

Young Men's Institute

Board of Grand Directors

Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2022

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, GC prior to his leaving for his 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. John's Catholic Church, 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:

Eugene Espinola #94, GD, DDGP

Bill Walls #80, GD

Alex Preciado #2, GD, DDGP

Alex Schmitt #8, GD, DDGP

Tommy Figueira #573, GD

Darrell Fonseca #99, GP

Steve Cresci #32, GFVP

Bill Avery #80, GSVP

Phil Fondale #900, GM, DDGP

Nick Franceschine #54, IPGP

Rev. Angel De Heredia #32, GC

Michael Dimech #613, GS

Jack Albrecht #32, GT

Cosmo Amato #613, GIS

Bob Fiorito #613, GOS

Tom Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager

Bob Bartoli #32, PGP, Assistant Business Manager

Michael Amato #613, PGP, DDGP

Frank DiMaggio #59, PGP, DDGP

Grand Officers who asked to be excused:

Paul Larson #32, GD

Bill McNeany #40, GD, DDGP

Grand Officers marked absent:

Domenic Carnalli #54, GD

Steve Ortiz #80, DDGP

Bob Bacchetti #92, DDGP

Scott Vogelgesang #612, DDGP

Clement Gusman #573, DDGP

Approval of the Minutes from the Board of Grand Directors September 17, 2022

Meeting – Chairman of the Board, Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Grand Director, asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the September 17, 2022 Board of Grand Directors meeting. Brother Alex Schmitt made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 17, 2022 Board of Directors meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Brother Cosmo Amato. There was no discussion. The Board accepted the minutes as presented unanimously.

Communications - Brother Michael Dimech #613, Past Grand President, Grand Secretary had no report from his Office.

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. American Council #8 – October and November**
 - b. South San Francisco Council #32 – October and November**
 - c. Santa Rosa Council #40 – October**
 - d. Sadoc Council #59 – October**
 - e. Francis Council #573 - October**
 - f. St. John Bosco Council #613 – October and November**
- 2. Reminder e-mail from the Grand Treasurer regarding the submission of expenses by officers.**
- 3. A very special issue of the CalifCityNews.org (by accident) from March 31, 2022.**
- 4. Cover letter to Council #900 Brothers regarding their annual dues.**
- 5. Copy of the October 6, 2022 letter sent to Bakersfield Council #100 regarding possible suspension and expulsion.**
- 6. Cover letter and bank form sent to all Councils with the September 30, 2022 Semi Annual Report forms.**
- 7. Cover letters for Assessments #188, #189 and #190.**
- 8. Copy of the “Voice of YLI” – their Convention issue 2022 (picture of GP Fonseca and wife).**
- 9. Two issues of the Catholic Voice (Diocese of Oakland).**
- 10. One issue of the Catholic Herald (Diocese of Sacramento).**

Reports of the Grand Treasurer – Brother Jack Albrecht #32, Grand Treasurer presented the Grand Treasurer’s two-page financial report that had been e-mailed to all Officers the week previous. There were no questions at this time. Brother Jack Albrecht #32, GT asked that the Board review the Grand Council By-Laws during the January 2023 meeting as they refer to amounts to be provided to Councils for the next Grand Council Session. Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors, asked for a motion to accept the report as presented. Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD, DDGP made the motion to accept and Brother Nick Franceschine #54 IPGP seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously by the Board of Grand Directors.

Reports of Grand Directors on the Board of Grand Directors Committees for the year 2022-2023 – Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Chairman of the Board of Grand

Directors asked for reports from the Grand Directors assigned to the Grand Directors Committees for the 2022-2023 YMI year:

Charters/Archives: Brothers Eugene Espinola #94, Tommy Figueira #573, and Paul Larson #32, Bill Walls #80

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Finance: Brothers Alexander Schmitt #8, and Paul Larson #32

This committee reviews the monthly bills of Grand Council and two members sign off on each bill. This is usually done around the 15th of the month in conjunction with the Business Manager and the Grand Treasurer. All the bills were in order as Brother Larson had signed off on the checks.

Long Range Planning: Brothers Alexander Schmitt #8, Alex Preciado #2, Bill McNeany #40, and Tommy Figueira #573

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Council Activities: Brothers Domenic Carinalli #54, Eugene Espinola #94 and Bill Walls #80

Brother Fourie reported that the Grand Council Office had received two applications from Sebastopol Council #54 regarding a one-half day retreat and a Christmas Luncheon. Since neither of these two events were budgeted in excess of \$1500, there was no need for the Board to take action. The Grand Council By-Laws indicate that Councils with events where more than \$1500 is anticipated to be involved, the Board then needs to be notified in case a question of insurance arises.

Insurance: There were no specific Board Members assigned to this committee as it is handled directly through the Grand Council Office.

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Fund Raising: No specific assignments were made at this time.

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Supplies: Brothers Alex Preciado #2 and Eugene Espinola #94

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Grand Council Planning Committee: Joining Brothers Tom Fourie #32, Bob Bartoli #32, Michael Dimech #613, Michael Amato #613 are Darrell Fonseca #99, Steve Cresci #32, Bill Avery, #80 and Tommy Figueira #573

As mentioned at the previous Board Meeting, the next Grand Council Convention in 2023 will again take place at Bally's Hotel and Casino in South Lake Tahoe on the week after Father's Day. The two Masses have been confirmed at St. Theresa Catholic Church in South Lake Tahoe.

Grand President's Report – Grand President Darrell Fonseca #99 reviewed his schedule of Council Visits. He is making visits to Holy Rosary Council #44, Sadoc Council #59 and San Jose Council #2. He is half way through visiting all the Councils. He will be traveling to Indiana at the end of November and then off to Hawaii after the first of the year.

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

Meetings via Zoom:

9/28 – State of the Institute Committee Meeting

10/12 – Council #32 Food Basket Committee Meeting

10/17 – State of the Institute Committee Meeting

10/25 – Education Committee Meeting

11/3 – Seminarian Education Foundation Meeting

11/7 – State of the Institute Committee Meeting

11/9 – Council #32 Food Basket Committee Meeting

Other Meetings (in person):

10/10 – Italian Heritage Day Parade in San Francisco

10/13 – Council #32 Business Meeting

10/18 – Visit to San Jose Council meeting

10/27 – Council #32 Remembrance/Anniversary Dinner Social

11/8 – Visit to St. John Bosco Council Meeting in San Francisco

11/10- Council #32 Business Meeting

11/14 – Visit to Sebastopol Council Business Meeting

Grand Second Vice President's Report – Brother Bill Avery #80, Grand Second Vice President, covered activities including efforts to arrange the 2023 Red & White Mass at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Atwater on March 11, 2023. It has been confirmed for that date. The Mass will begin at 5:00 p.m. with the procession of banners and Councils at 4:45 p.m.

He also reported that he attended a YMI picnic in Atwater and there were several Past Grand Presidents present.

Brother Amato brought forward the renting of a bus from the Bay Area to attend the Red and White Mass, cost, time, etc. The topic and decision was moved to the January Board Meeting.

Brother Avery is also working on collecting the new Beneficiary forms.

Grand Secretary's Report/Business Manager's Report

The Grand Secretary reported as follows:

I requested several updates from our Webmaster to our YMI Website

As directed at the September 17th Grand Director's meeting, I sent a letter to Br. Tony Aguirre dated October 6, 2022 notifying him that Council #100 has become delinquent in payment of Assessments #186 & #1187 and putting him on notice again of possible suspension and expulsion of Council #100 from the YMI.

I also sent in updates to the Webmaster of the Council newsletters that have been received.

I also sent in several pictures from Council #613's entry into the Italian Heritage Day Parade on October 10, 2022. Several Council #613 Brothers attended this event along with GFVP Steve Cresci and Grand Director, Paul Larson. If you get a chance please take a look at the pictures.

Approved Minutes from previous GD Meetings have also been requested to place on the website.

I also attend Council #613's Italian Heritage Day Parade, Council #613's and Council #32's October Business Meeting, Council #613's Hour of Remembrance Mass and Dinner on November 13, 2022.

In addition, I requested Councils to send in all newsletters to the Grand Secretary.

The Business Manager reviewed the work of the Grand Council Office since September 17, 2022 that was made available on the pre-sent e-mail.

1. Prepared YMI Bills for September and October, delivered to the Grand Treasurer, signed checks and distributed.
2. Prepared Council Assessment #188 and accompanying letter; mailed.
3. Prepared Council Assessment #189 and #190 statements and letters.
4. Prepared and sent September 30, 2022 Semi Annual Report forms.
5. Ordered Grand President pocket insignias for three Grand Presidents from Vision Promotions.
6. On-going trips to Post Office Box in Burlingame, CA.
7. Travel to New Jersey for one week – family visit.
8. On-going changes entered into the computer from new Beneficiary forms.
9. Prepared and sent minutes from the September 17, 2022 Board Meeting to Officers.
10. Printed membership labels for the Pro Patria Raffle mailing.
11. Stuffed all envelopes for Pro Patria Raffle mailing.
12. Prepared Pro Patria Raffle mailing under “bulk mailing guidelines” and mailed.
13. Prepared and mailed Pro Patria Raffle envelopes to the YLI.
14. Attended October 6, 2022 Convention Planning Committee meeting.
15. Opened file for 2023 Advance Proceedings.
16. Set up and began recording Pro Patria raffle returns.
17. Confirmed Grand President’s Official Visit to Indiana Councils, made air, car and hotel reservations.
18. Sent out dues notifications to Brothers of Council #900.
19. Attended Council #32’s October and November business meetings.
20. Attended and participated in Council #32’s October Social (Council Remembrance Ceremony and Anniversary Celebration).
21. Respond to countless emails and phone calls.
22. Notify Grand Council Officers of potential articles for the next issue of the Institute Journal.
23. Contacted St. Theresa’s Catholic Church in South Lake Tahoe for June 2023.
24. Processed YMI Death Benefit requests, sent checks.
25. Attended Seminarian Education Foundation meeting.
26. Attended YMI Education Foundation meeting.
27. Begin preparing the next Institute Journal issue.
28. Sent Agenda for November 19, 2022 Board of Grand Directors Meeting.

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 2022-2023. In the program, each committee chairman as chosen by the Grand President is listed along with the goals and objectives of each committee.

The following are the Board Appointments and current reports for 2022-2023:

Audit Committee – Brother Alex Preciado #2, DDGP – Brother Bartoli reported that the two Councils in Indiana will be audited in late November.

Budget Committee – Br. Alex Schmitt #8, District Deputy Grand President – the next budget committee meeting has not yet been scheduled. The Grand Treasurer asked officers to consider raising certain categories of expenses for next year.

Reserve Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32 – the Grand Treasurer stated that the stocks have recently taken a hit.

Ceremonials Committee – Br. Eugene Espinola #94 – no report

Credentials Committee – Br. Domenic Carinalli #54 – no report

Institute Journal Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32...Brother Fourie thanked all the officers for the articles they submitted. This next Winter Issue will be sent out as soon as possible. The first issue for 2023 will be discussed as to the date soon.

Laws & Revisions Committee – Br. Bill Walls #80...Considering the State of the Institute change on Death Benefits removing the Associate Member category, Brother Rob Bartoli needs to tweek all Council by-laws and have them approved by the Board of Grand Directors. Council #613 has already made their initial changes and the Committee is reviewing their updated document.

Man and Council of the Year Committee – No applications have been submitted and ads have been published in the Institute Journal and will continue to appear there.

Membership Committee – Br. Bill McNeany #40 – no report

Pro Deo Committee – Br. Bill Walls #80 – reference to the prior discussion of the Red and White Mass.

Pro Patria – Br. Paul Larson #32 – reference to the prior discussion on the Pro Patria Essay and Raffle.

Organization Committee – Nothing to report at this time.

Resolutions Committee – Br. Bill McNeany #40... Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD will send an article to Br. Tom for the Institute Journal.

State of the Institute Committee – Br. Domenic Carinalli #54, Br. Tommy Figueira #573 – Brother Franceschine reported the committee was working on several issues including the disbanding of the office of District Deputy Grand President. The committee has several meetings planned for December.

Workshop Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32 – no report at this time.

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

Bowling – Brother Michael Sanzeri #59 – no report at this time

Bocce – Brother Michael Dimech #613 – nothing to report at this time as the 2022 tournament has been cancelled.

Golf – Brother Bob Fiorito #613 – has a date: June 4, 2023 at the Valley of the Moon Golf Course in Santa Rosa. Dinner will be included.

Unfinished Business –

- A. Brother Dimech read aloud the deficiency letter sent to Council #100 and Brother Fourie reported receiving no further contact from #100 in response. After much discussion by the Board, a motion was made (Espinola/Franceschine) for the Grand Secretary to send a letter to each YMI Brother of Council #100 to inform them:**
- 1. That Council #100 was officially suspended in accordance with Article VII by the YMI By-Laws,**
 - 2. That Council #100 will be dissolved on January 28, 2023 unless identified deficiencies with YMI assessments and reports are fully corrected,**
 - 3. Of the process to seek transfer to Council #900, if any YMI Brother of Council #100 wanted to remain in the YMI.**

The motion was approved without objection.

- B. 2023 Grand Council Session – nothing more than previously discussed**
- C. Other: Death Beneficiary Form**
- a. Brother Fourie reported on the collection status of Death Benefit Beneficiary Forms of prior “Associate Members”. He thanked Council #8 as well as reported good compliance by Councils #613,**

#32, #54 and #80. More forms are due and he encouraged other YMI Councils to coordinate compliance.

New Business – there was no report at this time.

Immediate Past Grand President's Report – Brother Nick Francschine #54, IPGP – Brother Nick reported attending Council #59's picnic and Council #40's polenta dinner.

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

Good of the Order –

Brother Fourie reported that he will be on a cruise from 1/8 to 5/1 and that Br. Bartoli will assume oversight of the GC Office as the Assistant Business Manager.

Brother Fondale reported of expected knee surgery in March that may keep him from attending the GC Sessions. Brothers expressed best wishes to Brother Fondale.

Brother Figueira wished all YMI Board Members a Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas.

Brother Bartoli reminded all of the YMI Education Foundation Matching Fund Program.

Brother Cresci suggested that we pray for Brother McNeany's recovery in the Closing Prayer.

Review of future Board Meeting Dates: Next meeting is January 28, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Closing Prayer - Brother Fonseca led the Board in a closing prayer to St. Joseph while extending wishes for Br. McNeany's return to good health.

Adjournment – 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Br. Michael Dimech, #613, GS, PGP

Br. Michael Amato #613, PGP, DDGP

Br. Thomas Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager