nelson #80, GP declared all the nominations closed.

**MSC** – Bob Bartoli #32, PGP/Frank DiMaggio #59, PGP, moved that the Grand Secretary cast a ballot for all the uncontested offices and they be declared elected by acclamation. (passed unanimously)

### **Preliminary Budget Report**

Jack Albrecht #1, GT, presented the proposed Grand Council Operating Budget for 2019-2020 as printed in the Advanced Proceedings on page 49. He reviewed all the accounts of planned expenditures and encouraged members to review the proposed budget. He noted that the total budget being proposed was basically the same as the year previous, however, there was an increase in the Telecommunications category due to the increased use of the Conference Call for meetings. He asked if there were any questions at this time. Questions concerning the Institute Journal and the Insurance balance were asked. The Institute Journal would be discussed at the workshop on the next day and the Insurance balance was explained due to just one annual payment at the beginning of the YMI year. Br. Albrecht reviewed actions taken at past Grand Council Sessions with regard to the per capita tax being fixed at a certain amount and that the deficit in the budget is made up by drawing upon the reserves. Presently, it will be about \$14,000.00 this year.

**MSC** – Rich Guaraldi #32, PGP/Mike Sanzeri #59, PGO to accept the Grand Treasurer's report and approve the 2019-2020 Budget.

**Mike Nelson #80, GP recessed the Session at 12:00 noon for lunch.**

**Mike Nelson #80, GP called the Session back to order at 1:30 p.m.**

Mike Nelson #80, GP recessed the Session at 1:31 p.m. in order for the YMI Seminarian Educational Foundation and the YMI Educational Foundation to conduct their respective annual general meetings.

At 2:23 p.m. Mike Nelson #80, GP, called the Session back to order.

### **State of the Institute Report**

Committee Chairman Brother Mike Dimech #613, GS read aloud two proposals presented on pages 75-77 in the Advance Proceedings.

Brother Dimech read the first proposal concerning the change of title for the Junior Past Grand President. After reading the motion, Brother Dimech made a motion to accept this by-law proposal and Mike Amato #613, GSVP seconded the motion. Only one comment was made by Tom Fourie #32, PGP, and he asked that the proposal be amended to change the title from Past Grand President Emeritus to Immediate Past Grand President. The rationale given was that this Brother serves but one year. The title of Emeritus is a life-long title usually given to retired college professors for their work over the previous years. The term “immediate” designates a particular time period. Brother Dimech accepted this amendment to the proposal and it was seconded by the delegates.

Brother Dimech read the second proposal concerning setting guidelines for expenditures from the Reserve Fund and then made a motion to accept this by-law proposal, which Mike Amato #613 GSVP seconded. During the discussion period there were many questions and comments both pro and con on the passage of this proposal. Several Brothers spoke more than once on this topic. After a reasonable time period, the discussion on this proposal was brought to an end.

The Grand President reminded the delegates that the vote on these two proposals would be by secret ballot at the end of today’s Session.

### **Grand Council Committee Reports**

Mike Nelson #80, GP, reviewed the various Grand Council reports presented in the Advance Proceedings. He asked if there were any questions regarding these reports as well as those submitted by the District Deputy Grand Presidents. All delegates had been requested to read these reports prior to the start of the Session. Many of the reports had

been referenced in various specific agenda items of the Session. None of the delegates had any questions or comments on these reports at this time except for the Grand President.

- Under District Deputy Grand President Reports: Mike Nelson #80, GP thanked all the District Deputy Grand Presidents for being the eyes and ears of the Grand President. Special recognition was given to Cosmo Amato #613, DDGP for his outstanding report.

### **Announcements**

Michael Dimech #613, GS reported on his brief meeting with the newly elected members of the Board of Grand Directors earlier in the day. Mario DeVita #1 was voted in as the Board Chairman for 2019-2020 and Steve Cresci #32 was elected as Vice Chairman for the Board.

Michael Dimech #613, GS reminded the Councils present how important it is to update Council information with the Grand Council Office on a regular basis. Tom Fourie #32, PGP conveyed his disappointment that Councils do not make timely updates via the Semi Annual Reports and this topic would be referenced during the workshop being held the following day.

The second 50/50 raffle drawing was held under the direction of Brother Richard

Pisciotta #613.

### **Distribution of Ballots**

Brother Fourie reviewed the process of the secret ballot vote for the State of the Institute Proposals. Brothers were called forward to receive their ballots and vote. A 2/3 majority was needed for a proposal to pass. Results will be announced tomorrow.

A closing prayer was led by Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, GC, and Mike Nelson #80, GP, declared a recess at 3:55 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 19, 2019.

### **Recess**

## **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2018**

Call to order at 9:05 a.m. by Mike Nelson #80, GP, in the Evergreen B Meeting Room of the MontBleu Resort Casino in South Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

### **Opening Ceremonies**

*A special rendition of Happy Birthday was sung and filmed for Br. Jimmy Souza #573 and then a second rendition was sung for Brother Angel Vera as today was their birthdays.*

Bill Avery #80, GM, reported that the Council Chamber was properly prepared and all present were entitled to remain.

The Opening Prayer was led by Father Agnel De Heredia #32, GC.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Avery #80, GM.

### **Roll Call**

Michael Dimech #613, GS, called the Roll and the Grand President instructed him to carry over the previous day roll call. The results were similar to the roll taken on Tuesday, June 19, 2019. See the official roll sheet listed on previous pages of these minutes.

### **Communications**

There were no additional communications received.

### **Credentials Report**

The Credentials Committee Chairman, Michael Dimech #613, GS, announced that no other credentials had been presented and we continue to stand with 61 delegates.

### **Election Report**

The Election Committee reported on the secret ballot election for State of the Institute proposals:

*Proposal #1 – Change in the name of the Junior Past Grand President to Immediate Past Grand President*

Yes....49 votes

No.....6 votes

The Proposal is adopted.

*Proposal #2 – Setting guidelines for expenditures from the Grand Council Reserve Fund.*

Yes....26 votes

No.....29 votes

The Proposal is not adopted.

Thomas Fourie #32, PGP explained the process of implementing by-law changes, which involves the Grand Council Laws and Revisions Committee.

MSC – Tom Fourie #32, PGP/Frank DiMaggio #59 PGP - to have the ballots destroyed. Passed unanimously.

### **Special Committee Appointments for Installation of Grand Officers**

Thomas Fourie #32, PGP, reviewed the appointment of the special committee for the Installation of Grand Officers.

- Installing Officer for the Installation Ceremony – Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, GC
- Installing Marshal for the Installation Ceremony – Bob Bartoli #32, PGP
- Guardian of the Flag – Phil Oberst #32, PGP

### **Workshop**

The workshop was conducted by members of the Grand Council Office under the direction of the Business Manager, Br. Thomas Fourie #32, PGP:

- Br. Fourie began by “thanking” all for doing their respective jobs well and it is reflective in getting all the information turned in, and especially thanked all wives.
- The Business Manager commented on several items in the registration packet:
  1. The welcome letter from the Grand President
  2. The map to the Church
  3. Raffle prize list – green sheet
  4. Application for Membership – please make it legible and accurate
  5. Website summary of content items
  6. Donation Form
  7. Beneficiary form
  8. Elvis Presley Sinatra event flyer
  9. Bocce Ball Tournament flyer
  10. Pasta Bingo Dinner flyer.
- Brother Fourie spoke to the Election Committee Results and the changes needed to be made to the By-Laws. After the Laws and Revisions Committee review, the changes will be reflected on the Website.
- Page 3 of the Semi Annual Reports is usually not updated....we need this information.
- Membership rosters are not being turned in...Br. Fourie called out the Councils who have yet to submit the rosters this year.
- Br. Fourie indicated that Liability Insurance covers Council activities if notification is provided ahead of time, especially if the activity does not take place at the Council’s meeting site. Our new policy takes effect on June 18, 2019. One-time events can be covered as long as the Grand Council Office is notified in advance. Insurance certificates have not been made available to the Grand Council Office as of this date.
- The minutes from this Grand Council Session will be approved by the Board of Grand Directors at their next meeting and will be distributed by e-mail to those in attendance and will also be available on the Website.
- We all need to do better on meeting deadlines. Enough said.

- Br. Fourie reported on the possibility of having the Institute Journal sent electronically to all Council Secretaries, who in turn can send them to their members using the e-mails they have at their disposal. Br. Fourie reported that many Councils have not kept the Grand Office up to date on e-mails, yet nearly every Brother has one or has a family member who has one. The time and effort currently expended to publish and distribute the Institute Journal is staggering and will not be continued as is. The Journal will always be posted on the YMI website, so there is really no reason why all members cannot access a copy. The final decision on this matter will be made at the July 13, 2019 Board of Grand Directors Meeting.
- Br. Fourie concluded his part of the workshop by pointing out that two Councils have not submitted their last Assessment checks, those being Councils #100 and #497. Br. Fourie reviewed the four parts of the Semi Annual Report: Financial page, Membership page, Officers page and the Council Roster.

At this time, Brother Fourie introduced GSVP Michael Amato #613 to present the new and improved Pro Patria Essay Contest and Raffle.

- Brother Amato announced that there will be an increase in the prize fund for students to \$8000.
- The profit from the Grand Council Pasta/Bingo Dinner will be applied to this Student Prize Fund.
- We need to raise \$11,000-\$12,000 from the raffle to support this effort.
- The traditional two books of tickets will not be used this year, rather a single sheet of tickets will be sent out to each Brother.
- In past years it cost \$1500 to print and mail the raffle tickets. We are anticipating this year's cost to be \$300 (We will be saving \$1,200)
- The raffle tickets will be sold as \$10 for one ticket, \$25 for three tickets, \$40 for eight tickets.
- We plan to send each Brother their tickets in September.
- We are asking each Council to purchase \$80.00 for tickets (that will be 16 tickets)
- Each Council will also be sent an individual sheet of tickets via a PDF file to provide more tickets to Brothers and Friends of the YMI.
- This is the largest outreach of the YMI for the entire year, we enter into the homes of over 1200 families.
- The essay topics this year are top drawer and the students should have a sincere interest in writing their essays.
- 1200 students participated this past year
- Each Brother present was given a packet with essay entry forms as well as a page of raffle tickets. Each Council present was also given essay forms and more ticket pages.

To conclude the workshop, Brother Fourie distributed two sheets of statistical information concerning the recent past history of participation in this contest. The first sheet showed the participation by Council of the Brothers purchasing raffle tickets (less than 20% of all Brothers....a very poor response and it has been the same for the past

three years...it must improve). The second sheet listed the schools of students who participated in the past three years but did not participate this past year (2019). YMI Brothers who live near these schools need to make the effort to contact the school officials and re-invite the students to write this year.

THE BOTTOM LINE OF THIS PRO PATRIA EFFORT: EVERY COUNCIL HAS RETURNED TO THEM THE ENTRY FORMS, ESSAYS AND AN INDIVIDUAL CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION FOR THE STUDENTS THEY SPONSORED. HOW MANY COUNCILS LOOK AT THESE DOCUMENTS AND USE THEM AS A TOOL TO CONTACT PERSPECTIVE MEMBERS (FROM THE FATHERS OF THESE STUDENTS???) HOW MANY COUNCILS MAKE AN EFFORT TO PRESENT THE STUDENTS WITH THEIR CERTIFICATES AT A SCHOOL ASSEMBLY, COUNCIL MEETING, ETC.????

REMEMBER THIS CONTEST AND ALL THE WORK THAT GOES INTO IT AND THE RAFFLE WAS DESIGNED TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP. BROTHER FOURIE WAS EMPATIC ABOUT THIS POINT.

### **New Business**

Mike Nelson #80, GP, asked for any new business. Br. Matt Nelson #80, GD and Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee acknowledged the development of the new Membership pamphlet designed by the Membership Committee and found in our packets. He acknowledged the work that he is presently doing to continue to build relationships with the Bishops in our local Catholic dioceses where YMI Councils are located. He asked that all delegates read the Long Range Plan as printed in the Advance Proceedings on page 56-58, bring it up at your Council meetings and be aware of what is going on. Michael Amato #613, GSVP commented on the Junior YMI efforts and its success at Council #613. He suggested it should be an immediate effort expended by all Councils and listed as an immediate goal.

Br. Tom Fourie #32, PGP invited Br. Bob Crowe #612 to come forward and speak to the local YMI's involvement in the Veteran's Park in Richmond, Indiana. Newspaper articles were available for delegates to read which spoke to the helicopter that was airlifted into the park this year. The park honors men and women who fought from the Civil War to the War in Afghanistan.

### **Sports Report**

Grand President Mike Nelson #80 called upon Michael Sanzeri #59, DDGP, for the report on the Bowling Tournament. He reported that he had to postpone the tournament this year due to so many conflicts within Councils over dates. He hopes to speak to all the Councils here at this Grand Council Session to secure possible dates to reschedule this Fall. He reviewed the rules of the tournament and he will notify all of a new date.

Grand Secretary Mike Dimech #613 reviewed last year's Bocce Tournament where six Council participated with 64 individual entrants. The entry form for this coming September's Tournament is in the registration packet each delegate received. He reviewed the process and the level of fun generated at this event. He thanked Council #32 and #613 for helping with the food. Looking forward to another successful day in September of this year.

Brother Bob Fiorito #613, GD reported that this year's golf tournament was held at Bennett Valley in Santa Rosa, with the dinner following at Legend's Restaurant. Eight teams participated and he thanked Br. Bill McNeany and Br. Angel Vera for their help and participation. Br. Michael Thissen #94, GFVP brought produce from the Valley for prizes. Everyone had a good time, and plans are to return next year to this venue.

### **Fund Raising**

Brother Bob Fiorito reported the recent Pasta/Bingo Fundraiser brought in \$1600-\$1700 which will be helping the Pro Patria Contest. He also reminded everyone that the Fundraiser will again be held this year in November at St. Veronica Parish Hall in South San Francisco. Brother Mike Dimech #613, GS, PGP will chair the event once again.

### **Adoption of the 2018-2019 Budget**

Completed the previous day.

Mike Nelson #80, GP called for a brief recess at 10:15 a.m.

Mike Nelson #80, GP called the Session back in order at 10:30 a.m.

### **Grand Council Officers' Summary Reports**

Mike Nelson #80, GP, referred to the Grand Officers Reports which began with his report on page 29 of the Advance Proceedings. He referred the Brothers to read these

comprehensive reports contained in the Advance Proceedings and any questions to please speak to the author of that report. He also asked that each delegate share these reports with the Brothers of their Council. The Grand President spoke about being flexible for the new YMI year. He once again emphasized that getting wives and families involved in the YMI is key to new membership. He was frustrated that he did not make it to all the Councils this year, but does want to improve the lines of communication for everyone. He thanked all for their trust in him.

### **Resolutions**

Nick Franceschine #54, GD, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee read the two resolutions prepared for this year:

*1. Resolution for Tom Burke, writer for the San Francisco Catholic for many years for publicizing the YMI.*

**MSC** – Rich Guaraldi #32, PGP/Phil Oberst #32, PGP to accept and present the resolution. Unanimously approved.

*2. Resolution for Rev. Joe Landi, #613 for his support of the YMI at both the Council and Grand Council level.*

**MSC** – Everyone/Everyone to accept and present the resolution. Unanimously approved.

### **Report on the 2019 Grand Council Session**

Tom Fourie #32, PGP stated that everything has gone well these past three days. The Hotel has been most agreeable to all our needs and the Church has also welcomed us with open arms. We all look forward to the Celebration Mass and the Installation of Officers this afternoon, followed by the Grand Banquet. The committee thanks everyone for attending.

### **Report on the 2020 Grand Council Session**

The 135<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session will be held in June 2020 at the Silver Legacy Hotel in Reno, Nevada. The contract has been signed so we will start advertising very soon.

### **Charity Box Distribution**

Mike Nelson #80, GP, reminded everyone that the 50/50 raffles will go towards the Bread & Broth program at St. Theresa's Church. (Breaking News: Following the Grand Banquet and final drawing, \$1165.00 was realized for the this cause)

### **Special Presentation**

George Terry #32, PGP presented Mike Nelson #80, GP with his YMI Official pocket insignia (the second time), the Official indication of a Grand President of the Young Men's Institute. All delegates stood and loudly applauded Brother Mike Nelson for his service.

### **Presentation of Grand President Elect**

Grand President Mike Nelson #80 introduced the new Grand President-elect, Brother Michael Thissen #94. Addressing the delegates from the podium Br. Thissen referenced his GP program (which was distributed to all the delegates) highlighting his theme of "Nurturing the Councils". He spoke briefly on new members, bringing in different populations, he was open to new ideas and how his Council had recently reached out to help with community services in the Chowchilla area. He would love to see a Corn-Hole Tournament sponsored by the YMI. He asked for support and prayers from all the delegates during this next YMI year.

### **Presentation and Installation of District Deputy Grand Presidents**

Mike Thissen #94, Grand President-elect, read aloud the names and the duties of the District Deputy Grand Presidents covering the YMI territories this year. The District Deputies are working for the Grand President. Those present included: Cosmo Amato #613; Phil Fondale #137, PGD; Michael Sanzeri #59, PGO; Steven May #40; Alex Schmitt #8, PGD; Jim Rohe #612 for Scott Vogelgesang #612; Eugene Espinola #94; Darrell Fonseca #99; Alex Preciado #2; and Luther Evans #80.

**MSC** – Thomas Fourie #32, PGP/Michael Amato #613, GSVP, to accept the nominated Brothers (as listed in the Grand President's Program as District Deputy Grand Presidents with all the responsibilities and privileges as stated in the Grand Council Constitution and By-Laws). Unanimously passed.

Brother Thissen #94, GP-elect, initiated his new District Deputies and they took their Oath of office.

### **Good of the Order**

- The thirteen first time delegates individually came to the microphone and shared their impressions of this Grand Council Session and most of them were surprised at all the YMI does and especially the behind the scenes work that most Brothers have no knowledge of...they were all impressed.
- Steve Cresci #31, GD spoke about the Membership Committee and asked for support, now that the tri-fold pamphlet has been completed and available for recruiting purposes.
- Nick Franceschine #54, GOS invited everyone to the BBQ at Council #54 on August 28, 2019...the Official Visit of the Grand President to the District.
- Michael Amato #613, GSVP thanked Brother Manuel Drumonde #44, PGP for serving his second 4-year term on the Board of Grand Directors.
- Phil Fondale #137, DDGP spoke about the closing of Manteca Council #88, the Council he belonged to and was President...three Grand Presidents came from that Council, it had 120 members in 1992, Brother Jerry DeGroot's illness has had much to do with its closure, and he asked the question, of how to hold Councils together?
- Manuel Drumonde #44, PGP spoke about ways to increase YMI membership as he brought up facts from a past Bowling Tournament (there were 46 teams) and in 1986, there were 112 delegates attending the Grand Council Session.

**Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

The closing prayer was led by Father Agnel De Heredia #32, GC.

Grand President Mike Nelson #80 adjourned the 134th Grand Council Session at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dimech #613, GS, PGP

Thomas Fourie #32, PGP  
Business Manager

Minutes approved by the Board of Grand Directors on July 13, 2019