

Young Men's Institute
Board of Grand Directors
Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2021

Call to Order — Chairman of the Board, Brother Steve Cresci #32, called the meeting to order at 9:03 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
Domenic Carinalli #54, GD
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

Frank DiMaggio #59, DDGP

Bob Bartoli #32, PGP, Assistant to the Business Manager

The following Brothers were marked as either excused or absent:

Tom Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager as excused

Angel Vera #40, GD as unexcused

Christopher McCann #8, Grand Inside Sentinel as unexcused

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 November 14, 2020 Meeting

— Chairman of the Board, Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the November 14, 2020 Board of Grand Directors meeting. There was no discussion at this time. Brother Domenic Carinalli #54, GD made the motion to accept the minutes of November 14, 2020 and Father Agnel De Heredia #32, GC 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. He referred all the Officers to the e-mail previously sent by Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP and Business Manager and read the following:

1. Council Bulletins received:
 - a. Council #1: December 2020

- b. Council #8: December 2020 and January 2021
 - c. Council #32: December 2020 and January 2021
 - d. Council #40: December 2020
 - e. Council #59: January 2021
 - f. Council #573: November and December 2020, January 2021
 - g. Council #613: December 2020 and January 2021
2. Copy of letter sent to Bakersfield Council #100 by the Grand Secretary, regarding their suspension.
 3. Thank you letter from the SEEDS program in the Stockton Diocese for our contribution.
 4. Br. Nick Franceschine's research articles on St. Joseph.
 5. One copy of the Catholic Herald.
 6. Two copies of the Catholic Voice.

Reports of the Grand Treasurer – Brother Jack Albrecht #1, GT, referred all the officers to the two reports dated January 20, 2021 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 heard none. 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 Bob Fiorito #613, GM seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously by the Board of Grand Directors.

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. There was nothing to report at this time.
- b. Finance: Brothers Steve Cresci #32 as chair, Brother Paul Larson #32
 - i. This committee reports that all the YMI bills have been paid, signed off and returned to the Grand Council Office.
- c. Long Range Planning: Brother Alex Schmitt #8 as chair, Brother Tommy Figueira #573
 - i. Brother Schmitt #8, GD reported that he had sent out a draft prior to the November 14, 2020 Board of Grand Directors Meeting.
- 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. However, several Officers chimed in on how different Councils are presently meeting: Council #54 has had lunch time – outdoor meetings and meeting in person safely; Council #573 meets in person with their wives added, following Sunday Masses; Council #80 is doing ZOOM meetings using a Wild Orchid Software website; Council #2 is also using ZOOM meetings and several other Councils are also meeting using ZOOM software.
- e. Insurance: Brother Steve Cresci #32 as chair, Brother Jim Rohe #612
 - i. There was nothing to report at this time.
- f. Supplies: Brother Alex Schmitt #8 as chair, Brother Paul Larson #32
 - i. There was nothing to report.
- g. Grand Council Session Planning: On behalf of the Committee, Grand President Michael Amato #613 reported that some preliminary research had been done on the two sites, South Lake Tahoe and Reno, Nevada. Both sites are under the restrictions placed by the Governor of Nevada and as such are not taking reservations for groups at this time. We will need to postpone a decision on this topic until March 2021.

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 Council meetings he had participated in including San Jose Council #2 and that he plans to do the same with South San Francisco Council #31 on February 13, 2021 and Francis Council #573 in Hawaii on February 21, 2021. He is working on the planning stages for possible official visits to Sadoc Council #59 and Holy Rosary Council #44 over the next few months, pending public health restrictions.
- b. He referenced his participation on a conference call for the Education Foundation on October 27, 2020. He reported the approval of the YMI Matching Fund Program for 2021 (\$800 yields \$1600). Their next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2021.
- c. He did participate via conference call on November 11, 2020 with the Seminarian Education Foundation. The Foundation is on track to award seminarian grants in the Spring of 2021. Their next meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2021.
- d. The Grand President sent e-mails inviting several San Francisco Catholic Schools (Sacred Heart Cathedral, Riordan High School,

St. Thomas More and Sts. Peter & Paul) to participate in the Pro Patria Essay Contest; coordinated with the Grand Second Vice President for a possible bus chartered to Dos Palos for the Red & White Mass; supported the Grand First Vice President by promoting Pro Patria raffle ticket sales; worked with the Convention Planning Committee; welcomed five YMI Brothers from the closed San Francisco Council #1 into St. John Bosco Council #613; participated in South San Francisco's Council #32 Trivia Fundraiser on January 21, 2021 organized by Br. Steve Cresci #32; attended the Grand Council Membership meeting in December and noted that May will be designated as Membership Recruiting Month for the YMI.

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. He noted that the Business Manager had provided a detailed report on the raffle in his recent e-mail for this meeting. \$11,905.00 in ticket sales had been received by January 15, 2021 (9 Councils have purchased their tickets, 26 YLI Institutes have bought tickets and 173 YMI Brothers representing 9.96% of the total membership have submitted their tickets). Brother Nick reminded the Officers that the costs for this effort totaled \$12,500 and it appears by March we will be able to meet that goal. Also he reported that the deadline for submitting essays had been extended to January 31, 2021 due to the difficulty schools were having in contacting students due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The winners for the Pro Patria Raffle will be chosen and announced during the March Board of Grand Directors Meeting.

Grand Second Vice President's Report – Brother Darrell Fonseca #99, GSVP continued 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. However, if we still plan to have it on that day it would have to be held outdoors. He has spoken to Brother Tom Fourie, Brother Mike Amato and Father Agnel about the present situation. There was general uncertainty given the present Pandemic. He would therefore like to postpone the event at this time. He listed the following information in contemplating moving the date:

- a. He needs 45-60 days to prepare and host the Red and White Mass
- b. We could consider a virtual Mass as mentioned by Brother Steve Cresci. Father Agnel thought this would be doable, with a possible streaming of the Mass from Father Agnel's Parish Church (St. John's) in San

Francisco. Brother Fonseca also said the Mass could be live streamed from his parish in Dos Palos. Brother Tommy Figueira would like the virtual Mass so his Brothers in Hawaii could attend.

Given the discussion, the final decision on the Red and White Mass for this year will be made at the March 20, 2021 Board of Grand Directors Meeting.

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

- a. Council newsletters received from Councils #2, #32 and #613 have been uploaded onto the YMI Website.
- b. He sent a letter to Bakersfield Council #100 notifying them that their Council had again been suspended for not submitting Semi-Annual Reports, membership lists, and paying past Assessments. His letter pointed out that the Grand Council had decided that per Article VII, Section 3 and Section 8 of the YMI's Grand Council By-Laws, Council #100 shall be suspended. He noted in his letter that Council #100 could appeal their suspension and was informed to contact the Grand Council Office by January 1, 2021 if it was their intent to appeal. The Council did not contact the Grand Council Office. However, on the evening of January 22, 2021 an e-mail was received by the Grand President and the Business Manager that a group of Brothers in #100 wanted to continue in the YMI.

A discussion followed among the Board members on Council #100's situation. At the conclusion of the discussion the following motion was made and voted upon.

MSC – Carinalli/Schmitt - unanimous – that the Board of Grand Directors would wait until March 1, 2021 for the receipt of Council #100's owed Semi-Annual Reports, Lists, and Assessments to clear up their status as a suspended Council.

- c. The Grand Secretary participated in Council #32's Trivia Contest and virtually attended Council #613's December and January Business meetings.
- d. As reported at the November Board Meeting, he had written a letter to a death benefit beneficiary who believed she was entitled to \$10,000 as a death benefit for her deceased husband. Although hoping that the issue was resolved, she responded with another five page hand written

- letter. She continues to bring up that on June 15, 2011, after being a member for 50 years in the YMI, her husband was advised to no longer pay Council dues and was entitled to a death benefit of \$10,000. The Grand Secretary will not be sending her another letter and it would be up to Grand Council to take any further action. The Board had a discussion on this topic and would not take any action at this time. The final letter sent was the end of it.
- e. The Grand Secretary reported that he is continuing to work on updating the history section of the YMI website and he is thankful for the information that some of our Brothers have shared.

Business Manager Report - The Business Manager reviewed the work of the Grand Council Office since November 14, 2020 that was made available on the pre-sent e-mail.

- a. Assisted Officers of San Francisco Council #1 in the closing of their Council
- b. Processed Death Benefit claims thru the office of the Grand Treasurer
- c. Prepared and sent the next issue of the Institute Journal which listed #900 members
- d. Prepared and mailed Assessment #181 to all Councils
- e. Participated in monthly Zoom meetings of South San Francisco Council #32
- f. Collected and recorded the sale of Pro Patria Raffle tickets
- g. Began the collection of the Pro Patria Essays due January 15, 2021.
**Additional time has been extended to teachers and students due to COVID 19.
- h. Prepared YMI bills for December 2020 and January 2021
- i. Handled phone calls, e-mails and US mail on behalf of Grand Council
- j. Met with members of the Grand Council Session Planning Committee (report coming later in this meeting)
- k. Sent out Board Meeting Minutes from November 14, 2020
- l. Continued to process Council #900 returns (see more info below)
- m. Still awaiting on Council #100 and #40's returns

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: Nothing to report at this time.

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 and the Officers were appreciative.

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

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

Institute Journal Committee – Br. Jim Rohe #612, GD: Brother Fourie #32, PGP and Journal Editor: the previous issue went out electronically and so will all future ones.

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.

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. May is YMI Recruitment Month. Father Agnel commented that it is nice to have continued activities to encourage membership, like Bocce Ball and virtual Masses. Everyone needs to encourage membership and engage older Brothers to work within their family network.

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. Nothing else has been received. Deadline for submission is March 1, 2021.

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 – no tournaments can be scheduled at this time. Looks like we will have to cancel the tournament this year. The Grand Directors concur to cancel this year's tournament.

Unfinished Business –

Brother Fourie #32, PGP and Business Manager sent a written report on the status of Council #900. The Grand President reviewed the report and reminds all that those who did not respond will be dropped in the near future. So far it looks like a minimum of 40 names will be taken off the roll. A few Brothers from this group did receive a death benefit when the family contacted the Office (they had died many years ago). All future deaths from this group, when made known, will be handled on a case by case basis. The members of Council #900 need to be contacted once or twice a year. The Business Manager is to send out a dues letter each year to each member requesting their payment (\$50).

Brother Jack Albrecht #1/#32, GT provided a report on the closure of San Francisco Council #1. Their interested members transferred to South San Francisco Council #32, St. John Bosco Council #613 and Sadoc Council #59 as well as some went to Council #900. Their closure was due to issues with Notre Dame Victories Church meeting dates and times, etc.

New Business – there was none presented.

Immediate Past Grand President's Report – Brother Michael Thissen #94, IPGP, reported that his Council had lost four Brothers recently (some related to COVID 19). His Council will try to set up ZOOM meetings.

Grand Chaplain's Report – Father Agnel reported that he is saying a Mass for all those individuals affected by COVID 19. The Mass is today at St. John the Evangelist Church in San Francisco. It can be watched any time today. Father will provide the link through an e-mail today.

Father announced that there will be a Walk For Life/Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral and that a novena Mass has been said for respect of life in every parish in the Archdiocese.

Good of the Order —

Brother Darrell announced that the mother of the Buffalo Bills Quarterback, Josh Allen, is a parishioner at his Church.

The next Board meeting is set for March 20, 2021 via a Zoom call.

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

Adjournment — 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Br. Michael Dimech, #613, GS, PGP

Br. Thomas Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager