

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

**Call to Order**

Chairman of the Board, Brother Mario De Vita, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 11, 2020 at the World Headquarters of the YMI in South San Francisco, California.

**Opening Prayer**

The opening prayer, led by Grand Outside Sentinel Christopher Mc Cann 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 Billy 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 Mario De Vita, Bob Fiorito, Darrell Fonseca, Steven Cresci, Jim Rohe (via conference call), Domenic Carinalli (via conference call); Grand President Mike Thissen (via conference call), Grand First Vice President Michael Amato, Grand Second Vice President Nick Franceschine (via conference call), Grand Secretary Mike Dimech, Grand Treasurer Jack Albrecht, Grand Marshal Bill Avery (via conference call), and Grand Outside Sentinel Chris Mc Cann.

The following Grand Officers were excused by Chairman of the Board, Brother Mario De Vita: Grand Director Angel Vera, Grand Director Matt Nelson, Grand Chaplain Father Agnel, Grand Inside Sentinel Charlie Wallin, and Immediate Past Grand President Mike Nelson.

The following YMI Brothers were in attendance: Brother Tom Fourie

#32, PGP and Business Manager, Brother Bob Bartoli #32, PGP and Technology Consultant (a brief appearance), Brother Alex Schmitt #8, DDGP (via conference call).

## **Reading of the Minutes**

The minutes from the November 2, 2019 Meeting of the Board of Grand Directors were reviewed.

**MSC** – Fiorito/De Vita – unanimous – that the minutes of the November 2, 2019 of the Board of Grand Directors be approved as corrected.

## **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 (November, December and January), Council #2 (January), Council #8 (November and December), Council #32 (December and January), Council #40 (December), Council #59 (January), Council #497 (December), Council #573 (November and December), Council #613 (December and January).
- Cover letter sent with Assessment #177.
- Three copies of the Catholic Voice.
- Catholic San Francisco – pages 14-15, article by Fr. Pathota mentioning the YMI.
- Two copies of the “Voice of YLI”.
- One copy of the Catholic Herald.
- Several phone calls reporting deceased Brothers.

## **Grand Treasurer’s Report**

Brother Jack Albrecht’s two reports which were e-mailed to all Grand Council Officers the week previous were reviewed. These reports, dated December 2019, were the expense spreadsheet and the income spreadsheet for the 2019-2020 year thus far.

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

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

Chairman of the Board, Brother Mario De Vita, requested reports from the various Grand Director's Committees:

Charters/Archives – Brother Angel Vera, Chr. – there has been no change since the November 2, 2019 Grand Directors Meeting.

Finance: Brother Bob Fiorito, Chr. – committee members reported all bills were in order and they had been paid for November and December.

Long Range Planning – Br. Matt Nelson, Chr. – the chairman had nothing to report at this time.

Council Activities – Br. Domenic Carinalli, Chr. – nothing to formally report by the chairman at this time, however, Br. Cresci reported on a Bocce Ball Tournament sponsored by South San Francisco Council #32 to be held at Orange Avenue Park in South San Francisco on Saturday, May 9, 2020...all Council are invited to participate.

Insurance – Br. Cresci, Chr. – having nothing to report the chairman turned the report over to Br. Fourie. Br. Tom reported the cost of Liability Insurance is to be taken up under Unfinished Business.

Fund Raising – Brother Bob Fiorito, Chr. – the Pasta/Bingo Dinner was a tremendous success and Br. Dimech reported on all aspects of the event. The net profit increased this year due to the number of people in attendance and the raffle ticket sales. In the absence of Br. Bartoli, Br. Fourie reported that all the squares for the Super Bowl Pool have been sold.

Supplies – Brother Domenic Carinalli, Chr. – The continued discussion of YMI pins ensued. The response to the article in the Institute Journal showed Council interest in only the 25 and 50 year pins. Currently there is a supply of 25 year pins on hand. Other suggestions for a 50 year pin (given the ordering requirements) were to provide a plaque for 50 year members. There might be other items to extend to 50 year members and Brother Dimech will bring a catalogue to the next board meeting. This item will remain an action item for the next Board Meeting.

## **Grand President's Report**

Grand President Thissen reported on the following items:

He has visited several Councils as his Official Visits continue. He had a good visit to the Councils in Huntingburg, Indiana and Richmond, Indiana. He reviewed his attempts to contact Bakersfield Council #100. He has plans to visit Francis Council #573 in Hilo, Hawaii from February 10 – 13, 2020. The majority of his visits have concentrated on Valley Councils. He also visited the San Francisco District and enjoyed his time there. He still needs to visit Madera #60 and Tracy #92.

There was no report on the Education Foundation except that their next meeting is set for January 28, 2020. The Seminarian Foundation meeting is set for February 6, 2020 but may be cancelled.

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

Brother Michael Amato reported that the deadline for submission of the Pro Patria Essays is January 15, 2020. There will be judges needed to read the essays (three times per essay) and packages of 25 will be prepared. Also more ticket sales need to come from the Brothers of the YMI as we are just at 10% of the membership at this time. We have collected funds totally 83% of what has been targeted however that number reflects the increase in the cost of the tickets this year. He continued to encourage Councils to solicit sales from their members at their meetings.

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

Brother Nick Franceschine reported he was pushing raffle ticket sales at his Council in Sebastopol and at the Santa Rosa Council.

The Red and White Mass is going ahead smoothly for March 14, 2020 in Sebastopol. The dinner menu will feature roast beef prepared by Brother Carinalli and his crew.

He has retired from teaching at the local college and can read/judge more essays this year.

He is awaiting all the reservations for the Red and White Mass/Dinner and will consider using the ladies of the YLI to help with the readings as suggested by Brother Tom Fourie.

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

Br. Michael Dimech reported on a list of activities he had been involved in since the last Board Meeting.

- He made a more thorough report on the Pasta Bingo Dinner as he was once again the chairman of this very successful fundraiser.
- He reported on updates made to the website: photos and Council newsletters.
- He attended Council #613's Hour of Memory Mass and Dinner and also was present for the Christmas Parties of both Council #32 and #613.

Br. Tom Fourie reported on a lengthy list of activities completed by the Grand Council Office since the last Board meeting on November, 2019, which included the following:

- a. Prepared the November 2, 2019 Board minutes and e-mailed them out.
- b. Updated the posting of all Semi-Annual Reports and Assessment #176.

- c. On-going recording of all Pro Patria Raffle returns.
- d. Forwarded Pasta Bingo reservations to Brother Dimech, helped set-up, attended and sold raffle tickets.
- e. Attended and participated in Council #32's Remembrance Mass and meeting following.
- f. Confirmed all reservations for the Official Visit to Indiana.
- g. Prepared both November and December YMI bills for Br. Jack, then disseminated the checks.
- h. Prepared all paperwork and Council requests for the visit to Indiana.
- i. Completed the Fall/Winter edition of the Institute Journal, worked with Cindy Fondale, e-mailed the Journal.
- j. Contacted/ok'd the Church in Sparks for the June Convention.
- k. Spent Thanksgiving with the family.
- l. Participated on the six-day Official Visit to Indiana.
- m. Attended Council #32's Christmas Party at the Basque Cultural Center.
- n. Attended Council #613's Christmas Party at the SSF Yacht Club.
- o. Helped with Council #32's Christmas Food Basket Program on December 21, 2019.
- p. Welcomed family from New Jersey for Christmas and New Years.
- q. Welcomed a new baby in the family, daughter of a YMI Brother.
- r. Prepared and mailed Assessment #177 to all Councils.
- s. Prepared for this Board Meeting.
- t. Attended Council #32's Business meeting in January.
- u. All the while, dealt with phone calls, mail, etc. on a daily basis.

Brother Fourie led a discussion on the inclusion of the late Pete Padron at the Remembrance Mass during the Convention this coming June given the fact that at his death he was no longer a member of the YMI. The Board considered his past contribution to the YMI when he was a Grand President and determined that he should be mentioned. Brother Fondale will present his eulogy.

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

Chairman of the Board, Brother Mario De Vita, 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 committee will begin meeting on February 6, 2020.

**Coordinating** (Br. Mike Thissen, Chr.): Nothing to report.

**Ceremonials** (Br. Angel Vera #40, Chr.): No report at this time.

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

**Institute Journal** (Br. Tom Fourie, Chr.) – Brother Fourie reported that the Fall/Winter Issue has been completed. The next issue, the Spring issue will go out after March 31, 2020. This will serve as the pre-Convention issue, so candidates need to be identified, reservations, etc. all for the Grand Council Session need to be advertised.

**Laws and Revisions** (Br. Matt Nelson, Chr) – nothing to report at this time.

**Man of the Year and Council of the Year** (Br. Bob Bartoli, Chr.) – the application forms were printed in the last Institute Journal and also appear on the website.

**Membership** (Br. Steve Cresci and Br Darrell Fonseca Co-Chr.): Brother Cresci said there was a meeting of the committee in November at Royal Pin Donuts in South San Francisco. Brothers Larry Andreatta and Darrell Fonseca submitted reports. It is possible that their findings will be placed in the Institute Journal.

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

**Reserve Fund** (Br. Jack Albrecht, Chr.) – The balances in the reserve funds were read by the Grand Treasurer. All is well at this time.

**Resolutions** (Br. Nick Franceschine, Chr.): no report at this time but is always open to suggestions for next year.

**State of the Institute** (Br. Michael Nelson, IPGP, Chr.): nothing to report at this time.

**Workshop Committee** (Brother Tom Fourie): will be ready in June 2020.

## **Unfinished Business**

The 135<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session will be held at the Silver Legacy Hotel in Reno, Nevada on June 21-25, 2020. The contract has been

signed. The church has been reserved. The committee will be meeting January 22, 2020.

A Bowling Tournament is possible with the new Council President of Holy Rosary Council #44 working on a date/site in Turlock, California.

The Golf Tournament is being planned for early June.

The Board considered the change in assessment for Liability Insurance for the next YMI year. Following a discussion the Board voted on an increase.

**MSC – Cresci/Fiorito – Unanimous – to raise the per member per year contribution for the YMI Liability Insurance cost to \$6.00.**

### **New Business**

The status of Bakersfield Council #100 was discussed by the Board. Brothers Thissen, Amato and Fourie provided input on their dealings with members of the Council. In summary, they are presently a suspended Council since they are behind in their Assessment payments (no payment received for Assessment #177, #176 or #175). Brother Michael Dimech, as Grand Secretary will compose and mail a letter to the Council stating their current status in line with the YMI By-Laws. It was apparent from all reports that the Council is currently in disarray, given the relationship with the local bank, post office and no regular meetings. The most recent information available was that the Council was to have a meeting with their Bank on Monday, January 13, 2020. No information has been made known at the time of preparing these minutes.

The rental of a bus for the Brothers in the Valley as well as the Brothers from the San Francisco Area to attend the Red and White Mass in March was discussed. Brother Bill Avery presented all his findings on the costs and the options available. Brother Avery was thanked for all his hard work. Brother Amato is his contact for the San Francisco District in this endeavor. A discussion followed considering several options for transportation. After all the facts were presented, the Board made a recommendation and voted that the Grand Council would provide \$1500 towards a single bus to service



both areas. Participating Councils would provide a supplement of \$200 each and then the passengers would make an individual payment. The number of seats on the bus to be used would be 58, with half for the Valley and the other half for the Bay Area.

**MSC** – Unanimous - Cresci/De Vita – to allocate \$1500 from Grand Council funds to assist in providing a charter bus for 58 people to attend the Red and White Mass in Sebastopol on March 14, 2020.

A request was made by Brother Albrecht for the next purchase of YMI shirts to be polo shirts with just YMI 2020 and emblem on them. Brother Dimech will look into the option before ordering any shirts for the 2020 Convention.

### **Immediate Past Grand President Report**

Brother Nelson had no report.

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

Father Agnel continues to pray for all of us.

### **Good of the Order**

### **Closing Prayer**

The closing prayer was led by Brother Mc Cann said by all, thanking all for participating and to please remember all veterans and also to pray for all YMI Brothers in poor health and those recently deceased .

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

The next meeting is at the World Headquarters on March 21, 2020.

Respectfully submitted, yours for God and Country,

*Michael Dimech #613*

**Grand Secretary**

*Thomas A. Fourie #32, PGP*

**Business Manager**