

Young Men's Institute
Board of Grand Directors Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2025

Call to Order – Brother Mike Amato #613, Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors 9:00 a.m.

Opening Prayer – Fr. Agnel

Pledge of Allegiance – Br. Chris McCann Led pledge

Roll Call – Brother Michael Dimech #613, Past Grand President, GS

John Cleary #613 GD	present
Domenic Carinalli #54	present
Michael Amato #613 PGP GD	present
Gus Solidum	absent
Ed Silva	present
Luis Alvarenga #32	present
Danny Avilla	present
Manuel Drumonde #54	present
Bill Walls #80 GP	present
Richard Murphy #32 GFVP	present
Mario Balistreri #613 GSVP	present
Billy Avery #80 IPGP	present
Rev. Angel De Heredia #32 GC	present
Michael Dimech #613 GS PGP	present
Bob Bartoli #32 PGP, GT	present
Chris McCann, GM	present
Bob Fiorito #613 GIS	excused
Paul Larson #32 GOS	present
Tom Fourie #32 PGP BM	present
Alex Schmidt	present
Clement Gusman #573 DDGP	present
Steve Cresci #32 GP	present
Alex Preciado	present

Frank DiMaggio

excused

Meeting – Chairman of the Board, Brother Mike Amato, Grand Director, asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the May 24, 2025, June 17, 2025 meetings of Board of Grand Directors and the minutes from the 140th Grand Sessions.

Motion made by Br. Danny and seconded by Brother Br. Ed There were no other discussion. The Board unanimously accepted and approved the minutes.

Communications - Brother Michael Dimech #613, Past Grand President did not have any communications. Br. Tom reported that he received:

Br. Luis asked to be excused from 5/24/25 meeting.

Communications received by the Grand Council Office since the 5/24/25, Board Meeting.

Communications

Council Newsletters

San Jose Council #2: May, June, July

American Council #8: June, July

South San Francisco Council #32: June, July, August

Francis Council #573: June

St. John Bosco Council #613: June, July, August

- a. Council #613 Flyer for summer Picnic on 8/17/25
- b. YMI Baseball Flyer for July 19 in San Jose
- c. Cover Letter for Council Certificates of Liability Insurance
- d. Acknowledgement cards from families of Brothers in Council #573 who were recently deceased.
- e. Copy of letter sent to St. Theresa's Church in South Lake Tahoe with donation check.
- f. 2025 Bocce Ball Tournament announcement.
- g. Voice of YLI: Spring 2025 Issue and 2025 Candidate Issue
- h. The Catholic Voice, Summer 2025, Diocese of Oakland
- i. Information on James Cai, Attorney at Law (see Grand Second Vice President)
- j. Cover letter sent to Councils for financial refund based on delegates to Convention
- k. Letter from Grand Secretary on election of officers for Grand Directors

Grand Treasurer Report

- Sent Budget, Deposit breakdown to all officers and Grand Directors.
- Bills are current
- Finances are in good shape

Funds as of 8/16/25

Schaub

UBS

DB: \$2.713m

268K

RF: 421k

73

Moved 15k from Schaub account to checking account to pay

\$12k insurance bill and \$14K Bally's hotel bill

Motion to approve the Grand Treasure's report as reported by Br. Bartoli by Br. Domenic and seconded by Br. Luis.

Motion passed

Reports of Grand Directors Board Committees for 2024-2025– Br. Mike Amato #613, Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors

Br. Mike A is working with Grand Director's to finalize Brothers to assume committee roles for the coming YMI year.

- **Charters (includes Archives):** Brothers Ed Silva #54 (Chairman), Dominic Carinalli #54 & Manuel Drumonde #44
 - o This committee takes the lead on any issues regarding charter applications or the storage of YMI records for safekeeping.
- No report at this time
 - o Br. Bartoli to work with Br. Ed Silva to review storage at All Souls locker to thin out and eliminate documents no longer needed. Need to take documents for shredding
- **Finance (includes Fundraising/Insurance):** Brothers John Cleary #613 (Chairman) Michael Amato #613, & Luis Alvarenga #32
 - o This committee reviews the monthly bills of the Grand Council. Two members sign off on each bill. This is usually done around the 15th of each month in coordination with the Business Manager and the Grand Treasurer.
 - o The committee addresses insurance issues (should they arise) in coordination with the Grand Council Office
 - o Committee monitors and promotes YMI Fund Raising programs

No report at this time
- **Long Range Planning:** Brothers Danny Avila #44 (Chairman), Michael Amato #613, Ed Silva #54 & Gus Solidum #94, Richard Murphy #32
 - o This committee should be looking to undertake efforts to consider how to implement goals in the 2025 Advanced Proceedings, as well as identify new goals for 2026.
 - o What needs to be done for the YMI in 2026 and beyond
 - o Br. Richard Murphy joined this committee
- No report at this time

- Br. Danny to meet with committee members
- **Council Activities: Brothers Domenic Carinalli #54 (Chairman), Danny Avila #44 & Gus Solidum #94**
 - o This committee keeps abreast of Council planned activities, sharing results and best practices.
 - o No report today.
- **Supplies: Brothers Luis Alveranga #32 (Chair), John Cleary #613**
 - o The committee advises on issues involving YMI supplies (e.g. pins, hats) and verifies inventory.
 - o No report today. Will work with Br. Tome to arrange a meeting to review the supplies.

Br. Luis to arrange to meet with Br. Tom to review supplies

Technology Advancements; br. Gus Solidum (chair), Br. Mike Amato

No report today

Grand President's Report

Dear Brothers, I went to Three Rivers in July and delivered the stipends to the 21 Seminarians with Brother Mike Nelson and Brother Billy Avery. Then I attended the baseball game in San Jose, go Giants. After that I attended the Young Grand Ladies Institute meeting in Reno Nevada. I gave a speech and took about 20 minutes of questions. Then I attended the council meeting at St. Columba's in Chowchilla. Good attendance from four councils and four junior YMI attendants as well. I made a visit to St. Cecilia's Council #613 with 30 members in attendance. I am going to the picnic on 17 August on Sunday. Busy traveling.

Grand President
Bill Walls

Grand First Vice President's Report – Brother Richard Murphy reported:

- Pro Patria Essay Contest: Status? Submitted document to stakeholder to review pertaining to Essay Contest
- Hoping to increase student participation beyond the 350 essays form last year
- Would like to increase raffle sales among members from the 15% to 50%
- Visited Council # 613 in August and encouraged members to purchase raffle tickets
- Will send Br. Mike Dimech with Essay Flyer for placement on the YMI website
- Br. Manny recommended sending raffle tickets to individual Councils to forward to Council brothers

Grand Second Vice President's Report – Brother Mario Balistreri, # 613 Grand Second Vice President

- Red & White Mass & Dinner scheduled for 3/14/26
- Fr. Agnel will officiate the mass at 5:00 p.m. at St. Cecilia's Parish / Procession prior to Mass
- Working with Office staff for usage of lower church hall
- No charge for Lower church hall
- Valley Councils looking into renting a bus for transportation

Grand Secretary Report August 16, 2025

Since our May 24th Grand Director Board Meeting:

I requested the Webmaster to update our YMI Website with the following documents:

- YMI GRAND COUNCIL 2025-2026 Board Members
- Excerpts from the Grand Presidents Program
- Grand Director Minutes that were approved at the May 24, 2025 Grand Director Meeting
- Update 2026 Seminarian Education Foundation Board Members
- 2026 YMI Man of the Year application
- 2026 YMI Council of the Year
- Council Directory changes
- In Memoriam
- Photos taken at the Grand Session
- Prepared and sent out the Grand Session Meeting minutes and the minutes from the first Grand Director Meeting that took place at the Session on June 19th
- Council newsletters received from the Business manager and the individual Councils have been uploaded onto the YMI Website.
- Attended St. John Bosco Council's July and August Business Meetings and submitted my secretary report for both meetings
- I am working on the bocce ball tournament for Saturday, September November 8th at Orange Park in South San Francisco
- Will be attending Council 613's Annual Picnic tomorrow, August 17th
- In the process of updating the list of Grand Presidents for the YMI Website
- In the process of updating the Education Foundation Board Members for the YMI website

Business Manager Report

Business Manager activities since the adjournment of the 140th Grand Council Session on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 11:53 a.m.

- a. Participated and assisted at the 4:00 p.m. 140th Grand Council Installation Mass at St. Theresa's Catholic Church in South Lake Tahoe.**
- b. Attended the 140th Grand Council Banquet at Bally's Hotel and Casino on June 18, 2025.**
- c. Together with the Grand Treasurer, Brother Bob Bartoli, met the representative of Bally's Hotel and Casino on Thursday, June 19, 2025 to pay the bills for the 140th Grand Council Session of the YMI.**
- d. Prepared letters to mail to Councils for Assessment #200.**
- e. Worked with the Grand Treasurer to prepare and mail Grand Council rebate checks for those Councils attending the 140th Grand Council Session in accordance with the Grand Council By-Laws.**
- f. Received and filed a copy of the YMI Grand Council Liability Insurance Policy for 2025-2026.**
- g. On-going visits to the Burlingame Post Office to pick up YMI mail from the Post Office Box.**
- h. Worked with Grand Treasurer, Brother Bob Bartoli, to prepare and send Death Benefit payments.**
- i. Updated and emailed Grand Council Officers list for 2025-2026 to Grand Council Officers.**
- j. Signed off on Grand Council checks for expenses from the month of June and July 2025.**
- k. Prepared Education Foundation Memorials for the Institute Journal and mailed notifications.**
- l. Frequent telephone calls and emails with Grand Treasurer Bob Bartoli, Grand Director Michael Amato and Grand Secretary Michael Dimech.**
- m. Attended July 10, 2025 meeting of South San Francisco Council #32 and initiated their new Council Officers for 2025-2026.**
- n. Updated financial contributions and deposits for the YMI Seminarian Foundation.**
- o. Responded to on-going emails from Councils concerning a variety of topics.**
- p. Participated in Planning Committee Meetings for future Grand Council Conventions.**
- q. Printed out YMI Grand Council Committee assignments.**
- r. Prepared envelopes for future mailings of Assessments #201, #202, and #203.**
- s. Finished preparing worksheets for Councils tax submissions.**
- t. Participated in the Education Foundation Meeting of July 22, 2025.**
- u. Placed an order for envelopes for the annual Pro Patria**

raffle.

- v. Updated Grand Councils new members on the computer.
- w. Worked with Grand First Vice President Richard Murphy on the Pro Patria Essay Contest.
- x. Updated entire computer files of Dos Palos Council #99 as provided by Brother Darrell Fonseca.
- y. Copied out minutes from the 140th Grand Council Session.
- z. Prepared July 2025 bills for the Grand Treasurer.
- aa. Organized first and second meetings at the Grand Council Office in order to file Federal and State tax forms for the respective Councils.
- bb. Made reservations for Council #613's Picnic and BBQ.
- cc. Printed out agenda for the August 16, 2025 Board of Grand Directors Meeting.
- dd. Began to receive articles for the next Institute Journal.
- ee. And much more as this is only a partial list.
- Liability Insurance Policy received
- Death Benefits processed
- Nancy Bartoli will assist the Business Mgr. with publication of the IJ.

Immediate Past Grand Presidents Report

Brothers,

Activities of the IPGP From Grand Sessions this June:

June 16th - 18th Grand Council Sessions

July 7th Rosary for PGP Manuel Drumonde wife Celeste Drumonde

July 8th Celeste Drumonde Funeral Service

July 15th Grand Session in 2026 Planning Zoom Meeting

July 19th Attend YMI Night at the Baseball Park in San Jose

July 23rd Attend YMI Monthly #80 Atwater Meeting

August 6th Attend Chowchilla Council #94 YMI Meeting

August 7th Summit IPGP Article to GBM for YMI Lamppost Newsletter

August 10th Attend Council #80 YMI YLI Picnic in Veterans Park Atwater

Next Events

August 16th Grand Directors Zoom Meeting

August 17th YMI Summer Picnic at Junipero Serra Park, hosted by Council #613 (SSF)

August 27th YMI BBQ Steak dinner hosted by Council #54 (Sebastopol)

Unfinished Business –

- 2025 Grand Council Sessions (Br. Fourie #32 & Committee)
- Lost \$135.00 at Convention
- Convention ran very smoothly
- Possibly have credentials filled out t convention since
- 30% of brothers do not bring document with them
- Br. Manny commented it would be nice if additional member s attended

- 2026 Grand Council Sessions (Br. Walls #80) - Planning status far? Committee participants?
 - The convention committee met one time to date
 - Second meeting is scheduled for 9/3/25
 - Br. Tom has arranged for 2026 dates with Bally's Hotel (June 14-16)
 - Contract arrived and will be signed and returned
 - Br. Walls to speak to Brothers at this visits to try and increase attendance at convention
-
- YMI Legal Advisor? Br. Mario identify a legal resource in May 2025. Do we need to do anything more?
 - Br. Mario reported that James Cai, Esq. will be our Legal advisor. He won't be on a retainer and his hourly charge is \$500.00 hour.
 - Will only use him on an as needed basis

New Business –

- 2027 Grand Council Session (Br. Richard Murphy #32):
- Consider going to a different location other than south Lake Tahoe? Form a committee by March 2026
- Determine how much each Council receives from Grand Council for attending the Grand Council Session
- 2026 Dues for Council #900 considering the approved YMI assessment fees
- A discussion took place regarding an increase in Council # 900 dues effective 10/1/25.
- The cost to copy and sent out the Lamp Post to Council # 900 members has increased
- Motion made by Br. Mike Amato and seconded by Br. John Cleary to raise the dues by \$10.00 to \$65.00.

Motion passed

- Other:

Fund Raising Activities:

- Possible Pasta Bingo Event in February of 2026

- Possible Super Bowl Pool in early 2026
- Can someone in the Valley coordinate a Super Bowl Pool?
- Br. Mario asked if proceeds from Red & White mass be directed to say the Seminary Foundation. Answer is yes

Reports from Grand Council Committees 2025-2026

- **Audit/Reserve Committee** – GD Board Appointment: Br. John Cleary #613. The Committee Chair: Br. Steve Cresci #32, PGP
 - *Should be discussing an audit plan for 2025-26 to ensure the best practices are being followed by YMI Councils and Foundations.*
- Put together an audit plan for 2025 -2026. Br. Steve to get together with Br. John Cleary to discuss plan going forward
- **Budget/Reserve Fund Committee** – GD Board Appointment: Br. John Cleary #613. The Committee Chair is Brother Bob Bartoli #32 GT
 - *Should be reviewing the YMI investment portfolio periodically considering market changes/risks and the level of liquidity and diversification needed.*
- Budget meeting in January of 2026
- Reserve meeting- will meet with brokers in January / February of 2026
- It was brought up that Br. Jeff Morrow of Council # 613 might be able to review our Death Benefit numbers / declining membership and see what effect this will have on Death benefits payments going forward
- **Ceremonials Committee** – GD Board Appointment: Br. Domenic Carinalli #54. The Committee Chair: Br. Bill Walls #80, PGP (*pending an appointment by the GP*).

No Report

- **Credentials Committee** – GD Board Appointment: Br. Ed Silva #54. The Committee Chair is Br. Mike Dimech #613 GS/PGP.
 - *Report may be skipped as work effort occurs in Spring. However, Committee may want to review if any changes should be recommended from traditional credential process.*

No report

- **Institute Journal Committee** – GD Board Appointment: **Brother Mike Amato #613. The Committee Chair is Br. Tom Fourie #32 BM/PGP.**
 - *Status of the next Lamp Post edition. E-mail was sent by Br. Fourie on articles needed/*
- Br. Fourie requested articles for the Summer edition of the Lamp Post be submitted by August 31st
- Br. Mike Amato to provide an article for the Lamp Post
- **Laws and Revisions Committee** – GD Board Appointments: **Brother Ed Silva #54 PGP. The Committee Chair is Br. Nick Franceschine, #54, PGP.**
 - *Status of Committee's review of By-Law proposals approved in 2026? Need approval from the L & R Committee to incorporate changes into By-Laws.*
- The Law and revision committee reviewed the By-Law proposals approved at the 2025 session and have incorporated them in the YMI By-Laws
- The updated YMI By-Laws will be sent by the Grand Secretary to the webmaster for placement on the website
- **Man & Council of the Year Committee** – GD Board Appointments: **Br Domenic Carinalli #54. The Committee Chair is Br. Bob Bartoli #32 GT/PGP.**
 - *2025 Man of the Year: Br. Darrell Fonseca #99, PGP*
 - *2025 Council of the Year: Holy Rosary Council #44*

Update website with above information and update website with new applications for 2025 -2026

- **Membership Committee** – GD Board Appointments: **Br. Danny Avila #44 & Br. Manuel Drumonde. The Committee Chair: Br. Billy Avery, #80 IPGP.**
 - Should be working to review & implement LR Planning Committee recommendations for membership, among other ideas.
- Good suggestions have previously come out from Long Range planning a couple of years ago and we should look into incorporating them
- There is a need to increase membership
- Br. Billy Avery to reach out to committee members
- **Pro Deo Committee** – Board Appointment: **Br. Mike Amato #613. Committee Chair is Brother Mario Balistreri #613 GSVP.**
 - Report skipped as covered previously in the GSVP Report.
- **Pro Patria** – GD Board Appointment: **Br. Luis Alvarenga, #32. The Committee Chair is Brother Richard Murphy #32 GFVP.**
 - Report may be skipped as covered previously in the GFVP Report.

- **Organization Committee** – GD Board Appointment: Br. Luis Alvarenga, #32 Committee Chair is Brother Michael Dimech #613 GS/PGP.

No Report

- **Resolutions Committee** – GD Board Appointment: Brother Manuel Drumonde #80 PGP Committee Chair is Br. Alex Schmitt #8, PGD
 - o Should determine if YMI Brothers or supporters ought to be recognized by a YMI Resolution. Is there a process to nominate?

No report at this time

- **State of the Institute** – GD Board Appointment: Br. Danny Avila #44. Committee Chair is Brother Billy Avery #80 IPGP.
 - o Report may be skipped as covered previously in the IPGP Report.

No report at this time.

Need additional appointments made to this committee

- **Advanced Technology: Committee Chair & GD Board Appointment: Br Gus Solidum**
 - o *The committee is intended to look at ways the YMI can use modern technologies to improve its operations and how it communicates information. Action should build off 2025 work.*

Br Gus was not in attendance however:

- o *Zoom meetings have been scheduled and no reported issues*
- o *Gmail email account is currently forwarding to the AOL account. YMI Website has not listed gmail address yet*

- **Workshop Committee** – GD Board Appointment: Brother Gus Solidum #94. The Committee Chair is the Grand Council Office.

No Report

Reports from Sports Committees:

- **Minor League Baseball Game** – Br. S Cresci #32 – Game scheduled in San Jose for July 19th – How did it go?
- A very good event and everyone had a nice time
- Approximately 30 people attended the game including
- Br. Walls and Br. Avery attended the event
- A big thank you to Br. Steve for putting this event together for the membership

- **Bocce Ball- Br. Dimech #32** – 2025 tournament in South SF has been re-scheduled for November 8th. Status of planning?
- Tournament is scheduled for November 8th
- Flyer is on the website
- To date have two teams entered
- **Golf – Br. Bob Fiorito #613/Br. Paul Larson #32** – Plans for 2026 Tournament?
- Golf tournament went very successful and was well organized
- Dos Palos won the tournament this year
- 44 people attended the tournament and banquet
- Possibly move the tournament to Crystal Springs Golf Course in 2026
- **Bowling – Br. Sanzeri #59/Br. Walls #80** – Plans for 2026 Tournament?
- **Br. Walls to contact Br. Mike Z to discuss 2026 tournament**
- **2025 tournament broke even**

Grand Chaplain's Report – Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, Grand Chaplain

No report

Good of the Order:

Council #80 won the Bowling Tournament

Closing Prayer:

Prayers for the passing of Celeste Drumonde

Keep Br. Duarte in our prayers as he had surgery recently

Next Meetings: Potential Dates/Times

- **September 20th (Sat) 9:00 a.m.**
- **November 15th (Sat) 9:00 a.m.**
- **2026 meetings to be determined at a later date**

Adjournment: 11:16 a.m.