

Young Men's Institute
Board of Grand Directors
Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2022

Call to Order — Brother Bill Avery #80, GD and Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Opening Prayer — The opening prayer was led by Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, GC, asking for God's blessings on all Brothers present, those Brothers who are ill and a return to some form of normalcy in the practicing of our faith with special recognition of our Veterans who have served our country. Father Agnel then excused himself to go and say 9:00 a.m. Mass in his church.

Pledge of Allegiance — the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brother Bob Fiorito #613, GM.

Roll Call — Brother Michael Amato #613, IPGP, was filling in for the Grand Secretary Michael Dimech #613 who was not present. Brother Amato 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:

Bill Avery #80, GD

Alex Schmitt #8, GD and DDGP

Tommy Figueira #573, GD and DDGP

Frank Hepburn #2, PGP, GD

Bill McNeany #40, GD

Nick Franceschine #54, GP

Darrell Fonseca #99, GFVP

Michael Amato #613, IPGP

Steve Cresci #32, GSVP

Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, GC (joined after Mass)

Jack Albrecht #32, GT

Bob Fiorito #613, GM

Cosmo Amato #613, GIS and DDGP

Domenic Carinalli #54, GOS

Alex Preciado #2, DDGP

Tom Fourie, #32, PGP, Business Manager

Bob Bartoli #32, PGP, Assistant to the Business Manager

Clement Gusman #573, DDGP

Frank DiMaggio #59, PGP and DDGP

Luther Evans #80, PGP

The following Brothers were marked as either excused or absent:

Eugene Espinola #94, GD and DDGP as excused

Jim Rohe #612, GD as absent

Paul Larson #32, GD as absent

Michael Dimech #613, GS and PGP as excused

Paul Flores #100, DDGP as absent

Phil Fondale #137, DDGP as absent

Steve Ortiz #80, DDGP as absent

Stephen May #900, DDGP as absent

Scott Vogelgesang #612, DDGP as absent

Approval of the Minutes from the Board of Grand Directors January 22, 2022 Meeting

— Chairman of the Board, Brother Bill Avery #80, Grand Director, asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the January 22, 2022 Grand Directors meeting. Brother Domenic Carinalli #54, GOS, made the motion to accept the minutes of January 22, 2022 as presented and it was seconded by Br. Tommy Figueira #573, GD. The Board voted to unanimously accept the minutes from January 22, 2022.

Communications - Brother Michael Dimech #613, Past Grand President, Grand Secretary, who was absent, sent his report via e-mail:

- He requested several updates from our Webmaster to our YMI Website to include the following:

- Council Newsletters received from the Business Manager and Councils have been uploaded onto the YMI Website.
- Placed the Bowling flyer on the website and sent the flyer to all YMI Officers.
- He attended Council #613's February and March Business meetings. He also attended Council #32's February business meeting.
- He attended the Red and White Mass at All Souls Catholic Church on March 12, 2022.
- Will be requesting from our webmaster that a few pictures from the Red & White Mass be placed on our website.
- He attended the State of the Institute Committee Zoom meetings on January 24 and February 7.
- He met with the new Bocce Ball Chairman of the Italian American Citizens Club in March to secure a date (September 24, 2022) for this year's Bocce Ball Tournament and will be working on a flyer.

Brother Tom Fourie #32, Past Grand President and Business Manager, reported that his usual report for Communications was hampered by a non-working computer, and stated that his complete report would accompany these minutes. It included the following:

1. Council Bulletins received:
 - a. American Council #8: February and March
 - b. South San Francisco Council #32: February and March
 - c. Holy Rosary Council #44: 2022-2023 year
 - d. Sadoc Council #59: February
 - e. St. John Bosco Council #613: February and March
2. Ten e-mail messages from YMI Brothers indicating their intention to run for Grand Council Office (see Unfinished Business)
3. Reminder letter from the USPS concerning the closure (3/31/2022) of the SFO Airport Facility and moving the YMI Post Office Box to the Stanton Post Office in Burlingame, CA.
4. An e-mail from Brother Stephen J. May #900 indicating he no longer will fulfill his role as District Deputy Grand President for the Sonoma/Solano District.
5. Copy of the cover letter accompanying Assessment #186 notices to be sent by April 1, 2022.
6. Copy of the cover letter and Bank Certification Form accompanying the March 31, 2022 Semi Annual Report forms.
7. One copy of the Catholic Voice (Oakland Diocese)
8. One copy of the Catholic Herald (Sacramento Diocese)

Reports of the Grand Treasurer – Brother Jack Albrecht #32, Grand Treasurer, referred all the officers to the reports dated February 20, 2022 that had been e-mailed the week prior to this meeting. He assumed that all Officers had received it and had an opportunity to review the report. He asked if there were any questions, and hearing none, asked that a vote to accept the report be taken. Brother Bill Avery #80, Grand Director, asked for a motion to accept the report as presented. Brother Bill McNeany #40 GD made the motion to accept and Brother Nick Franceschine #54, GP seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously by the Board of Grand Directors.

Brother Albrecht gave a summary report of our reserves and all was well.

Reports of the Grand Directors Committees for the year 2021-2022 – Brother Bill Avery #80, Grand Director, asked for the Grand Directors to report on their committee work since the last Board meeting. Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP and Business Manager made it clear that these reports should be presented by the Grand Directors assigned to each of these committees.

- a. Charters/Archives: Brothers Paul Larson #32, Bill Avery #80 and Eugene Espinola #94 – there was no report provided.
- b. Finance: Brothers Paul Larson #32, Frank Hepburn #2, Past Grand President, and Alex Schmitt #8 – referred their report to the Grand Treasurer's report. All bills had been paid.
- c. Long Range Planning: Brothers Alex Schmitt #8, Tommy Figueira #573, Frank Hepburn #2, Past Grand President, and Bill McNeany #40 – there was no report provided.
- d. Council Activities: Brothers Jim Rohe #612, Eugene Espinola #94 and Bill Avery #80 – Brother Fourie reported that the Grand Council Office had received a notice in advance of Sebastopol's Corned Beef Dinner in March. Brother Avery #80, GD reported that St. Christopher Council would be having its annual Mass/Dinner with the YLI of Merced, CA.
- e. Insurance: Brother Paul Larson #32 – the Grand Council Office had received a reminder e-mail concerning our June renewal. More information to follow at the May Board Meeting.
- f. Fund Raising: Brothers Bill Avery #80 and Eugene Espinola #94 – see Council Activities report. There was no separate discussion.
- g. Supplies: Brothers Alex Schmitt #8 and Jim Rohe #612 – supplies have been counted and are in order.
- h. Grand Council Planning Committee: (Brother and Mrs. Paul Larson #32, Brother and Mrs. Bob Bartoli #32, Brother and Mrs. Michael Amato #613, Brother and Mrs. Tom Fourie #32) – Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP and Business Manager provided an overview of all action taken by the Committee since the last Board Meeting. All event details have been provided to Grand Officers, DDGP, PGP's and Councils. Br. Alex

Schmitt #8, GD and DDGP expressed his thanks to the committee for all the hard work that they have done so as the YMI can have an in-person Convention this year. His comments were echoed by Brothers Nick Franceschine #54, GP and Bill Avery #80, GD. Special note: there will be no Zoom access at the Convention in order to encourage attendance for fraternalism and for making the hotel room quota.

Grand President's Report – Grand President Nick Franceschine #54 had previously sent out an e-mail covering his activities since the January Board Meeting. He reviewed his activities on this feast of St. Joseph, the patron of the Young Men's Institute:

- a. Made a recommendation to the Budget Committee for next year's budget.
- b. Contacted several Brothers to try to find candidates for next year's Grand Officers.
- c. Attended the State of the Institute Committee meeting on January 24, 2022.
- d. Attended the Education Foundation meeting on January 25, 2022.
- e. Official Visit to Tracy Council #92 on February 3, 2022 with Brother Domenic Carinalli.
- f. Attended the State of the Institute Committee meeting on February 7, 2022.
- g. Phone calls with Councils #13 and #573 to conduct audits of those Councils.
- h. Drafted a "Grand President's Message" for the Spring edition of the YMI Journal.
- i. Called two special meetings with the Grand Vice Presidents to discuss Grand Officers for next year as well as other matters.
- j. Attended the Red and White Mass and Dinner celebration, which was so capably organized by Brother Steve Cresci #32, GSVP and Council #32.
- k. Prepared "Rules" for the upcoming 137th Grand Council Session, which will be held in June.
- l. At work on the Agenda for the 137th Grand Council Session.

There were also numerous phone calls and e-mails with Brothers from many Councils, on a wide variety of topics.

Proposed dates for future Official Visits: St. Christopher #80 on April 27, 2022.

Councils that are (in theory) working on arranging a date for the Official Visit: Stockton #5, Sadoc #59, St. Augustine #497, Gonzaga #612.

The Grand President shared some details about Council #54's Corned Beef event that was successful in raising about \$1400.

Brother Bob Bartoli #32, PGP brought the officers up to date on the Education Foundation. Memorials are current. Four Councils have applied for Matching Fund: South San Francisco #32, Holy Rosary #44, St. John Bosco #613 and Dos Palos #99 – they all are requesting the \$1000 match. The next meeting of the Foundation is April 26, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. – a Zoom meeting.

Grand First Vice President's Report – Brother Darrell Fonseca #99, Grand First Vice President together with the Business Manager, Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP briefly reviewed the wonderful news from both the Pro Patria Raffle and the Essay Contest. Brother Darrell reported that the Pro Patria Raffle generated \$14,575 for this year. This was most impressive given the Covid circumstances and he thanked all who helped promote this activity. Brother Fourie reported that all the judging for the Essay Contest had been completed and the winners have been determined. Listing of winners and prizes will be sent out shortly.

Grand Second Vice President's Report – Brother Steve Cresci #32, Grand Second Vice President, sent an e-mail to all officers outlining his activities since the last Board meeting.

End of January to 2/1/2022 was in communication with our Insurance Company regarding copyright infringement claim. The issue was resolved with payment by the Insurance Company to Higbee. File closed.

2/3/2022 – attended Zoom Meeting of the Seminarian Foundation

2/7/2022 – Attended the State of the Institute Committee Zoom Meeting

2/10/22 – Attended Council #32's Business Meeting

February – made preparations for the Red & White Anniversary Mass and Dinner

2/24/2022 and 3/3/2022 – attended special meetings with the Grand President and the Grand First Vice President to go over candidates for filling the Grand Second Vice President position for 2022-2023

3/12/2022 – Red and White Anniversary Mass and Dinner at All Souls Church

Brother Cresci stated that 60 Brothers and guests were in attendance at the Red and White Mass, Brother Cresci received many compliments for all his hard work. Brother Michael Amato shared the status of the photos (thanks to his wife

Mara) that were taken and mailed to all the Officers from this anniversary event. He plans to have them placed on the Website and in the Journal.

Grand Secretary's Report/Business Manager's Report

The Grand Secretary's report has already been provided earlier in these minutes under Communications.

The Business Manager reviewed the work of the Grand Council Office since January 22, 2022. Unfortunately, it was not e-mailed due to technical difficulties, so here is the complete report:

- a. Contacted Sandra Atkinson at Arthur Gallagher Insurance Co. re: copyright infringement. Forwarded the information to the Grand President and Grand Second Vice President.
- b. Attended January 25, 2022 Education Foundation Meeting.
- c. Imported daily Pro Patria Raffle returns into the master file.
- d. Prepared and e-mailed quarterly Treasurer's report for the Seminarian Education Foundation.
- e. Entered Assessment #185 into records.
- f. Collected essays for the Pro Patria Essay Contest (US mail, e-mails, in person deliveries).
- g. Ordered from Staples additional certificates for students participating in the Pro Patria Essay Contest.
- h. Prepared and labeled essays received for the Pro Patria Essay Contest.
- i. Received and reviewed initial contract from Bally's Hotel Resort and Casino in South Lake Tahoe.
- j. Received Grand Secretary's minutes from the January 22, 2022 Board of Grand Directors Meeting.
- k. Attended February 3, 2022 meeting of the Seminarian Education Foundation.
- l. Prepared judges envelopes for Pro Patria Essay Contest.
- m. Contacted pastor of St. Theresa's Catholic Church in South Lake Tahoe concerning Convention Masses.
- n. Participated in several conference calls with the Grand Council Session Planning Committee.
- o. Prepared and sent to Councils, the Seminarian Education Foundation formal requests for Seminarian Grants 2022.
- p. Attended South San Francisco #32 Council Business Meetings on February 10 and March 10, 2022.
- q. Prepare monthly YMI bills for the Grand Treasurer, received/signed checks and distributed.
- r. Printed out 2022-2023 Grand Council proposed budget.

- s. Signed and returned Grand Council Session contract.
- t. Began preparing all paperwork for Grand Council Convention Packets.
- u. Distributed to all Councils – Council Convention Packets.
- v. Attended Council #32's Rack of Lamb Social Dinner on February 24, 2022.
- w. Prepared mailing for Assessment #186.
- x. Prepared mailing for March 31, 2022 Semi Annual Reports.
- y. Sent out e-mail to all authors of reports for the Advance Proceedings document.
- z. Attended Red and White Mass/Dinner.
- aa. Assisted with Pro Patria Raffle, requested checks for winners, mailed checks.
- bb. Received and edited Banquet Event Orders for the Grand Council Session.
- cc. Frequent visits to the YMI Post Office Box (moving as of 3/31/2022).
- dd. On-going e-mails and phone calls.
- ee. Sent out Board Meeting minutes of January 22, 2022 to all Grand Officers.
- ff. Determine Pro Patria Essay Winners, request checks.
- gg. Begin initial preparation for the next issue of the Institute Journal.
- hh. Prepared and mailed agenda for the March 19, 2022 Board of Grand Directors meeting.

This is a partial list.

Report of Grand Directors to Grand Council Committees – In accordance with the Grand Council By-Laws a member of the Grand Council Board of Directors has been assigned to each of the Grand Council Committees that are delineated in the Grand President's Program for 2021-2022. In the program, each committee chairman as chosen by the Grand President and is listed along with the goals and objectives of each committee.

Audit Committee – Brother Frank Hepburn #2, Past Grand President: On behalf of the Committee, Brother Bob Bartoli #32, PGP reported that Vallejo Council #13 and Francis Council #573 have been audited since the last Board Meeting on January 22, 2022. Thank you worthy Grand President for your assistance. Both Councils passed their audit with only a few items needing to be addressed. Old By-Laws are an issue for Council #13 and #573, the templet for updating the By-Laws needs to be sent to both Councils.

Budget Committee – Br. Alex Schmitt #8, District Deputy Grand President: the 2022-2023 Budget was developed via e-mail communication. Brother Jack

Albrecht #32, GT, spoke to the changes for next year. The overall budget increased \$500. The new budget had been sent to all Grand Officers. A motion was made by Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD and DDGP to accept the 2022-2023 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Brother Bill McNeany #40, GD. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reserve Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32: Brother Albrecht had previously reported on the status of the reserve funds.

Coordinating Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80: no additional information was provided.

Ceremonials Committee – Br. Jim Rohe #612: there was no report.

Institute Journal Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80: the deadline for the next Journal is March 31, 2022. Brother Fourie, editor of the Journal, reported that the next issue will cover the election of Grand Council Officers, the Grand Council Session, State of the Institute, etc. and all other items connected with the conclusion of the present YMI year and the start of the next YMI year. Thus far, the editor has the complete list of 2022 Pro Patria Essay winners, the State of the Institute Report, the Grand President’s message, Education Memorials, New Members, Deceased Members, the registration form for the 137th Grand Council Session, pictures from the Red and White Mass, an article on the Red and White Mass, candidate boxes, and a few more odds and ends. More articles would be appreciated.

Laws & Revisions Committee – Br. Eugene Espinola #94: there was no report.

Man and Council of the Year Committee – Br. Bill McNeany #40: Brother Bartoli reported that no nominations have been received by the committee as of today, March 19, 2022. The deadline is May 31, 2022.

Membership Committee – Br. Tommy Figueira #573: Brother Tommy Figueira #573, GD encouraged Councils to invite people to attend meetings with Covid restrictions being lifted.

Organization Committee – Br. Alex Schmitt #8, District Deputy Grand President: Br. Alex Schmitt #8 inquired as to the members of Our Lady of the Pines #137 which was disbanding...he was told that a few members would be moving to Council #900 and some would be dropping from the Order.

Resolutions Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80: No resolutions have been received.

State of the Institute Committee – Br. Frank Hepburn #2, Past Grand President: Chairman Brother Mike Amato summarized the proposal approved by the State of the Institute Committee concerning Death Benefits. A few questions

were asked by Grand Council Officers to understand more and Brother Amato addressed them. Br. Franceschine indicated that the Death Benefit Account would have enough funds to absorb the change.

Workshop Committee – All Grand Directors: Brother Tom Fourie, #32, PGP and Business Manager will determine the topics for the workshop before June. A possible item could be copyright infringement.

Chairmen of the Sports Group of Committees reported as follows:

Bowling – Brother Michael Sanzeri #59 – A date has been set for a Bowling Tournament on April 24, 2022 in Stockton at the Pacific Lanes. The Grand President received this information in an e-mail from Brother Sanzeri. The participation forms have been distributed.

Bocce – Brother Michael Dimech #613 – a new date, September 24, 2022 has been secured. A flyer will be issued and Brother Dimech will send it out very soon.

Golf – Brother Bob Fiorito #613 – the golf tournament for this year has been cancelled per our prior meeting.

Unfinished Business –

Brother Fourie reported that we have a candidate for each Grand Council Office for the 2022-2023 YMI year. The question was asked about who stepped forward for the position of Grand Second Vice President..the answer...Brother Bill Avery. A big thank you to Brother Nick Franceschine and Brother Darrell Fonseca for working to secure all the candidates.

A final report on the saga of Bakersfield #100. The Business Manager reported that he had received the necessary paperwork to bring the Council back into the good standing of the YMI. Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD and DDGP made a motion to lift the suspension on Bakersfield Council #100. This motion was seconded by Brother Frank Hepburn #2, GD and PGP and the motion passed without any opposition.

Brother Steve Cresci #32, GSVP again reviewed the steps he took in order to handle the copyright infringement issue. He contacted our Gallagher Insurance Co, spoke with proper agents who then reached a settlement and made the payment. He has not heard anything since this call and so he presumes we are done. Br. Alex Schmitt #8, GD and DDGP suggested we include this discussion during the workshop time at the upcoming Grand Council Session.

New Business –

Business Manager, Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP reminded all Grand Council Officers that he had sent a list of the 47 reports needed for the Advance Proceedings. He set an expectation that reports should be thorough and the use of “no report” is not acceptable. All reports are due by May 1, 2022.

Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP and Business Manager reminded Brother Darrell Fonseca #99, GFVP to begin working on his program for 2022-2023. It certainly would help if Grand President Nick Franceschine #54 could provide some guidance in this effort. Brother Steve Cresci #32, GSVP also showed interest in participating as a learning experience for the future.

Brother Steve Cresci #32, GSVP made a suggestion that Grand Council begin a process of seeking a legal advisor for the Order. From this year’s experience it appears that we do not have a person who can assist us. Brother Alex asked if we have a payment (retainer) in place and was told no, rather pay on a per instance basis. It was suggested that we put a “Help Wanted” notice in the next Institute Journal to see if we can find someone. Brother Nick Franceschine #54, GP volunteered to draft the notice.

Immediate Past Grand President’s Report – Brother Michael Amato #613, Immediate Past Grand President, stated that his reports, already given, on State of the Institute and Convention Planning were discussed. He gave KUDOS to Brother Steve Cresci #32, GSVP on the successful Red and White Mass/Dinner.

Grand Chaplain’s Report – Father Agnel had returned to his office and he reported that on March 25, 2022, Pope Francis will lead a prayer service for those impacted in Ukraine by the Russian attack of the country. Bishops all over the world are to join in this act of consecration to Our Lady of Fatima.

Good of the Order – Brother Michael Amato #613, IPGP suggested we identify Board meeting dates for 2023, at least for the summer month. Brother Darrell was advised to recommend a location for the 2023 Grand Council Session.

The next Goard of Grand Directors Meeting is set as a Zoom Meeting on May 14, 2022.

Closing Prayer — Brother Bill Avery #80, GD together with Father Agnel recited the closing prayer.

Adjournment — 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Br. Michael Dimech, #613, GS, PGP

Br. Michael Amato #613, 1PGP

Br. Thomas Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager