

Young Men's Institute
Board of Grand Directors
Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2020

Call to Order — Chairman of the Board, Brother Steve Cresci #32, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Opening Prayer — The opening prayer was led by Father Agnel De Heredia #32, GC, praying for all our Brothers during this time of the Covid-19 pandemic and especially the members of the YMI who had died recently as well as their family members.

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

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
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
Rev. Angel De Heredia #32, GC
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

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:

Domenic Carinalli #54, GD as excused

Angel Vera #40, GD as excused

Kurt Kuczynski #497, DDGP as absent

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

Approval of the Minutes from the Board of Grand Directors July 25, 2020 Meeting –

Chairman of the Board, Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the July 25, 2020 Board of Grand Directors meeting. There was no discussion at this time. Brother Paul Larson #32 GD made the motion to accept the minutes of July 25, 2020 and Brother Jim Rohe #612, GD seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously via conference call to accept the motion.

Communications - **Brother Michael Dimech #613, GS did not have any specific communications to report at this time.**

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: September
 - b. Council #2: September
 - c. Council #8: September
 - d. Council #32: August & September
 - e. Council #40: August & September
 - f. Council #613: August & September
2. Cover Letters sent with Grand Council mailings:
- a. Copies of State and Federal Tax filings 2019-2020
 - b. Certificates of Liability Insurance
 - c. Cover letter for Semi-Annual Report (9/30/2020)
 - d. Cover letter for Assessment #180 (10/1/2020)
 - e. Letter to Brothers of Council #900 (see Unfinished Business)
3. Updated list of Council addresses, phone numbers and contact Brothers
4. Hanover Response to California Bulletin 2020-3 (see Insurance Report)
5. Publications
- a. Voice of the YLI
 - b. One copy of the Catholic Herald
 - c. Two copies of the Catholic Voice

Brother Fourie took this opportunity to remind all present that Communications within Councils is of the utmost concern for the YMI at this time. Councils are not meeting in person, and many are not meeting at all. Several are using Zoom Meetings to keep things together. Electronic communications are the tools we have and must use for all our current business needs (monthly meetings, announcements, Pro Patria Essay & Raffle, etc.) Only some Councils (#1, #2, #8, #32, #40, #44, #59, #497 #573 and #613) have monthly bulletins or quarterly bulletins or a yearly bulletin.

Reports of the Grand Treasurer – Brother Jack Albrecht #1, GT, referred all the officers to the two reports dated August 21, 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 answered the question put forth by Br. Steve Cresci #32, GD. Brother Steve Cresci asked for a motion to accept the reports as presented. Brother Steve

Cresci #32, GD made the motion to accept and Brother Jim Rohe #612, GD seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously by the Board of Grand Directors.

The Grand Treasurer was asked at this time to bring the Board of Grand Directors up to date on the balances of the various reserve funds. He did so and was thanked by the Chairman of the Board.

Reports 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.

- a. **Charters/Archives: Brothers Paul Larson #32 and Steve Cresci #32 – serving as co-chairs**
 - i. The co-chairs brought up the topic of finding an electronic means to save all the Advance Proceedings and Institute Journal that were in the locker at All Souls School. A discussion followed which included: past efforts for this type of project, current technologies, cost, and a timeline. The committee chairs will receive a list of names from the Grand Treasurer to begin their research of possible vendors. When information becomes available, all Board members will be advised and it will become a topic of discussion at the November 14, 2020 Board Meeting.
 - ii. Again, the information available from this committee will be most useful to the updating of the YMI history as requested by the Grand President.
- b. **Finance: Brothers Steve Cresci #32 as chair, Brother Paul Larson #32**
 - i. This committee reports that all the YMI bills have been paid and signed off.
- c. **Long Range Planning: Brother Alex Schmitt #8 as chair, Brother Tommy Figueira #573**
 - i. Brother Schmitt #8, GD reported that he would be contacting Br. Matt Nelson #80 for the template of the plan from last year and assured those present the Junior YMI would be part of this year's plan.
- d. **Council Activities: Brother Domenic Carinalli #54 as chair, Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Brother Angel Vera #40**
 - i. Brother Fourie reported that no Council had submitted plans for activities needing Grand Council knowledge at this time.
- e. **Insurance: Brother Steve Cresci #32 as chair, Brother Jim Rohe #612**

- i. Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager read a letter from Hanover Insurance Co. which detailed a refund that was being sent to YMI covering some of the months of our Liability Insurance Policy as governed by Nova Insurance thru the Arthur Gallagher, Co. This refund was in answer to a bulletin issued by the State of California in light of Covid-19. The check was deposited as income to our Insurance line item in the Grand Council Budget.**
- f. Fund Raising: Br. Domenic Carinalli #54 as chair, Brother Steve Cresci #32, Brother Bill Avery #80, Br. Bob Fiorito #613, GM**
 - i. No fund raising events are presently being planned. The Pasta/Bingo Dinner has been cancelled for this November, and hopefully will return when it is safe.**
- g. Supplies: Brother Alex Schmitt #8 as chair, Brother Paul Larson #32**
 - i. There has been no change since the last report on July 25, 2020.**
- h. Grand Council Session Planning: to be determined in September 2020 based on determination of when and where the 136th Grand Council Session will take place.**

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. He reported on the virtual awarding of the YMI Man of the Year Award to Brother Paul Larson #32, GD during a Zoom meeting for South San Francisco #32. He thanked Brother Bob Fiorito for going to the home of Brother Larson and presenting the plaque in front of Brother Paul's family. It was very special.**
- b. He referenced his attempt to attend Zoom Business meetings for various Councils as plans for in-person visits are still not finalized. He did also send a report to all the Officers of his attempts to contact the other Grand Officers as well as specific Councils to visit.**
- c. He did participate via conference call in both the Education Foundation Meeting and the Seminarian Foundation Meeting. The two Foundations basically re-elected their Officers for another year with a few minor changes.**
- d. The Grand President recognized all the YMI Brothers and their families who had been so supportive during the past few weeks given the deaths within the Amato family as well as other YMI relatives. It has been a difficult time for all, however, all the**

prayers and good thoughts prayed and sent were extremely helpful at this time.

Grand First Vice President's Report – Brother Nick Franceschine #54, GFVP updated the Officers on the progress of the Pro Patria Essay Contest and corresponding Pro Patria Raffle. The bulk mailing to all Brothers had been sent out containing the Essay Entry Form and the Pro Patria Raffle tickets. In addition the letters to the YLI have been sent and the request for Council Participation letters will go out in a few days. He will be contacting all the District Deputy Grand Presidents to work with their respective Councils to promote the Essay in all local schools, YMI family members, etc. and then to push the sale of the raffle tickets.

Grand Second Vice President's Report – Brother Darrell Fonseca #99, GSVP was proud to continue his announcement 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. He also mentioned that he has participated on Zoom calls to Councils in lieu of in-person visits. His most recent one was with San Jose Council #2.

Grand Secretary's Report - The Grand Secretary highlighted the following for his report:

- a. Attended Council #613's August and September Business Meetings.
- b. Started to take a look at revising the YMI History documents.
- c. He will also have the Webmaster place information for additional raffle tickets on the website.
- d. Requested our Webmaster to update our YMI Website as follows:
 - i. Council newsletters received from Council #613, #40, #32, #8, #2, #573, and #59 have been uploaded onto the YMI Website
 - ii. The YMI Council Directory was updated on the website
 - iii. The Seminarian Educational Foundation Board of Directors was updated on the website
 - iv. The April 28, 2020 Educational Foundation minutes have been placed on the website
 - v. The updated version of the YMI Grand Council By-Laws have been placed on the website

- vi. The Man of the Year section was updated and placed on the website
- vii. The Summer/Fall edition of the Lamp Post was placed on the website
- viii. The May 16, 2020 Board meeting minutes were placed on the website
- ix. The minutes from the 135th Grand Council Session were placed on the website
- x. A picture of the 2020 YMI Man of the Year, Br. Paul Larson was also placed on the website
- xi. The 2020 Essay contest form was also placed on the website earlier this week

Business Manager Report - The Business Manager reviewed the work of the Grand Council Office since July 25, 2020 that was made available on the pre-sent e-mail.

- a. Delivered Council Bulletins to the Grand Secretary for Webpage posting
- b. Attended Education Foundation Meeting on 07-28-2020 via conference call
- c. Prepared and sent Seminarian Education Foundation's Treasurer Report
- d. Attended Seminarian Education Foundation Meeting on 08-06-2020 via conference call
- e. E-mailed the minutes of the 135th Grand Council Session to all delegates
- f. Filed Council IRS tax forms electronically
- g. Filed California Franchise Tax Board tax forms electronically
- h. Mailed Councils copies of their tax filings
- i. Contacted Peacock Law Group to rewrite check for Education Foundation (still in progress)
- j. Worked on providing correct regalias to Grand Council Officers
- k. Prepared and e-mailed new Council Data List to all Officers
- l. Prepared the next issue of the Institute Journal, then e-mailed Councils
- m. Copied and sent Certificates of Liability Insurance to Councils
- n. Attended two Zoom meetings for South San Francisco Council #32 meetings
- o. Drove to Sebastopol to deliver envelopes and flyers for stuffing to mail Pro Patria Essay and Raffle tickets
- p. Prepared August bills for YMI
- q. Drove to Sebastopol to pick up completed envelopes for Pro Patria mailing
- r. Printed and affixed bulk mailing labels to 1959 envelopes, separated into trays for bulk mailing and delivered them to the Post Office

- s. Began preparations for September 1, 2020 Audit/Training Class at Santa Rosa Council #40 (later cancelled due to illness)
- t. Assisted Br. Cresci with Board Meeting Agenda and then e-mailed copy to Officers
- u. Prepared letter and envelopes for Council #900 Brothers (Unfinished Business)
- v. Prepared mailing for YLI – Pro Patria Raffle
- w. Prepared mailing for Assessment #180
- x. Prepared mailing for Semi Annual Reports
- y. Replaced drum in copy machine (must order now)
- z. **Throughout this entire time period, there were countless (daily) trips to the San Francisco Airport Post office, drop-offs at the homes of Brs. Amato, Albrecht, and Bartoli, daily recording of raffle returns, phone calls and e-mails on all subjects, etc.

Grand Directors Reports from Grand Council Committees – Br. Cresci requested reports from Grand Directors on the following committees:

Audit Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80, GD: Br. Darrell Fonseca #99, GSVP spoke to the plan to have an audit/class for Santa Rosa Council #40 at the Council's request, but unfortunately, the illness of Br. Angel Vera has postponed this event. Try to reschedule in the immediate future.

Budget Committee – Br. Steve Cresci #32, GD: This committee will hold its first meeting of the year in January 2021.

Reserve Committee – Br. Steve Cresci #32, GD: Brother Albrecht gave his report previously during the meeting.

Coordinating Committee – Br. Alex Schmitt #8, GD: There was nothing to add at this time.

Ceremonials Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32, GD: There was nothing to add at this time.

Institute Journal Committee – Br. Jim Rohe #612, GD: Brother Fourie #32, PGP and Journal Editor announced as published that the next issue will be out in November, 2020. Please have all articles submitted in a timely fashion.

Laws & Revisions Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80, GD: Nothing to report at this time.

Man and Council of the Year Committee – Br. Domenic Carinalli, #54, GD: Nothing to report at this time, except the nomination process needs to be advertised in the Fall/Winter issue of the Institute Journal.

Membership Committee – Br. Steve Cresci #32, Br. Jim Rohe #612, GD: An e-mail containing the minutes of the most recent Membership Committee Meeting was distributed by Br. Cresci. It was acknowledged that it is difficult to bring in new members at the present time, however all should be prepared to work hard as soon as the Covid-19 restrictions are removed. Each Council should have a Membership Committee which is meeting now to prepare. The minutes from the last meeting had many good ideas to explore and should be reviewed by each Council.

Organization Committee – Br. Tommy Figueira #573, GD: Nothing to report at this time.

Resolutions Committee – Br. Angel Vera #40, GD: Nothing to report at this time.

State of the Institute Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80, GD: Brother Thissen #94 IPGP reported he had received one suggestion for next year thus far. He will need to get an article in the Journal in November seeking other entries and then have his Committee meet to make decisions.

Workshop Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32, GD: Nothing to report at this time.

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

Bowling – no chairman as of this date

Bocce – Brother Michael Dimech #613 - postponed

Golf – Brother Bob Fiorito #613 – will not make reservations until a later date.

Unfinished Business –

Brother Fourie #32, PGP and Business Manager read the letter sent to Council #900 Brothers concerning their future membership in the YMI. This action was discussed at the July 25, 2020 Board Meeting. Over 150 letters were hand addressed and sent to the addresses that were on file. This was done on September 3, 2020. Brother Fourie summarized the responses thus far:

- a. Those who called the Grand Council Office were happy to receive the letter and were going to send in their dues.
- b. Several families reported that the Brother in question had passed away during the past fifteen years, and the Grand Council Office was never notified. This prompted paperwork with regard to the Death Benefit, etc., however, it is a way to clean up the rolls.

- c. Several Brothers thought that since they were 50 year members, they did not have to pay dues.....??? Had to inform them that this practice was a Council practice only and not a YMI Grand Council Practice...they will send in their checks.
- d. Many of the addresses were incorrect and they are now being updated.
- e. All #900 Brothers have until October 31, 2020 to respond
- f. A more complete report will be presented during the November Board Meeting.

New Business – the following topic was briefly covered

Brother Fourie read part of a letter received from Brother John West #32, PGP. He had specific concerns with the Brothers of Council #5, according to one of the Brothers in the Council who is his friend. Brother West was asking that Grand Council appoint a Grand Officer to look into the workings of Council #5. Brother Michael Amato said he would look into this matter together with the District Deputy Grand President for that region.

Immediate Past Grand President's Report – Brother Michael Thissen #94, IPGP, continued to remind all of the State of the Institute process.

Grand Chaplain's Report – Father Agnel thanked several Grand Officers for all their work during this difficult time. He thanked Br. Cresci for setting up the Zoom call for the Board Meeting. He thanked Brother Tom Fourie and Brother Bob Bartoli for looking after the YMI in general during these past months. He commented on how all Brothers should be looking after their families and other YMI Brothers. He commented on the number of deaths in our ranks and was saying Mass for all of them at his Church. He also sent a flyer from the Archbishop of San Francisco to the Grand President which was an announcement of a March in San Francisco to open up the Catholic Churches for Mass. There was a petition attached to the letter. He concluded with more thanks for all the work that the YMI does for each other. He also thanked Br. Fonseca for the information from the pastor of the Church where the Red and White Mass is scheduled to be held next Spring.

Good of the Order – the next Board meeting will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2020 via a Zoom call. Council #54 is meeting in the backyard of Brother Nick Franceschine – an open air environment and working well. Brother Angel Vera is recovering at home now.

Closing Prayer – Father Agnel #32, GC gave the Benediction.

Adjournment – 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Br. Michael Dimech, #613, GS, PGP

Br. Thomas Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager