

Young Men's Institute
Board of Grand Directors
Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2021

Call to Order — 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 Michael Amato #613, GP 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
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 #32, GT
Bob Fiorito #613, GM

Cosmo Amato #613, GOS and DDGP

Christopher McCann #8, Grand Inside Sentinel

Tom Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager

Frank DiMaggio #59, DDGP

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

Paul Flores #100, DDGP

Alex Preciado #2, DDGP

The following Brothers were marked as either excused or absent:

Jim Rohe #612, GD as excused

Angel Vera #40, as absent

Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, GC as excused

Kurt Kuczynski #497, DDGP as absent

Steve Ortiiz #80, 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 March 20, 2021 Meeting –

Chairman of the Board, Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the March 20, 2021 Board of Grand Directors meeting. There were no corrections. Brother Bill Avery #80, GD made the motion to accept the minutes of March 20, 2021 and Brother Bob Fiorito 3613, GM seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously via conference call to accept the minutes.

Communications - Brother Michael Dimech #613, GS had received one communication – an e-mail from Brother Tom Fourie concerning the Grand Council Session. He then referred all the Officers to the e-mail previously sent by Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP and Business Manager, who then read the following:

1. Council Bulletins received:

- a. American Council #8: April 2021 and May 2021**

- b. South San Francisco Council #32: April 2021 and May 2021
 - c. Francis Council #573: April 2021 and May 2021
 - d. St. John Bosco Council #613: April 2021 and May 2021
2. Copy of the cover letter sent with the Semi Annual Report forms.
 3. Thank you letter from Eva Blais – a winner in the Pro Patria Essay Contest (Petaluma, CA).
 4. Thank you letter from Raymond Ponce – a winner in the Pro Patria Essay Contest (SF, CA).
 5. Thank you letter from YMI Council #32’s Louis P. Guaraldi Food Basket Program for the contribution.
 6. Copy of the “Voice of the YLI” – Holiday/Winter edition.
 7. Two copies of the “Catholic Voice” – Diocese of Oakland.
 8. Thank you letter from the SF-Marin Food Bank for the \$100,000 donation.
 9. Copy of the Catholic Herald (Sacramento Diocese)

Reports of the Grand Treasurer – Brother Jack Albrecht #32, GT, referred all the officers to the two reports dated April 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 #32, GD asked for a motion to accept the reports as presented. Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD made the motion to accept and Brother Paul Larson #32, GD seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously by the Board of Grand Directors.

Reports of Grand Directors on 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, GD and Steve Cresci #32, GD – serving as co-chairs
 - i. Brother Larson and Brother Cresci reported that the committee had contacted the SSF Historical Society to discuss our archives.
 - ii. A suggestion was made to purchase a scanning device at a cost of \$700 (not sure of the dimensions).
 - iii. Where will the information be stored? – YMI Website?
 - iv. Purchase Cloud storage?
 - v. Several comments made by Brother Bill Avery on the process.

- vi. **Brother Alex Schmitt and Brother Avery will meet to discuss future scanning.**
- b. **Finance: Brothers Steve Cresci #32, GD as chair, Brother Paul Larson #32, GD**
 - 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, GD , DDGP as chair, Brother Tommy Figueira #573, GD, DDGP**
 - i. **Nothing to report at this time.**
- d. **Council Activities: Brother Domenic Carinalli #54, GD as chair, Brother Tommy Figueira #573, GD, DDGP, Brother Angel Vera #40, GD**
 - i. **Brother Fourie stated there was nothing to report at this time.**
- e. **Insurance: Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD as chair, Brother Jim Rohe #612, GD**
 - i. **The Insurance Company had contacted Brother Fourie and our renewal date is June 18, 2021. The premium is based on the membership report in the Advance Proceedings.**
- f. **Supplies: Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD, DDGP as chair, Brother Paul Larson #32, GD**
 - i. **There was nothing to report.**
- g. **Grand Council Session Planning: On behalf of the Committee, Past Grand President Tom Fourie #32 and Business Manager, reported on the work that had taken place by Brothers Michael Amato #613, GP; Bob Bartoli #32, PGP; Michael Dimech #613, PGP, GS and himself. The Advance Proceeding document was looking good thus far. Reports have been forthcoming. Several Councils (#5, #13, #44, #60, #80, #100 #497 and #612) have yet to submit the list of delegates. We are still missing the Semi Annual Reports from two Councils. The Committee has been meeting regularly and the Grand Council Session will once again be presented via the Internet. A Red & White Mass/Memorial Ceremony will be held June 8, 2021 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church in San Francisco. Father Agnel will celebrate the Mass and from 50-80 attendees can be accommodated in the Church. Officers and their wives are invited to attend. The names of our departed Brothers over the past two years will be read by Father Agnel and Brother Tom Fourie will do the eulogies. Brother Fonseca will conduct the Red and White Flower Ceremony. We hope to have it live streamed with help from Riordan High School for the music and filming. Councils in attendance are asked to bring their Council banner. On June 12, 2021 there will be a modified Grand Council Session conducted by the Grand President on Zoom beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at noon. Voting will be conducted for one week after the meeting via**

electronic ballots. The voting results will be made known the weekend of July 20-21, 2021.

- h. Fund-Raising: Brother Domenic Carinalli #54, GD/Brother Steve Cresci #32, GD/Brother Bill Avery #80, GD/Br. Bob Fiorito #613, GM**
 - i. There was nothing to report on this topic due to the fact that Covid-19 had kept all opportunities out of the question.**

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: April 10 with Sadoc Council #59, an outdoor meeting in a local park with lunch; then on to April 14 on a Zoom conference call with Dos Palos Council #99 and also St. John Bosco Council #613's monthly Zoom meetings.**
- b. He did participate on the April 27, 2021 conference call with the Education Foundation. Matching Funds were being used by several Councils this year. In addition, four candidates agreed to run for the four vacancies on the Board. Next meeting is July 27, 2021.**
- c. He participated in the May 6, 2021 conference call as Secretary of the Seminarian Education Foundation. The Foundation awarded a record 56 grants totaling \$27,800. Contacts made by Brother Cosmo Amato and Brother Mike Nelson greatly helped with the large number of applications. Also, YMI Council #1 made a large donation to the Foundation this year covering nearly all the grants. Four candidates agreed to run for the Foundation Board and the next meeting is September 2, 2021.**
- d. In conjunction with the Grand Council's Membership Committee, the Grand President declared May as Membership Recruitment Month. All Councils are encouraged to solicit new Brothers and turn in their membership applications by June 1.**
- e. Through the generosity of San Francisco Council #1, the Grand President presented \$16,000 checks each to Sacred Heart Cathedral and Riordan High Schools in San Francisco. He was joined at the schools for the presentations by several YMI Brothers who were graduates of these schools.**
- f. He had completed several reports for the Advance Proceedings and assisted his 13 District Deputy Grand Presidents in their reports.**

- g. He helped with the planning committee for the 136th Grand Council Session.
- h. He attended Council #613's Essay Contest Awards Ceremony.
- i. He applied for YMI participation in the 2021 Italian Heritage Parade in San Francisco this October.

Grand First Vice President's Report – Brother Nick Franceschine #54, GFVP is looking forward to the upcoming year. All Grand Officer positions have been filled except for Grand Second Vice President. His Committee Chairmen have all been assigned. He is still in need of a District Deputy for Indiana South, Tracy and Bakersfield. He will continue to work on these openings and complete is Grand President's program for 2022-2022.

Grand Second Vice President's Report – Brother Darrell Fonseca #99, GSVP commented on how happy he was to begin preparing for the Red & White Mass on June 8, 2021 in San Francisco. Since his Council was unable to host this year's Mass and Dinner, he offered to host it in 2022 if we do not have a Grand Second Vice President. His Council give out five student scholarships this year and they are considering a possible golf tournament in the future.

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

- a. He requested several updates from our Webmaster to our YMI Website.
- b. Council newsletters that were received from the Business Manager have been uploaded onto the YMI website.
- c. Pictures from the Grand President's visit to the San Francisco/Marin County Food Bank and his official visit to Sadoc Council #59 are on the website.
- d. Pictures of the Grand President's visit to Sacred Heart and Riordan High Schools will be on the website shortly.
- e. Minor change to the Seminarian Application was also made.
- f. He attended Council #613's April and May Business Meetings.
- g. He attended the Grand President's official visit to YMI Council #59 on 04-10-21 in Antioch which was coordinated by Past Grand President Frank DiMaggio.
- h. He attended the Grand Council Planning meeting on 03-24-2021.
- i. He prepared three reports for the Advance Proceedings.
- j. He attended YMI #613 Essay Contest Awards Ceremony that was conducted over Zoom on March 30, 2021.

- k. He sent Brother Frank Lima the proposed State of the Institute By-Law change for his review and followed up with him recently on the status. On April 26, 2021, he was advised that the lawyer will review the by-law change and set up a meeting with committee members.

Business Manager Report - The Business Manager reviewed the work of the Grand Council Office since March 21, 2021 that was made available on the pre-sent e-mail.

- a. Sent list of Pro Patria Raffle winners to the Grand Treasurer to write checks, prepared letters and envelopes, mailed checks.
- b. Dropped off essays and checks to St. Robert's School in San Bruno, CA.
- c. Mailed all completed essay packets to sponsoring Councils.
- d. Prepared Assessment #182 and Semi Annual Report envelopes – then mailed.
- e. Reviewed and prepared for distribution and sent the minutes from the March 20, 2021 Board of Grand Directors Meeting.
- f. Created the computer file for the 2021 Advance Proceedings – worked on the document daily for the past six weeks.
- g. On-going e-mail communications to Grand Officers concerning reports, time-lines, Opening Mass, etc.
- h. Participated in meetings with the Grand Council Session Planning Committee.
- i. Participated in meeting with the Opening Mass Committee.
- j. Performed all duties as Treasurer of the Seminarian Education Foundation and chairing the Seminarian Scholarship Committee.
- k. Attended the Education Foundation meeting.
- l. Attended Zoom presentation of St. John Bosco #613's essay contest award announcements.
- m. Entered receipt of all Assessment #182 payments.
- n. Reviewed each Council's submission of the March 31, 2021 Semi Annual Reports – contacting those that were incomplete and/or in error.
- o. Prepared April 2021 YMI bills for payment.
- p. Entered data (committee reports, Grand Council Officers reports, Foundation reports, District Deputy reports, etc.) into the Advance Proceedings document.
- q. Prepared Death Benefit check requests for the Grand Treasurer and subsequently sent checks out.
- r. Several days as editor in preparing the recent issue of the Institute Journal and distributing.

- s. All of the above and more including daily trips to the Post Office Box, daily responses to e-mails as well as telephone calls.

Grand Directors Reports from Grand Council Committees – Br. Cresci #32, GD requested reports from Grand Directors on the following committees:

Audit Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80, GD: Br. Darrell Fonseca #99, GSVP: Were unable to visit most Councils due to the Covid Pandemic. However, the Business Manager chimed in at this time that Santa Rosa Council #40 had a significant drop in membership this year and Council #100 will experience likewise.

Budget Committee – Br. Steve Cresci #32, GD: Brother Albrecht #32, GT reported that given this year' uniqueness, the same Budget for Grand Council from 2020-2021 will be used for next year 2021-2022 and that budget is currently in play.

Reserve Committee – Br. Steve Cresci #32, GD: Brother Albrecht #32, GT gave his report and the Officers were appreciative.

Coordinating Committee – Br. Alex Schmitt #8, GD: All topics had been previously discussed.

Ceremonials Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32, GD: The Committee Chairman (Br. Phil Oberst #32, PGP): Nothing to report.

Institute Journal Committee – Br. Jim Rohe #612, GD: Brother Fourie #32, PGP and Journal Editor: currently the editor is planning for a late July, early August edition.

Laws & Revisions Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80, GD: The committee report had been sent and received.

Man and Council of the Year Committee – Br. Domenic Carinalli, #54, GD: Brother Bartoli #32, PGP announced that the Man of the Year will be announced during the virtual Grand Council Session, however, there will be no Council of the Year award this year.

Membership Committee – Br. Steve Cresci #32, GD, Br. Jim Rohe #612, GD: The hard working Brothers of the Membership Committee have been meeting. May has been declared Membership Month by the Grand President and there are still two weeks to recruit.

Organization Committee – Br. Tommy Figueira #573, GD: Report has been submitted for the Advance Proceedings.

Resolutions Committee – Br. Angel Vera #40, GD: Nothing to report at this time. Any submissions should be received right away.

State of the Institute Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80, GD: Brother Thissen #94 IPGP reported he had received a proposal for a change to Article IV, Section 5. The committee had reviewed the proposed change and have forwarded it to the Grand Council Office to be published in the Institute Journal as well as the Advance Proceedings.

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, no report except that Br. Sanzeri mentioned a possible tournament next year.

Bocce – Brother Michael Dimech #613, PGP, GS – possibly in October

Golf – Brother Bob Fiorito #613, GM – no tournaments can be scheduled at this time.

Unfinished Business –

Since the last Board Meeting, Council #100 sent a check covering past due Assessments. Their next payment would be Assessment #183. Semi Annual Reports and membership reports are still missing. They say they have only 11 members, however, nothing at this time can be verified. To discuss at the July 2021 Board Meeting.

***New Business* – The Business Manager's contract was up on March 31, 2021. The question was asked if he was planning to continue in that capacity for 2021-2022. After consulting with his staff, the Business Manager agreed to continue for another year.**

***Immediate Past Grand President's Report* – Brother Michael Thissen #94, IPGP – his report for the year had been submitted for the Advance Proceedings.**

***Grand Chaplain's Report* – Father Agnel was praying for us.**

Good of the Order –

A report from Brother Bob Crowe in Richmond, IN that his father, Brother Frank Crowe of Council #612 was the Grand Marshall in the Veteran's Parade in Centerville, IN this year.

The next Board meeting is set for July 17, 2021 via a Zoom call.

Closing Prayer – Benediction was recited by Brother Billy Avery and Br. John Prouty was kept in our prayers for continued good health.

Adjournment – 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Br. Michael Dimech, #613, GS, PGP

Br. Thomas Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager