

Young Men's Institute
Board of Grand Directors
Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2023

Call to Order – Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. PST via a Zoom Conference Call.

Opening Prayer – The opening prayer was offered by Grand Chaplain, Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, asking for God's blessings on all Brothers present.

Pledge of Allegiance – the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brother Phil Fondale #900, Grand Marshal.

Roll Call – Brother Michael Dimech #613, GS, called the roll for all Grand Council Officers and District Deputy Grand Presidents as well as other Brothers in attendance. He found that the following Brothers were present:

Grand Officers:

Paul Larson #32, GD

Alex Schmitt #8, GD, DDGP

Tommy Figueira #573, GD

Domenic Carinalli #54, GD

Michael Amato #613, PGP, GD

Nick Franceschine #54, PGP, GD

Richard Murphy #32, GD

Mario Balistreri #613, GD

Steve Cresci #32, GP

Billy Avery #80, GFVP

Bill Walls #80, GSVP

Darrell Fonseca #99, IPGP

Rev. Angel De Heredia #32, GC

Michael Dimech #613, GS

Jack Albrecht #32, GT

Phil Fondale #900, GM

Bob Fiorito #613, GOS

Tom Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager

Bob Bartoli #32, PGP, Assistant Business Manager

Clement Gusman #573, DDGP

Alex Preciado #2, DDGP

Eugene Espinola #94, DDGP

Phil Oberst #32, PGP

Cosmo Amato #613, GIS

Approval of the Minutes from the Board of Grand Directors August 5, 2023 Meeting – Chairman of the Board, Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Grand Director, asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the August 5, 2023, Board of Grand Directors meeting. Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP, GD made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 5, 2023, Board of Directors meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Brother Domenic Carinalli #54, GD. Brother Darrell Fonseca noted his name was listed incorrectly as Domenic Carinalli. The change was made. There was no other discussion. The Board unanimously accepted the minutes as corrected.

Communications - Brother Michael Dimech #613, Past Grand President, Grand Secretary reported that he had received six Council newsletters and had forwarded them to the Webmaster for publication. Brother Fourie #32, PGP asked how all the other Councils get information to their members when they have no newsletter? This fact should be addressed by District Deputy Grand Presidents in their work with all Councils. Hopefully more newsletters can then be posted on the website.

Brother Tom Fourie #32, Past Grand President and Business Manager referred all Officers to the e-mail he had sent previously with communications received and distributed from the Grand Council Office. It included the following:

1. Council Bulletins received:
 - a. San Jose Council #2 – August
 - b. American Council #8 – August and September
 - c. South San Francisco Council #32 – September
 - d. Sadoc Council #59 – September
 - e. St. John Bosco Council #613 – September
2. Copy of cover letter sent to Councils regarding confirmation of tax filings.
3. One copy of “The Catholic Voice” – Diocese of Oakland

Reports of the Grand Treasurer – Brother Jack Albrecht #32, GT presented the Grand Treasurer’s two-page financial report that had been e-mailed to all Officers the week previous. There was one question from Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD concerning the negative amount shown under Insurance. The Grand Treasurer said that number remains negative until all Councils have submitted their four assessments throughout the year. Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP, GD made a suggestion that the Grand Council Delegate Attendance portion which was approved as part of the By-Laws should be a line item on the budget. A motion was made by Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Brother Mario Balistreri. The report was approved unanimously.

**Reports of Grand Directors on the Board of Grand Directors
Committees for the year 2023-2024 – Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors assigned the following Grand Directors to the respective Committees for the 2023-2024 YMI year with a brief description of their duties:**

Charters/Archives: Brothers Nick Franceschine #54, PGP as Chairman, Dominic Carinalli #54, and Tommy Figueira #573

There was no report from this committee at this time.

Finance: Brothers Michael Amato #613, PGP as Chairman, Alexander Schmitt #8, and Paul Larson #32

This committee reviews the monthly bills of Grand Council and two members sign off on each bill. This is usually done around the 15th of the month in conjunction with the Business Manager and the Grand Treasurer. All the bills have been paid at this time.

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

There was no report from this committee at this time.

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

There was no report from this committee at this time.

Insurance: Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP will be available to represent the Board as the insurance issues (should they arise) are handled directly through the Grand Council Office.

There was no report from this committee at this time.

Fund Raising: No specific assignments were made at this time as Brother Michael Dimech #613, PGP, GS will need to discuss this topic with the Grand President.

Brother Dimech reported on the possibility of another Pasta Bingo Event. He will speak with the Grand President regarding having this event next year.

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

There was no report from this committee at this time. However, Brother Phil Oberst #32, PGP spoke about the possibility of purchasing YMI pins from a new vendor. He reviewed the cost of the pins which could be made using 3-D printing technology. He suggested that we keep just 25 and 50 year pins available for purchase by Councils. Brother Phil offered to contact the company directly and report back at the next Board meeting.

Grand Council Planning Committee: Joining Brothers Tom Fourie #32, PGP, Bob Bartoli #32, PGP Michael Dimech #613, PGP & GS, and Michael Amato #613, PGP, GD, will be Steve Cresci #32 as Grand President to complete the committee in August.

On behalf of the Committee, Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP reported that a meeting had been held by the Committee in early August and a decision had been reached to return to South Lake Tahoe for the 2024 Grand Council Session.

Brother Fourie had made contact with the hotel and had received a contract for June 2024. The hotel had held the room pricing as listed in the 2023 contract. A possible change of venue for the Tuesday evening dinner is being discussed. The contract does not require a minimum number of rooms to be reserved. However, there will be parking cost of \$15 per day for the hotel garage.

Grand President's Report – Grand President Steve Cresci #32 reported how excited he was working with all the Brothers. Today's meeting was a great start and he is looking forward to working with everyone this year. He reported that he had sent his Grand President's program to each District Deputy Grand President.

He reviewed his calendar since the previous Board meeting.

8-10 Council #32 Business Meeting

8-13 Council #613 BBQ Picnic in San Bruno

8-15 Council #2 Picnic in San Jose

8-20 YMI Day at the Ballpark

8-23 Council #54 BBQ in Sebastopol

9-7 Seminarian Education Foundation meeting

9-12 Council #32 Food Basket Committee meeting

9-14 Council #32 Business Meeting

He had worked with Brother Billy Avery, GFVP on the Essay Contest.

He reached out to the Chair of the Membership Committee, Brother Rob Laxner #59 and Brother Alex Schmitt #8 to coordinate a Membership Committee Meeting.

He had reached out to District Deputy Bill McNeany #40 and Brother Harry Licursi #40 concerning the status of Santa Rosa Council #40.

Grand First Vice President's Report – Brother Billy Avery #80, Grand First Vice President provided all the officers with an email summarizing his meetings and activities as they are listed here:

08-05-2023 Board of Grand Directors Zoom Meeting

08-13-2023 Council #80 YMI/YLI BBQ Picnic at Veterans Park in Atwater

08-23-2023 Council #54 BBQ in Sebastopol

09-07-23 Seminarian Education Foundation Zoom meeting

Worked with Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP on forms for the Essay Contest.

Worked with Brother Steve Cresci #32, GP on the Essay Contest.

Worked with Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP on forms for the Pro Patria Raffle.

Announced that there is a new Catholic High School in Merced which he will visit to offer an opportunity for their participation in the Essay Contest.

Brother Fourie #32, PGP brought up a new twist with the essays this year, that being the use of AI detection software in the judging process. Council #613 is considering checking for this new possible feature on essays in their contest. We do not want essays that have been presented given this electronic program.

Grand Second Vice President's Report – Brother Bill Walls #80, Grand Second Vice President, provided all the officers with his report:

He reminded all the officers concerning:

The Red and White Mass is scheduled for March 16, 2024 at Immaculate Conception Church in Atwater, California. The dinner will be at St. Anthony's Hall afterwards.

He attended the BBQ held at Council #54 in Sebastopol.

Grand Secretary's Report/Business Manager's Report

From the Grand Secretary - since our July Grand Directors Meeting:

I requested several updates from our Webmaster to our YMI Website to include Council newsletters that have been received from the Business Manager and they have been uploaded onto the YMI Website.

I attended the YMI Day at the Oakland A's game that Grand President Cresci had arranged for the Brotherhood.

Some pictures that were taken from the YMI Day at the Oakland A's game were also placed on the YMI Website.

I have also been working on the Bocce Ball Tournament that will be taking place on September 30, 2023 here in South San Francisco. He then spoke more about the details of the actual tournament.

I submitted my notes from the July Grand Directors meeting to the YMI Business Manager.

I prepared the notes I took at the recent Educational Foundation Meeting and have since sent the notes out to the members of this organization.

I met with the Grand Council Palling Committee in August.

I also attended Council #613's August and September Business Meetings.

I attended Council #32's August Business Meeting

I attended Council #613's Summer Picnic.

The Business Manager reviewed the work of the Grand Council Office since August 5, 2023 that was made available on the pre-sent e-mail.

- 1. Filed California State tax forms (2022-2023) for Councils.**
- 2. Filed IRS tax forms (2022-2023) for Councils.**
- 3. Copied confirmation receipts from both IRS and California tax filings and mailed to Councils.**
- 4. Bi-weekly visits to the YMI Post Office Box in Burlingame, CA.**
- 5. Attended Grand Council Session Committee Meeting on August 10, 2023.**
- 6. Attended South San Francisco Council #32's August business meeting.**
- 7. Contacted Bally's Hotel and Casino in South Lake Tahoe regarding the 139th Grand Council Session.**
- 8. Attended St. John Bosco Council #613's annual BBQ and picnic in San Bruno.**
- 9. Forwarded Death Benefit requests to the Grand Treasurer, received checks and mailed.**
- 10. Entered late arriving Assessment checks.**
- 11. Entered new YMI members into the computer.**
- 12. Worked with Br. Billy Avery #80, GFVP on creation of introductory letters for Pro Patria Essay Contest and Raffle.**
- 13. Printed all letters, essay entry forms, and raffle tickets for Pro Patria mailing.**
- 14. Ordered envelopes from J & J Printers for Pro Patria mailing.**
- 15. Stuffed, sealed and addressed 1606 envelopes for Pro Patria mailing.**
- 16. Prepared Pro Patria mailing (bulk mailing requirements) and mailed at the San Bruno Post Office (used Council #32's bulk mailing permit)**
- 17. Entered minutes of the August 5, 2023 Board of Grand Directors meeting into the computer – emailed to all officers.**
- 18. Prepared YMI August bills for Grand Treasurer, delivered – distributed payments.**
- 19. Entered Council #40's beneficiary information.**
- 20. Prepared and forwarded to Mrs. Cindy Fondale the articles, etc. for the Institute Journal.**
- 21. Emailed the most recent issue of the Institute Journal to members.**
- 22. Attended Sebastopol #54's 100th Anniversary Celebration BBQ.**
- 23. Mailed Brother Figueira a new ribbon for his regalia.**
- 24. Attended South San Francisco Council #32's August Social**
- 25. Began processing and recording Pro Patria Raffle returns.**

This is definitely only a partial list as of September 14, 2023.

Reports of Grand Directors to Grand Council Committees: in accordance with the Grand Council By-Laws a member of the Grand Council Board of Directors is to be assigned to each of the Grand Council Committees that are delineated in the Grand President's Program for 2023-2024. In the program, each committee chairman as chosen by the Grand President is listed along with the goals and objectives of each committee.

The following are the Board Appointments and current reports for 2023-2024:

Audit Committee – Board Appointments: Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP and Brother Domenic Carinalli #54. Committee Chairman is Brother Bob Bartoli #32, PGP.

Brother Bob Bartoli #32, PGP reported that his committee planned to audit Council #80 and Council #44 both at the conclusion of the next Education Foundation Meeting. He also plans to audit Santa Rosa Council #4 when the Grand President makes his official visit.

Budget Committee – Board Appointments: Brother Alex Schmitt #8 and Brother Tommy Figueira #573. Committee Chairman is Brother Jack Albrecht #32, GT.

See Review Information regarding the budget as to increasing the Per Capita Tax.

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

There was no report from this committee at this time.

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

The next issue of the Institute Journal is scheduled to be published in late October or early November. All articles should be submitted to the editor before this time period, especially an article from the Budget Committee (see above)

Laws & Revisions Committee – Board Appointments: Brother Nick Franceschine #54, PGP and Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP. Committee Chairman is Brother Rob Bartoli #32.

There is not a report from the committee at this time. However, the Business Manager reminded all Grand Officers that very few Councils had updated their Council By-Laws following the 137th Grand Council Session. All of these Councils are working under By-Laws which do not meet the newest criteria. Several current officers offered to send their approved new By-Laws to Councils to help solve this dilemma.

Man and Council of the Year Committee – Board Appointments: Brother Paul Larson #32 and Brother Richard Murphy #32. Committee Chairman is Brother Bob Bartoli #32, PGP.

The chairman announced that the applications for these awards will be prepared for publication in the next Institute Journal.

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

The Grand President reported the Brother Robert Laxner #50, Chairman of this Committee had sent out a communication to all Councils with suggestion on how to bring inn new members. Councils should consider implementing these suggestions. The Grand President is planning to set up a Zoom meeting with Grand Officers and Brother Laxner in the next month.

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

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

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

The committee chairman reported on the mailing of the raffle tickets and the essay entry forms via bulk mail. This issue of AI had already been discussed.

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

There was no report from this committee at this time.

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

Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD and Chairman reported that one resolution has been submitted.

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

The chairman reported that a Zoom meeting had been set for September 20, 2023 for this committee. Items from last year will be reviewed and several new points of discussion will be undertaken.

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

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

Report of Sports Committees

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

Bowling – Brother Michael Sanzeri #59 – the Bowling Tournament will be held on April 21, 2024 at the Pacific Avenue Bowling Alley in Stockton beginning at 1:00 p.m. A flyer will be sent out and also printed in the Institute Journal. The tournament will not be cancelled this year. He hopes to have a team from Council #32 this year.

Bocce – Brother Michael Dimech #613 – save the date of Saturday, September 30, 2023, at Orange Avenue Memorial Park in South San Francisco for the next tournament. Ten teams have already signed up and we will have a tournament this year.

Golf – Brother Bob Fiorito #613 – has a date: May 19, 2024, at the Valley of the Moon Golf Course in Santa Rosa with a 1:00 start. Brother Bob Fiorito #613, GOS will chair and be assisted by Brother Paul Larson #32. Council #613 is planning to have 3 or 4 teams. Brother Bob is hoping to have one team from each Council.

Council #573 in Hawaii would like to participate by playing their match in Hilo if allowed. Answer - YES

Unfinished Business –

- A. The Business Manager, Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP, reported that several Councils are late in making their Assessment payments from the past year: St. Augustine #497 in Indiana, Tracy #92 in Tracy, Sadoc Council #59 in Pittsburg and Stockton Council #5. A total of \$3,300 in monies is outstanding. All of these Councils need to be contacted by their respective District Deputy Grand Presidents. The next assessment will be sent out on October 1, 2023. Councils who are delinquent put all the members in jeopardy when it comes to benefits from Grand Council.**

A motion was made and unanimously approved by the Board of Grand Directors to have the Grand Secretary send a letter, by the next Grand Director's meeting, to the Councils whose Assessment payments were late.

- B. Brother Eugene Espinola #94 brought all the Officers up to date on the steps being taken for Madera Council #60 to merge with Chowchilla Council #94. The Madera Council had submitted a plan and timeline so that all the necessary steps will be completed by December 31, 2023.**
- C. Brother Jack Albrecht #32, GT reported that he will once again speak to the tax consultant on the concept of raffles. He had not yet heard back from Br. Sutton as of yet. He did however advise we should not be concerned as the raffle was held in Nevada and we should not be expected to be bound by California law, and only YMI members attending the meeting were allowed to participate.**

New Business –

- A. Brother Tommy Figueira #573, GD and Chairman of the Board requested that any Brothers who may have thoughts or ideas for future meetings that would be considered under New Business to please contact him prior to preparing future agendas. Presently he is having to depend on the Business Manager for these topics.**
- B. Grand President Steve Cresci offered a suggestion that Councils might consider an afternoon Skills Competition for young school kids, sponsored by YMI that could attract parents, etc. like a possible free throw contest.**
- C. Council #2 is having to replace their Council Treasurer who is moving and it might necessitate closing the Council. Brother Alex Preciado cannot do**

all the jobs. Brother Cresci will contact Brother Alex and have Grand Council attend their September 19, 2023 Council Meeting.

Immediate Past Grand President's Report – Brother Darrell Fonseca #99, IPGP – He attended the YLI/YMI picnic in Atwater and he thanked Brother Cresci for organizing the YMI day at the ballpark in Oakland. He enjoyed himself at both.

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

Good of the Order –

Brother Alex Schmitt had the opportunity to distribute the Seminarian grants to the Oakland Diocese Seminarians at St. Patrick's Seminary. He noted that the seminary was have a 125 year gala anniversary...looking for table sponsors.

St. John Bosco Council #613 sponsored 8 new members to their Council who were all the seminarians they sponsored this year. They are all Honorary Members.

Brother Fondale and his wife ran into a priest in the community of San Andreas, California (they have to travel for Sunday Mass as there is no priest to come to their church on a Sunday any more) who remembered the YMI from many years back.

The next Board meeting will be held on November 19, 2023.

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

Adjournment – 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Br. Michael Dimech, #613, GS, PGP

Br. Thomas Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager

