

*Young Men's Institute
Board of Grand Directors Meeting
January 24, 2026 @ 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 Mario Balistreri

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

*Michael Amato #613 GD/PGP (Chairman)
Danny Avila, #44 GD (Vice Chair) – Excused
Luis Alvarenga #32, GD
Domenic Carinalli #54 GD
John Cleary #613- Excused
Manuel Drumonde, #44, GD/PGP- Excused
Ed Silva, #54, GD
Gus Solidum #94, GD*

*Bill Walls #80 GP- Excused
Richard Murphy #32 GFVP
Mario Balistreri #613 GSVP
Billy Avery #80 IPGP - Excused
Rev. Angel De Heredia #32 GC
Michael Dimech #613 GS/PGP
Bob Bartoli #32, GT/PGP
Chris McCann #8, GM - Excused
Paul Larson#32, GOS
Bob Fiorito #613, GIS - Excused*

Tom Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager

DDGPs:

*Clement Gusman
Alex Preciado*

Others:

Steve Cresci

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

- **Grand Sessions Meeting: November 15, 2025**

Motion to approve 11/15/25 Board Minutes: Ed Silva

Seconded: Gus Solidum

Motion Passed

Any changes to the minutes: None

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

Mike D - No communications

I. Communications Report for January 24, 2026 Board Meeting

A. Council Newsletters

San Jose Council #2 - November, December

South San Francisco Council #32 - December, January

Francis Council #573 - December, January

St. John Bosco Council #613 - December, January

B. Other

Voice of YLGI - Fall 2025

The Catholic Voice - Diocese of Oakland - Winter 2025

Notice of Hearing - Robert E. O'Donnell #1 - deceased - administration of estate

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

- **Status of Bills/Receipts**
- **All bills reviewed and paid**
- **Other**

Investments are looking good

All bills have been paid

Will have a budget meeting in early February

Met with Scott Chapman and moved some funds around

Funds as of 1/24/26

<u>Schaub</u>	<u>UBS</u>
Death Benefits: \$ 2,659m	286k
Reserve Fund: \$ 391k	\$78k

Motion to approve the Treasurer Report: Luis

Seconded: Dominic

Motion Passed

Reports of Grand Directors Board Committees for 2025-2026– Br. Mike Amato #613, Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors

- 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 changes or additions to new or existing charters
 - Archives – on 12/30/25 members met at All Souls Parish to clean out the storage locker. Shredded old files (joe O, Tom F. Ed Silva & Bob B.
 -
- 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 15th 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

Br. John Cleary not here today
Bills have been paid.

- Monthly Bills have been approved and approved
- Intend to schedule appointment with stock brokers
- To contact Br. Cresci to perform annual audit the books

- 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.

No meetings currently scheduled.

- 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.

- Br. Domenic advised that Council # 54 changed the date of their corn beef and cabbage dinner from March 7th to March 14th. This however conflicts with the Red & White Mass that is scheduled for the same date and will likely not have other Councils to participate
- Approximately 300 people attend

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 likely is no change in inventory
- Pin Inventory has now been placed on the website
- No cost of pins for Councils

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

Apologize for Italian Heritage Day.

I went to the Hour of Memory for Council #80 and visited with Matt Nelson and Billy Avery. I then traveled to Indiana for annual visit. While there we attended mass at YMI Hall, we had breakfast with Council #497 and attended the meeting with Mitchell Mundy and about six others from their council. Then we went to the Saint Meinrad Seminary, attended mass, and traveled to Richmond. We had a bad snowstorm after we arrived. I did not have a chance to attend the two schools because of weather. Spent time with Jim Rohe, Scott Vogelsang, and others. Went to the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio. We had a meeting at Council #612 at the end of the trip to Richmond and returned home. Then I attended the YMI and YLI Christmas party for Council #80. I attended a meeting with Council #5 at Stockton with Mike and Bob Bachetti. After that I attended the formal meeting for the Grand President at Saint Cecilia's for Councils #613 and Council #32 with Mike Amato and several members from both councils. I am attending a meeting with Oakland Council #8 and Sadoc Council #59 from Pittsburg in San Leandro with Alex Schmitt and Frank DiMaggio.

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:

- **Expect 300-500 essays from students – 10 grammar schools and several High Schools**
- **Br. Murphy sent each an e-mail to each Council regarding Raffle proceeds**
- **To date \$9,500.00 has been collected in raffle ticket sales – Goal is \$16,000.00**
- **Reviewed individual Council sales**
- **Looking for more participation for raffle sales from YMI Brothers**
- **Contact Br. Richard if more raffle tickets are needed**

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**

- Progress is going nicely on the work for the March 14, 2026 Red & White Anniversary Mass and dinner to be held at St Cecilia Church
- Banner procession at 4:30 p.m. Mass will take place in conjunction with 5 pm Mass at St. Cecilia
- Bus will be coming from the Valley

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

Grand Secretary Report January 24, 2026

Since our November 15, 2025 Grand Director Board Meeting:

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

- Grand Director Minutes of September 20, 2025
- Council newsletters received from the Business manager and the individual Councils have been uploaded onto the YMI Website.
- Requested the webmaster place the YMI Pin Inventory on our website as a sub-level option under Grand Council (after YMI Plans). Thanks to Br. Luis for proving this information to me.

Other activities since September Grand Director Meeting

- Prepared and sent out the November 15, 2025 Grand Director Meeting minutes
- Working on the Grand Council's Pasta Bingo Dinner. I found out that in order to obtain a one day Beer & Wine License for this event, ABC required that I take an on-line class and pass a state exam. It took me 5 hours to take the class and 1 hour to take the exam. My credential is good for three years.
- I also spoke to the caterer who will be providing the food for the Pasta Bingo Dinner
- Attended St. John Bosco Council's December and January Business Meetings
- Scheduled Council 613's 16th annual bocce ball tournament for Saturday, September 19th too at Orange Park in South San Francisco

Business Manager's Report, (Nov. 6, 2025 - Jan. 24, 2026) Activity Log

1. Received and edited articles for the Fall 2025 issue of the Institute Journal.
2. Received filed taxes for Grand Council.
3. Communicated with Officers of St. Augustine Council #497 and Gonzaga Council #612 in preparation of Grand Council visit to these Indiana Councils.
4. Daily trips to YMI Post Office Box in Burlingame, CA.
5. Joined Grand Council Officers for six days on Grand Council Official Visits to Indiana Councils (#497 in Huntingburg, IN and #612 in Richmond, IN), November 29 - December 4
6. Prepared November 1, 2025 and December 1, 2025 Grand Council bills for the Grand Treasurer.
7. On-going processing of Pro Patria Raffle returns and deposits with the Grand Treasurer.

8. Attended South San Francisco Council #32 Christmas Party at the Basque Cultural Center.
9. Attended South San Francisco Council #32's December Business Meeting.
10. Attended St. John Bosco Council #613's Christmas Party at Dominic's Restaurant.
11. Attended Zoom meeting of Grand Council's Budget/Reserve Fund Committee.
12. Began soliciting from all Councils their updated membership list to provide info for future plans of the Investment Committee.
13. Assisted Food Box preparation for South San Francisco Council #32 Food Basket Christmas program.
14. Prepared January 1, 2026 Grand Council bills for the Grand Treasurer.
15. Assisted in the cleaning out of the YMI closet at All Souls School.
16. Cleaned out all Council folders located at the Grand Council Office.
17. Began to receive student essays submitted for the Pro Patria Essay Content - preparing for judging.
18. Prepared Member's Birthday year data for the Investment Committee (several day task).
19. Attended Council #32's January Business Meeting.
20. Attended Grand Council Officers Official Visit to the San Francisco District (1/13/26 at St. John Bosco #613)
21. Attended South San Francisco Council #32's January Social.
22. Sent Birthday report to the Chairman of the Investment Committee.
23. On a daily basis responded to emails and phone messages sent to the Grand Council Office.

This is only a partial list.

IPGP Report for January 24, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting:

For the IPGP report for the January 24th meeting of the board of Directors is as follows.

Status of the Red/White Bus for the YMI Memorial Mass March 14th:

We have a quote from Classic Charter to provide transportation for Valley Councils.

We anticipate costs to be covered by funds from:

Grand Council Membership budget, #44 Hilmar, #80 Atwater, and #94 Chowchilla.

I am working with brothers from valley councils to work out ridership.

I now need to know if the Grand Council will be providing money from the membership fund as it has in the past.

At the appropriate time I would like to request a motion to provide \$1,000.00 from the fund to help defray the bus cost.

All remaining costs are the responsibility of the bus riders and their councils.

-Travels and visits

November 15th Grand Council Board of Directors Zoom meeting

November 19th Council #80 Atwater Hour of Memory Mass and dinner

November 21st Services for PGP Br Larry Silva

December 6th Council #80 Atwater Christmas with YLI Yosemite Council #117

January 24th, American #8 redshirt breakfast meeting

-State of the Institute

Br Clement Gusman from Hilo council #573 contacted Br Gus and I to assist with developing a policy and procedure to make the Zoom account available for councils. In speaking with Br. Gus, I understand he is approaching this resource with great caution so that no security measure is overlooked. We have agreed that we will need to create procedures for adding additional users who can administer the resource. This appears to be a project that will require some time to implement properly and safely. The goal will be to create guide-lines for the steps to use the zoom account, and also provide a reference guide for future administrators.

-Membership

The Grand President has been discussing this item with councils as he makes his visits, and he has given some ideas of what to work on to help recruitment.

Br. Danny Avila #44, and Br. Manuel Drumonde #44 have also said that they will help with this task.

Currently we are reviewing promotional materials that currently exist and we are brainstorming things that can be done universally, but also be relevant to specific councils.

-Technology Advancement:

The Committee Chairman Br Gus Solidum will give specific details on what the committee is working on.

I am pleased to report that the YMI Zoom account is seeing an increase in usage for the Business of the YMI. It is fast becoming the norm for Grand Directors meetings, YMI Educational Foundation Meetings, YMI Seminarian Educational Foundation Meetings, and Convention planning meetings.

Councils #573 from Hilo and #613 San Francisco have also used the format for council meetings.

The current procedure for anyone who would like to have a meeting scheduled has been to send an email with meeting details to myself and Brother Gus Solidum and we work to get the meeting details completed and back to the requester as soon as possible.

Thanks to Brother Steve Cresci for teaching us how to use the resource, and Br Mike Amato for all the assistance he has provided to fill in the Gaps.

Big Thanks to Br Gus for getting this resource going as a permanent YMI Committee.

Unfinished Business –

- **YMI GC Fundraising Plans for 2025 – 26?**
Pasta Bingo to take place on 2/14/26 (Valentine's Day) Already went over.
Super Bowl Pool – Br. Bartoli confirmed the pool was all filled out.

Motion made by Br. Gus: To help defray the cost of the Brothers coming from the Valley, to attend the Red & White Mass and Dinner that \$1000.00 be provided for Bus Transportation

Seconded by Br. Luis

Motion Passed

New Business -

- Stipend from the Grand Council for YMI Councils Attending 2026 Grand Council Session (Per the GC By-Laws)
- Other:

2026 Grand Council Planning Session – 2/4/26 7:00 p.m.

Motion made by Br. Dominic: The Grand Council to provide a stipend of \$100.00 to elected Council delegates up to \$500.00 per Council to attend the 2026 Grand Council Sessions.

Seconded Br. Ed

Motion passed

Bulk mail permit annual fee of \$370.00

Motion: made by Br. Luis: Seconded: Br. Ed

For Grand Council to pay \$370.00 for Bulk Mail Permit

Motion passed

Suggested to place in next year's budget

BBQ Trailer

Council #32 has a BBQ trailer if any Council wants it.

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
 - *Audit plan for 2025-26 to ensure the best practices are being followed by YMI Councils and Foundations.*

Audit completed of Council 497 & 612 While Br. Bob and Br. Tom were in Indiana.

- **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.*

- The Budget Committee will meet in February
- Br. Bob met with Scott Chapman and spoke with Steve Davis
- Both Finance advisors are doing well.
- Need to review Death Benefit numbers with Jeff Morrow

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

- **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?*

Articles are due by the end of January

- **Laws and Revisions Committee** – GD Board Appointments: Brother Ed Silva #54 PGP. The Committee Chair is Br. Nick Franceschine, #54, PGP.

Br. Ed and Br. Nick reviewed Councils 613's proposed By-Law change pertaining to their donation and activity policies and recommended they be adopted by the Grand Council.

- **Man & Council of the Year Committee** – GD Board Appointments: Br Domenic Carinalli #54. The Committee Chair is Br. Bob Bartoli #32 GT/PGP.
 - The applications for both awards are on the website
 - A one page document to nominate a Brother and the reasons for the nomination
 - 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.

- Br. Avery advised he is working with Br. Manny and Br. Danny on ideas to increase membership within the YMI

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

Br. Dimech advised his report will be in the Advanced Proceedings that is provided at the Grand Sessions

- **Resolutions Committee** – GD Board Appointment: Brother Manuel Drumonde #80
PGP Committee Chair is Br. Alex Schmitt #8, PGD
- No report
- Br. Amato advised for Brothers to work with Br. Alex on any individual who can be honored with a resolution
- **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.*
- *Br. Gus is working with Br. Billy on drafting policies*
- *Br. Gus is recommending a possible By-Law change for best practices and will need to work with Br. Billy*
- *Has been looking at YMI Website and believes our website requires more security*
- **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.

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

Already covered previously

Nothing to report.

- **Credentials Committee** – GD Board Appointment: Br. Ed Silva #54. The Committee Chair is Br. Mike Dimech #613 GS/PGP.
- Br. Mike Dimech mentioned that many Brothers do not bring their credentials to the Sessions and suggested that that we just hand them out at the table when the Brother registers
- The above suggestion will be taken up by the Grand Council Convention Committee when they meet on February 4th
- **Workshop Committee** – GD Board Appointment: Brother Gus Solidum #94. The Committee Chair is the Grand Council Office.
- Too early to discuss at this time.

Reports from Sports Committees:

- **Golf** – Br. Bob Fiorito #613/Br. Paul Larson #32 – Plans for 2026 Tournament
- The 2026 tournament be scheduled at Crystal Springs Golf Course – April 19, 2026
- \$150.00 per person to play
- Nice Course, little hilly
- It'll be a 1 o'clock p.m. shotgun start, and a banquet to follow right there at the golf course itself.
- Banquet / No Host Cocktails / \$50.00 for non-playing members to attend dinner
- Looking for donations – Possible \$100.00 from each Council
- **Bowling** – Br. Sanzeri #59/- Br. Walls #80 – Plans for 2026 Tournament?
- No Report
- Tournament is scheduled for May 17th
- Need flyer for website
- **Bocce Ball**-

The 2026 tournament in South San Francisco has been re-scheduled for October 3, 2026

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

Fr. Agnel is praying for us.

Good of the Order:

- Br. Steve Cresci asked that we keep in our prayers his office assistant who will be going in for cancer treatment at Stanford
- Stu McIntyre who is 101 years old

Closing Prayer – Br. Steve recited the YMI Prayer

Next Meetings: Potential Dates/Times

- March 21st (Sat) 8:45 a.m.

Adjournment Time: 10:15 a.m.