

MINUTES OF THE YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE

139th GRAND COUNCIL SESSION

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, NEVADA

TUESDAY - JUNE 18, 2024

Opening Ceremonies

Steve Cresci #32 GP, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. in the Evergreen B Meeting Room of Bally's Hotel and Casino in South Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

He pointed out a statue of St. Joseph, patron saint of the YMI, a gift he received from the Brothers of Gonzaga Council #612 in Indiana, which he placed on the podium.

Council Chamber Readiness

Phil Fondale #900, GM, reported on the readiness of the Grand Council Chambers. He stated that the meeting chamber was properly prepared and all present were entitled to remain.

Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was led by Father Agnel De Heredia #32, GC.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Phil Fondale #900, GM.

Roll Call

Grand Secretary Michael Dimech #613 called the Roll. The Roll Call of the 139th Grand Council was updated to reflect those in attendance and those not on the roll at the time of printing. The following represents attendance for each day of the Session. Those first time Delegates were asked to specifically announce that this was their first Grand Council Session.

139th Grand Council Session Roll Call by Council

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Initiation</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	
		6-18-24	6-19-24

San Jose Council #2 ~ San Jose, CA ~ Organized 1885

Br. Alex Preciado, GD & DDGP	08-06-2013	P	P
Br. John Diaz, Council Elected Delegate	12-01-2012	P	P

Stockton Council #5 ~ Stockton, CA ~ Organized 1885

American Council #8 ~ Oakland, CA ~ Organized 1885

Br. Alex Schmitt, GD & DDGP	11-12-2002	P	P
Br. Chris McCann, Council Delegate		P	P

Vallejo Council #13 ~ Vallejo, CA ~ Organized 1885

South San Francisco Council #32 ~ South San Francisco, CA ~ Organized 1946

Br. Steve Cresci, Grand President	05-02-1990	P	P
Rev. Agnel De Heredia, Grand Chaplain	06-14-2001	P	P
Br. Bob Bartoli, Grand Treasure	06-11-1992	P	P
Br. Paul Larson, Grand Director	12-09-2010	P	P
Br. Clifford Smethurst, PGP	04-11-1985	A	A

Br. Thomas Fourie, PGP	08-14-1986	P	P
Br. Philip Oberst, PGP	10-12-1972	P	P
Br. Richard Guaraldi, PGP	02-13-1975	A	A
Br. John West, PGP	03-12-1992	E	E
Br. George Terry, PGP	10-15-1993	A	A
Br. Brian Dunbar, Council Elected Delegate	05-08-2003	P	P
Br. Paul Galeotti, Council Elected Delegate	08-08-1996	P	P
Br. Rich Murphy, Council Elected Delegate	10-10-2019	P	P
Br. Luis Alvarenga, Council Elected Delegate	12-13-2012	P	P
Br. Mark Zolotoff, Council Elected Delegate	04-09-2015	P	P
Br. Jack Albrecht- Guest	1/12/57		
Br. Dan Bartoli Council Elected Delegate	1-07-1999	p	p

Santa Rosa Council #40 ~ Santa Rosa, CA ~ Organized 1954

Br. Don Malvestiti, Council Elected Delegate	11-12-2015	P	
Br. Stephen May, Council Elected Delegate	11-04-1997	P	

Holy Rosary Council #44 ~ Hilmar, CA ~ Organized 1951

Br. Manuel Drumonde, PGP	04-18-1974	P	P
Br. Mario Borba, Council Elected Delegate	08-25-2016	P	P
Br. Daniel Santos Council Elected Delegate	02-12-2015	P	P
Br. Duarte Monteiro, Council Elected Delegate	11-14-2002	P	P
Br. Danny Avila, Council Elected Delegate	3-27-2014	P	P

Sebastopol Council #54 ~ Sebastopol, CA ~ Organized 1923

Br. Nick Franceschine, Past Grand President	06-11-1986	E	E
Br. Domenic Carinalli, Grand Outside Sentinel	02-09-1966	P	P
Br. George Guy, Council Elected Delegate	12-12-1980	P	P
Br. Ed Silva, Council Elected Delegate	10-13-1999	P	P

Sadoc Council #59 ~ Pittsburg, CA ~ Organized 1926

Br. Frank DiMaggio, PGP & DDGP	11-07-1989	P	P
Br. Salvatore Enea, PGP	10-19-1948	A	A
Br. Mike Sanzeri, Council Elected Delegate	04-01-1997	P	P
Br. Joseph Reza, PGP	11-18-2006	P	P

St. Christopher Council #80 ~ Atwater, CA ~ Organized 1935

Br. Billy Avery, Grand First Vice President	08-25-2010	P	P
Br. Bill Walls, Grand Second Vice President	08-25-2010	P	P
Br. Mike Nelson, PGP	05-22-1996	P	P
Br. Larry Silva, PGP	01-28-1959	A	A
Br. Luther Evans, PGP	09-27-2000	P	P
Br. Steve Ortiz, DDGP	10-22-2003	P	P
Br. Lee Avila, Council Elected Delegate	10-23-2019	P	P
Br. Matt Nelson, Council Elected Delegate	06-23-2004	P	P

Tracy Council #92 ~ Tracy, CA ~ Organized 1940

St. Columba Council #94 ~ Chowchilla, CA ~ Organized 1941

Br. Eugene Espinola, DDGP	12-02-1981	P	P
Br. Mike Thissen PGP	03-01-1983	P	P
Br. Guy Solidum, Council Elected Delegate	05-08-2013	P	P
Br. Ralph Perry, Council Elected Delegate	06-06-2012	P	P

Dos Palos Council #99 ~ Dos Palos, CA ~ Organized 1946

Br. Darrell Fonseca, Immediate Past Grand President	05-14-1991	P	P

St. Augustine Council #497 ~ Huntingburg, Indiana ~ Organized 1898

Francis Council #573 ~ Hilo, Hawaii ~ Organized 1901

Br. Tommy Figueira, Grand Director	03-09-1979	P	P
Br. James Mullen, PGP	11-10-1966	A	A
Br. Clement Gusman, DDGP	03-25-1983	A	A
Br. Richard Rodero, Council Elected Delegate	06-08-1973	P	P

Gonzaga Council #612 ~ Richmond, Indiana ~ Organized 1907

Br. Scott Vogelgesang, DDGP	07-25-1973	A	A
Br. Jim Rohe, Past Grand Officer, Council Delegate	07-09-1980	P	P

St. John Bosco Council #613 ~ San Francisco, CA ~ Organized 1908

Br. Michael Amato, PGP & DDGP	09-14-2004	P	P
Br. Michael Dimech, PGP & Grand Secretary	11-28-2006	P	P
Br. Bob Fiorito, Grand Outside Sentinel	05-08-2007	P	P
Br. Cosmo Amato, Grand Inside Sentinel	01-27-1970	P	P
Br. Stephen Goulding, Council Elected Delegate	12-12-1989	P	P
Br. John Kavanagh, Council Elected Delegate	11-12-2013	E	E
Br. John Cleary, Council Elected Delegate	11-14-2006	P	P
Br. Joseph Soracco, Council Elected Delegate	04-13-2004	P	P
Br. Mario Balistreri, Grand Director	08-09-2015	P	P
Dominic Panina, Council Elected Delegate	07-14-2021	P	P

Grand Council #900 ~ San Francisco, CA ~ Organized 2004

Br. Phil Fondale, Grand Marshal	10-17-1989	P	P
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Introduction of first time Delegates

Grand President, Steve Cresci, #32 asked that all first-time delegates to come forward, introduce themselves, announce their Council affiliation and what was their expectation as a Delegate.

Special Appointments

Grand President, Steve Cresci, #32 reviewed the appointment of Special Committees.

- Assistant to the Grand Secretary – Thomas Fourie #32, PGP
- Parliamentarian – Mike Nelson #80, PGP
- Elections – Phil Fondale #900, GM

- Remembrance Ceremony – Thomas Fourie #32, PGP
- Installation of Officers – Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, GC

Rules of the Session

Grand President, Steve Cresci, #32 referred to the Rules of the Grand Council Session on page 17 of the Advance Proceedings. He hoped that all had read the Rules, however, since there were first time delegates present, he asked that the Grand Secretary, Michael Dimech #613, PGP, GS read the Rules aloud. Following the reading, the Grand President asked if there were any questions. Hearing none he entertained a motion to accept the Rules.

MSC – Tom Fourie, PGP #32 / Bob Bartoli #32, PGP made motion to accept the Rules of the 139th Grand Council Session as presented. Passed unanimously.

Communications

Brother Michael Dimech #613, GS reported that he had not received any communications.

Unfinished Business

Grand President, Steve Cresci, #32 asked the Grand Secretary if there was any unfinished business from the 138th Grand Council Session. Michael Dimech #613, GS answered there was none.

Report of the Credentials Committee

The Credentials Committee chairman, Michael Dimech #613, PGP, GS reported that in attendance were 54 delegates thus far, all of whom had submitted their credentials in proper order.

Charity Box

Grand President, Steve Cresci, #32 designated the Seminarian Education Foundation to receive funds from the Charity Box (one half the proceeds from the 50/50 raffles). He mentioned that in 2024, 59 applications were received from seminarians and \$35,300.00 was given out.

Message from the Grand Chaplain

Rev. Agnel Jose De Heredia #32, GC, welcomed everyone to the Grand Council Session and how nice it was to be together once again. He focused his discussion on Pope Francis' becoming a Pope and the difficulties he endured given that his predecessor had retired.

Highlights of his presentation follow:

- He made changes that prior Popes had not made
- Brought in Cardinals (new Cardinal in Nigeria)
- Pope Francis was making a statement that he will do things his way during his Papacy
- Wanted to make the Church more inclusive
- People often have questions when change is made in the Catholic Church
- Information within the Church was being leaked to the media
- Wanted to build stronger relationships between the Catholic Church and that of the Orthodox, Russian, and Ukraine Churches

- Believed that blessings can be given to everyone including gay and lesbian people

Nomination of Grand Council Officers

Nomination of Officers for Grand Council: all candidates were referred to Rule #5 on page 17. All nominees accepted their nomination.

Phil Oberst, nominated Paul Larson #32, for the office of **Grand Outside Sentinel**, which was seconded by Bob Fiorito #613, GIS.

Cosmo Amato #613, nominated Bob Fiorito #613, for the office of **Grand Inside Sentinel**, which was seconded by Paul Larson, #32.

Michael Amato #613, PGP nominated John Cleary for the office of **Grand Marshal**, which was seconded by Mike Dimech #613, PGP.

Michael Amato #613, PGP nominated Domenic Carnelli #54 for the office of **Grand Director**, which was seconded by Mike Sanzeri #59.

Alex Schmitt #8, GD nominated Bill McNeany #54 for the office of **Grand Director**, which was seconded by Manuel Drummond #44 PGP.

Bob Bartoli #32, PGP nominated Luis Alvarenga, #32 for the office of **Grand Director**, which was seconded by Paul Larson

Grand Director Position - Vacant

Jack Albrecht, PGT nominated Bob Bartoli #32, GT for the office of **Grand Treasurer** which was seconded by Dan Bartoli #32.

Michael Amato #613, PGP, nominated Michael Dimech #613, PGP, GS for the office of **Grand Secretary** which was seconded by Mario Balistreri, GD.

The office of Grand Second Vice President remained open on the first day of the Sessions.

Steve Ortiz #80, DDGP nominated Billy Walls #80, GSVP for the office of **Grand First Vice President** which was seconded by Luther Evans #80, PGP and Billy Avery, #80.

Luther Evans #80 nominated Billy Avery #80, GFVP for the office of **Grand President** which was seconded by Michael Thissen #94, PGP and Manuel Drummond #44.

MSC – Chris McCann #8 made a motion to accept all nominations by acclamation and was seconded by PGP Phil Oberst #32, PGP. (passed unanimously)

Preliminary Budget Report

Bob Bartoli #32, GT, presented the proposed Grand Council Operating Budget for 2024-2025 as printed in the Advanced Proceedings on pages 44-45. He advised of the following regarding the proposed 2024-2025 budget:

- The budgeted expense amount for the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer

were reduced by \$500.00 each

- Eliminate the YMI 800 phone number
- Consider the purchase of a cell phone for the Business Manager
- There is a \$18,400.00 shortfall in the current budget and the deficit will need to be taken from the Reserve Fund
- Proposed increasing the Per Capita tax in three increments of \$6.00 per year over the next three years for a total of \$18.00
- Increase insurance coverage by \$1.00 to \$7.00 for this year only

A discussion took place regarding the Budget and the increase in the Per Capita tax.

Eventually Br. Bob Bartoli made the following motion:

To increase the Per Capita Tax in the YMI budget by \$6.00 over the next three years or \$18.00 and increase of \$1.00 in insurance expense for the coming year.

Motion was seconded by Br. Michael Amato

Motion approved by a vote of 53 to 1.

Special Announcements

- Br. Manuel Drummond thanked Br. Jack Albrecht for his 20 years of service as the Grand Treasurer
- He also mentioned that he has been a member of the YMI for 50 years and has attended the convention for 47 years
- Br. Drummond also mentioned that attending the session can serve as a vacation for a members family and he thanked the YMI members for approving the increase in the Per Capita Tax

- Br. Richard Rodero of Council # 573 thanked all the Brothers for serving the YMI

Br. Steve Cresci thanked all the District Deputies for their outstanding contributions in carrying forth their duties and participation and support of the YMI over the past year.

Br. Steve Cresci called for a Lunch Break at 12:00 p.m.

THE SEMINARIAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION MEETING WAS CONDUCTED

At 1:07 p.m. Steve Cresci #32, GP called the Session back to order. He asked that the Seminarian Educational Foundation conduct their annual meeting at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION MEETING WAS THEN CONDUCTED

At 1:34 p.m. Steve Cresci #32, GP called the Session back to order and the Education Foundation Meeting was conducted. Meeting was adjourned at 1: 46 p.m.

State of the Institute Report

Brother Darrell Fonseca IPGP provided a summary of each of the five proposals (A,B,C,D,E) his committee proposed. Br. Darrell asked members to voice their opinions regarding each proposal. Some delegates voiced their opinions for support as well as their disapproval.

A big thank you went out to the committee members for the many hours spent coming up with each proposal and providing a rationale. At the end of the day's session, the Election Committee would provide paper ballots to each delegate for their vote. The election committee would then count the votes and provide the delegates with its findings

the following day. According to the Grand Council By-Laws, a State of the Institute proposal needs a 2/3 vote to pass.

Grand Council Committee Reports

Steve Cresci #32, GP, reviewed the various Grand Council reports presented in the Advance Proceedings. He then asked if there were any questions regarding these reports as well as those submitted by the District Deputy Grand Presidents. All delegates had been requested to read these reports prior to the start of the Session. Many of the reports had been referenced in various specific agenda items of the Session. There were no specific comments on any of these committee reports from the delegates in attendance at this Grand Council Session.

Special Recognition of 2022-2023 District Deputy Grand Presidents

Br. Cresci previously recognized the District Deputies earlier in the morning.

Announcements

Brother Michael Dimech #613, GS reminded everyone that although there were 55 brothers in attendance, only 54 Brothers were considered as delegates. One Brother attended as a guest.

The second 50/50 Raffle drawing was held and Br. Frank DiMaggio won the raffle.

Distribution of Ballots

Steve Cresci #32, GP requested that the Election Committee distribute the prepared ballots for the voting on the State of the Institute Proposals. This being a secret ballot, all delegates were asked to sign in and present their completed ballot to the Election Committee this afternoon before they leave the Session Room.

Steve Cresci #32, GP declared a recess at 2:19 p.m. until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 19, 2023.

Recess

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024

Call to order at 9:30 a.m. in the Evergreen Meeting Room of Bally's Hotel and Resort in South Lake Tahoe, California.

Opening Ceremonies

Phil Fondale #900, GM reported that the Council Chamber was properly prepared and all present were entitled to remain.

The Opening Prayer was led by Father Agnel De Heredia #32, GC

Phil Fondale #900, GM led the delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance which was loudly and proudly recited.

Roll Call

Tom Fourie, #32 BM asked all the Delegates to come forward and account for their presence. The results were similar to the roll taken on Tuesday, June 18, 2024. See the official roll sheet listed on previous pages of these minutes.

Communications

Michael Dimech #613, GS, reported there were none

Credentials Report

The Credentials Committee Chairman, Michael Dimech #613, PGP,GS announced that we were still at 54 Delegates with credentials received, same as reported on Tuesday, June 18, 2024.

Election Report

The Election Committee Chairman Phil Fondale #900, GM, made the following report based on the vote for the State of the Institute Proposals: 54 ballots were distributed, only 54 were returned.

The results of the secret ballot vote were as follows:

Proposal #1

51 votes for

3 votes against

94% of delegates in favor

Proposal passed

Proposal #2

45 votes for

9 votes against

83% of delegate in favor

Proposal passed

Proposal #3

52 votes for

2 votes against

96% of delegates in favor

Proposal passed

Proposal #4

49 votes for

5 votes against

91% of delegates in favor

Proposal passed

Proposal #5

23 votes for

31 votes against

43 % of delegates in favor

Proposal failed

A motion was made to accept the results of the secret ballot vote and the motion passed.

MSC – Joe Soracco #613 and seconded by Luther Evans #80, PGP to authorize the chairman of the Election Committee to destroy the ballots (unanimous).

Special Committee Appointments for Installation of Grand Officers

Mike Thissen to fill in for Eugene Espinola

Thomas Fourie #32, PGP, reviewed the appointment of the special committee for the Installation of Grand Officers.

- Installing Officer for the Installation Ceremony – Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, GC
- Installing Marshal for the Installation Ceremony – Luther Evans #32, PGP
- Guardian of the Flag – Phil Oberst #32, PGP

Workshop

The workshop was conducted by members of the Grand Council Office under the direction of the Business Manager, Thomas Fourie #32, PGP.

Br. Tom provided thanks to the Assistant Business Manager and current Grand Treasurer Bob Bartoli and to PGP, Michael Amato for the excellent work they performed while he and his wife Pat were on an extended vacation for several months. Br. Tom also spoke about the Bally Hotel reservation issue some of the Brothers experienced when making their reservation. The reservations are made at a Delaware location and not directly with the hotel.

New Business

Br. Richard Murphy was nominated by Br. Mike Sanzeri to take on the position of the Grand Second Vice President.

Br. Murphy accepted the nomination

Br. Jack Albrecht and Br. Chris McCann seconded Br. Murphy's nomination.

Br. Gus Solidum #94 was nominated by Br. Billy Avery as a Grand Director for a two-year term. The nomination was seconded by Br. Mike Thissen

Br. Steve May #40 was nominated by Br. Billy Avery as a Grand Director for a one year term. The nomination was seconded by Br. Mike Sanzeri

Br. Manuel Drummond made a motion to accept the nominations for the above open two Grand Director and Grand Second Vice President positions.

Br. Joe Reza seconded Br. Drummond's motion.

The Motion passed.

Sports Report

Michael Dimech #613, GP, spoke about the 2023 Bocce Ball Tournament when 12 teams participated. Council # 32 won the tournament. He also announced that this year's Bocce Ball Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, September 14, 2024 at Orange Avenue Park in South San Francisco, CA. A flyer has been sent and is also available on the YMI Web page. Everyone, please try to make an effort to attend this year's tournament.

The Bowling Chairman, Brother Michael Sanzeri #59 spoke about this year's bowling tournament. 12 teams from 7 different Councils totaling 56 bowlers participated in this year's tournament. Brother Sanzeri thanked many Brothers for their support and participation. Brother Sanzeri concluded his report by presenting trophies to respective bowlers and teams for their outstanding performances.

Brother Bob Fiorito #613, GOS reported that this year's tournament took place on May 19th and took place in Santa Rosa with a banquet following at St. Rose Catholic Church. He indicated that everyone enjoyed the golf and the banquet afterwards. Council # 613 won the tournament and was presented with a trophy that will be given out every year.

Br. Steve Cresci, # 32 GP called for a break for the delegates at this time. (10 minutes).

Grand Council Officers' Summary Reports

Br. Steve Cresci, # 32 GP provided the delegates with a summary of his year as the Grand President.

- He was honored to serve the YMI this year as the Grand President.
- He visited many Councils during the year including Richmond, Indiana and referenced his visit to Huntingburg, IN.
- He appreciated the fact that we were all getting back together and referenced the bocce ball, golf and bowling tournaments, essay contest
- He wished all the best to new Grand President, Billy Avery
- Thanked all the delegates for attending the Sessions and all the Grand Officers for their service to the YMI

Grand First Vice President Billy Avery #80 summarized his year as the Grand First Vice President and mentioned:

- That it was an honor to be in his position.

- He credited Former Grand Presidents, Darrell Fonseca, Luther Evans and Manuel Drummond
- He spoke about the loss of the Madera and Bakersfield Councils.
- He also visited several Councils and attended many different events in the past year
- Looks forward to a bright future for the YMI but that the YMI will need to adapt

Grand Second Vice President Bill Walls #80 summarized his year by speaking about the Red & White Mass that he and his Council put on this past March. He stated that it was a great learning experience and appreciated all the help he received with the mass and banquet.

All other Grand Council Officers asked the delegates to review their reports in the Advance Proceedings.

Resolutions

Alex Schmitt #8, GD, DDGP announced that there would be three resolutions presented at this Grand Council Session as follows:

- Jack Alrecht
- Councils #54 – Celebrating their 100th anniversary
- Stu McIntyre – Celebrating his 73rd year as a YMI Brother and his 100th birthday.

Motion made by Br. Frank DiMaggio to accept the resolutions. Seconded by Br. Bill Walls.

Motion Approved

Charity Box Total and Disposition

The final amount will be announced at the Grand Banquet.

Special Presentation

Darrell Fonseca #99, PGP presented Br. Steve Cresci #32 with his YMI Official pocket insignia, the Official indication of a Grand President of the Young Men's Institute. All delegates stood and loudly applauded Brother Cresci.

Presentation of Grand President Elect

Br. Steve Cresci #32 proudly presented the Grand President Elect, Br. Billy Avery, #80 GFVP, who was greeted with applause by the Delegates. Brother Avery expressed his pleasure and honor to begin his YMI journey. Brother Avery distributed his Grand President's Program to all the Delegates. He spoke to the Delegates and will provide additional remarks at the Grand Banquet this evening

Presentation and Installation of District Deputy Grand Presidents

Br. Billy Avery, #80 Grand President Elect, read aloud the names and the duties of the District Deputy Grand Presidents covering the YMI territories this year. The District Deputies are working for the Grand President. The six Brothers present to serve as 2024-2025 District Deputies were sworn in and deputized by the Grand President Elect.

Impressions of First Time Delegates

Br. Steve Cresci #32 requested that all of the first time Delegates come forward and share their impressions of the past two days. Several of the comments were:

- a. The session was well organized and took a lot of hard work.
- b. It was a very successful Session.
- c. It was great meeting new people, well run event
- d. A life time experience
- e. Interesting three days, low key atmosphere
- f. Enjoyed the experience, look forward to next year
- g. Didn't expect to be nominated
- h. Very supportive membership

Good of the Order

- a. Thanked all the officers especially Br. Tommy
- b. Thanked all the wives of the Brothers for all the work they do behind the scenes.
- c. Encouraged councils to have a membership challenge similar to that of Council # 32 & Council # 613.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The closing prayer was led by Father Agnel De Heredia #32, GC.

Grand President Steve Cresci #32 adjourned the 138th Grand Council Session at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dimech #613, GS

Thomas Fourie #32, PGP

Business Manager

To be approved by the Board of Grand Directors on August 3, 2024 .