

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 8:01 a.m. on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at the World Headquarters of the YMI in South San Francisco, California.

Opening Prayer

The opening prayer, led by Grand Director and Past Grand President 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 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, Manuel Drumonde (via conference call), Bob Fiorito, John Kavanagh, Paul Walsh; Grand President Mike Nelson (via conference call); Grand First Vice President Carlos Rivas (via conference call); Grand Second Vice President Mike Thissen (via conference call); Junior Past Grand President Michael Dimech; Grand Secretary Michael Amato; Grand Treasurer Jack Albrecht (via conference call); Grand Marshal Bill Avery (via conference call); Grand Inside Sentinel Domenic Carinalli (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 Matt Nelson, Grand Chaplain Father Agnel De Heredia. The following Grand Officer was marked absent: Grand Director Bill Walls.

The following YMI Brothers were in attendance: Brother Tom Fourie

#32, PGP and Business Manager, Brother Bob Bartoli, #32, PGP, Technical Advisor, and Brother Mike Keefer #40 (via conference call).

Reading of the Minutes

The minutes from the January 6, 2018 Meeting of the Board of Grand Directors were reviewed. It was noted that Br. Frank Hepburn had suggested to process the death benefit checks on a monthly basis. Brother Fourie indicated that he would endeavor to do so, but wanted to confirm with the Grand Treasurer that funds would be available to implement each month.

MSC – De Vita/Fiorito – Unanimous - that the minutes of the January 6, 2018 meeting of the Board of Grand Directors be approved.

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 (February), Council #2 (February and March), Council #8 (February), Council #32 (January, February and March), Council #40 (February and March), Council #59 (February), Council #613 (February and March).
- Thank you letter from Father Agnel for the Mass stipend check covering Masses for YMI Brothers.
- Letter of acknowledgment from Bishop Barber of the Oakland Diocese for the Long Range Planning Committee's letter that was sent.
- Letter of acknowledgment from Bishop McGrath of the San Jose Diocese for the Long Range Planning Committee's letter that was sent.
- Letter from the St. Joseph Catholic Schools in Hilo, Hawaii requesting monetary assistance.
- Copy of the Catholic Herald.
- Four copies of the Catholic Voice.

Grand Treasurer's Report

Brother Jack Albrecht (via conference call) referenced his two reports which were e-mailed to all Grand Council Officers the week previous. These reports, dated February 22, 2018, were the expense spreadsheet and the income spreadsheet for the 2017-2018 year thus far. He opened the floor for any questions. Bottom line was that we have money in the bank.

With regard to the IRS request for monies for late submission of the tax forms, Brother Albrecht reported on his workings with our CPAs and that they were hoping to have a response within 60 days and some action before the end of March.

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 was not present.

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

Long Range Planning – Br. Matt Nelson, Chr. – the letters to the bishops had been sent, and as mentioned under Communications, the Bishops of Oakland and San Jose had responded in a most positive manner. The letters would be turned over to Brother Matt Nelson.

Council Activities – Br. Paul Walsh, Chr. – Sebastopol Council #54 had submitted an application for its Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, it was approved.

Insurance – Br. Franceschine reported that there were no changes to his knowledge and Brother Fourie agreed. However, Brother Fourie had received an e-mail containing a liability certificate for a hall in Tracy, CA. He asked if anyone present knew about this

additional document. No one knew anything about it. Therefore, Tracy Council #92 needs to be contacted.

Fund Raising – Brother Bob Fiorito, Chr. – monies from the two Super Bowl Pools were turned in by Br. Bartoli (\$600). Information was reviewed for the June Grand Council Golf Tournament and Br. Dimech is beginning to work on the next Pasta Bingo Fundraiser.

Supplies – Brother Mario De Vita, Chr. – The inventory was completed in January and a final report is being prepared to be given to the Grand Treasurer for his report.

Grand President's Report

Grand President Brother Mike Nelson thanked the Membership Committee for their work thus far this year. He and his wife enjoyed their four nights in Hilo, HI and the visit to Francis Council #573. The Hawaiian Brothers were very gracious despite all the changes they were experiencing following the death of Brother Wendell Serrao. He referenced a letter from the YLI for an appearance at their Convention in Fresno.

Brother Bartoli updated the officers on having received four matching funds requests from the Education Foundation.

Brother Fourie reported that the Seminarian Foundation Board had voted down scholarships for seminarians from outside YMI regional areas.

Grand First Vice President's Report

Brother Rivas (via conference call) read a letter of resignation as Grand First Vice President due to his wife's health concerns and that has become her caretaker.

A report on the Pro Patria Essays reflected a serious decrease in entries this year, from 1500 down to 600.

The essays are being read under the coordination of Brother and Mrs. Bartoli.

Brother Fourie reported on the raffle and had sent out an e-mail to all officers last night. We have collected and deposited about \$7000 and have more to presently count. We normally receive \$11,000 each year.

Brother Drumonde reported on his efforts to sell more tickets in his area. He blamed the lower sales on declining membership in the YMI.

Brother Franceschine thanked Br. Fourie for the work on recording the raffle sales, however, he was concerned that there was too much information on the e-mail sent. Only the names of the Brothers are needed, not anything else

Grand Second Vice President's Report

Br. Thissen is putting the finishing touches on the Red and White Mass. He has 60 reservations thus far. St. Columba Council #94 will turn in their raffle money at the Dinner and Brother Fourie will bring extra checks should they be needed.

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 his written report which covered his activities while the Business Manager was out of the country. He helped with judging the essays, finalized the bus for the Red and White Mass, attended Foundation and Council meetings, planned the August YMI picnic, and is helping with the Frank Sinatra show.

- Brother Fourie presented the following updates (January 6-17):
- a. prepared envelopes and letters to send to the Bishops for Brother Matt Nelson

- b. attended GP Official Visit to the San Francisco District at Council #613 – obtained signatures for Bishops’ letters and then mailed them
- c. telephone call with Br. Stu MacIntyre on the future of American Council #8
- d. hosted the January 10, 2018 Budget Committee at World Headquarters
- e. attended Council #32’s business meeting
- f. prepared the January YMI bills for the Grand Treasurer
- g. began the process for the Institute Journal using e-mail addresses
- h. e-mailed the Journal to J & J Printing
- i. sent death benefit list to the Grand Treasurer
- j. evening meeting with Brother and Mrs. Bartoli as well as Br. Amato to plan the six weeks when the Business Manager would be out of the country
- k. made the bulk mail payment at the Post Office
- l. bought and brought mailing seals to the Grand Treasurer
- m. arranged for Br. Hepburn to deliver Journals to the Grand Treasurer

January 17- present

- a. thanked Brothers Hepburn, Albrecht, Bartoli and Amato for all their work during this time period
- b. received several boxes of material from both Brother Amato and Brother Bartoli
- c. recorded all raffle returns for over 6 weeks, reviewed mail, 500 e-mails, work on the Website and prepared the February bills
- d. hosted the Seminarian Foundation Meeting at World Headquarters
- e. posted assessments, still missing: #16, #59, #612
- f. have not heard from Br. Sanzeri on Benicia Council #16
- g. put the office back into working order

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.): The Chairman deferred to Brother Fourie. Brother Tom reported that the Grand President conducted the audit for Francis Council #573. He was assisted by his wife (Lady Sylvia).

Budget (Br. Jack Albrecht, Chr.): The next meeting of the committee will be on March 21, 2018 and he will mail a summary of the results of the first meeting in January.

Coordinating (Br. Mike Nelson, Chr.): no report.

Ceremonials (Br. Manuel Drumonde, #44, PGP): Brother Manuel has not had a chance to work on this but wants to report at the next meeting.

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

Institute Journal (Br. Tom Fourie, Chr.) – has received many e-mail lists from the Councils that are participating in sending the Journal to their members. A big thank you to all who are helping and in keeping our costs down.

Laws and Revisions (Br. Rob Bartoli, Chr) – no report at this time, everything is up to date.

Man of the Year and Council of the Year (Br. Bob Bartoli, Chr.) – applications have been printed in the Journal and posted on the website.

Membership (Br. Steve Cresci and Br John Kavanagh, Co-Chr): Br. Cresci reported that the committee met on February 10, 2018 and developed an action plan to increase membership. Brother Fourie suggested all Grand Council Officers be given a copy of this action plan. The committee reported that many of the contact phone numbers for Councils are no longer working. Brother Cresci submitted notes from the meeting. Brother Kavanagh asked for e-mail addresses. Brother Fourie will try to help in providing more up to date contact information.

Organization (Br. Michael Amato, Chr.): no report.

Reserve Fund (Br. Jack Albrecht, Chr.) – Brother Albrecht continues to keep in contact with our investment advisor and everything is in good shape. Brother Jack reported the amounts in both the Death Benefit Reserve and the Grand Council Reserve. Brother Dimech asked if there is a stated purpose of the reserve fund – and his answer was to see the by-laws, Section 14. Brother Kavanagh stated that there was nothing specific about the reserve

fund for the Grand Council and it has evolved into an excess fund. Brother Fourie recapped how this fund came into being.

Resolutions (Br. Nick Franceschine, Chr.): has no resolutions at this time. Several possibilities were suggested at this time: Ms. Wilson, Mrs. Bartoli, Council #40, and Bishop Blaire of the Stockton Diocese. There is a new Bishop in Stockton, known to Br. Manuel Drumonde – make him an honorary member of Council #44. Br. Matt Nelson to write a welcome letter to him.

State of the Institute (Br. Michael Dimech, Chr.): He has three possible proposals thus far and Brother Hepburn has one more. The chairman will conduct a meeting on March 21, 2018 with the committee to discuss these proposals.

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 and the committee has met (Fourie, Amato, Bartoli) to discuss costs for meals, activities and registration materials. Will get these out as soon as possible.

There was no information for the 134th Grand Council Session, as it has been tabled for discussion given that it is connected to the Chair Officers.

The Grand Council Bowling Tournament will take place April 29, 2018 at the same venue in Stockton at the same price as last year. More information is in the Journal and it is also advertised on the website.

Brother Fiorito reported that the Grand Council Golf Tournament will take place on June 3, 2018 at the Oakmont Golf Course in Santa Rosa, CA. Cost is \$100 per person. He needs to have a rough head count of players to make final arrangements. Br. Amato will speak to this event at the Red and White Mass. Once again hole sponsorships are available. Proceeds to go to the Council #40 Fire Fund.

New Business

Brother Amato reviewed his reservations for the bus (21). He needs to get a smaller bus. Brother Fourie asked Br. Thissen about flowers, readers at Mass and music for the Red and White celebration. Brother Thissen said everything is in order at this time.

Golf Sponsorships were reported thus far from the Grand Secretary and United Meat Market (Br. Bob Kinney #32).

The following names have come forward as candidates (2018-2019) for the Grand Council:

- a. Brother Michael Dimech – Grand Secretary
- b. Brother Jack Albrecht – Grand Treasurer
- c. Brother Mario De Vita – Grand Director
- d. Brother Bob Fiorito – Grand Director
- e. Brother Manuel Drumonde (if needed) – Grand Director
- f. Brother Mike Thissen – Grand First Vice President
- g. Brother Mike Amato – Grand Second Vice President
- h. Brother Bill Avery – Grand Marshal
- i. Brothers Nick Franceschine and Domenic Carinalli – Grand Sentinels
- j. Brother Mike Nelson – Grand President (with wife's permission)

The only person who has provided a written statement to run is Brother Jack Albrecht.

Brother De Vita asked that since we accepted the resignation of the Grand First Vice President, do we need to replace him? Answer – not at this time.

Brother De Vita asked the Grand President when he was visiting Sadoc #59...answer, March 13.

The Grand President asked that all membership information be sent to the District Deputies

Br. Manuel Drumonde asked for approval for his Council's Corned Beef dinner on March 17. Br. Walsh approved his request.

The issue of the contract for the Business Manager was brought forward for the year April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019. Brother Fourie agreed to serve for another year, with the same contract.

MSC – De Vita/Cresci – Unanimous – to renew the current Business Manager’s Contract for one additional year.

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

Brother Fourie announced that reports for the Advance Proceedings are due April 15, 2018.

Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was led by Brother Michael Dimech, thanking all for participating and to please remember all veterans and the folks in Santa Rosa.

Adjournment

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

Next meeting is May 19, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, yours for God and Country,

Michael Amato #613

Grand Secretary

Thomas A. Fourie #32, PGP

Business Manager