

# 136<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session of the Young Men's Institute

## *"Following St. John Bosco's Way"*

### Special Grand Council Session

June 12, 2021

### Minutes

On Saturday, June 12, 2021, the Grand Council held a special meeting via Zoom to conduct the business of the 136<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session. Given the continued Covid-19 epidemic throughout the United States, the feasibility of a large group meeting was not considered for this year.

The meeting was called to order by Grand President Michael Amato #613 at 9:04 a.m. He welcomed all the Brothers in attendance for this Special Session. He reviewed the rules of the Session from the Advance Proceedings document asking that when Brothers were speaking to be short and sweet. His intention was to keep the meeting efficient and on-going.

On May 25, 2021, the Grand Council Office sent each Delegate by e-mail their copy of the Advance Proceedings. The roll call of Delegates is as follows:

#### 136th Grand Council Session Roll Call by Council

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	
	<i>Initiation</i>	Ballot Sent	Ballot Cast

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

Br. Frank Hepburn, PGP	11-09-1982	e-mail	P
Br. Alex Preciado, DDGP	08-06-2013	e-mail	P
Fr. Paolo Gobbo, Council Elected Delegate	06-01-2013	e-mail	P
Br. John Dias, Council Elected Delegate	12-01-2012	e-mail	A

<b>Br. Larry Gallegos, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>11-20-2018</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>

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

<b>Br. Robert Rabiteau, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>07-14-2003</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Br. Jason Gonzalez, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>09-2000</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>

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

<b>Br. Alex Schmitt, GD &amp; DDGP</b>	<b>11-12-2002</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Christopher Mc Cann, Grand Inside Sentinel</b>	<b>08-11-1998</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Stuart MacIntyre, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>05-27-1951</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Br. Bob Berio, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>09-06-1969</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Br. Robert Hasler, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>11-12-2002</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>

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

<b>Br. James Mullen, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>12-13-1983</b>	<b>US Mail</b>	<b>A</b>
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**South San Francisco Council #32 ~ South San Francisco, CA ~ Organized 1946**

<b>Rev. Agnel Jose De Heredia, Grand Chaplain</b>	<b>06-14-2001</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Steve Cresci, Grand Director</b>	<b>05-02-1990</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Alan Patrick, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>04-11-1996</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Clifford Smethurst, PGP</b>	<b>04-11-1985</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Thomas Fourie, PGP</b>	<b>08-14-1986</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Philip Oberst, PGP</b>	<b>10-12-1972</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Richard Guaraldi, PGP</b>	<b>02-13-1975</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. John West, PGP</b>	<b>03-12-1992</b>	<b>US Mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Bob Bartoli, PGP</b>	<b>06-11-1992</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Brian Dunbar Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>05-08-2003</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. George Terry, PGP</b>	<b>10-15-1993</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Steve Firpo, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>07-09-2004</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Paul Larson, GD</b>	<b>12-09-2010</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Rafael Centeno, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>09-13-2012</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Luis Alvarenga, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>12-13-2012</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>

<b>Br. Emilio Alvarenga, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>07-11-2013</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. John Musgrove, PGP</b>	<b>05-12-1994</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Br. Jack Albrecht, GT</b>	<b>01-22-1957</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>

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

<b>Br. Bill McNeany, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>06-14-1988</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Angel Vera, Grand Director</b>	<b>10-06-2009</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Br. Earl Correa, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>03-07-2017</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Rafael Rivero, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>03-06-2012</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Br. Richard Schoenstein, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>03-07-2017</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>

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

<b>Br. Manuel Drumonde, PGP</b>	<b>04-18-1974</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
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<b>Br. Mario Borba, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>08-25-2016</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Br. Kelly Cox, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>02-05-1987</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Daniel Santos, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>02-12-2015</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Duarte Monteiro, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>11-14-2002</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Br. Leonard Costa, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>02-12-2015</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Br. Christopher Freeberg, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>08-03-1989</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>

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

<b>Br. Nick Franceschine, Grand First Vice President</b>	<b>06-11-1986</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Domenic Carinalli, Grand Director</b>	<b>02-09-1966</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Charles Wallin, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>02-11-1998</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Br. Ed Silva, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>10-13-1999</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Brad Nicholls, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>03-12-2003</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>

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

<b>Br. Michael Sanzeri, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>04-01-1997</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Salvatore Enea, PGP</b>	<b>10-19-1948</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Br. Frank Di Maggio, PGP</b>	<b>11-07-1989</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Rob Laxner, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>10-06-1981</b>	<b>US Mail</b>	<b>P</b>

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

<b>Br. Tony Savant, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>02-15-2001</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>
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**St. Christopher Council #80 ~ Atwater, CA ~ Organized 1935**

<b>Br. Mike Nelson, PGP</b>	<b>05-22-1996</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Bill Avery, Grand Director</b>	<b>08-25-2010</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Alfred Medeiros, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>03-26-2003</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Bill Walls, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>08-25-2010</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Luther Evans, Past Grand President</b>	<b>09-27-2000</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Ernie Ochoa, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>02-22-2017</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Larry Silva, PGP</b>	<b>01-28-1959</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>

<b>Br. Rudy Albritton, PGP</b>	<b>03-26-2003</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Br. Lee Avila, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>10-23-2019</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Br. Tony Gouveia, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>10-28-2015</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Steve Ortiz, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>10-22-2003</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>

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

<b>Br. Michael Bacchetti, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>04-07-1993</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Br. Robert Bacchetti, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>11-01-2001</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>

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

<b>Br. Mike Thissen, IPGP</b>	<b>03-01-1983</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Eugene Espinola, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>12-02-1981</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Ralph Perry, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>06-06-2012</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Tom Alves, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>02-04-2009</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>

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

<b>Br. Darrell Fonseca, Grand Second Vice President</b>	<b>05-14-1991</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
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<b>Br. Michael McGlynn, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>09-12-2006</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Br. Ronald Snyder, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>01-10-1989</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Rob Holland, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>10-09-2018</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>

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

<b>Br. Joseph Reza, PGP</b>	<b>11-18-2006</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Br. Paul Flores, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>01-08-2005</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</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>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Ted Novelli, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>01-04-2009</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Mike Shoda, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>01-04-2009</b>	<b>US Mail</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Br. Ron Burns, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>01-04-2009</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>

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



<b>Br. Kurt Kuczynski, DDGP</b>	<b>04-01-2018</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Br. Colby Lagenour, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>04-01-2002</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Br. Scot Blesinger, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>10-16-1992</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>

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

<b>Br. Norbert Correia, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>10-14-1992</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Br. James Mullen, PGP</b>	<b>11-10-1966</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Br. Thomas Figueira, GD &amp; DDGP</b>	<b>03-09-1979</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Clement Gusman, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>03-25-1983</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. John Souza, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>03-14-1991</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>

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

<b>Br. Scott Vogelgesang, DDGP</b>	<b>07-25-1973</b>	<b>US Mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Jim Rohe, Grand Director</b>	<b>07-09-1980</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Bob Crowe, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>07-04-1984</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Bob Vogelgesang, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>09-22-1976</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>

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

<b>Br. Michael Amato, GFVP</b>	<b>09-14-2004</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Michael Dimech, Grand Secretary</b>	<b>11-28-2006</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Bob Fiorito, Grand Director</b>	<b>05-08-2007</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Rod Ordon, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>04-13-2009</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Cosmo Amato, DDGP</b>	<b>01-27-1970</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Stephen Goulding, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>12-12-1989</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. John Cleary, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>11-14-2006</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Joseph Soracco, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>04-13-2010</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>

**Grand Council #900 ~ San Francisco, CA ~ Organized 2004**

<b>Br. Tom Davis, Council Elected Delegate</b>	<b>07-21-1977</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Steve May, DDGP</b>	<b>11-04-1991</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Br. Carl Franke, PGP</b>	<b>08-07-1957</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>

The roll call totaled 100 delegates for this Grand Council Session.

The Opening Prayer was led by Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, Grand Chaplain.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led in a strong voice by Brother Cosmo Amato #613, GOS.

On behalf of the Grand Council Session Planning Committee, Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP and Business Manager welcomed all the delegates to this meeting. The

Committee is hoping to plan the 137<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session as an IN-PERSON gathering next year.

Brother Michael Dimech #613, GS reported on receiving three communications from three Brothers who were unable to attend this year's session (Brothers Oberst, Guaraldi and Fiorito) and asked that they be excused. Brother Dimech reported that there were 50 Delegates on this Zoom call.

The Grand President then announced the appointments to Special Committees:

Assistant to the Grand Secretary.....Thomas Fourie #32, PGP

Parliamentarian.....Chirs Freeberg #44, PGD

Zoom Coordinator.....Steve Cresci #32, GD

Elections.....Bob Bartoli #32, PGP

Remembrance Ceremony.....Thomas Fourie #32, PGP

Installing Officer for Installation.....Rev. Agnel #32, GC

The Grand Chaplain was then asked for his message as he had a baptism ceremony to perform in his parish. Father Agnel highlighted St. Joseph, who is the patron saint of the YMI. He noted how St. Joseph lived his life by faith and by sight. As a saint, Joseph in one to look up to and appreciate. He is the patriarch of the Church and many of us are named after him. As the foster father of Jesus, he truly had the heart of a father. Although he was somewhat silent, he appreciated what God had given him, being the husband to Mary and Father of Jesus. He was a tower of strength and wisdom. The basilica in Nazerath bears his name and he had a "well" constructed to commemorate the visit of St. Gabriel to Mary.

The Grand President referred all in attendance to the many Grand Council reports which appeared in the Advance Proceedings. All had been asked to read them and if there were any additional comments to be made, now would be the time.

- a. The Grand President congratulated Council #613 and Council #32 for bringing in new members during the month of May, which the Membership Committee had declared as Membership Recruitment Month. Currently there are 1525 members in the YMI.
- b. There will be a Man of the Year Award this year, however, there were no nominations received for Council of the Year.
- c. Committee chairman referred to the pages in the Advance Proceedings and had very little to add to what was written.
- d. All Brothers were thanked for participating in the Pro Patria Essay Contest and Raffle.
- e. Brother Drumonde asked that letters be sent to new members welcoming them to the YMI..by Grand Council.
- f. The Long Range Plan was referenced in the Advance Proceedings with three types of goals.

The Grand President read the list of Brothers who submitted their candidacy for Grand Council Office for 2021-2022.

Nick Franceschine #54 – Grand President  
Darrell Fonseca #99 – Grand First Vice President  
Steve Cresci #32 – Grand Second Vice President  
Michael Dimech #613 – Grand Secretary  
Jack Albrecht #32 – Grand Treasurer  
Alex Schmitt #8 – Grand Director  
Bill McNeany #40 – Grand Director  
Frank Hepburn #2, PGP – Grand Director  
Gene Espinola #94 – Grand Director  
Cosmo Amato #613 – Grand Inside Sentinel  
Domenic Carinalli #54 – Grand Outside Sentinel

Given that all Brothers were running unopposed, the Business Manager, Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP, confirmed that each candidate had properly submitted their intentions in writing to run for office. Brother Fourie then formally nominated the slate of officers for their respective positions for the 2021-2022 YMI Grand Council Year. Brother Luther Evans #80, PGP and Brother Manuel Drumonde #44, PGP both seconded the nomination. Brother Nick Franceschine #54 thanked all the incoming officers for their participation.

Brother Bob Bartoli #32, PGP, reviewed the process for voting this year. An e-mail will be sent to all Delegates this afternoon (6/12/2021). Voting is accomplished by filling in the bubbles for candidates, State of the Institute, Budget, Foundation Directors, Rules of the Convention, etc. If anyone has a problem, they can contact Br. Bartoli. All are asked to complete their vote by Friday, June 18, 2021. Results will be sent by e-mail to all Delegates and posted on the Website.

Brother Michael Thissen #94, IPGP spoke to the one proposal under the State of the Institute that requires a 2/3 vote of the Delegates to pass.

Brother Nick Franceschine #54, GFVP and Chairman of the Resolution Committee read the one resolution for this year: acknowledging the twenty years of dedication from Father Agnel as Grand Chaplain of the Order. Brother Nick made a first for adopting the resolution and Brother Bartoli seconded the motion. It was passed by a voice vote of all the Delegates attending the Session via Zoom. Father Agnel was at a loss for words on this award.

The President of the Seminarian Education Foundation, Brother Larry Andreatta #32, reported on this banner year for the Foundation. 56 applications had been received from Seminarrians and all were approved totaling \$27,000. A special thanks to San Francisco Council #1 for a donation of \$30,000 to the Foundation during this past YMI year. Special thanks to Brothers Mike Nelson #80 and Cosmo Amato #613 for reaching out to their local Seminarrians.

Brother John West of the YMI Educational Foundation also thanked San Francisco Council #1 for their \$30,000 contribution. Br. West thanked all who made memorial donations throughout the year and thanked individual Brothers for their work in keeping up the finances, communicating with children of deceased Brothers and recording of all the meetings. Candidates for Directors will be on the ballot.

Under New Business, Grand President Amato entertained the following:

- a. Br. Amato said for the future we need more candidates from more Councils.
- b. Br. Dimech reported on a possible Bocce Ball Tournament, October 16, 2021 at Orange Avenue Park in South San Francisco.
- c. Br. Amato reported that an application for participation in the Italian Heritage Parade in SF had been submitted – Man of Year and GP would be invited to participate.
- d. The presentation of the Man of the Year Award was made by Brother Bob Bartoli #32, PGP. It was presented to Brother Steve Cresci, #32, GD for his work as Council President, support of his parish and his high school, the Bocce Ball Tournament, etc. He is a 31 year member of the YMI. He was presented the award by the 2020 Award Winner, Brother Paul Larson #32. Brother Steve thanked all YMI Brothers for the award.

Grand President Amato thanked the 13 Brothers who served this year as District Deputy Grand Presidents. They were his eyes and ears for the YMI during this challenging year.

Normally, the Immediate Past Grand President presents the outgoing Grand President with the insignia of his office (lapel badge). However, we will have to wait until the July 17 Board meeting for this presentation.

Under the Good of the Order, Brother Drumonde announced his Council, Holy Rosary #44, is celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 27, 2021. They are hosting a Mass and Social celebration, all can come, but please make reservations. Brother Mike Sanzeri #59 wants to continue working on the Bowling Tournament and offered his services to the new Grand President. Please pray for PGP John Musgrove who is not in good health at this time.

As a final thank you, the Grand President thanked Brothers Tom Fourie #32, PGP and Michael Dimech 3613 for all their service to the YMI this year. The next Board meeting is set for July 17, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Brother Michael Dimech #613, PGP, GS  
Brother Thomas Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager