

**YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE**  
**BOARD OF GRAND DIRECTORS BI-MONTHLY MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

Chairman of the Board, Brother Bob Bartoli, called the meeting to order at 8:28 a.m. on Saturday, November 12, 2016 at the World Headquarters of the YMI in South San Francisco, California.

**Opening Prayer**

The opening prayer, led by Grand Director Mario De Vita, requested God's guidance on the officers and their deliberations throughout the meeting.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

In a true spirit of fraternalism, the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Grand Treasurer Jack Albrecht, was recited in a strong voice by those assembled. All were asked to remember our country's service men.

**Roll Call**

The roll call was taken and the following Grand Officers were present: Grand Directors Bob Bartoli, Domenic Carinalli (via conference call), Bob Fiorito, Mario De Vita, Manuel Drumonde (via conference call), Nick Franceschine (via conference call), Bill Walls; Grand President Michael Dimech; Grand Second Vice President Carlos Rivas (via conference call); Grand Secretary Michael Amato; Grand Treasurer Jack Albrecht; Grand Inside Sentinel Richard Pisciotta; Grand Outside Sentinel Steve Cresci; and Junior Past Grand President George Terry.

The following Grand Officers were excused by Chairman of the Board, Brother Bob Bartoli: Grand Chaplain Father Agnel, Grand Director Matt Nelson, and Grand First Vice President Mike Nelson.

Grand Marshal Chris McCann was marked absent.

The following YMI Brothers were in attendance: Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP and District Deputy Grand President Alex Schmitt (via conference call).

## **Reading of the Minutes**

The minutes from the September 17, 2016 Meeting of the Board of Grand Directors were reviewed.

**MSC** – DeVita/Walls – Unanimous - that the minutes of the July 30, 2016 meeting of the Board of Grand Directors be approved as corrected.

## **Communications**

The Business Manager and the Grand Secretary presented the following communications:

A picture from San Francisco Council #1's dinner honoring Seminarians from the San Francisco Archdiocese was passed around the table.

Brother Fourie reported on the following from the Grand Council Office:

- Council bulletins have been received from the following Councils: #1 (October and November), #2 (November and December), #32 (October and November), #40 (October and November), #612 (Semi annual bulletin highlighting the Grand President's Visit), #613 (October and November)
- A letter from the Korean War Memorial Foundation
- Letter from Hayward Council #76 on its intent to close
- Cover letters for the September Semi-annual reports and Assessment #164
- IRS update of active councils
- Three cover letters from the raffle mailings
- Two resolutions for Francis Council #573
- Bingo Flyer and copies of the Police Reports
- Copy of Mercy High School Burlingame's "Oaks" with the YMI featured on page 16
- A copy of the Catholic Herald
- Five copies of the Catholic Voice

## **Grand Treasurer's Report**

Grand Treasurer, Brother Jack Albrecht, reviewed his two reports dated from October 2016. These reports were the expense spreadsheet and the income spreadsheet.

He invited all to ask questions. A question of where the money was coming from to pay for the lawyer who looked into the Death Benefit Fund was asked. Br. Albrecht stated that money was coming directly from the Death Benefit Fund and was not coming from the Operating Budget of Grand Council. Also, the Grand Secretary noted that a credit should be reflected on the next report from the East Bay newspapers that we overpaid.

**MSC - De Vita/Carinalli – Unanimous - to accept the Grand Treasurer's report of October, 2016.**

## **Board of Grand Directors' Committees**

Chairman of the Board, Brother Bob Bartoli, requested reports from the various Grand Director's Committees:

Charters/Archives – Brother Bill Walls, Chr. – no report at this time

Finance: Brother Bartoli, Chr. - reported all bills were in order and they have been paid. Brother Fiorito attended a dinner meeting with one of our investors to go over the current portfolio. The books look good.

Long Range Planning – Br. Matt Nelson, Chr. – Brother Bartoli relayed a conversation with Brother Matt Nelson. There would be no report at this time. Brother Bartoli will be following up with the chairman of this committee.

Council Activities – Br. Carinalli, Chr. – no report at this time.

Insurance – Br. Franceschine reported that there was no activity since the last Board Meeting and there have been no claims.

He then asked Br. Fourie for comments on the present policy with Travelers. Brother Fourie reported that when the new policy (each June) comes due, a 30% payment for the annual cost is sent. The balance is then to be divided into nine equal payments. This is always a challenge with Travelers and their inability to charge the correct amount each month. Brother Cresci offered a different payment process possibly of making a single payment for the year which could provide a discount. Brother Fourie will contact our agent at Gallagher's and find out if this is possible in the future.

Fund Raising – Brother Bob Fiorito, Chr. – reminded everyone of the Pasta/Bingo on January 14, 2017 at St. Veronica's in South San Francisco. Brother Dimech spoke to some of the details. He asked for everyone's assistance to set up, attend, and help clean up as well. Brother Joe Ortisi #32 will call the numbers again. He is also getting the one day liquor license. Brother Bartoli announced he would once again lead the Super Bowl Pool as another fund raiser.

Supplies – Brother Mario De Vita, Chr. – no report until February when the inventory is taken. However, Brother Fourie reported that 50 year and 25 year pins are the most popular. We have run out of 20 year and 30 year pins. He had contacted our supply company for the 20 year pin replacement, however, the dye to make the pins seems to have disappeared. The minimum order is 100 pins and the cost has increased since we last ordered.

**MSC** – Unanimous – Walls/De Vita to only reorder 10 year, 25 year and 50 year pins as needed.

On the subject of YMI rings, Brother Fourie reported that the cost of a sterling silver ring is \$395 each if three are ordered. For a 10k gold ring, the cost is \$1700 per ring.

Brother Dimech reported on the question of ordering YMI hats to sell at the Grand Council Session with orders made at the time of registration. He has gotten requests since he sold them a few years ago.

**MSC** – Unanimous – Carinalli/Drumonde to order 30 hats for sale as a Grand Council fundraiser.

## **Grand President's Report**

Grand President Brother Michael Dimech spoke on several topics:

- He covered his schedule for the past six weeks – has been very busy.
  - September 21 – Seminarian Dinner at Council #1
  - September 22 – Social at South San Francisco #32
  - September 24 – Bocce Ball Tournament
  - October 4 – Santa Rosa #40 had a special membership meeting
  - October 11 – Columbus Day Parade
  - October 13 – Visit Council #44, had a lot of fun
  - October 27 - SSF #32 social – membership awards
  - November 2 – Visit to Madera #60
  - November 6 - #613's Hour of Memory
  - November 8 – Visit to American Council #8
  - November 10 – Stopped by Council #32 to distribute Bingo flyers
  
- He spoke about a program(s) challenging Councils to bring in new members
- He encouraged the nomination of Man/Council of the Year by all Councils
- He pushed the sale of raffle tickets to fund the Pro Patria Essay Contest
- He was gearing up for the Pasta/Bingo Fundraiser
- He had received six questionnaires from District Deputy Grand Presidents. A quick summary revealed that all Councils should have a membership event and many of the Councils are doing good work within their communities
- Dos Palos Council #99 can't send delegates to Grand Council..can they use a proxy for the participation?
- In response to a question about putting Council membership on line from Brother Thissen...this is a privacy issue, especially showing addresses
- On December 6 he will visit Sadoc #59.

The Education Foundation will continue to offer the Matching Funds program according to Br. Bartoli.

The Seminarian Foundation is always looking for seminarians to assist. There was no meeting during the last quarter. One of the checks given out in June has been returned as the individual had left the seminary.

### **Grand First Vice President's Report**

Brother Nelson was unavailable to give a report at this time.

Brother Fourie acknowledged the work done by Mrs. Nelson in stuffing all the envelopes for the Pro Patria Raffle. Given the ever changing rules of the US Post Office, a total of 18 trays were needed for the mailing. It took a long time this year to prepare these trays at World Headquarters. They all had to be separated by zip codes of their district mailing centers. It took the Post Office 2 ½ weeks to deliver all the mail. Brother Fourie tried to explain the process as it was stated to him by the local post office workers. In addition to the mailing to members, there is also the mailing to Councils and the special mailing to the Young Ladies Institutes.

Brother Walls stated that Brother Nelson was promoting both the essays and raffle at St. Christopher Council #80.

### **Grand Second Vice President's Report**

Br. Rivas reported that the Annual Red and White Mass has been set and will be held on March 11, 2017 at St. Rose Catholic Church in Santa Rosa. Council #40 will prepare a dinner after the Mass. He reviewed the menu for the dinner. The price would be \$20 per person. He was working on fine tuning the flyer for reservations.

March 4, 2017 will be the next Polenta dinner/fund raiser for Santa Rosa Council #40.

## **Grand Secretary's Report/Business Manager's Report**

Grand Secretary Michael Amato commented on the need to have flyers for both the Grand Council Bowling and Golf Tournaments.

Business Manager Tom Fourie reviewed the work of the World Headquarters since the last Board of Grand Directors meeting (a brief summary):

- Finished the seals on the last Institute Journal
- Mailed the Institute Journal
- Attended San Francisco Council #1's seminarian dinner
- Stopped by the Bocce Ball Tournament to pick up the sealed raffle envelopes from the Nelsons
- Prepared Grand Council Bills for September
- Prepared paperwork for Death Benefits
- Prepared Assessment #164 and mailed
- Prepared the September Semi-annual Reports and mailed
- Made airline, hotel and rental car reservations for the Grand President's Official Visit to Indiana
- Printed labels for Raffle mailing
- Several days spent on the work of preparing the Raffle envelopes for mailing
- Attended South San Francisco #32's business and social meetings
- Participated in the Mass/Memorial Service for deceased Brothers of #32
- Attended Reserve Committee Meeting/Dinner at Joe's of Westlake
- Prepared all the envelopes for raffle mailings to Councils and YLI Institutes
- Prepared Grand Council Bills for October
- Added a new program to the computer – FIREFOX
- There has been a tremendous increase in the volume of telephone calls and e-mails requiring responses and/or actions at World Headquarters
- Daily trip to the Post Office, drop offs at the franchise offices of Bartoli, Dimech, Amato and Albrecht residences

## **Grand Directors Report on Grand Council Committees**

Chairman of the Board, Brother Bob Bartoli, requested reports from Grand Directors serving on Grand Council Committees.

**Audit** (Br. Bill Walls and Br. Steve Cresci): auditing on process needs to begin – Br. Fourie reported that if we use the most recent Semi-annual reports as a base line, the following Councils need to be visited: #16, #59, #60, #88, #99 and #137.

Brother Fourie also reported that no Semi-annual September report has been received from Councils #5, #8, #54, #59, #80, #92, #93, #94, #497, and #612. Assessment #164 payments are still outstanding from Councils #93 (three of them), #59, #5, #612 and #94.

**Budget** (Br. Jack Albrecht, Chr.): The Grand Treasurer announced the first Budget Committee meeting will take place on February 21, 2017.

**Coordinating** (Br. Michael Dimech, Chr.): Doing what he can at this time.

**Ceremonials** (Br. Manuel Drumonde, #44, PGP): Have not started, but the committee wants to work on the funeral rite.

**Grand Session Planning Committee** (Br. Tom Fourie, Chr.) – the deposit check will be sent soon to the Montbleu Hotel.

**Grand Session/Credentials Working Committee** (Br. Michael Amato, Chr): will be ready in June 2017.

**Institute Journal** (Br. Tom Fourie, Chr.) – Br. Fourie announced he has begun the initial drafts for the next Journal. He read off a list of topics he would like to include in the next edition. Hopefully they will all soon find their way to the World Headquarters.

**Laws and Revisions** (Br. Rob Bartoli, Chr) – no report at this time.

**Man of the Year and Council of the Year** (Br. Bob Bartoli, Chr.) – the committee will prepare articles for the Journal.

**Membership** (Br. Matt Nelson and Br. Larry Andreatta, Chr.): Br. Dimech said he will be encouraging the two chairmen to put an effort and program together.

**Organization** (Br. Michael Amato, Chr.): Br. Amato was not too hopeful with the lead in San Leandro. Br. Schmitt said he would take over this lead as it was part of his District.

**Pro Deo** (Carlos Rivas, Chr.): See Grand Second Vice President's report.

**Pro Patria** (Mike Nelson, Chr.): completed under the Grand First Vice President's report

**Reserve Fund** (Br. Jack Albrecht, Chr.) – reported the operating reserve balance at \$227,278.12. The Death Benefit Reserve stands at \$1,665,161.91. The \$10,000 decrease was due to providing monies for the death benefits which had been raised at the recent Grand Council Session. He reported on the meeting of the Reserve Committee on October 18, 2016. Overall, our investments have improved by 10%.

**Resolutions** (Br. Nick Franceschine, Chr.): no report at this time.

**State of the Institute** (Br. George Terry, Chr.): Br. George announced that a proposal from #99 had been received about voting by proxy at the Grand Council Session. The Committee would be considering the submission.

**Workshop Committee** (Brother Tom Fourie): will be ready in June 2017.

## **Unfinished Business**

As reported previously, a deposit check is being sent to the Montbleu Hotel for the Grand Council 2017 Session.

The 133<sup>rd</sup> Grand Council Session will be in Reno, Nevada. Br. Pisciotta is working on this site and said Bocce Ball Courts are nearby and we might make use of them. No other work has been done in planning this event as of yet.

The next step for the committee on the Death Benefit for Associate Members will be to work on the birthdays of all members as soon as the Business Manager completes his report.

Br. Fourie covered the status of Petaluma Council #9 – need to close out the account.

Br. Fourie covered the status of Hayward Council #76 – it has closed.

Br. Fourie reported on Gustine Council #93 – has had no communication. Br. Drumonde called Br. Frank Rego. They do not have the money to pay the assessments. They are therefore suspended by rules of the By-Laws. The Grand Secretary will send them a letter on this situation.

### **New Business**

The use of the new phone system has proven to be a tremendous improvement...thank you Br. Bartoli.

### **Junior Past Grand President Report**

There was no report at this time.

### **Grand Chaplain's Report**

Father Agnel could not be present. He is doing fine. He is praying for us.

### **Good of the Order**

Brother Dimech, has spoken to Br. Wendell in Hilo. Br. Wendell is having some health problems, keep him in our prayers. Br. Dimech hopes to have fun in Indiana.

The next Board Meeting will be on January 21, 2017, 8:30 a.m. at World Headquarters.

### **Closing Prayer**

The closing prayer was led by Br. Bob Bartoli #32 PGP, GD

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, yours for God and Country,

*Michael Amato #613*

**Grand Secretary**

*Thomas A. Fourie #32, PGP*

**Business Manager**