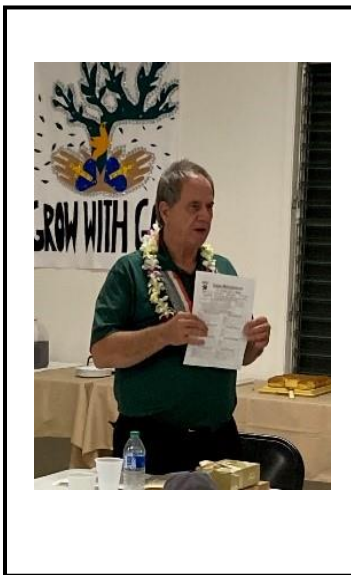




## Grand President's Message



Brothers of the Young Men's Institute, it is with excitement and hope that I write to my brothers today. You have placed your faith and trust in me by allowing me to be your Grand President for the 2024-2025 YMI year. My father was my inspiration for getting into the YMI, because he showed me how much personal satisfaction you can get by helping our brothers of the YMI and participating in cooking together, fund raising events, and picnics with friends and brothers. In the beginning, it seemed like the YMI brothers came together just to argue or quarrel over points of order, but later I came to understand that the process of working together is sometimes by calm and sometime semi-heated arguments. "The good old days"

We have all now lived through a global pandemic with the Covid19 virus, and things are showing signs of recovery everywhere. I look forward to visiting with as many Brothers and Councils as possible during my year as Grand President. I traveled as much as I could as the Grand 1st Vice President and I look forward to seeing many more Councils and Events this year as GP. I have already had an opportunity to visit other councils and participate in YMI Activities. Recently I attended Council #44 Hilmar with the Grand 1st Vice President Bill Walls and District Deputy Steve Ortiz from Council #80, and during our visit two brothers were initiated into the YMI. It was a refreshing sign to me that the YMI can still grow and survive after the set-back of Covid19.

Many things have changed however for the world and the YMI as a result of the Covid19 Pandemic and are not going to change back. I follow PGP Br Steve Cresci who promoted a message of getting back to the church. One thing that will not change back is how people communicate with each other. The Smart Phone and Internet Meetings Online have come of age and appear to be here to stay. Most Councils no longer have a call-out committee who contact members with last minute updates by calling the brothers on their part of the list. Today Brothers now carry a 24/7 messaging system in their pocket. Just like when the automatic clothes washing machines and the home refrigerators came along and changed the world forever. Personal computers, smart phones, email, electronic documents, and touch screen devices look to be here to stay.

My message for the brothers of the YMI is to support the new ways of the world and be part of it. We can watch and learn from our brothers, and show our brothers the things we know. A washing machine is not the most complicated device in the world, but I do need extra time to set it for a load of clothes. I rely on my wife for advice she provides me instruction and lets me ask questions.

Continued page 2

# INSTITUTE JOURNAL

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## Officers of the Young Men's Institute

Grand President, Billy Avery #80

Grand 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Bill Walls #80

Grand 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Richard Murphy #32  
Immediate Past Grand President, Steve Cresci #32

Grand Chaplain, Fr. Agnel DeHeredia #32

Grand Secretary, Michael Dimech #613

Grand Treasurer, Bob Bartoli #32, PGP

Grand Marshal, John Cleary #613

Grand Inside Sentinel, Bob Fiorito #613

Grand Outside Sentinel, Paul Larson #32

## Board of Grand Directors

Chairman, Michael Amato #613, PGP

Mario Balistreri #613

Nick Franceschine #54, PGP

Domenic Carinalli #54

Stephen May #40

Bill McNeany #40

Luis Alvarenga #32

Gus Solidum #94

## **Post Master:**

**Send address changes to:**

**Young Men's Institute**  
**P.O. Box 281047**  
**San Francisco, CA 94128-1047**  
[www.ymiusa.org](http://www.ymiusa.org)

Chores around my home are a shared responsibility and it's a lot easier to keep things up when everyone is willing to pitch in. It doesn't take much to help but it's not good when one of the team makes things more difficult than they already are.

Cell phones, formerly mobile phones, are more than just a way to call someone and speak with them when they are away from the landline at home. (But that is why they were invented) The power of being able to contact anybody from anywhere to anywhere is now part of life, and don't expect that is a fad and will eventually go away. Smart Phones and personal Computers are getting smarter and more powerful every day. Because of that fact, they are also becoming easier to use. Today you can talk to your phone and tell it what you want so it can get things going for you. I'm not going to bore you by listing all the things that are possible today with the tool that everyone carries in their pocket, but I do ask that we keep an open mind to new technology and work together in ways to make it work for the YMI. We need to help each other by being able to ask questions and provide answers when needed. Nobody knows everything, but together we can help each other figure out what we need.

As we continue in the mission of our motto of Pro Deo, Pro Patria and work to bring others into the understanding of serving all, as Jesus told us to do. We need to understand how the youth of today communicate if we want to reach out to the younger generations and get them to help us support the parish. Life today does not allow for a lot of spare time, and being able to attend meetings and other activities virtually allows for more contact with others.

Once again, I want to thank the Brothers of the YMI for placing trust in me as Grand President and I hope to do my part to move toward the new technology into our organization so it can work for all. Change is always a process, and we are blessed to have been here when the world was made smaller by Smart Phone technology, but not that small. As we move forward together, I ask that we keep an open mind and a watchful eye to look for opportunities to make Tech work for our purpose of the brotherhood of the YMI. The world of the future looks complicated to me and we will need the help of all brothers of the YMI to assist with bringing the YMI into the Future.

Pro Deo,  
Pro Patria  
Br. Billy Avery  
Grand President 2024-2025



## From the Podium!

It was an honor and a privilege to preside over the 139<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session. For the third year in a row, following the pandemic of 2021, we convened at Bally's Hotel and Casino in South Lake Tahoe, Nevada. A total of 54 Credentialed Delegates attended with one guest. Out of the total of 18 Councils, 14 were represented with Delegates – some traveling as far as Indiana and Hawaii.

This year's session could be described as low key – as one first time delegate noted. Maybe only because there was little or no controversy. Budget proposals passed without opposition – even with increases in assessments for the next three years. 4 of 5 proposals of the State of the Institute passed easily. Low key can also mean success and there was certainly a fraternal nature within the Convention meeting room.

The first evening we held the Mass of Remembrance at St. Teresa's Church. During the Mass we turned our thoughts to those brothers who have passed away in the last year.

On Tuesday morning June 18<sup>th</sup> things kicked off with a buffet breakfast. We also were delighted to have, as a special treat, Katelyn Dunbar who read her 1<sup>st</sup> Place award winning Pro-Patria Essay. Katelyn Dunbar is the daughter of Delegate Brian Dunbar #32 and is a student at Notre Dame High School, San Jose, CA.

Then it was on to the business of the GC meeting day one. Special mention to Br. Phil Fondale Grand Marshal filling his final year as Grand Marshal. Many years of service much appreciated.

First time delegates had an opportunity to introduce themselves. One of the first-time delegates, Br. Gus Solidum #94, **was** asked to sit in a vacant director's chair. More on that later.

- Fr. Agnel provided his opening remarks that included much insight to the Vatican, Pope Francis, and the Orthodox, Russian, and Ukraine Churches. As always, his vast knowledge of the works of the Church in modern and historical terms is amazing.
- Nominations for Offices were held. The office for Second Grand Vice President remained open as well as a vacancy on the Board. A little back-room negotiations, perhaps, and we had someone who would step in to be nominated as Second GVP - personally witnessed with a handshake between incoming G.P. Billy Avery #80 and Br. Richard Murphy #32. The next day Br. Richard Murphy #32 was nominated and accepted the nomination to be Grand Second Vice President 2024-2025.
- Remember, first time delegate, Br. Gus Solidum #94? He was nominated as Director and accepted the nomination on Wednesday. Way to go Br. Gus!
- The list of Grand Officers and Directors is included in this issue of the Lamp Post.
- The Seminarian Education Foundation was designated to receive funds from the Charity Box (one half the proceeds from the 50/50 raffles).
- Speaking of which, The Seminarian Education Foundation held their meeting Tuesday after the recess of the Grand Council Session morning meeting. Following the SEF meeting the Education Foundation held their meeting.
- When the Sessions resumed Br. Darrell Fonseca #99 provided a very thorough summary of the State of the Institute Five Proposals that were to be voted on that afternoon. As mentioned earlier 4 of the 5 proposals passed with the exception of the proposal that "The Grand Secretary shall provide a hard copy or e-mail copy of the Institute's Lamp Post Journal directly to each member of Council #900, as that publication is periodically released." Br. Darrell also, thanked his committee for their work on the State of The Institute proposals.
- Winding down the meeting, recognition and appreciation for their service was given to the District Deputies. Also, special acknowledgements were made to Br. Jack Albrecht for his 20 years as Grand Treasurer and the fact that he has attended an amazing 47 Grand Council Sessions!

- On Tuesday night many of the brothers, families, and friends enjoyed a Tex-Mex dinner in the Blue Room at Bally's. Great meal with great conversations and a chance to reconnect with familiar faces again.
- Wednesday morning June 19<sup>th</sup> the second day of meetings began at 9:30 am. Fr. Agnel led us in prayer and Br. Fondale led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- **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, and 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

***State of the Institute Proposals may be found in "Under the Lamp Post" Vol 135 Winter 2024***

Following receiving from Br. Fonseca the YMI pocket insignia, as soon to be immediate G.P. I turned the podium over to incoming Grand President Br. Billy Avery. He gave us a glimpse of his President's Program – "Moving YMI into the Future". He is all about technology and recognizes that it is difficult to embrace the new and rely on how it was done in the past. He is well equipped to lead us in working with today's technology with the core of **FAITH — PATRIOTISM — FRATERNITY** to remain intact. I assure you great things are ahead for the YMI!

The day two sessions adjourned at 11:53 am, a mere two hours and twenty-three minutes after the meeting started. This gave all of us time to enjoy the afternoon at beautiful Lake Tahoe and time to get ready for the Mass and Installation of Officers later that evening. The Mass held at St. Teresa's was somewhat higher spirited than the solemnity of our first Mass on Monday. With the installation of officers there are smiles and a general good feeling. Br. Agnel, who conducted the installation, has a certain knack in conveying the seriousness of the duties and responsibilities of the officers when they take their oath with a touch of humor. The Brothers who were on the altar that day were proud to be a part of the YMI as everyone who stood there before them. It capped a wonderful three days of our the 139th Grand Council Session.

In conclusion I would like to dedicate this summary in this edition of "Under the Lamp Post" to a first-time delegate who passed away shortly after the Session. Br. Daniele "Dan" Bartoli #32, Br. Dan, brother of Br. Bartoli, passed on July 15<sup>th</sup>, less than a month after attending the Convention. Just to know he was able to sit among us fellow Brothers and how difficult it may have been for him at the time is something I will always remember about the 139<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session. Once again, a testament on how God is always in our presence.

*For God & Country,*  
 Br. Steve Cresci #32  
 Immediate Past G.P.

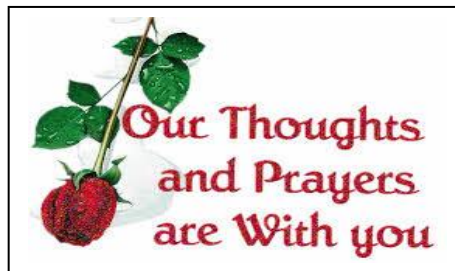


## Here are some of the highlights of the GC Session

- The 2024 YMI Man of the Year was awarded to Br. Tommie Figueira of St. Francis Council #573 in Hilo, Hawaii, Br. Tommie Figueira had served as Chairman of the Board of Directors the past two years.
- The YMI Council of the Year was presented to Dos Palos #99 from Dos Palos, CA.
- YMI #613 was presented the golf trophy for taking 1<sup>st</sup> Place at the YMI Golf Tournament in May 2024.
- YMI #32 was awarded the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team YMI Bowling Tourney trophy in April 2024.
- Br. Alex Schmitt #8, GD, DDGP announced and later presented at the Banquet Dinner the 2024 Resolutions as follows:
  - Br. Jack Albrecht #32
  - Councils #54 – Celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary
  - Br. Stu McIntyre – Celebrating his 73<sup>rd</sup> year as a YMI Brother and his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Br. Mike Amato and Br. Bob Bartoli who was once again did a terrific job of MC'ing the Grand Banquet. I actually remember Br. Bob telling a very funny joke that night. All in all, everyone had a great time at the dinner with plenty of raffle prizes to close out the Banquet.

## GRAND COUNCIL YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE MEMBERSHIP DEATHS 2023-2024

1. Joseph J. Baumer	03-20-2024	612	Benefit
2. Terry L. Tanner	04-09-2024	497	Benefit
3. David D. Serrano	02-25-2024	94	Benefit
4. Joe M. Louro	04-25-2024	44	Benefit
5. Joseph Regalia	05-10-2024	32	Benefit
6. Aristide Polini	05-25-2024	900	Benefit
7. Nestor Chavira	06-17-2024	94	Benefit
8. Donald Oxley	05-18-2024	497	Benefit
9. Urban O. Tretter	05-07-2024	497	Benefit
10. Maximo Ofrasio Jr.	06-12-2024	32	Benefit
11. Daniele Bartoli	07-15-2024	32	Benefit
12. Albert Mattos	06-23-2024	573	Benefit
13. Paul Ciraulo	06-05-2024	54	Benefit



## DOS PALOS #99 NAMED YMI COUNCIL OF THE YEAR!

The YMI “Council of the Year” Award was presented at the 139th Grand Council Sessions in Lake Tahoe, Nevada in June 2024. This award, which was initiated by the Board of Grand Directors in 2015, recognizes a YMI Council using the following criteria:

- participation in YMI Grand Council events/activities, including the Pro Patria raffle
- demonstration of being an active YMI Council with various events/activities and fundraising activities
- successful achievement with membership recruitment
- a record of notable charitable efforts or community service.

The **2024 “Council of the Year”** winner is **YMI Dos Palos #99 (YMI #99)**! In being recognized for this award, YMI #99 excelled in each criteria area.

With respect to participation in the Grand Council, YMI #99:

- actively supported the YMI Pro Patria Raffle attaining an impressive 100% participation level for 6 consecutive years!
- sponsored students participating in the Pro Patria Essay Contest.
- participated in the YMI Bowling Tournament, Red & White Mass, and Grand Council Sessions.
- attended Grand President visits in neighboring YMI Councils.

With respect to being an active YMI council, YMI #99

- organized several YMI Council events (e.g. linguica take-out dinner, ballpark trip, scholarship breakfast/dinner).
- coordinated several raffles in their community.
- sponsored football pass, punt and kick event in the dos Palos area.

In terms of membership and charity/community service, YMI #99:

- added steadily to its membership roster.
- assisted Catholic Charities with its bi-monthly food distribution program.
- provided five local students with \$500 scholarships.
- financially sponsored a seminarian who will be ordained and a medical clinic in Nigeria.

The YMI congratulates the **YMI #99 Brothers** and their families on this achievement.

**Congratulations**

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## ***BR. TOMMY FIGUEIRA NAMED YMI MAN OF THE YEAR***

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The YMI "Man of the Year" Award is the YMI's most prestigious individual award. It is based on the YMI's three-fold purpose: Faith, Patriotism and Fraternalism. The award is bestowed annually during the Grand Council Session to a worthy YMI brother in consideration of the following criteria:

- Faith as defined by one's service to the parish;
- Patriotism as shown by one's service to the community;
- Fraternalism as demonstrated by one's efforts supporting YMI Council & Grand Council Activities.

For the 139th Grand Council Session held in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, the YMI recognized Br. Tommy Figueira of St. Francis Council #573 as the YMI Man of the Year for 2024.

Br. Tommy Figueira is a pivotal member of the YMI St. Francis Council #573 (Council #573) in Hilo, Hawaii serving as an officer of the Council #573 for many years. He is also highly engaged in his parish, serving as a lector, usher, altar server, and eucharistic minister, as well as coordinating the maintenance work of the three Catholic churches in the Hilo area and the parish cemetery. In his community, Br. Tommy is active in the Portuguese Culture Club, serves on the board of a local credit union, and raises funds as an athletic booster for local Hilo schools.

At the Grand Council level, Br. Tommy has served honorably for four years on the Board of Grand Directors, including two years as the Board's Chairman. Br. Tommy's participation at Board meeting was especially notable to illustrate his YMI dedication, as he typically logged into Zoom meetings at 6:00 a.m.! Br Tommy is also recognized as being the Hawaiian escort for many YMI Grand President who have visited Council #573 and for regularly attending YMI Grand Council Sessions despite the long travel distance.

**Congratulations Br. Tommie on earning a well-deserved award!**



**GRAND COUNCIL YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE**  
**New Members 2023 – 2024**

1. Joseph Valenti	Rich O'Brien	2	01-16-2024	Reinstate
2. Saji Vathayathil	Michael Amato	613	04-09-2024	Benefit
3. Daniel Panina	Dominic Panina	613	04-09-2024	Benefit
4. Joseph McFadden	Mario Balistreri	613	04-09-2024	Benefit
5. Charles Bumonglag	John Kavangh	613	04-09-2024	Benefit
6. Victor Totah	George Totah	613	04-09-2024	Junior
7. Rev. Celestine Tyowua	Art Jimenez	613	04-09-2024	Honorary
8. Joseph Zamora	Bill Walls	80	04-24-2024	Benefit
9. Frank Flores	David Ragni/ Jack Fragulia	32	06-13-2024	Benefit
10. Eliseo Acosta	Donovan Treolo	92	01-24-2024	Benefit
11. Bryan Thacker	Kevin Buechler	497	01-11-2024	Benefit
12. Michael Bartley	Mark Mehringer	497	11-09-2023	Benefit
13. Einet Bell	Scott O'Brien	497	11-09-2023	Benefit
14. Michael Voegerl	Kerry Blessinger	497	01-11-2024	Benefit
15. Craig Meyer	Scott O'Brien	497	11-09-2023	Benefit
16. Jason Buechler	Kenny Ingram	497	03-14-2024	Benefit
17. Patrick Sander	Mitchell Mundy	497	03-14-2024	Benefit
18. Doug Mehling	Jerry Eglaff	497	03-14-2024	Benefit
19. Fred M. Mangosing	Michael Sanzeri	59	05-21-2024	Benefit

## ***A Very Special Thank You.....***

During the five months that began 2024, the Business Manager, Brother Tom Fourie and his wife Pat, were on a World Voyage and out of the country. During this time the workings of the Grand Council Office were overseen by BROTHER BOB BARTOLI #32, PGP, GT and his wife NANCY. They did a fantastic job. All deadlines were met, phone calls and e-mails responded to, and timely planning for meetings, etc. Brother Bob had just recently accepted the position of Grand Treasurer, so he had double duty in regards to overseeing the YMI. This organization is indeed extremely fortunate to have individuals such as this couple to maintain the operations of the Order. A tremendous amount of gratitude needs to go their way and hopefully they will continue to always have the YMI success as their priority.

### **THANK YOU BOB AND NANCY!!!!**

Another Brother, BROTHER MICHAEL AMATO #613, PGP, GD also stepped forward during the absence of the Business Manager. Brother Michael took on the responsibility of coordinating the Pro Patria Essay Contest. This work, usually handled by the Business Manager, included the judging process of all student essays, overseeing the judges, tallying the results and determining the final winners in both divisions. Again, the results of his efforts on the essay contest provided another successful year of reaching out to students from grades 7-12 that will hopefully provide our organization with future members. Again, the Order is fortunate to have such a wonderful Brother as a member.

### **THANK YOU MICHAEL!!!!**





## Educational Foundation Memorials/Donations

Rose Marie Ciaramitaro - Clement Gusman  
Rev. Ed Bonhert - South San Francisco Council #32  
Joseph Regalia - South San Francisco Council #32  
Joseph Baumer - Gonzaga Council #612  
Margaret H. Archibald - Clement Gusman  
Joe Louro - Holy Rosary Council #44  
Dan Bartoli - Jack and Alice Albrecht  
Maximo Ofrasio - South San Francisco Council #32  
Albert Mattos - Clement Gusman



### Grand Director Board Meeting – August 3, 2024

The YMI Board of Grand Directors met via Zoom on Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The meeting was led by the Board Chairman (Br. Mike Amato #613), and it had an impressive level of participation from the many YMI Grand Directors/Officers attending. The following list highlights the more significant meeting outcomes:

- Grand Director Board Assignments for 2024-25 were announced.
- The renewal of the YMI Business Manager's annual operating agreement (covering the period of April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025) was approved.
- The previously approved YMI Grand Council stipend for 2024 was clarified to cover elected YMI delegates only. This clarification is consistent with prior year stipend awards.
- The YMI Pasta Bingo fund-raising event is being planned for January 2025 in San Francisco. (More details to come!)
- A process for participating on the 2025 YMI Grand Council Session Planning Committee was established, with Br. Tom Fourie agreeing to head-up this committee.
- YMI Council #900 dues were raised from \$50 to \$55 annually to pass on the recent cost increases from assessment amounts approved at the 139<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session.
- YMI Grand Council is 1) planning to drop its 800 toll-free number, given low usage and high costs and 2) will transfer the YMI phone number (650-588-7762) to a mobile carrier to save a substantial amount.
- The YMI Bocce Ball Tournament is set for September 14<sup>th</sup> in South San Francisco's Orange Park. All YMI Councils were encouraged to send teams.



**YOUNG MEN'S  
INSTITUTE**



**Young Men's Institute**

**Fifty-First Annual**

**Essay Contest**

**Cash Prizes to be Awarded:**

	<b>Grades 7-8</b>	<b>Grades 9-12</b>
<b>Grand Prize</b>	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	\$ 500.00	\$ 800.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	\$ 500.00	\$ 800.00
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$ 400.00	\$ 600.00
5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$ 200.00	\$ 500.00
7 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00

**Contest Rules:**

1. Topics:

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades**

**Who in your life best exemplifies Christ? What do they do that represents his life? What can you do to better emulate that person?**

**9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grades**

**Have you read a book about any social issues this year? Did it change the way you look at life or thought about society? Will it make any changes in how you talk to people in the future?**

2. Contest is open to any Catholic Student  
(Private or Public School)

3. A Young Men's Institute member or Council must sponsor each student entry.

4. The essay must be original and not more than 500 words.

5. The essay can be word processed, typed, or neatly hand printed.

6. The essay must be accompanied by the information requested by the Entry Form. (See "Entry Form" section)

7. All entries must be received by January 17, 2025

8. All entries will be judged on content, neatness, grammar, spelling, and adherence to contest rules. A panel of impartial persons will conduct judging for the Grand Award.

**The decision of the judges is final. All entries become the property of the Young Men's Institute**

**Entry Form**

(Please type or print clearly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last, First

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City or Town \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City State Zip code

Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

**YMI Member's Name or Council's Name**

Council# \_\_\_\_\_

**Return Essay to:**

Young Men's Institute  
Pro Patria Committee

E-Mail: YMIUS@AOL.COM  
US Mail: P.O. Box 281047  
San Francisco, CA  
94128

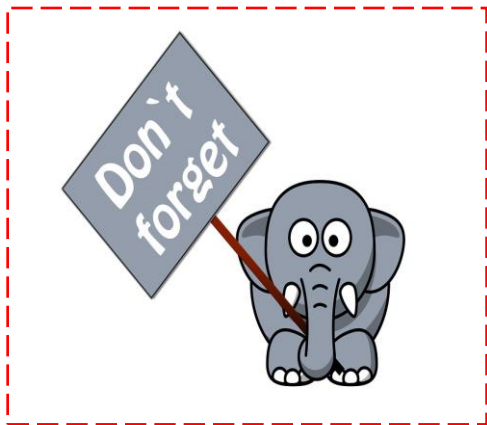
**Please note: New phone number for Grand Council Office**

Brothers, in accordance with the Grand Treasurer, Brother Bob Bartoli (our expert from AT&T), we no longer have the 800 number for the Grand Council Office. That number 1-800-964-9646 has been dropped due to costs and very little use. So as of now if you wish to contact the Grand Council Office, please use this number:

**1-650-588-7762**

This change will appear in an article in the next issue of the Institute Journal for the membership at large to learn of the change. You will be able to leave messages on this 650 number and I will return your calls as soon as possible. Have a great day.

Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager



**DON'T FORGET.....Due Date:**

The next issue of the Institute Journal will be the Fall/Winter Issue. All articles, pictures, etc. to be submitted to the Business Manager by December 1, 2024.

Send to [YMIUS@aol.com](mailto:YMIUS@aol.com)

**DON'T FORGET.....Due Date:**