

Young Men's Institute
Board of Grand Directors
Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2021

Call to Order — Brother Bill Avery #80, GD and Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Opening Prayer — The opening prayer was led by Brother Steve Cresci #32, GSVP, asking for God's blessings on all Brothers present, those Brothers who are ill and a return to some form of normalcy in the practicing of our faith with special recognition of our Veterans who have served our country.

Pledge of Allegiance — the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP and Business Manager, in place of Brother Bob Fiorito #613, Grand Marshal who was absent.

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:

Eugene Espinola #94, GD and DDGP

Bill Avery #80, GD

Alex Schmitt #8, GD and DDGP

Tommy Figueira #573, GD and DDGP

Frank Hepburn #2, PGP, GD

Bill McNeany #40, GD

Nick Franceschine #54, GP

Darrell Fonseca #99, GFVP

Steve Cresci #32, GSVP

Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, GC (joined after Mass)

Michael Dimech #613, PGP, GS

Jack Albrecht #1, GT

Domenic Carinalli #54, GOS

Alex Preciado #2, DDGP

Tom Fourie, #32, PGP, Business Manager

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

Frank DiMaggio #59, PGP, DDGP

Paul Flores #100, DDGP

The following Brothers were marked as either excused or absent:

Jim Rohe #612, GD as excused

Paul Larson #32, GD as excused

Michael Amato #613, IPGP as excused

Cosmo Amato #613, GIS and DDGP as excused

Bob Fiorito #613, GM as excused

Phil Fondale #137, DDGP as absent

Clement Gusman #573, DDGP as excused

Steve Ortiz #80, DDGP as absent

Stephen May #900, DDGP as absent

Scott Vogelgesang #612, DDGP as absent

Approval of the Minutes from the Board of Grand Directors September 18, 2021

Meeting – Chairman of the Board, Brother Bill Avery #80, Grand Director asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the September 18, 2021 Board of Grand Directors meeting. Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD, DDGP noted a correction was needed on the top of page 4 for spelling. This correction was accepted and made. Bill McNeany #40, GD made the motion to accept the minutes of September 18, 2021 as amended and it was seconded by Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD and DDGP. The Board voted to unanimously accept the amended minutes from September 18, 2021.

Communications - Brother Michael Dimech #613, Past Grand President, Grand Secretary reported on an e-mail he received from a scam operation outside of this country asking for money to use certain images on our website. The request was put aside.

Brother Tom Fourie #32, Past Grand President 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. American Council #8: October**
 - b. South San Francisco Council #32: October and November**
 - c. Santa Rosa Council #40: October and November**
 - d. Francis Council #573: September and October**
 - e. St. John Bosco Council #613: November**
- 2. Capital One Business Letter to Brother Frank Lima.**
- 3. Father Agnel's letter to all YMI Brothers.**
- 4. Unique e-mail from Maryland – original YMI Council in that state.**
- 5. Copy of Grand Secretary's letter to Council #100.**
- 6. Copy of cover letter sent to Council #900 members requesting their dues.**
- 7. Acknowledgement letter from Education Foundation for the memorial for Keith Woodcock.**
- 8. Cover letter sent to Councils with Assessment #184.**
- 9. Cover letter sent to Councils with the SAR.**
- 10. Copy of the Catholic Herald – Sacramento Diocese.**
- 11. Copy of "Voice of YLI" – Convention issue.**
- 12. Two copies of the Catholic Voice – Diocese of Oakland.**

Reports of the Grand Treasurer – Brother Jack Albrecht #32, Grand Treasurer, referred all the officers to the reports dated October 20, 2021 that had been e-mailed the week prior to this meeting. He assumed that all Officers had received it and had an opportunity to review the report. He asked if there were any questions, and hearing none, asked that a vote to accept the report be taken. Brother Bill Avery #80, Grand Director asked for a motion to accept the report as presented. Brother Michael Dimech #613, Grand Secretary, made the motion to accept and Brother Eugene Espinola #94, Grand Director, seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously by the Board of Grand Directors.

Brother Albrecht gave a summary report of our reserves and all was well.

Reports of the Grand Directors Committees for the year 2021-2022 – Brother Bill Avery #80, Grand Director, asked for the Grand Directors to report on their committee work since the last Board meeting.

- a. Charters/Archives: Brothers Paul Larson #32, Bill Avery #80 and Eugene Espinola #94 – there was nothing to report at this time.**

- b. Finance: Brothers Paul Larson #32, Frank Hepburn #2, Past Grand President, and Alex Schmitt #8 – referred their report to the Grand Treasurer’s report. All bills had been paid. There was nothing else to report.
- c. Long Range Planning: Brothers Alex Schmitt #8, Tommy Figueira #573, Frank Hepburn #2, Past Grand President, and Bill McNeany #40 – there was nothing to report.
- d. Council Activities: Brothers Jim Rohe #612, Eugene Espinola #94 and Bill Avery #80 – the only activities to be mentioned were the Official Visits by the Chair Officers.
- e. Insurance: Brother Paul Larson #32 – the Liability Insurance for this current YMI year has been paid in full.
- f. Fund Raising: Brothers Bill Avery #80 and Eugene Espinola #94 – nothing to report at this time except for the on-going Pro Patria Raffle.
- g. Supplies: Brothers Alex Schmitt #8 and Jim Rohe #612 – nothing to report at this time.
- h. Grand Council Planning Committee: Brother and Mrs. Paul Larson #32 – there is not much we can do at this time for June 2022. The Committee will attempt to meet in December.

Grand President’s Report – Grand President Nick Franceschine #54 had previously sent out an e-mail covering his activities since the September Board Meeting. He reviewed his activities:

- a. Phone calls and emails regarding the membership of the State of the Institute Committee.
- b. Discussions and emails with Brothers in Indiana, trying to arrange for an official visit to Council #497 and #612.
- c. Provided Grand President’s Message for the Fall issue of the Institute Journal.
- d. Attended monthly dinner meeting at Santa Rosa Council #40 on November 1, 2021.
- e. Official Visit to American Council #8 with GSVP Steve Cresci. Conducted audit of the Council.
- f. Attended November 4, 2021 meeting of the Seminarian Foundation.
- g. Contacted seven Councils to arrange for Official Visits. Proposed dates for Official visits are as follows:
 - i. South San Francisco #32 on 1-11-2022 (with #613)
 - ii. Tracy #92 on 2-3-2022
 - iii. St. Columba #94 on 1-5-2022 (with #99)
 - iv. Dos Palos #99 on 1-5-2022 (with #94)

- v. Our Lady of the Pines #137 on 11-17-2021
- vi. Francis #573 on 1-15-2022 thru 1-18-2022
- vii. St. John Bosco #613 on 1-11-2022 (with #32)
- h. Councils that are (in theory) working on arranging a date for the official visit:
 - i. Stockton #5
 - ii. Vallejo #13
 - iii. Sadoc #59
 - iv. St. Christopher #80
 - v. Bakersfield #100
 - vi. St. Augustine #497
 - vii. Gonzaga #612
- i. Councils that have already had an official visit:
 - i. San Jose #2
 - ii. American #8
 - iii. Santa Rosa #40
 - iv. Holy Rosary #44
 - v. Sebastopol #54
 - vi. Madera #60

On behalf of the Grand President, Brother Bob Bartoli #32, PGP reports that the YMI Educational Foundation met on October 26, 2021 and approved the Matching Funds Program for 2022 and increased the matching amount to \$1000 per Council.

Grand First Vice President's Report – Brother Darrell Fonseca #99, Grand First Vice President, briefly reviewed his on-going work on the 2021-2022 Pro Patria Essay Contest and Raffle. He thanked Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP and Business Manager for all his assistance in preparing the envelopes for the raffle tickets and having them mailed. As of November 9, 2021 the total tickets sales were \$8170.00 and that money had been deposited by the Grand Treasurer. Sixteen Institutes of the YLI had purchased tickets thus far, Councils #2, #8 and #497 had purchased tickets on behalf of their Council and 129 YMI Brothers had purchased their individual tickets. This totals 8% of the YMI membership. Brother Fonseca also sent the following e-mail to all the Officers providing more details on his recent efforts:

The Young Men's Institute's Annual Essay Contest is off and running! We have increased the value of several cash prizes to be awarded. The Grand Prize for 7th and 8th Graders is \$1000.00. First Prize for high schoolers Grade 9 through 12 is now \$2000! Other levels were increased as well. Awards will again be given from first through 15th place. We look forward to receiving essays from across

the nation. A team of advisors and mentors helped select this year's topics. We focused the younger theme on a "Pro Deo" subject. For 7th and 8th Grades, the topic is, "What can you do to start or energize your Church's Youth Program? Provide several specific examples to explain your plan." The 9th thru 12th Grade subject provokes a "Pro Patria" discussion. Their topic is "Despite controversies, many people look to law enforcement for guidance and help. What can be done to encourage young people to enter this profession and maintain high ethical standards? Specifically, what can you do to assist in that process?" This year's essays will certainly be interesting to read. Each Council should consider appointing an Essay Chair to visit each local school or church youth program to encourage our students to submit essays.

To assure the success of this great scholarship program, we will again need strong participation from each member and each Council. Winning Raffle tickets will be drawn at the Annual Red & White Mass. First prize is \$1000, second prize \$500, third and fourth prizes are \$250, fifth prize is \$200 and sixth through eighth prizes are \$100 each. While tickets are available at \$10 a ticket, 3 for \$25, 8 for \$40, the best deal by far is 24 tickets for \$80. Every participating member has a chance to win big prizes. Consider designating a local Council Raffle Chair. Many local Institutes of our sister organization, the Young Ladies Institute, are already making their ticket purchases. Let's make sure that they don't outsell the YMI. I may be calling you.

Despite an ongoing virus pandemic and a roller coaster year, many YMI Councils are meeting again. I had the honor of attending the 70th Anniversary Mass and Luncheon of Holy Rosary Council #44 of Hilmar, a dinner meeting with Madera Council #60, contact with Bakersfield Council #100 as it works to reorganize, email with Francis Council #573 of Hawaii, and of course, activity with my home Dos Palos Council #99. Please let me know of any upcoming events or meeting that I may be able to attend.

I've attended several meetings of the Grand Board of Directors, Education and Seminarian Foundations and want to shout out a "thank you" to the dedicated board members of each group for their work.

***Grand Second Vice President's Report* – Brother Steve Cresci #32, Grand Second Vice President, sent an e-mail to all officers outlining his activities since the last Board meeting.**

October 13 – Attended Council #32 Food Basket Committee Meeting.

November 4 – Attended Zoom meeting for the Seminarian Education Foundation Meeting.

November 9 – Attended Official Grand Council visit with Brother Franceschine, Grand President, to American Council #8. Performed an audit of the Council.

November 10 – Attended South San Francisco Council #32 Food Basket Committee Meeting.

November 11 – Attended South San Francisco Council #32 Business Meeting and Dinner with the Night of Remembrance.

News Alert: Brother Cresci reports that the Red and White Mass has been confirmed for Saturday, March 12, 2022 at 5:15 p.m. – All Souls Catholic Church in South San Francisco. South San Francisco Council #32 will be preparing the dinner after the Mass. Flyers will be made available through the Institute Journal and through the YMI Website with more details. All Councils are encouraged to participate in this annual Anniversary celebration of our Order.

Grand Secretary's Report/Business Manager's Report

The Grand Secretary highlighted the following for his report:

- a. Brother Dimech had requested several updates from our Webmaster to our YMI Website to include:
 - i. Council newsletters received from the Business Manager have been uploaded onto the YMI Website.**
 - ii. Placed the minutes from our Grand Council Session, and minutes from the May and June Board of Grand Director meetings on the Website.**
 - iii. Placed the YMI Educational Foundation Matching Funds letters for 2022 on the Website.**
 - iv. Placed the updated applications for the YMI Man of the Year and Grand Director's Award Council of the Year for 2022 on the Website.**
 - v. I also sent a letter to Brothers Paul Flores and Tony Aguirre of Council #100 in reference to the provisional lifting of Council #100's suspension that was approved at our September 18, 2021 Grand Director's Board Meeting.**
 - vi. I attended the Seminarian Educational Foundation meeting on October 7, 2021 along with Council #613's November business meeting.**
 - vii. I also continued the attorney search for the possible By-Laws change (more under Unfinished Business).****

The Business Manager reviewed the work of the Grand Council Office since September 18, 2021 that was made available on the pre-sent e-mail.

- a. Respond daily to numerous e-mails and phone messages.
- b. Daily trips to YMI Post Office Box – distribution of mail.
- c. Prepared Assessment #184 notices and mailed.
- d. Prepared Semi Annual Report forms and mailed.
- e. Prepared YMI bills, brought to Grand Treasurer, signed and distributed checks.
- f. Signed off on transfer papers for Grand Council investments.
- g. Continuous update of Pro Patria Raffle returns.
- h. Sent 9/18/2021 Board Meeting minutes to Grand Officers.
- i. Prepared and sent annual dues notices to members of Council #900.
- j. Helped at All Souls Festival – YMI prepared Friday dinner.
- k. Begin recording receipt of Assessment checks and balancing SAR reports.
- l. Prepared History Document for the Seminarian Education Foundation and attended meeting.
- m. Attend Audit of San Jose Council #2 with Br. Bob Bartoli.
- n. Attended YMI Education Foundation meeting.
- o. Attended Council #32 business meeting.
- p. Several days copying enclosures for Raffle Mailing.
- q. Days stuffing raffle envelopes and preparing for bulk mailing, and mailing them.

This is a partial list.

The Business Manager reported that the following Councils have not submitted their recent Assessment checks: Council #5, #44, #92, #99 and #100.

Report of Grand Directors to Grand Council Committees – In accordance with the Grand Council By-Laws a member of the Grand Council Board of Directors has been assigned to each of the Grand Council Committees that are delineated in the Grand President's Program for 2021-2022. In the program, each committee chairman as chosen by the Grand President and is listed along with the goals and objectives of each committee.

Audit Committee – Brother Frank Hepburn #2, Past Grand President: On behalf of the Committee, Brother Bob Bartoli #32, PGP reported that San Jose Council #2 passed their audit process. Congratulations. The audit for Bakersfield Council #100 is still in the process of being scheduled.

Budget Committee – Br. Alex Schmitt #8, District Deputy Grand President: the Committee will meet after the first of the year, and the next budget will be reviewed in light of increased costs for such items as mail, Zoom meetings, etc.

Reserve Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32: Brother Albrecht had previously reported on the status of the reserve funds.

Coordinating Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80: nothing to report at this time.

Ceremonials Committee – Br. Jim Rohe #612: nothing to report at this time.

Institute Journal Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80: the deadline for the next Journal is October 31, 2021. Brother Fourie, editor of the Journal is awaiting for additional articles to be submitted so the next issue can be published.

Laws & Revisions Committee – Br. Eugene Espinola #94: nothing to report at this time.

Man and Council of the Year Committee – Br. Bill McNeany #40: nothing to report at this time.

Membership Committee – Br. Tommy Figueira #573: no report at this time. There will be no change in Council membership numbers until the next Semi Annual Reports are turned in and the results to be printed in the Advance Proceedings.

Organization Committee – Br. Alex Schmitt #8, District Deputy Grand President: no specific report except to discuss struggling Councils and try to keep YMI growing.

Resolutions Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80: grow the YMI. No resolutions have been submitted thus far.

State of the Institute Committee – Br. Frank Hepburn #2, Past Grand President: Chairman Brother Mike Amato has formed a committee for this year. Brother Dimech reviewed the work done thus far for the one By-Law proposal change with regard to associate/benefit members. He has been in the process of contacting an attorney to review the legality of the proposed change. There is a cost (\$800 minimum for two hours and \$400 per hour after that if needed). More discussion under Unfinished Business.

Workshop Committee – All Grand Directors: nothing to report until we know if we will have a convention next year.

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

Bowling – Brother Michael Sanzeri #59 – No report at this time.

Bocce – Brother Michael Dimech #613 – will have to be postponed until 2022.

Golf – Brother Bob Fiorito #613 – no report at this time.

Unfinished Business –

The Grand Council Office continues to attempt to work with Bakersfield Council #100. Brother Paul Flores #100, DDGP was on the telephone for this meeting and now joined in this discussion. He and some of the Grand Officers began to discuss the possible in-person meeting for the upcoming Sunday. If this meeting can be held, then an audit of the Council could be completed as well as submission of their most recent Semi-Annual Report and Assessment payments. If all goes well, then the Grand Council Board of Grand Directors can lift the suspension of Council #100 at the January 22, 2022 Board Meeting. All Grand Council Officers are hoping for the best. Brother Eugene Espinola and Brother Frank Hepburn will make the trip to Bakersfield to help with the paperwork.

Grand Secretary, Brother Michael Dimech #613 has been successful in possibly securing an attorney to help review the proposed By-Law changes that have been discussed for several months among the Board of Grand Directors. The question of legality needs to be determined in order to proceed. The attorney, located in San Jose, California, needs a retainer for two hours work (\$800) to begin his review of our current By-Laws and how the proposal for change would or could take affect. The Board discussed many aspects of this request.

Finally, the following motion was put forward by Brother Bill McNeany #40, GD and seconded by Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD:

The Board of Grand Directors approves the expenditure of \$800 as a deposit/retainer for two hours work to obtain a legal opinion on the proposed By-Law change. If additional time/money is needed by the attorney beyond the two hours, the Grand Secretary Michael Dimech, will need to obtain approval from the Grand Directors before moving forward.

The motion passed unanimously.

New Business – Future dates for the Board of Grand Directors Meetings have been tentatively set for January 22, 2022, March 19, 2022, May 14, 2022 and June 19, 2022 (Convention).

Immediate Past Grand President's Report – Brother Michael Amato #613, Immediate Past Grand President, e-mailed the following report as he could not attend today's meeting in person:

The IPGP has prepared a solicitation notice seeking proposals for the State of the Institute for both the Lamp Post and the YMI Website (these should be out soon). Brother Nick Franceschine, GP and I have coordinated on the State of the Institute Committee members since our last Board Meeting.

Grand Chaplain's Report – Father Agnel, upon his return from Mass, was able to review some different approaches that the Church is initiating from the pulpit during this Covid time. He reviewed them with all the Board members and said that all should be made aware of this announcement in their own parishes. This movement, stemming from the Second Vatican Council, will be announced from parish pulpits in light of parishioners returning to Church following their attending electronically and building up their level of participation in person.

Good of the Order –

Closing Prayer – Rev. Agnel De Heredia, #32, Grand Chaplain

Adjournment – 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Br. Michael Dimech, #613, GS, PGP

Br. Thomas Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager