

Young Men's Institute  
Board of Grand Directors Meeting  
Sept 20, 2025 @ 8:45 a.m.

Agenda

*Call to Order* – Brother Mike Amato #613, Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors

*Opening Prayer* – Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, GC

*Pledge of Allegiance* – Brother Chris McCann #8, GM

*Roll Call* – Brother Michael Dimech #613, GS/PGP

*Michael Amato #613 GD/PGP (Chairman)*

*Danny Avila, #44 GD (Vice Chair) – Absent*

*Luis Alvarenga #32, GD*

*Domenic Carinalli #54 GD*

*John Cleary #613*

*Manuel Drumonde, #44, GD/PGP*

*Ed Silva, #54, GD*

*Gus Solidum #94, GD*

*Bill Walls #80 GP*

*Richard Murphy #32 GFVP - Excused*

*Mario Balistreri #613 GSVP – Excused*

*Billy Avery #80 IPGP*

*Rev. Angel De Heredia #32 GC*

*Michael Dimech #613 GS/PGP - Excused*

*Bob Bartoli #32, GT/PGP*

*Chris McCann #8, GM*

*Paul Larson#32, GOS – Absent*

*Bob Fiorito #613, GIS – Absent*

*Tom Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager*

*DDGPs:*

*Alex Schmidt , Clement Gusman*

*Others:*

*Steve Cresci*

*Approval of Board Minutes~ Br. Mike Dimech, GS/PGP:*

- Grand Sessions Meeting: August 16, 2025

**Motion to approve 8/16/25 Board Minutes: Ed Silva**

**Seconded: Luis Alvarenga**

**Motion Passed yes x No \_\_\_\_\_**

**Any changes to the minutes:**

***Communications* - Br. Mike Dimech #613, GS/PGP & Br. Tom Fourie #32, BM/PGP**

**Mike D - No communications**

**Br. Tom Fourie communications (see below)**

**Communications:**

**Council Newsletters**

**San Jose Council #2 - August**

**American Council #8 - August and September**

**South San Francisco Council #32 - September**

**Francis Council #573 - August and September**

**St. John Bosco Council #613 - September**

**The Catholic Voice - Fall 2025 - Diocese of Oakland**

**Cover letter to Councils with copies of IRS and State of California tax filings**

**prepared and submitted on their behalf**

***Report of the Grand Treasurer & Approval to Pay Bills* - Br. Bob Bartoli #32, GT/PGP**

- Status of Bills/Receipts
- All bills reviewed and paid
- Transferred \$20,000.00 from Reserve Account
- Paid out 9 Death Benefits

  

- Status of Investments: Death Benefits

**Funds as of 9/20/25**

**Schaub**

**UBS**

**Death Benefits: \$ 2,695,086**

**\$276,317**

**Reserve Fund: \$ 420,274**

**\$75,320**

**Motion to approve the Treasurer Report: John Cleary**

**Seconded: Ed Silva**

**Motion Passed yes X No \_\_\_\_\_**

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

Br. Tom advised that committee members need to provide a report, especially since are in 6 months into the new YMI year. Nor report is not appropriate.

- **Charters (includes Archives):** Brothers Ed Silva #54 (Chairman), Dominic Carinalli #54 & Manuel Drumonde #44
  - This committee takes the lead on any issues regarding charter applications or the storage of YMI records for safekeeping.

**No report this meeting**

- **Finance (includes Fundraising/Insurance):** Brothers John Cleary #613 (Chairman) Michael Amato #613, & Luis Alvarenga #32
  - This committee reviews the monthly bills of the Grand Council. Two members sign off on each bill. This is usually done around the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month in coordination with the Business Manager and the Grand Treasurer.
  - The committee addresses insurance issues (should they arise) in coordination with the Grand Council Office
  - Committee monitors and promotes YMI Fund Raising programs

- **No report this meeting, however Br. John intends to schedule a meeting in the next two weeks with the committee members.**
- **Long Range Planning: Brothers Danny Avila #44 (Chairman), Michael Amato #613, Ed Silva #54 & Gus Solidum #94**
  - 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.

**Br. Danny not present and was not able to submit his report this meeting.**

- **Council Activities: Brothers Domenic Carinalli #54 (Chairman), Danny Avila #44 & Gus Solidum #94**
  - This committee keeps abreast of Council planned activities, sharing results and best practices.

**No report this meeting. Advised Br. Domenic to schedule a meeting with his committee members.**

**Supplies: Brothers Luis Alveranga #32 (Chair), John Cleary #613**

- The committee advises on issues involving YMI supplies (e.g. pins, hats) and verifies inventory.

**There has been No change in inventory**

***Grand President's Report – Br. Bill Walls #80, GP***

- Discussion of Official Visits &/or his GP YMI Program
- Ground Council Committee Appointments Made BY The GP Per the By-Laws
- Other events/activities

**Dear Brothers,**

Here is my report for Sept 20th. I traveled to Junipero Serra Park for the Council #613 BBQ. Next, I went to Reno, Nevada for the Young Grand Ladies Institute for this year. I gave a speech about the Young Men's Institute at their meeting. Had a wonderful time and put the speech in the Lamp Post. Went to a meeting at Chowchilla and had 4 councils in attendance.

The G1stVP also attended the meeting. Next I went to Council #613 meeting at St. Cecilia's. There were 30 people in attendance. Attended the Steak Dinner at the Sebastopol venue. Just getting around to the councils and meeting as many members as possible. Got a call from John West up in Washington and talked with him about 30 minutes. I enjoyed talking with him very much. Talked to a few committee chairmen and got to learn a few more members for their committees, but it is going very slow.

William Walls  
Grand President

*Grand First Vice President's Report* – Br. Richard Murphy #32 GFVP (excused but there may be a written report to discuss)

- Pro Patria Essay Contest: Status
- Raffle: Status
- Other official events/activities

#### Grand First Vice President's Report

##### Essay Contest Status:

The completed version is in the YMI journal with the 2 questions for our student entries.

7th & 8th Grade: When have you gone out of your way to help a stranger in need?

9th - 12th grades: When have you felt that possessions were becoming too important in your life?

I feel these are strong, pertinent questions for the intended grades and hoping for more than 300 entries this year. Looking for 700 - 1000 entries.

If I dream large, I will push to get those numbers.

With more entries, there is a possibility that this will produce more members.

Keep hope alive.

##### Raffle status:

I have not yet worked on the raffle sheet, but late Sept to early October they 1000 sheets should be copied out and mailed to each council.

I also need to contact the YLI, as they really enjoy a good raffle.

##### Other activities:

###### Council 32 Business meeting

Missed the BBQ in Santa Rosa. Forgot to pay and then a neighbor had a BBQ same day so we walked to it.

I hope it went well, I know I missed a steak dinner, and will see everyone up there next year, God willing.

Till we meet again.

Letters with raffle tickets to be sent out soon.

*Richard Murphy*  
Grand First Vice President

*Grand Second Vice President's Report* – Br. Mario Balistreri, #613 GSVP (excused but there may be a written report to discuss)

- 2026 Red and White Mass: Status
- Other official events/activities

Good Day All,

Here is my report for next Grand Council Meeting.

Progress is going nicely on the prep work for the March 14, 2026 Red & White Anniversary Mass and dinner to be held at St Cecilia Church in conjunction with parish 5pm Mass. Fr. Rene will lead mass concelebrated with Fr. Agnel and our council Chaplin Deacon Rory will provide the homily. Music and readings will be handled by parish. Banner procession will start prior to Mass. More news to follow at our November Grand Council Mtg.

Since attending Grand Council Convention in Lake Tahoe I have attended the baseball game in San Jose and Council 613 BBQ Picnic.

Looking forward to attend the Italian Heritage Parade in October.

In regards to the Council 613 Hour of Memory, the flyer has been completed ( thanks Br. Rod) and will be in the mail today to the widows and two families as Mike Amato has suggested .

Mass will be at 3:30 November 2, 2025 at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in North Beach San Francisco followed by dinner at the SFIAC on Stockton street.

Ciao for now. Off to visit family relative. I don't anticipate having email access. Will have plenty of memories to share upon return.

Br. Mario Balistreri

*Grand Secretary's Report* – Br. Michael Dimech #613 GS/PGP

## **Grand Secretary Report September 20, 2025**

**Since our August 16th Grand Director Board Meeting:**

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

- Grand Director Minutes that were approved at the August 16th, 2025 Grand Director Meeting: The May 24, 2025, June 17, 2025 meetings of Board of Grand Directors and the minutes from the 140<sup>th</sup> Grand Sessions
- Updated YMI By-Laws post Grand Council Sessions
- Photos taken at the YMI Day at San Jose Giants Game and St. John Bosco's August 17<sup>th</sup> Picnic
- Prepared and sent out the August 16, 2025 Grand Director Meeting minutes
- Council newsletters received from the Business manager and the individual Councils have been uploaded onto the YMI Website.
- Attended St. John Bosco Council's September Business Meeting
- Attended St John Bosco's August Picnic
- I am continuing to work on the bocce ball tournament that is scheduled for Saturday, September November 8th at Orange Park in South San Francisco
- Placed Essay Flyer on the YMI website
- 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's Report* – Br. Tom Fourie #32 PGP, Business Manager.**

- Coverage of the wide array of business matters coming into the YMI Grand Council Office.

Br. Tom sent the below via e-mail.

#### **Business Manager's Activities since last Board Meeting**

1. Emailed YMI Grand Council by-Laws to all Councils.
2. Began and complete for publication - the Summer 2025 Institute Journal – many thanks to Mrs. Nancy Bartoli (very much a time-consuming activity over several days).
3. Prepared August bills for payment by the Grand Treasurer.
4. Prepared August income report for the Grand Treasurer.
5. Intervened for Santa Rosa Council #40 regarding their insurance coverage at St. Eugene's Cathedral.
6. Signed and returned 2026 contract for next Grand Council Convention at Bally's Hotel and Casino in South Lake Tahoe.
7. Emailed IJ to Brothers in Councils for their distribution.
8. Began the preparations for Pro Patria Essay Contest and Raffle - assisted by Grand First Vice President Richard Murphy. (copies of raffle flyer, student application form, letters, etc.)
9. Attended Convention Planning Committee Meeting on September 3, 2025.

10. Attended Seminarian Education Foundation Meeting on September 4, 2025.
11. Purchased copy material at Office Depot for Pro Patria bulk mailing (several visits)
12. Acquired insurance certificate for St. Theresa's Catholic Church in South Lake Tahoe for June 2026 Convention.

This is only a partial list.

### *Immediate Past Grand President's Report – Br. Billy Avery #80 IPGP*

- The State of the Institute is in really good shape. The Website has been updated with the By-Law and Constitution
- Working on a long E-mail list for all members
- Enjoys scanning documents digitally and would like be involved in any scanning of YMI documents

Fellow Brothers, here is My report from the Immediate Past Grand President for the September 20, 2025, Board of Grand Directors Meeting.

#### Recent 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)

September 3rd Grand Session in 2026 Planning Zoom Meeting

September 4th Seminarian Educational Foundation Zoom

September 7th - 14th, out with Covid, Long Week

#### Upcoming Events

September 24th Council #80 Monthly Meeting

September 25th Council #44 Family night Bowling

September 30th Oakland #8 Redshirt Breakfast with Grand President

October 18th Atwater #80 Chicken BBQ Fundraiser

October 28th YMI Educational Foundation Quarterly Zoom meeting

#### *Unfinished Business*

- 2026 Grand Council Sessions (Br. Walls #80 & Committee) - Planning status so far?
- The Grand Council Session committee met in September
- Contract signed – Bally's Hotel, So. Lake Tahoe
- At next meeting will discuss entertainment – January 2026
- Hotel price increased room rate \$5.00 per night
- Parking Fee – not sure if it increased – nominal increase

- Church is set
- YMI GC Fundraisers for 2025-26?  
Pasta Bingo – 2026 ?  
Super Bowl Pool ?

Pasta Bingo Dinner - Table discussion until next meeting as Br. Dimech  
Super Bowl Pool?  
Bocce Ball – Council #613 Event / Not a YMI Grand Council Event.

### **New Business -**

- Other:
- Phone numbers are needed for Board members
- Two death benefits are missing from Br. Manny Drummond's Council. Requesting faster turn-around of benefit payments

### **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.*
- No report at this time – will have a report at next Grand Director meeting
- **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.*

Add Jeff Morrow to the Budget / Reserve Committee

- **Ceremonials Committee** – GD Board Appointment: Br. Domenic Carinalli #54. The Committee Chair: Br. Bill Walls #80, PGP (*pending an appointment by the GP*).

**No changes or meetings have taken place**

- **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.**

**No Report at this time**

- **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?*

Date set for next Institute Journal possible in November

Articles need to be proof read prior to sending into the Grand Council Office. Articles are due November 1<sup>st</sup>.

- **Laws and Revisions Committee – GD Board Appointments:** Brother Ed Silva #54 PGP. The Committee Chair is Br. Nick Franceschine, #54, PGP.
- **Adopted 2025 YMI By-Law** have been accepted by L&R and posted 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.
- **New applications have been posted on the website**
- **Good idea to start early on the applications in obtaining information.**
- **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.*

- Councils with new members: 32, 44 80, 94 497, 573, 613 have brought in new members the past 2 to 3 years. All other Councils have not brought in any new members.
- Push Benefits to prospective members
- Seminarians payments brought in new members
- Br. Billy will have more time in December to work on this committee
- Work with Technology Committee
- Welcome letter from Grand Council to new members suggested
- Councils need to be proactive to bring in new members
- Bill Walls attended Chowchilla Meeting and saw that four boys in attendance at the meeting

  

- 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 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

**Report may be skipped as work effort occurs in Spring.**

- **State of the Institute – GD Board Appointment:** Br. Danny Avila #44. Committee Chair is Brother Billy Avery #80 IPGP.

**Already covered previously**

- **Advanced Technology: Committee Chair & GD Board Appointment: Br Gus Solidum**
  - *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.*
- **Will schedule a meeting with committee members**
- **Will add Billy Avery and Bill Walls to committee**
- **Workshop Committee – GD Board Appointment:** Brother Gus Solidum #94. The Committee Chair is the Grand Council Office.

**Report skipped as work effort occurs in Spring.**

### *Reports from Sports Committees:*

- **Bocce Ball- Br. Dimech #32** – 2025 tournament in South SF has been re-scheduled for November 8th. Status of planning?

**To date two teams have been entered the tournament.**

**The flyer is on the website. Please mention the tournament at the individual Council Business meetings**

- **Golf – Br. Bob Fiorito #613/Br. Paul Larson #32** – Plans for 2026 Tournament
- **Will the 2026 tournament be scheduled at Crystal Springs Golf Course – May 2026**
- **Nice Course, little hilly**

- Bowling – Br. Sanzeri #59/Br. Walls #80 – Plans for 2026 Tournament?
- No information at this time
- Bill Walls to discuss prior to November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting

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

*Good of the Order:*

YMI Council # 613 Columbus Day Parade – Joe Montanna – Grand Marshall  
Council # 613 to have 8-10 cars in parade  
Bill Walls and wife and family members will attend  
Br. Mammy's 7<sup>th</sup> Grandchild was recently born

*Closing Prayer* – Br. Steve Cresci

*Next Meetings: Potential Dates/Times*

- November 15<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 8:45 a.m. – Need more reports from Committees
- January 20<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 8:45 a.m.
- Remaining 2026 meetings to be determined at a later date

*Adjournment Time: 10:18 a.m.*