

MINUTES OF THE YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE

140th GRAND COUNCIL SESSION

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, NEVADA

TUESDAY - JUNE 17, 2025

Opening Ceremonies

Billy Avery #80 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.

Council Chamber Readiness

John Cleary #613, 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 John Cleary #613, GM.

Roll Call

Grand Secretary Michael Dimech #613 called the Roll. The Roll Call of the 140th 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.

140th Grand Council Session Roll Call by Council

Name

***Date of
Initiation***

Attendance

6-17-25 6-18-25

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

Br. Alex Preciado, DDGP	08-06-2013	P	P
Br. John Diaz, Council Elected Delegate	12-01-2012	P	P
Br. Larry Gallegos, Council Elected Delegate	11-20-2018	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	2-2-1988	P	P

Vallejo Council #13 ~ Vallejo, CA ~ Organized 1885

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

Br. Steve Cresci, Immediate Past Grand President	05-02-1990	P	P
Rev. Agnel De Heredia, Grand Chaplain	06-14-2001	P	P
Br. Bob Bartoli, Grand Treasurer, PGP	06-11-1992	P	P

Br. Paul Larson, Grand Outside Sentinel	12-09-2010	P	P
Br. Br. Rich Murphy Second Vice President	10-10-2019	P	P
Br. Cliff Smethurst, PGP	4-11-1985	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	P	P
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. Dennis Cresci, Council Elected Delegate	10-11-2018	P	P
Br. Luis Alvarenga, Council Elected Delegate	12-13-2012	E	E
Br. Ronald Serchia, Council Elected Delegate	06-21-2021	P	P
Br. Jack Albrecht- Council Elected Delegate	1/12/57	P	P

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

Br. Don Malvestiti, Council Elected Delegate	11-12-2015	P	P
Br. Harry Licursi, Council Elected Delegate	03-04-2008	P	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. Greg Ouse, Council Elected Delegate	2-13-2020	P	P
Br. Duarte Monteiro, Council Elected Delegate	11-14-2002	P	P
Br. Danny Avila, Council Elected Delegate	3-27-2014	P	P

Br. Richard Silva, Council Elected Delegate	9-27-2018	P	P
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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	E	E
Br. Ed Silva, Council Elected Delegate	10-13-1999	P	P
Br. George Guy, Council Elected Delegate	12-12-1980	P	P

Sadoc Council #59 ~ Pittsburg, CA ~ Organized 1926

Br. Frank DiMaggio, PGP & DDGP	11-07-1989	P	P
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	E	E
Br. Luther Evans, PGP	09-27-2000	E	E
Br. Steve Ortiz, DDGP	10-22-2003	E	E

Tracy Council #92 ~ Tracy, CA ~ Organized 1940

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

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

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

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

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

Francis Council #573 ~ Hilo, Hawaii ~ Organized 1901

Br. James Mullen, PGP	11-10-1966	E	E
Br. Clement Gusman, DDGP	03-25-1983	P	P

Gonzaga Council #612 ~ Richmond, Indiana ~ Organized 1907

Br. Scott Vogelgesang, DDGP	07-25-1973	A	A
Br. Jim Rohe, Council Elected 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 Inside Sentinel	05-08-2007	P	P
Br. Mario Balistreri, Grand Director	08-09-2015	P	P
Br. Stephen Goulding, Council Elected Delegate	12-12-1989	P	P
Br. Jeffrey Morrow, Council Elected Delegate	11-12-13	P	P
Br. John Cleary, Council Elected Delegate	11-14-2006	P	P
Br. Joseph Soracco, Council Elected Delegate	04-13-2004	P	P

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

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

Grand President, Billy Avery, #80 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, Billy Avery, #8 reviewed the appointment of Special Committees.

- Assistant to the Grand Secretary – Thomas Fourie #32, PGP
- Parliamentarian – Mike Nelson #80, PGP
- Elections – TBD
- Remembrance Ceremony – Thomas Fourie #32, PGP
- Installation of Officers – Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, GC

Rules of the Session

Grand President, Billy Avery, #80 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, 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 Motion to accept the Rules of the 140th Grand Council Session as presented

Br. Joe Reza

Motion seconded by Br. Harry Licursi

Motion passed unanimously.

Communications

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

Unfinished Business

Grand President, Billy Avery, #80 asked the Grand Secretary if there was any unfinished business from the 139th 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 46 delegates thus far, all of whom had submitted their credentials in proper order.

Charity Box

Grand President, Billy Avery, #80 advised that a good cause for the Charity Box will be announced at the banquet.

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 Leo 14th, the first American to become Pope and the importance of Fathers to their children And their families.

Highlights of his presentation follow:

- How elections for Popes take place
- Social media take on who were the front runners to be elected to the Papacy
- Cardinal Robert Prevost, became a cardinal in 2024 and was given a new position
- Appointed by Pope Francis as Prefect of Dicastery for Bishops in 2023
- 249 serving Cardinals of which 131 were eligible to vote at the conclave
- Cardinals under the age of 80 years of age can participate in the conclave
- Cardinal Prevost became Pope after four rounds of voting and chose Leo as his name to honor Pope Leo XIII. It possibly was a signal of his commitment to strong leadership, social justice issues, and a focus on prayer and family
- The important role that Fathers play in their families especially to their children
- Parish make Fathers' Day special within their parish
- Fathers are not perfect but are loved by their children and families
- Happy Father's Day to all the fathers

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.

Steve Cresci, nominated Paul Larson #32, for the office of **Grand Outside Sentinel**, which was seconded by Richard Murphy #32.

Joe Soracco #613, nominated Bob Fiorito #613, for the office of **Grand Inside Sentinel**, which was seconded by Mike Amato #613.

Alex Schmitt #8, PGD nominated Chris McCann for the office of **Grand Marshal**, which was seconded by Mike Sanzeri #59.

Michael Amato #613, PGP nominated John Cleary #613 for the office of **Grand Director**, which was seconded by Jeff Morrow #613.

Mike Dimech #613, GS, PGP nominated Mike Amato #613 for the office of **Grand Director**, which was seconded by Bob Fiorito #613 GIS.

Duarte Montero, PGP nominated Danny Avila, #80 for the office of **Grand Director**, which was seconded by Mike Sanzeri

Mike Amato #613 PGP nominated Manny Drumonde, #80 for the office of **Grand Director**, which was seconded by Joe Reza, #59

Vacant Grand Director – To be filled by GP Walls at first GD Meeting

Grand Director Position – Vacant

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

Michael Amato #613, PGP, nominated Michael Dimech #613, PGP, GS for the office of **Grand Secretary** which was seconded by Jack Albrecht, PGT.

Mike Dimech #613 GS, PGP nominated Mario Balistreri to the office of Grand Second Vice President which was seconded by Bob Fiorito #613 & Joe Soracco #613

Dennis Cresci #32 nominated Richard Murphy #32 #80, GSVP for the office of **Grand First Vice President** which was seconded by Darrell Fonseca, PGP and Bob Bartoli, #32.

Mike Nelson #80 PGP nominated Bill Walls #80, GFVP for the office of **Grand President** which was seconded by Michael Thiessen #94, PGP and Mike Sanzeri, #39

MSC – Frank DiMaggio #8 made a motion to accept all nominations by acclamation and was seconded by PGP Mike Thiessen #94, PGP. (passed unanimously)

BREAK 11:16 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Preliminary Budget Report

Bob Bartoli #32, GT, presented the proposed Grand Council Operating Budget for 2025-2026 as printed in the Advanced Proceedings on pages 45-46. He advised of the following regarding the proposed 2025 - 2026 budget:

- The budgeted expense amount for the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer were reduced by \$1000.00 each
- The telecommunication expense was reduced quite a bit
- Insurance cost eff: 6/18/25: \$12,883.00
- The YMI is not taking in enough funds to pay for our insurance cost
- Per Capita tax next year
- Death benefits paid out last YMI year: \$92,500.00
- Roughly 40 members pass away each year (40 x \$2,500.00 = \$100,000.00)
- Met with both stockbrokers – A few adjustments were made. Below are the current balances:

	<u>Death Benefits</u>	<u>Reserves</u>
UBS:	\$255,658	\$69,460
Schwab:	\$2,620,000	\$424,000
\$100,000 in cash (For Death Benefit Purposes)		

Jack Albrecht, PGT made a motion to accept the report of the Budget Committee.

Br. Bill Walls seconded the motion.

Motion approved by the delegates.

Special Announcements

- Br. Joe Reza thanked Br. Bob Fiorito for his work putting on this year's golf tournament
- Br. Billy Avery called for a Lunch Break at 12:00 p.m.

THE SEMINARIAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION MEETING WAS CONDUCTED

At 1:01 p.m. Billy Avery #80, GP called the Session back to order. He asked that the Seminarian Educational Foundation conduct their annual meeting at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION MEETING WAS THEN CONDUCTED

At 1:25 p.m. Billy Avery #80, GP called the Session back to order and the Education Foundation Meeting was conducted. Meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

State of the Institute Report

Brother Steve Cresci IPGP provided a summary of each of the six proposals his committee proposed. Br. Steve asked members to voice their opinions regarding each proposal. Some delegates voiced their opinions.

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.

Motion was made to approve the proposals as written by;

Jeff Morrow #613

Seconded: Br. Malvestiti

Motion approved.

Nominations opened up for Grand Director Position

Ed Silva, # 54 was nominated to fill the remaining Grand Director position.

Ed accepted the nomination.

George Guy seconded Br. Silva's nomination.

Motion approved by the delegates.

Grand Council Committee Reports

Billy Avery #80, 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.

Below are the items raised pertaining to the committees:

Insurance: Motion was made by Bob Bartoli, GT to increase insurance cost to members by \$4.00

Motion by Steve Cresci, IPGP

Motion approved by the delegates

Long Range Planning: Committee chair:

Mario Balistreri has contacted an attorney in San Jose who may be able to represent the YMI in the future.

Man / Council of the year:

Winners to be announced at Wednesday night banquet.

Membership Committee:

Still need Committee chair.

Special Recognition of 2024-2025 District Deputy Grand Presidents

Billy Avery #80, GP recognized the District Deputies for the good work they have provided the him and the YMI during the past year.

Announcements

The First 50/50 Raffle drawing was held and Br. Bob Bartoli won the raffle.

Distribution of Ballots

Billy Avery #80, GP requested that the ballots be distributed for 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 YMI representatives this afternoon before they leave the Session Room.

Billy Avery #80, GP, GP declared a recess at 3:00 p.m. until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday,
June 18, 2025

Recess

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025

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

John Cleary #613, 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

John Cleary #613 GM led the delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance which was loudly and proudly recited.

Roll Call

Michael Dimech #613, GS asked all the Delegates to come forward and account for their presence. The results were similar to the roll taken on Tuesday, June 18, 2025 except for one Brother who was excused. 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 45 Delegates with credentials received. One Brother was excused from today's meeting.

Election Report

The following report was provided based on the vote for the State of the Institute

Proposals: 46 ballots were distributed, only 45 were returned.

The results of the secret ballot vote were as follows:

Proposal #1

45 votes for

0 votes against

Proposal passed

Proposal #2

44 votes for

1 votes against

Proposal passed

Proposal #3

45 votes for

0 votes against

Proposal passed

Proposal #4

44 votes for

1 votes against

Proposal passes

Proposal #5

43 votes for

2 votes against

Proposal passes

Proposal #6

42 votes for

3 votes against

Proposal passes

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

Motion made by: Bill Walls #80 and seconded by Phil Oberst #32

The Grand Secretary was authorized to destroy the ballots (unanimous).

Special Committee Appointments for Installation of Grand Officers

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 – John Cleary #32 GM
- Guardian of the Flag – Phil Oberst #32, PGP

Workshop

The workshop was conducted by members of the Grand Council Office under the direction of Grand Secretary, Michael Dimech and Grand Director, Guy Solidum.

Br. Gus discussed YMI's new G-Mail account and that the YMI AOL account will still be active however will eventually be deactivated in 6 months. YMI Councils will be notified when the AOL account is deactivated. Br. Gus also spoke about YMI's new Zoom account and the benefits it will provide the YMI. Each Grand Director meeting can be on a virtual and can be scheduled without a time limit. Each meeting can also be recorded.

The Grand Council had been using Br, Steve Cresci's zoom account in the past and thank him for usage of his account.

Sports Report

Michael Dimech #613, GP, spoke about the 2024 Bocce Ball Tournament when 14 teams participated. Council # 32 won the tournament. He also announced that this year's Bocce Ball Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, November 8, 2025 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 thanked Billy Avery, Bob Bartoli, Frank DiMaggio, Manuel Drummond, John West for their assistance and support with this year's tournament. The tournament took place on May 18th with six team participating accompanied by many friends and family members. St. Christopher Council # 80 won the tournament and Individual Awards going to Billy Avery for High Handicap Game with a score of 262 and High Scratch Game to Michel Sanzeri who had a score of 230.

Brother Bob Fiorito #613, GOS reported that this year's tournament took place on April 27th in Castro Valley at Redwood Canyon Golf Club with a banquet following. Nine foursomes, participated in the tournament with Dos Palos Council #99 winning this year's tournament. Two teams representing Council # 613 came in 2nd and 3rd place respectfully. Individual awards for closest to the pin and strategist drive was also mentioned at the Grand Session. The YMI Golf Trophy was presented to PGP Darrell Fonseca #99. Also wanted to mention that the first female golfer (Grand President Bill Walls) granddaughter participated in this year's tournament. Bob mentioned that he would like to see more Councils participate in future tournament and that next year's tournament may be held at Crystal Springs Golf Club in Burlingame next year.

Billy Avery #80, GP called for a break for the delegates at this time. (10 minutes).

Grand Council Officers' Summary Reports

All Grand Council Officers Summary Reports can be reviewed in the Advance Proceedings.

Resolutions

No Resolution were submitted this year.

Charity Box Total and Disposition

Billy Avery #80, GP informed he delegates that the proceeds from the charity box will be divided up between he Seminarian Foundation and St. Theresa's Catholic Church in South Lake Tahoe.

Special Presentation

Steve Cresci #32, PGP presented Br. Billy Avery #80 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 Avery.

Presentation of Grand President Elect

Br. Billy Avery #80 proudly presented the Grand President Elect, Br. Bill Walls, #80 GFVP, who was greeted with applause by the Delegates. Brother Walls expressed his pleasure and honor to begin his YMI journey. Brother Walls distributed his Grand President's Program to all the Delegates. He spoke to the Delegates about his goals for the coming year which included membership, technology, Jr. YMI program. He will provide additional remarks at the Grand Banquet this evening.

Presentation and Installation of District Deputy Grand Presidents

Br. Bill Walls, #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 four Brothers present (Alex Schmitt, Mike Amato, Frank DiMaggio and Clement Gusman to serve as 2025-2026 District Deputies were sworn in and deputized by the Grand President Elect

Impressions of First Time Delegates

Br. Billy Avery #80 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 great meeting new people, well run event
- c. Food was great.
- d. It was nice to meet many of the different committee members
- e. Enjoyed the experience, it was good to be in attendance.

Good of the Order

- Joe Reza commented that he has been coming to the sessions since 2015 and this year brought his son. He also mentioned that he is proud to be a catholic father and is so blessed to be at the Grand Session.
- Darrell Fonseca commented that six Councils had a net gain in membership and recommended that Council look at the widowers to join their respective Councils.
- Bob Fiorito invited Bill Walls, #80 Grand President to the Italian Day Heritage Day Parade in October.
- Manuel Drummond commented that we have 140 years of history in the YMI and mentioned the many years that Jack Albrecht has been a member.
- Br. Billy Avery #80 recognized all Brothers who served in service to our country

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

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

Br. Billy Avery #80 adjourned the 140th 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 at the August 16, 2025 meeting.