

*Young Men's Institute*  
*Board of Grand Directors*  
*Meeting Minutes of July 25, 2020*

***Call to Order*** — Acting Chairman of the Board, Brother Steve Cresci #32, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

***Opening Prayer*** — the opening prayer was led by Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP, praying for all our Brothers during this time of the Covid-19 pandemic.

***Pledge of Allegiance*** — the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brother Bob Fiorito #613, GM.

***Acceptance of the Election Committee Report from the 135<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session***

***"Technology Based"*** — On behalf of the Election Committee from the 135<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session, Brother Bob Bartoli #32, PGP presented the voting results from the delegates, asked if there were any questions, hearing none, requested that a vote be taken to approve his report. The Board of Grand Directors approved the report unanimously, via the conference call, without any question. Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP, in accordance with past practice moved that the ballots be destroyed (in this unique year, this meant deleting the file). This motion was unanimously adopted, via conference call, without any question.

***Reciting of the Oath of Office by the 2020-2021 Grand Council Officers*** — Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP recited the oath of office and swore in all elected Grand Council Officers via the conference call, and all responded in a positive manner. These Brothers were now officially the Grand Council Officers for the 2020-2021 Grand Council year. The newly installed officers were roundly applauded.

***Roll Call*** — Brother Michael Dimech #613, GS, called the roll for all Grand Council Officers and District Deputy Grand Presidents as well as other Brothers in attendance. He found that the following Brothers were present:

Steve Cresci #32, GD

Jim Rohe #612, GD

Bill Avery #80, GD

**Domenic Carinalli #54, GD**  
**Alex Schmitt #8, GD and DDGP**  
**Paul Larson #32, GD**  
**Tommy Figueira #573, GD and DDGP**  
**Michael Amato #613, GP**  
**Nick Franceschine #54, GFVP**  
**Darrell Fonseca #99, GSVP and DDGP**  
**Michael Thissen #94, IPGP**  
**Michael Dimech #613, GS**  
**Jack Albrecht #1, GT**  
**Bob Fiorito #613, GM**  
**Cosmo Amato #613, GOS and DDGP**  
**Christopher McCann #8, GIS**  
**Frank DiMaggio #59, DDGP**  
**Phil Fondale #137, DDGP**  
**Stephen May #80, DDGP**  
**Tom Fourie, #32, PGP, Business Manager**  
**Bob Bartoli #32, PGP, Assistant to the Business Manager**

**The following Brothers were marked as either excused or absent:**

**Angel Vera #40, GD as excused**  
**Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, GC as excused (saying Mass at this time)**  
**Kurt Kuczynski #497, DDGP as excused**  
**Paul Flores #100, DDGP as absent**  
**Steve Ortiz #80, DDGP as absent**  
**Alex Preciado #2, DDGP as absent**  
**Bob Bacchetti #92, DDGP as absent**  
**Scott Vogelgesang #612, DDGP as absent**

*Special Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors for the 2020-2021 YMI year* – Brother Michael Dimech #613, GS requested nominations for the position of Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors. Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD was nominated by Brother Domenic Carinalli #54, GD and seconded by Brother Paul Larson #32, GD. There were no other nominations. Brother Dimech #613, GS asked for the vote on Brother Cresci's nomination and all Grand Directors voted unanimously for Br. Cresci #32, GD. Brother Michael Dimech #613, GS requested nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors for the 2020-2021 YMI year. Brother Domenic Carinalli #54, GD was nominated by Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD and seconded by all the other Grand Directors. There were no other nominations. Brother Dimech asked for the vote on Brother Carinalli's nomination and all Grand Directors voted unanimously for Br. Carinalli #54, GD. The two elected Brothers were vocally congratulated by all via the conference call.

*Approval of the Minutes from the Board of Grand Directors May 16, 2020 Meeting* – Chairman of the Board, Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the May 16, 2020 Board of Grand Directors meeting. There was no discussion at this time. Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD made the motion to accept the minutes of May 16, 2020 and Brother Tommy Figueira #573, GD seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously via conference call to accept the motion.

*Approval of the Minutes from the Board of Grand Directors Special Board Meeting June 13, 2020* – Chairman of the Board, Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the June 13, 2020 Special Meeting of the Board. There was no discussion at this time. Brother Domenic Carinalli #54, GD made the motion to accept the minutes of June 13, 2020 and Brother Jim Rohe #612, GD seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously via conference call to accept the motion.

*Approval of the Minutes from the 135<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session (from April 13, 2020 to June 27, 2020)* – Chairman of the Board Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the 135<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session. There was no discussion at this time. Brother Tommy Figueira #573, GD made the motion to accept the minutes of the 135<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session and Brother Bill Avery #80,

GD seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously via conference call to accept the motion.

*Communications* - Brother Michael Dimech #613, GS reported on the Sacred Heart Cathedral High School recent bulletin which announced that YMI Brother Father Alvin Yu #613 had been appointed as Chaplain to the High School and the issue also portrayed a picture of the group of students from the school who had participated and were winners in the St. John Bosco Council #613 recent essay contest.

Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP and Business Manager referred all Officers to the e-mail he had sent previously with communications received and distributed from the Grand Council Office. It included the following:

1. Council Bulletins received:
  - a. Council #1: June and July
  - b. Council #2: July
  - c. Council #8: July
  - d. Council #32: June and July
  - e. Council #40: June and July
  - f. Council #44: Yearly
  - g. Council #59: July
  - h. Council #573: July
  - i. Council #613: June and July
2. Death Benefit acknowledgement: Mrs. Elizabeth Mello for her husband Antone Mello #44/#93
3. Cover letter sent to Delegates with their copy of the Advance Proceedings
4. Copy of passed resolution for Father Armand Oliveri
5. Copy of now cancelled YMI Picnic for #613
6. Copy of flyer for #613's Mass and Reception scheduled for 9-12-2020
7. Copy of cover letter which accompanied checks to Seminarians
8. Copy of cover letter for Assessment #179
9. Copies of three documents to be sent with the Pro Patria Essay raffle bulk mailing
10. Two copies of the Catholic Voice (Oakland Diocese)
11. Two copies of the Catholic Herald (Sacramento Diocese)

One additional communication needed to have a vote from the Board of Grand Directors at this time. The Grand Council Office was in receipt of an envelope from Peacock Law Group in San Leandro, California. This envelope contained a check made payable to YMI in the amount of \$1000. This was a donation from the William and Frances Donovan Estate. Brother Donovan was a member of Oakland Council #6 and a Past Grand President. His wife Frances was a strong YLI member. As both individuals had passed away, the estate was now

distributing their assets according to their instructions. It was now appropriate that the Board of Grand Directors direct this donation to a YMI account. Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD, opened the discussion for input from all Grand Council Officers. There was a lengthy discussion among the Brothers and when all was said and done there were two suggestions made for the money – the YMI Reserve Fund or the Pro Patria Fund. A vote was held on each of these two possible accounts: the first vote taken was to consider having the monies deposited in the Reserve Fund, the vote of the Grand Directors for this designation was two in favor and four against. The vote for possible placement in the Pro Patria Fund was then taken and its results were five in favor and one against. A final motion was made by Brother Domenic Carinalli #54, GD and seconded by Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD to have the check deposited in the Pro Patria Fund account. The vote was taken and it passed by a final vote of 5-2.

*Reports of the Grand Treasurer* – Brother Jack Albrecht #1, GT, referred all the officers to the two reports dated July 23, 2020 that had been e-mailed the week prior to this meeting. He assumed that all Officers had received them and had an opportunity to review them. He asked if there were any questions, and hearing none, asked that a vote to accept the reports be taken. Brother Steve Cresci asked for a motion to accept the reports as presented. Brother Domenic Carinalli #54, GD made the motion to accept and Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously by the Board of Grand Directors.

*Assignment of Grand Directors to the Board of Grand Directors Committees for the year 2020-2021* – Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD reviewed the eight committees listed in the meeting agenda. Two Grand Directors as a minimum were to be assigned to each committee. As the committees were announced and Brothers assigned, Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP and Business Manager briefly reviewed what was expected of the committee's efforts in accordance with the Grand Council By-Laws. Other Grand Officers also added their expectations for this year.

- a. Charters/Archives: Brothers Paul Larson #32 and Steve Cresci #32 – serving as co-chairs
  - i. Brothers Tom Fourie, Bob Bartoli, and Michael Amato brought the officers up to date on the Archives at All Souls School. A cleaning effort had been accomplished recently and there had been a collection of Advance Proceedings going to back to 1952 located as well as Institute Journals for many years. The volumes of early Journals (back to the late 1800's) were not touched at this time for fear of destroying the pages. There was also several packets of

- closed Councils' banners and salutarories being kept on the shelves.
- ii. The information available from this committee will be most useful to the updating of the YMI history as requested by the new Grand President.
- b. Finance: Brothers Steve Cresci #32 as chair, Brother Paul Larson #32
    - i. This committee has the responsibility of signing off on the monthly bills of the YMI
  - c. Long Range Planning: Brother Alex Schmitt #8 as chair, Brother Tommy Figueira #573
    - i. Brother Michael Amato #613, GP emphasized to the members of this committee to breathe life into their work, especially the Junior YMI program which is part of the Grand President's program for this year
  - d. Council Activities: Brother Domenic Carinalli #54 as chair, Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Brother Angel Vera #40
    - i. This committee is to review all Council applications for sponsoring events where more than \$1500 in gross receipts will be received – all for insurance coverage
  - e. Insurance: Brother Steve Cresci #32 as chair, Brother Jim Rohe #612
    - i. Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager updated all Officers on the status of the current Liability Insurance Program for YMI. On June 18, 2020 the policy was renewed through Arthur Gallagher, Inc. in Los Angeles. The policy is held by Nova Insurance Co. All the updated paperwork was done on line with the aid of Ms. Sandra Atkinson of Arthur Gallagher. The total cost (which we paid in total) this year is \$9435.00. As soon as individual Certificates are sent to the Grand Council Office, copies will be made available to each Council.
  - f. Fund Raising: Br. Domenic Carinalli #54 as chair, Brother Steve Cresci #32, Brother Bill Avery #80, Br. Bob Fiorito #613, GM
    - i. Develop activities to raise monies for Grand Council
  - g. Supplies: Brother Alex Schmitt #8 as chair, Brother Paul Larson #32
  - h. Grand Council Session Planning: to be determined in September 2020

*Grand President's Report* – Grand President Michael Amato #613 had sent out an e-mail containing an outline for his report. All Officers should have received this report. His activities included but were not limited to the following:

- a. During the months of April, May and June, he worked with the Grand Council Session Planning Committee to formulate the virtual session.
- b. Participated in South San Francisco Council #32's Zoom Meeting on July 9, 2020.
- c. Led the July 14, 2020 meeting of St. John Bosco Council #613 via a teleconference call.
- d. Attended Sebastopol Council #54's BBQ in the vineyard meeting along with other Grand Council Officers on July 22, 2020.
- e. Plans to visit Santa Rosa Council #40 at an outdoor bocce ball in event in early September.
- f. Arranged for Brother Cosmo Amato #613, GOS and DDGP to present the YMI approved resolution honoring Fr. Armand Oliveri on his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday and long history of service as a Salesian priest and a YMI member. Photos are available and great response on Facebook.
- g. Presented Sebastopol Council #54 with the YMI Council of the Year Award for 2020 on July 22, 2020.
- h. Used the July 22, 2020 opportunity in Sebastopol to plan with Brothers Nick Franceschine #54, GFVP and Darrell Fonseca #99, GSVP for YMI Pro Patria and Pro Deo activities for the 2020-2021 year.

The Grand President highlighted his Program for the 2020-2010 year (all officers had been sent via e-mail a copy of his program). He spoke to his choice of following the way of St. John Bosco and his pillars of life. He asked all to read those pages in his program as these topics would be the outline of his comments when visiting Councils this year. He added several action items: review the history of the YMI and update the information since last published in 2000, active membership recruitment needed for each Council and practicing our religion outside of the Church walls, eg. volunteer at food kitchens, donate time at shelters.

The Grand President announced that the next Education Foundation meeting would be conducted via conference call on July 28, 2020 and likewise the next Seminarian Education Foundation meeting would take place on August 6, 2020. Please note that the Seminarian Education Foundation issued checks to 37 Seminarists this YMI year.

At this time the Grand President spoke directly to all the 2020-2021 District Deputy Grand Presidents who were participating in this Board Meeting. He thanked all of them, introduced them, reviewed their responsibilities and then

administered the Oath of Office to all of them. All accepted in a strong voice and were applauded for their commitment.

*Grand First Vice President's Report* – Brother Nick Franceschine #54 updated the Officers on the progress of the Pro Patria Essay Contest and corresponding Pro Patria Raffle. All the materials for the annual mailing have been produced and he is working on the plans to stuff the envelopes and send them out as bulk mail. He commented on the previous year's successful program and that much will remain the same, with a few changes to the structure of purchasing raffle tickets.

*Grand Second Vice President's Report* – Brother Darrell Fonseca #99 was proud to announce that the Red and White Mass for 2021 has been scheduled for Saturday, March 13, 2021 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Dos Palos, CA. Dos Palos Council #99 is looking forward to hosting both the Mass and Dinner to follow. Several officers suggested that work begin on securing bus transportation from Marin County and the Bay Area.

*Grand Secretary's Report/Business Manager's Report* – All Officers were once again asked to review these reports that were sent via e-mail prior to the Board Meeting.

The Grand Secretary highlighted the following for his report:

- a. Attended the June 13, 2020 Special Board Meeting and submitted his notes to the Business Manager.
- b. Reviewed the minutes from the 135<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session.
- c. Attended Council #613's July Business Meeting.
- d. Requested our Webmaster to update our YMI Website as follows:
  - i. Updated the Council of the Year section
  - ii. Updated the Grand Council Officers list for 2020-2021
  - iii. Update the In Memory section
  - iv. Updated the YMI Education Foundation Board of Directors
  - v. Updated the Past Grand Presidents section
  - vi. Requested that our approved Board Minutes be placed on the website
  - vii. Requested that this year's YMI Pro Patria Raffle results be placed on the website
  - viii. The Council new section has been updated with all the current versions of Council newsletters that have been received



- ix. The Events photo section has been updated with photos of the Presentation of the Council of the Year plaque from July 22, 2020
- x. Website updated with photo of Fr. Armand Oliveri receiving his YMI resolution

The Business Manager reviewed the work of the Grand Council Office since May 16, 2020 that was made available on the pre-sent e-mail.

- a. Prepared the May 16, 2020 Board Meeting minutes and e-mailed to all Officers
- b. Collected e-mail addresses for all Delegates to the Grand Council Session and provided them to the Election Committee
- c. Prepared YMI bills for May, June and July
- d. Collected all reports from Grand Council Officers, District Deputy Grand Presidents, and YMI Foundations to publish in the Advance Proceedings
- e. Prepared Advance Proceedings for the 135<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session and e-mailed them to 96 Delegates and mailed six to non-internet Delegates
- f. Submitted requests for Death Benefits to the Grand Treasurer, forwarded them to recipients
- g. Obtained necessary funds from investor of the YMI Seminarian Education Foundation
- h. Prepared 37 checks and letters, sent to sponsoring Councils for Seminarian awards
- i. Prepared resolution for Grand Council Session
- j. Sent out Agenda for June 13, 2020 Special Board Meeting
- k. Spent several days working through paperwork to renew YMI Liability Insurance Policy – June 18, 2020
- l. Participated in the June 13, 2020 Special Board Meeting
- m. Prepared agenda for July 25, 2020 Board of Grand Directors Meeting
- n. Ordered envelopes for Pro Patria mailing
- o. Prepared and mailed Assessment #179 to all Councils
- p. Sent Grand President Amato's Program for 2020-2021 to all Delegates
- q. E-mailed results of Grand Council voting to all Delegates
- r. Participated in two Zoom meetings for Council #32
- s. Helped to clean out YMI locker at All Souls School
- t. Organized archives of both YMI Advance Proceedings and Institute Journals
- u. Sent Grand Council Officers a list for editing
- v. Sent out June 13, 2020 Special Board Meeting minutes to Officers
- w. Prepared 6000 flyers for the Pro Patria mailing
- x. Updated browser for YMI computer – Google Chrome

- y. **Contacted (left message) at Montbleu Hotel for 2021 Grand Council Session**
- z. **Sent agenda to all officers for the July 25, 2020 Board Meeting**
- aa. **Sent out various reports for July 25, 2020 Board Meeting**
- bb. **Countless telephone calls and e-mails received – needing responses**
- cc. **Processed 10 Assessment #179 checks from Councils**

*Assignment of Grand Directors to Grand Council Committees* – In accordance with the Grand Council By-Laws a member of the Grand Council Board of Directors is to be assigned to each of the Grand Council Committees that are delineated in the Grand President's Program for 2020-2021. In the program, each committee chairman as chosen by the Grand President is listed along with the goals and objectives of each committee.

The following are the Board Appointments for 2020:

- Audit Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80, GD**
- Budget Committee – Br. Steve Cresci #32, GD**
- Reserve Committee – Br. Steve Cresci #32, GD**
- Coordinating Committee – Br. Alex Schmitt #8, GD**
- Ceremonials Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32, GD**
- Institute Journal Committee – Br. Jim Rohe #612, GD**
- Laws & Revisions Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80, GD**
- Man and Council of the Year Committee – Br. Domenic Carinalli, #54, GD**
- Membership Committee – Br. Steve Cresci #32, Br. Jim Rohe #612, GD**
- Organization Committee – Br. Tommy Figueira #573, GD**
- Resolutions Committee – Br. Angel Vera #40, GD**
- State of the Institute Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80, GD**
- Workshop Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32, GD**

Chairmen of the Sports Group of Committees were announced as follows:

**Bowling – no chairman as of this date**

**Bocce – Brother Michael Dimech #613**

**Golf – Brother Bob Fiorito #613**

*Unfinished Business –*

**The three Brothers who worked on the planning of the 135<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session gave the following report:**

- a. It was an unusual year...**
- b. All learned things as they went along...**
- c. A second e-mail address was created for YMI for voting....**
- d. It was overall a success, with some bumps along the way...**
- e. Br. Bob Bartoli and Lady Nancy did a great job on the election...**
- f. This was the largest delegate participation in many, many years...102 were listed in the Advance Proceedings...**
- g. Everyone should be thanked for turning in their reports almost on time....**

**Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager reviewed the whereabouts of Grand Council Officer regalias and asked for the following:**

- 1. Brother Thissen to mail his to Br. Amato**
- 2. Brother Amato to pass on his to Br. Franceschine (located at World Headquarters now)**
- 3. Brother Franceschine to mail his to Brother Fonseca**
- 4. Brother Dimech keeps his**
- 5. Brother Albrecht keeps his (have an extra one in the office)**
- 6. Fr. Agnel keeps his**
- 7. Brother Thissen to get a new one (PGP) and the pocket insignia (have in office)**
- 8. Br. Avery to mail his to Br. Fiorito**
- 9. Br. Wallin to have his sent to Br. Cosmo Amato**
- 10. Br. McCann keeps his**
- 11. Br. Fonseca sends his to Br. Schmitt (Fourie will do as he has it in the office)**
- 12. Br. DeVita sends his to Br. Larson (Fourie will do as he has it in the office)**
- 13. Br. Fiorito sends his to Br. Avery (Fourie will do as he has it in the office)**
- 14. Br. Carinalli keeps his**
- 15. Br. Vera keeps his**
- 16. Br. Rohe keeps his**

17. Br. Cresci keeps his
18. Br. Matt Nelson to have his sent to Br. Figueira

Brother Fourie reminded the DDGP that their regalia is a pocket insignia....what we know

1. Br. Schmitt should have one?
2. Br. DiMaggio wears his PGP regalia
3. Br. Fondale should have both
4. Br. Figueira - anything still in Hawaii from Wendell Serrao or Jimmy Sousa?
5. Br. Vogelgesang – should have his
6. Br. Kuczynski – will have to get him one
7. Br. Bacchetti – will have to get him one
8. Br. Cosmo Amato – has one, now he will have two different ones
9. Br. Preciado – should have one
10. Br. May – should have one
11. Br. Ortiz – needs one, from Br. Luther??
12. Br. Fonseca – uses his GSVP
13. Br. Flores – needs one

*New Business* – the following topics were briefly covered due to the length of the meeting.

1. It would appear that the Bocce Ball Tournament will possibly be cancelled due to the pandemic. Council #613 is not planning on participating in the Italian American Heritage Parade in San Francisco due to the pandemic.
2. Calendar dates for Grand Council activities have been listed throughout these minutes, however, changes should occur therefore e-mails and website postings will be used for notification.
3. The Grand President is working with the District Deputy Grand Presidents to do whatever is possible for Council visitations. September could be a visit to Santa Rosa #40.
4. Any others will have to wait and see.
5. Future Grand Council Board of Directors Meetings set for September 19, 2020, November 14, 2020, January 23, 2021, March 20, 2021 and May 15, 2021.
6. The future for Grand Council #900. The Advance Proceedings document reports over 200 Brothers as members of Council #900. Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP and Business Manager briefly reviewed the history of this Council, where its members originated (closed Councils), their

status within the YMI and most importantly the collection of dues from these Brothers. Several of the Closed Councils (Oakland #6, Petaluma #9, Marin #10, Junipero Serra #14, Vinyes #16, Lawrence #26, San Leandro #49, Father Luis Jayme #65, Livermore #75, Hayward #76, Centennial #83, Santa Clara #84, St. Anthony de Padua #86, Manteca #88, Gustine #94, Sacred Heart #101, Diablo Valley #111, Winward – Oahu #564, Burke #609, and Cabrilho #614) made arrangements with Grand Council to provide funding for their Brothers' dues with Council #900. However, all those funds have been expended. Many members of #900 are paying their dues to Grand Council (\$50 per year) yet many now will have to pay directly. The Business Manager plans to notify all the members of #900 and inform them that if they wish to remain in the YMI as a Benefit Member (that is the status of all of them), they will have to submit dues of \$50 per year. A deadline date is planned for October 1, 2020. For those Brothers who do not respond, they will be dropped from the YMI.

7. Planning for the 136<sup>th</sup> and 137<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session is still an unknown at this time. Hotels are not taking reservations for groups for 2021 as of yet.

*Immediate Past Grand President's Report* – Brother Michael Thissen #94, IPGP, gave his farewell speech at this point in the meeting. He basically thanked everyone who assisted him this last year, those who accompanied him on his many visits, the work of all the Grand Council Officers and he wished the new Officers well in their work. He promised to continue to supply the YMI with fresh produce from his garden in the Valley. He was thanked by all present on the conference call.

*Grand Chaplain's Report* – Father Agnel was saying Mass during this meeting, however, he did say he was praying for all of us.

*Good of the Order* – already covered in the above minutes

*Closing Prayer* – Br. Bill Avery #80, GD

*Adjournment – 11:15 a.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Br. Michael Dimech, #613, GS, PGP*

*Br. Thomas Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager*