

**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 8:10 a.m. on Saturday, July 28, 2018 at the World Headquarters of the YMI in South San Francisco, California.

**Opening Prayer**

The opening prayer, led by Grand Director Manuel Drumonde requested God's guidance on the officers and their deliberations throughout the meeting. He acknowledged all veterans and thanked them for their service.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

In a true spirit of fraternalism, the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Grand Director Mario De Vita, 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, Manuel Drumonde (via conference call), and Jim Rohe (via conference call); Junior Past Grand President Michael Dimech; Grand President Mike Nelson (via conference call); Grand First Vice President Michael Thissen (via conference call); Grand Second Vice President Michael Amato; Grand Treasurer Jack Albrecht; Grand Secretary Michael Dimech; Grand Inside Sentinel Domenic Carinalli (via conference call).

The following Grand Officers were excused by Chairman of the Board, Brother Bob Fiorito: Grand Director John Kavanagh, Grand Director Paul Walsh, Grand Director Matt Nelson, Grand Chaplain Father Agnel De Heredia, Grand Marshal Bill Avery, Grand Outside Sentinel Nick Franceschine.

The following YMI Brothers were in attendance: Brother Tom Fourie

#32, PGP and Business Manager; Brother Bob Bartoli, #32, PGP, Technical Advisor; District Deputy Grand President Cosmo Amato; District Deputy Grand President Alex Schmitt (via conference call).

## **Reading of the Minutes**

The minutes from the May 19, 2018 Meeting of the Board of Grand Directors were reviewed. A correction was made as to Br. Michael Amato's attendance, he was on the conference call.

**MSC** – De Vita/Fiorito – Unanimous - that the minutes of the May 19, 2018 meeting of the Board of Grand Directors be approved as corrected.

The minutes from the 133<sup>rd</sup> Grand Council Convention of the Young Men's Institute were reviewed.

**MSC** – De Vita/Drumonde – Unanimous – that the minutes of the 133<sup>rd</sup> Grand Council Convention of the Young Men's Institute be approved.

Brother Fourie reviewed the steps that will be taken in order for all Grand Council Delegates as well as Councils not represented to receive their copy of the approved minutes.

## **Communications**

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

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

- Council bulletins have been received from the following Councils: Council #1 (June and July), Council #8 (June and July), Council #32 (June and July), Council #40 (June and July), Council #573 (Summer), Council #613 (June and July).
- Four issues of the Catholic Voice.
- Thank you notes from Mary Beth Wilson and Nancy Bartoli for GC Resolutions, three student writers from the Pro Patria Essay Contest, one student recipient for a Matching Funds

scholarship through the Educational Foundation of the YMI, and a note from a YLI Institute President for correcting a recent raffle check.

- Flyer from Oakland's Elizabeth House.
- One copy of the Catholic Herald.
- Two copies of the San Francisco Catholic covering Council #613's 8<sup>th</sup> grade scholarships and the second for covering Father Agnel's acceptance of the Man of the Year Award for YMI.
- Adjusted page 87 of the Advance Proceedings.
- Thank you letter to the staff of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Sparks, Nevada for the welcome and hospitality during the 133<sup>rd</sup> Grand Council Session.
- Cover letter for Assessment #171.
- Cover letter for the Insurance Certificates' mailing.

### **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 June, 2018, were the expense spreadsheet and the income spreadsheet for the 2018-2019 year thus far. He opened the floor for any questions. Grand Second Vice President pointed out a correction was needed between the Grand Secretary line and the Grand Second Vice President line. The Grand Treasurer was already aware and it would be corrected for the next report.

**MSC** – De Vita/Rohe – Unanimous - that the Grand Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented and corrected.

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

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

Charters/Archives – Brother Mario De Vita, Chr. – There has been no activity since the last report, however, Br. Fourie reviewed for Br. De Vita what he needed to do for the next Board Meeting (anniversary charters, site for the archives).

Finance: Brother Bob Fiorito, Chr. - reported all bills were in order and they have been paid for May and June. Brother Fiorito told the new committee member, Br. Rohe, that he would handle signatures given the distance between California and Indiana.

Long Range Planning – Br. Matt Nelson, Chr. – the chairman was excused. Br. Mike Nelson stated a YMI historian might need to be appointed this year.

Council Activities – Br. Paul Walsh, Chr. – the chairman was excused. The Business Manager had nothing to add at this time.

Insurance – Br. Franceschine . Chr. – the chairman was excused. Br. Fourie reported that the Insurance Company had directly sent the certificates for Councils to the certificate holders for the next YMI year. Br. Fourie has made copies to send directly to the Councils. Grand Council has paid the annual policy fee in full.

Fund Raising – Brother Bob Fiorito, Chr. – reported that the next Pasta Bingo Dinner will be on November 17, 2018 and the Golf Tournament will be scheduled next year in the Santa Rosa area. The Board emphasized the need to increase the monies for the Pro Patria Essay/Raffle given what happened this year. The Grand Treasurer once again asked the Board how will the current account of fund raising dollars be spent. A short discussion followed and will be continued at the next meeting. Brother Fourie will handle the amount of monies earned from the sale of hats and shirts at the Grand Council Session. Also two checks are needed for St. Veronica Church in preparation for the Pasta/Bingo Night.

Supplies – Brother Mario De Vita, Chr. – The inventory will again be reported in February 2019.

## **Grand President's Report**

Grand President Brother Mike Nelson began by thanking everyone for electing him to a second term as Grand President. He sent e-mails to the District Deputy Grand Presidents thanking them for stepping up for this upcoming year. His schedule of Official Visits will be provided to the Grand Secretary so it can be posted on the

Website. We need to go beyond the YMI in name to the YMI in spirit – he will work on this change this year. He asked that all be on the lookout for Grand Council Officers for coming years, so that we do not have to run around at the last minute before the Grand Council Session to find people to run.

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

Brother Michael Thissen reported his work on topics for next year's Pro Patria Essay Contest. He had provided suggestions to Grand Council Officers and the Business Manager at the conclusion of the 133<sup>rd</sup> Grand Council Session. Brother Fourie added that the entry form for next year had been completed and will appear in the next Institute Journal. Also, each Grand Officer and District Deputy Grand President had been e-mailed a copy of the form. The topic of the Pro Patria Raffle was presented and reviewed by the Business Manager as well as other experienced Grand Council Officers. A goal of having a calendar of events would be attempted to be finalized by Labor Day.

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

The newly elected Grand Second Vice President, Brother Michael Amato, announced that the date for our next Red and White Mass will be March 9, 2019 at St. Cecilia's Catholic Church in San Francisco. The dinner following the Mass will take place in the lower hall. He is researching the catering possibilities at this time for the meal. He will plan to have all the information ready for the Fall Institute Journal.

He continues to transition his previous duties and responsibilities as Grand Secretary to Brother Michael Dimech. He is still updating the Website with new information given Council newsletters and Grand Council Session photos. He sent a letter to the El Dorado Hotel, thanking them for their generous raffle prize gifts.

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

The newly elected Grand Secretary, Brother Michael Dimech, announced that he had attended the recent Education Foundation

Meeting. Business Manager Tom Fourie reported on a lengthy list of activities completed by the Grand Council Office since the last Board meeting on May 19, 2018, which included the following:

- a. Prepared YMI Bills for May, June and July.
- b. Convention preparation work including Advance Proceedings, registrations, Breakfast and Banquet Programs, work with Immaculate Conception Church, Banquet Event orders, organization of Masses and Installation of Officers and many more.
- c. Printing of the Grand President's Program for 2018-2019.
- d. Sent out checks to the winners of the Pro Patria Essay Contest.
- e. Mailed out and e-mailed the Institute Journal, with help from several Grand Officers.
- f. Prepared the Registration Packets for the 133<sup>rd</sup> Grand Council Session.
- g. Spent two weeks caring for our 102 year old aunt.
- h. Prepared letters and wrote checks for the 44 Seminarians approved by the Seminarian Educational Foundation for this years burses.
- i. Spent one week in Lake Tahoe with our grandchildren.
- j. Attended Council #32's meetings and socials.
- k. Spent five days in Reno, Nevada attending the 133<sup>rd</sup> Grand Council Session.
- l. Sent out Assessment #171 notices to all Councils.
- m. Worked on collecting the Liability Insurance Certificates for the Councils.
- n. Spend several days securing proposals from sites for the 134<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session in 2019.
- o. Attended the Sinatra Fundraiser of Council #613.
- p. Several days spent on the funeral of our aunt.
- q. Prepared for today's Board Meeting.

The Business Manager reported that Councils #1, #5, #32, #54, #60, #88, #497 and #613 had submitted their payment for Assessment #171.

He also noted that he had e-mailed the new Grand Officer's Information List to all Officers and District Deputies.

## **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.

**Budget** (Br. Jack Albrecht, Chr.): The chairman reported he would make the necessary changes to the current report as identified by the new Grand Second Vice President.

**Coordinating** (Br. Mike Nelson, Chr.): Nothing specific to report at this time, however, he asked Brother Michael Thissen to report on his presentation in Fresno to the YLI Convention. Brother Thissen said he was well received and improved his speech from the YMI Grand Council Session. He is beginning to feel more comfortable at the microphone.

**Ceremonials** (Br. Manuel Drumonde, #44, PGP): No report at this time.

**Grand Session Planning Committee** (Br. Tom Fourie, Chr.) – under Unfinished Business.

**Institute Journal** (Br. Tom Fourie, Chr.) – the deadline for the next issue of the Journal is July 31, 2018. He has received the following articles: Membership Committee, Complete Bowling Tournament List, Man of the Year Report, Council of the Year Report, Essay Form, New Members, Deceased Members, and Education Foundation Memorials. Brother Fourie requested articles from the Grand President on his summary of the Grand Council Session in Reno as well as his front page article for the new YMI year. Also, flyers for the Bocce Ball Tournament and the Pasta Bingo fundraiser are needed. An update from the recent Golf Tournament would be appreciated. Anything else an officer would like published is always welcome.

**Laws and Revisions** (Br. Rob Bartoli, Chr) – sent in a report to the Grand Officers which reviewed the two State of the Institute Reports from the 133<sup>rd</sup> Grand Council Session. Both proposals which were passed in Reno were now approved by this Committee and the necessary changes are to be made to the YMI Grand Council By-Laws. The Business Manager will make the necessary changes and one copy of the updated Grand Council By-Laws will be sent to each Council. Also the Website will have its copy of the By-Laws updated.

**Man of the Year and Council of the Year** (Br. Bob Bartoli, Chr.) – Councils are encouraged to promote both of these programs. When Grand Council Officers make their official visits they should include both of these in their presentations.

**Membership** (Br. Steve Cresci and Br John Kavanagh, Co-Chr): The committee is scheduling a meeting for August with the same members. Will let the Grand Officers know when this is to take place. An article for the Journal has been submitted.

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

**Reserve Fund** (Br. Jack Albrecht, Chr.) – Brother Albrecht continues to keep in contact with our investment advisor who has asked for a meeting before the end of 2018. Committee members provided suggestions for week nights to meet and the Chairman will make the necessary arrangement. Brother Jack reported the amounts in both the Death Benefit Reserve and the Grand Council Reserve.

**Resolutions** (Br. Nick Franceschine, Chr.): no report at this time as the Chairman is on vacation. The Business Manager reminded all Grand Officers present what the purpose was for Grand Council Resolutions. It is basically our way to acknowledge the outstanding work done or continuing to do for the Order. The individual(s) do not have to be YMI member.

**State of the Institute** (Br. Michael Dimech, Chr.): The committee will continue this year to review both the Grand Council Constitution and By-Laws. The Chairman will provide an article for the Journal in October regarding any Brothers suggestions for the committee for 2019.

**Workshop Committee** (Brother Tom Fourie): will be ready in June 2019.

## **Unfinished Business**

The report on the next Red and White Mass was covered by the Grand Second Vice President's report.

Brother Fourie reiterated the need for constant recruitment of Brothers for Grand Council Office. Brother Nelson also addressed this activity in his report.

The Grand Council Session Planning Committee reported on very favorable feedback from attendees at the 133<sup>rd</sup> Grand Council



Session in Reno. Brother Fourie reported that a refund check for \$180 had been received from the Hotel, after they reviewed the bill. \$1245 from the 50/50 raffles was sent to the Santa Rosa Council for the fire fund. A few more delegate refunds need to be made, but according to the Grand Treasurer, a net profit should be in the range of \$1500.

There was information for the 134<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session, as it has been tabled for discussion given that it is connected to the Chair Officers and today is the day to make a final decision. Several proposals had been received through the work of Brothers Franceschine, Fondale and Fourie. Brother Fourie reviewed these proposals and the Grand Council Officers present discussed each one. At the conclusion of the discussion a vote was taken.

**MSC** – Fiorito/De Vita – Unanimous – that the 134<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session would be held at the MontBleu Hotel in South Lake Tahoe.

On behalf of the Planning Committee, Brother Fourie asked that the site for the 135<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session begin to be discussed. It is necessary to plan two years out. Suggestions were made regarding the Monterey Bay Area, a cruise, Disneyland, etc. The topic will be again discussed at the September 2018 Board Meeting.

The Grand Council Golf Tournament was reviewed and it was declared a tremendous success, with all the monies generated for the Santa Rosa Council #40 fire fund, the 50/50 raffle and the donations from several Brothers, YMI has exceeded \$10,000.00 in its financial help. The Gold Tournament for 2019 will again be in June at the Bennett Valley Golf Course.

The complete report from the Bowling Tournament will be published in the next Journal. Prize winners were announced and presented during the 133<sup>rd</sup> Grand Council Session.

## **New Business**

Br. Dimech mentioned the next Bocce Ball Tournament: date, times, sign-ups, etc. He will provide the flyer to Br. Fourie for the Journal.

Brother Amato recapped Council #613's Sinatra Tribute Event. It turned out very well, with 104 people in attendance, a good raffle and a good show. It is possible that the Council will generate a few new members as a result of the event.

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

Brother Dimech will send the Pasta/Bingo flyer to Brother Fourie for publication.

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

Father Agnel continues to pray for all of us and was quite honored to be chosen as the YMI Man of the Year. (see picture on the Website and in the San Francisco Catholic)

### **Good of the Order**

Brother Domenic Carinalli reported that on August 22, 2018, Council #54 will be hosting its annual BBQ in the Vineyard. This will serve as the Grand Council Official Visit to the Santa Rosa District. Cost is \$25 per person for the steak BBQ.

St, John Bosco Council #613 invites all to their August 19, 2018 BBQ at Junipero Serra Park in San Bruno....also \$25 per person for a steak BBQ.

Holy Rosary Councio #44 is collaborating with their2 local YLI for a free Parish Picnic to celebrate their parish and also be on the lookout for new members.

### **Closing Prayer**

The closing prayer was led by Brother Steve Cresci, thanking all for participating and to please remember all veterans.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

The next meeting is September 22, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.  
Brother Mario De Vite will conduct the meeting as Grand Director and  
Board Chairman Bob Fiorito will be in New York City.

Respectfully submitted, yours for God and Country,

*Michael Dimech #613*

**Grand Secretary**

*Thomas A. Fourie #32, PGP*

**Business Manager**