

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

**Call to Order**

Chairman of the Board, Brother Bob Fiorito, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at the World Headquarters of the YMI in South San Francisco, California.

**Opening Prayer**

The opening prayer, led by Grand Director Matt Nelson, 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 Marshal Bill Avery, 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 Steve Cresci, Mario De Vita, Bob Fiorito, Matt Nelson, Bill Walls, and Paul Walsh; Grand President Mike Nelson; Grand First Vice President Carlos Rivas (via conference call); Grand Second Vice President Mike Thissen; Junior Past Grand President Michael Dimech (via conference call); Grand Secretary Michael Amato; Grand Treasurer Jack Albrecht; Grand Marshal Bill Avery (via conference call); and Grand Outside Sentinel Nick Franceschine (via conference call).

The following Grand Officers were excused by Chairman of the Board, Brother Bob Fiorito: Grand Director John Kavanagh and Grand Chaplain Father Agnel DeHeredia.

The following Grand Officers were declared absent: Grand Director Manual Drumonde and Grand Inside Sentinel Domenic Carinalli.

The following YMI Brothers were in attendance: Brother Tom Fourie

#32, PGP and Business Manager and District Deputy Grand President Alex Schmitt #8 (via conference call).

## **Reading of the Minutes**

The minutes from the July 24, 2017 Meeting of the Board of Grand Directors were reviewed.

**MSC** – De Vita/Cresci – Unanimous - that the minutes of the July 24, 2017 meeting of the Board of Grand Directors be approved.

## **Communications**

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

Brother Amato read a letter from the President of South San Francisco Council #32 acknowledging the Council's award as Council of the Year at the recent Grand Council Session. Brother Paul Larson thanked Grand Council and said the Council was honored and will continue to uphold the works of the Young Men's Institute.

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

- Council bulletins have been received from the following Councils: Council #1 (August, September), Council #2 (August, September), Council #8 (July, August, September), Council #32 (September), Council #40 (August, September), Council #613 (August, September).
- Cover letter to Councils for tax filings.
- More invitations to the Stockton Bishop's Dinner.
- Acknowledgement from Mary Ann Silveria #54 on the receipt of the death benefit for her husband.
- Cover letter to delegates with minutes from the 132<sup>nd</sup> Grand Council Session as they had no e-mail on file.
- Cover letter to Councils not present at the 132<sup>nd</sup> Grand Council Session accompanying their materials.
- Copy of San Jose Council #2's new brochure.
- Two copies of the Catholic Voice.
- One copy of Catholic San Francisco.

- One copy of the ICF Bollentino.
- One copy of the Catholic Herald.

### **Grand Treasurer's Report**

Brother Jack Albrecht referenced his two reports which were e-mailed to all Grand Council Officers the week previous. These reports, dated August 25, 2017, were the expense spreadsheet and the income spreadsheet for the 2017-2018 year thus far. He opened the floor for any questions. He noted that the Grand Council Session was still negative at this time, however, Council #94 still had monies forthcoming. Also the cost for preparation of our tax forms has gone up, more paperwork and different folks worked on it this time due to the health of Br. Ed DeLaTorre not being up to par. It was suggested to look for a different accountant for next year. The IRS also caught an error on the address used to submit this year's report. Brother Fourie noted that a phone call was needed to make the correction. Brother Fourie requested that a copy of this year taxes be provided to the Grand Council Office. It was also noted that the telecommunications account has increased because more people are calling in to the Board Meeting, e.g. District Deputy Grand Presidents.

**MSC - Walls/De Vita – Unanimous - to accept the Grand Treasurer's report dated August 25, 2017.**

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

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

Charters/Archives – Brother Bill Walls, Chr. – Brother Walls reported there was no change. Brother Fourie announced that more room is needed for the archives. The shelf in the closet at All Souls School is about filled up.

Finance: Brother Bob Fiorito, Chr. - reported all bills were in order and they have been paid.

Long Range Planning – Br. Matt Nelson, Chr. – the Chairman reviewed a draft of a letter he had prepared to send to the Bishops of

the Dioceses in which YMI Councils exist. It has been circulated to the Grand Chaplain and the Grand President along with all other Grand Officers. A discussion ensued and Brother Nelson will continue to work on this project.

Council Activities – Br. Paul Walsh, Chr. – no requests had been received since the last Board meeting and he asked Brother Fourie to review the process. Brother Fourie responded.

Insurance – Br. Franceschine reported that there were no changes to his knowledge and Brother Fourie agreed. Junior Past Grand President, Brother Michael Dimech, requested a specific liability certificate for the Pasta Bingo event at St. Veronica's Church. Brother Fourie said he would ask for it from Arthur Gallagher Co.

Fund Raising – Brother Bob Fiorito, Chr. – the Pasta/Bingo event is set for November 18, 2017 at the St. Veronica's Falcon Hall. All are invited to come and Brothers from #613 and #32 are providing the labor. He also noted that he is still looking for a golf course for the YMI Spring Tournament.

Supplies – Brother Mario De Vita, Chr. – The report for the year will be presented after the inventory is recorded in February 2018.

## **Grand President's Report**

Grand President Brother Mike Nelson spoke to the interesting interaction of obtaining the reports from the District Deputies. He thanked those Brothers who had turned them in. He summarized the findings as follows:

- Alameda – concern is membership
- Gold Country – concern about essay contest questions and the Diocese has been consolidated
- Hawaii – Brother Wendell not doing well
- Central Valley – going fairly well, and they want more Grand Council events near them
- San Francisco – Council #1 is having concerns with their meeting site

- For Indiana South – Br. Fourie recommended Br. John Mundy as DDGP and to be asked on the Official Visit

He elaborated on the concern of a few Brothers from Our Lady of the Pines Council #137 about the high school topic for the essay contest. Brother Fourie did not concur with the criticism and reviewed the judging process as well as the work that goes into getting students to write today. Br. Nelson will respond to the #137 concern.

He stated that he and his wife would be going to Indiana for the Official Visit in late November. He would check about Br. Luther Evans joining the trip.

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

Brother Rivas reported that his wife has been ill and the past few weeks had been very difficult. However, a new doctor was now directing the treatment and it seems they have turned a corner.

He said that he would be contacting Brother Fourie regarding the raffle and essay contest (Brother Fourie narrowed the time down to tomorrow morning).

He covered the efforts of Santa Rosa Council #40 to recruit new members. He will work with Br. Cresci on this work.

He knows he has to work on dates for stuffing envelopes for the raffle.

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

Br. Thissen was present to give an update on the Red and White Mass in 2018. It is scheduled for March 10, 2018 at St. Columba Church in Chowchilla. The Mass is set for 4:00 p.m. He should have a one page flyer ready by next month.

Brother Fourie provided a list of items for the Grand Second Vice President to consider in his plans: vase for flowers, is this a special Mass vs. a parish Mass, contact with the Grand Chaplain, drum for the raffle tickets, etc.

Brother Michael Amato asked if there was support for renting a bus for the San Francisco District ?? He received a unanimous vote to get a bus (with a bathroom).

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

Grand Secretary Michael Amato and Business Manager Tom Fourie reported on a lengthy list of activities completed by the Grand Council Office since the last Board meeting, which included the following:

- Brother Amato spoke to the Picnic sponsored by Council #613 for the San Francisco District (good turnout and everyone had a good time) and for Council #54's BBQ/Grand President's Visit in Sebastopol at the Carinalli winery...everyone had a great time.

Brother Fourie reported on the following:

- The contract with the El Dorado Hotel in Reno has been finalized and signed for next year's Grand Council Session
- World Headquarters hosted the Education Foundation Meeting using the conference call
- The Business Manager spent 12 days in Kauai with his family
- The IRS and Franchise Tax Board filings for Councils were completed
- Attended Council #32's August Business Meeting
- Prepared the next group of Death Benefit requests
- Followed up on missing Death Benefit checks
- Sent the 132<sup>nd</sup> Grand Council Session minutes by e-mail to delegates
- Attended #613's Family Picnic
- Flew to Indiana for a quick visit and dinner with #612 (birthday party) and visited with Mary Vogelgesang
- Took a trip on the Bourbon Trail and witnessed the total solar eclipse in Nashville, Tennessee

- Prepared the August bills for Grand Council
- Prepared and sent the July Board Minutes to Grand Council Officers and District Deputy Grand Presidents
- Met with the Grand Treasurer to clear up letter from the IRS
- Prepared packets for Councils not attending the 132<sup>nd</sup> Grand Council Session (minutes, programs, etc.) and mailed
- Completed the Institute Journal (drove to Manteca)
- Call from Br. Thomas Figueira #573 to assist which changes given the poor health of Br. Serrao
- Prepared the Treasurer's report for the Seminarian Foundation meeting and hosted the meeting here at World Headquarters using the conference call
- Began preparation for the 2 ½ hour meeting on September 5, 2017 with a committee from Santa Rosa Council #40 to update their Council By-Laws
- Prepared supply orders for Council #44 and Council #32
- Attended Council #32's September Business Meeting

One Council's Assessment #167 check has not been received: Bakersfield #100.

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

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

**Audit** (Br. Steve Cresci, Chr.): No report at this time, however, Br. Fourie stated that all Councils need to be audited again and a list will be formulated. The Indiana Councils and Francis Council in Hilo will need to be audited during the Grand President's Official Visits. The auditing forms will come from the Grand Council Office.

**Budget** (Br. Jack Albrecht, Chr.): The next meeting of the committee will be on January 10, 2018 - 7:00 p.m. at World Headquarters.

**Coordinating** (Br. Mike Nelson, Chr.): the Chairman referred to Br. Matt Nelson's letter. He also reminded everyone of the January 27, 2018 Walk for Life in San Francisco.

**Ceremonials** (Br. Manuel Drumonde, #44, PGP): The chairman was absent, but Brothers Albrecht and Fourie provided some incite into the YMI's role when a Brother dies.

**Grand Session Planning Committee** (Br. Tom Fourie, Chr.) – the contract for 2018 has been signed.

**Institute Journal** (Br. Tom Fourie, Chr.) – Brother Fourie reviewed the Fall 2017 issue and distributed copies to all the Grand Officers present. He hopes that the next issue will see some distribution through Council e-mail addresses.

**Laws and Revisions** (Br. Rob Bartoli, Chr) – Brother Walsh reported that all submitted changes had been approved by the committee.

**Man of the Year and Council of the Year** (Br. Bob Bartoli, Chr.) – will have more information later for the next issue of the Institute Journal.

**Membership** (Br. Steve Cresci and Br John Kavanagh, Co-Chr): Br. Cresci reported that he plans to have a meeting with Brother Kavanagh before our next Board Meeting. He also welcomed the information on Santa Rosa Council #40's membership approach.

**Organization** (Br. Michael Amato, Chr.): no report at this time

**Reserve Fund** (Br. Jack Albrecht, Chr.) – Brother Albrecht covered the amount of funds in both the Death Benefit Reserve Fund and the Grand Council Operating Budget Reserve Fund.

**Resolutions** (Br. Nick Franceschine, Chr.): has no resolutions at this time. He will draft a statement for the next Institute Journal.

**State of the Institute** (Br. Michael Dimech, Chr.): Br. Michael had nothing to report at this time, but will have something for the next Institute Journal.

**Workshop Committee** (Brother Tom Fourie): will be ready in June 2018.

## **Unfinished Business**

The update on the 133rd Grand Council Session in Reno is that the contract is in place.

There was no information for the 134<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session, although the Santa Rosa area has been mentioned as a possible site.

The Bocce Ball Tournament has 17 teams signed up from Councils #1, #2, #32, #40, #54, #80 and #613. Everyone is welcome to come for lunch. Trophies will be awarded to the winners on September 23, 2017 at Orange Avenue Park in South San Francisco.

Br. Fiorito invited once again the Grand President to ride in the Columbus Day Parade in San Francisco as well as Br. Franceschine. Cars will be provided. Still waiting for official information for starting point etc. Br. Fiorito will let everyone involved know as soon as possible.

Br. Dimech reviewed the Pasta Bingo planned for November 18, 2017 at St. Veronica's Falcon Hall in South San Francisco. Prior bingo events had 74 and 104 guests respectively. Would like to increase this year also. Brothers from Council #32 are cooking and Brothers from Council #613 will be providing all the support help.

There is nothing yet to report on the Bowling Tournament. For the Bowling Tournament, Br. Nelson was asked to reach out to Br. Sanzeri for detailed information for the Journal and the website.

Brother Fiorito reported meeting with Santa Rosa Council #40 about hosting the golf tournament in their area. More info to come.

### **New Business**

The survey on the Death Benefits for Associate Members are due to the Grand Council Office on September 30, 2017. Brother Fourie reported that very few responses have been received. The bulk of the responses were those filled out at the Grand Council Session.

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

No specific report at this time. See above for all his activities.

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

Father Agnel continues to pray for all of us.

## **Good of the Order**

Please keep in your prayers Brother Wendell Serrao and as Brother DeVita pointed out, we need to pray for all our members who are not doing well as well as their family members.

## **Closing Prayer**

The closing prayer was led by Brother Bill Walls, thanking all for participating.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Next meeting is November 11, 2017 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, yours for God and Country,

*Michael Amato #613*

**Grand Secretary**

*Thomas A. Fourie #32, PGP*

**Business Manager**