

Young Men's Institute
Board of Grand Directors
Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2022

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 Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, GC, 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 Bill Avery #80, GD.

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

Jim Rohe #612, GD

Bill Avery #80, GD

Alex Schmitt #8, GD and DDGP

Tommy Figueira #573, GD and DDGP

Frank Hepburn #2, PGP, GD

Paul Larson #32, GD

Nick Franceschine #54, GP

Darrell Fonseca #99, GFVP

Michael Amato #613, IPGP

Steve Cresci #32, GSVP

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

Michael Dimech #613, PGP, GS

Jack Albrecht #32, GT

Bob Fiorito #613, GM

Cosmo Amato #613, GIS and DDGP

Domenic Carinalli #54, GOS

Alex Preciado #2, DDGP

Tom Fourie, #32, PGP, Business Manager

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

Paul Flores #100, DDGP

The following Brothers were marked as either excused or absent:

Bill Mc Neany #40, GD as excused

Phil Fondale #137, DDGP as absent

Clement Gusman #573, DDGP as absent

Steve Ortiz #80, DDGP as absent

Stephen May #900, DDGP as absent

Scott Vogelgesang #612, DDGP as absent

Frank DiMaggio #59, PGP and DDGP as absent

Approval of the Minutes from the Board of Grand Directors November 13, 2021 Meeting

— Chairman of the Board, Brother Bill Avery #80, Grand Director, asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the November 13, 2021 Grand Directors meeting. Brother Frank Hepburn #2, GD and PGP, made the motion to accept the minutes of November 13, 2021 as presented and it was seconded by Br. Tommy Figueira #573, GD. The Board voted to unanimously accept the minutes from November 13, 2021.

Communications - Brother Michael Dimech #613, Past Grand President, Grand Secretary, reported on an e-mail he received from Higbee and Associates concerning copyright infringement of a picture on our Website.

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: November
 - b. South San Francisco Council #32: December and January

- c. Sadoc Council #59: December
 - d. Francis Council #573: November, December and January
 - e. St. John Bosco Council #613: December and January
2. Cover letter for January 1, 2022 Assessment #185.
 3. Voice of YLI – Fall Issue and Holiday Issue.
 4. Two issues of the Catholic Voice – Oakland Diocese.
 5. One issue of the Catholic Herald – Sacramento Diocese.
 6. Letter from the US Post Office concerning Post Office Box location.
 7. Letter from the El Retiro Retreat Center.
 8. Letter from Richmond, Indiana – the Visitor Center.

Reports of the Grand Treasurer – Brother Jack Albrecht #32, Grand Treasurer, referred all the officers to the reports dated December 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. He did mention that the stock market had taken a dive the week previous. Brother Bill Avery #80, Grand Director, asked for a motion to accept the report as presented. Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD and DDGP, 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. However, it was noted that since the last Board Meeting, several Councils had begun in person meetings.
- e. Insurance: Brother Paul Larson #32 – the Liability Insurance for this current YMI year has been paid in full. There has been no change.

- 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, Brother and Mrs. Bob Bartoli #32, Brother and Mrs. Michael Amato #613, Brother and Mrs. Tom Fourie #32) – The committee has been hard at work researching possible sites for the June 2022 Grand Council Session. A summary report was given by Brother Fourie which included several possibilities for this coming year. Obviously, if the pandemic is still affecting everyone there is the possibility of another Zoom conference. Hoping for the best, hotels in Reno and South Lake Tahoe have been contacted. The Reno Hotels, now a part of the Caesar's Entertainment network (Silver Legacy, El Dorado, etc.) are not available the week following Father's Day when we traditionally hold our Convention. The Montblue Hotel in South Lake Tahoe (now named Bally's Resort Hotel and Casino) is available during the post Father's Day week. Another option brought forward was one that was mentioned many years ago – that having a Council host the Convention at their parish as a one day meeting with a dinner to follow. The officers discussed these options. A motion was made by Br. Tommy Figueira #573, GD and seconded by Br. Paul Larson #32, GD that the committee should pursue the option for South Lake Tahoe at the Bally's Resort Hotel and Casino the week following Father's Day. The motion passed unanimously. Brother Fourie did report that the hotel was willing to offer rooms at Bally's for \$116 inclusive of all fees and taxes. They went back and charged the same rate as three years ago. The Grand President thanked the committee for all their hard work. The discussion of YMI By-Laws Article 1, Section 7 concerning Council funding for delegates was moved to the March Board of Grand Directors Meeting.**

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

- a. **He traveled to Hilo, Hawaii and met with Francis Council #573. Brother Tommy Figueira provided him with a tour of the area. He enjoyed meeting with the Brothers of #573.**
- b. **He discussed the situation in reference to Council #40 and how we, the YMI, got to this point with regard to copyright infringement. He had sent a letter to Higbee and Associates on January 8, 2022 in response to their letter of December 2, 2021**

and later spoke to them. Higbee and Associates have not dropped their settlement demands.

- c. Brother Nick along with the Grand First Vice President Darrell Fonseca #99 and Grand Second Vice President Steve Cresci #32 spoke about the issue and proposed paying the \$1250.00 settlement, however, they wanted to go through the YMI's liability insurance company. It was their plan for the insurance company to draft an agreement document for settlement purposes with no admission of guilt.
- d. A motion was made by Br. Franceschine #54, GP to submit the letter received from Higbee and Associates to our YMI insurance carrier (Arthur Gallagher) and file a claim against our YMI liability policy. In addition, we authorize the Grand President and the two Grand Vice Presidents to work together to take reasonable action to resolve this issue. The motion was seconded by Brother Paul Larson #32, GD. The motion was approved unanimously.
- e. Removal of all Council #40 newsletters from the Website came up for discussion. Council #40 was notified to cease usage of copyrighted material in their newsletters.
- f. The Grand Secretary was then directed to draft a letter to be sent to all Councils regarding non-usage of imagery from any website in their Council newsletters. The draft will be sent to the Grand President and two Vice Presidents for review before being sent out to the individual Councils via USPS.
- g. A motion by Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD and DDGP and seconded by Brother Tommy Figueira #573, GD was made to remove all Council newsletters from the YMI Website prior to 2022. The motion pass unanimously.
- h. The Grand President reported that the next Education Foundation Meeting would be held on January 25, 2022.
- i. The Grand President reported that the next Seminarian Educational Foundation meeting would be held on February 3, 2022.
- j. The Grand President then reported on his Council visitations thus far this year and what he hoped to achieve in the months to come.
- k. Official visit to Our Lady of the Pines Council #137 in Pioneer, CA.
- l. Phone calls and emails to various Councils that were delinquent in their Semi-Annual reports and/or October assessments.
- m. Provided feedback to Br. Steve Cresci regarding the Red & White Mass flyer.
- n. Official visit to St. Columba Council #94 and Dos Palos Council #99.

- o. Special Board meeting to discuss the alleged copyright infringement issue (see above).
- p. Official visit to St. John Bosco Council #613 and South San Francisco Council #32.
- q. Submitted an alternative proposal to the State of the Institute Committee for a revision to our Death Benefit program. Requested information from the Business Manager to evaluate the cost of proposals.
- r. Suggested an additional agenda item for the January Board meeting regarding Grand Council stipends for Council delegates.
- s. Proposed dates for future official visits: Tracy #92 on February 3, 2022
- t. Councils who are in theory working on arranging a date for the official visit: Stockton #5, Sadoc #59, St. Christopher #80, St. Augustine #497 and Gonaga #612
- u. Fourteen Councils have already had an official visit.

Grand First Vice President's Report – Brother Darrell Fonseca #99, Grand First Vice President, briefly reviewed his Zoom visit with Francis Council #573. He brought the officers up to date on the Essay Contest and stated that he was going to extend the deadline for entries to the end of January. Brother Fourie had received many requests from both teachers and students to have more time as they were working from home or just getting back in the classroom. No essays will be deemed unacceptable by that date. Brother Fourie added that the raffle had yielded \$11,395 thus far and eight Councils had bought their tickets with 11.41% of YMI Brothers participating. 50% of the YLI Institutes had bought their tickets. He will continue to promote both the essays and sale of raffle tickets.

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.

November 29, 2021 – Council #32 Food Basket Committee Meeting.

December 4, 2021 – Christmas Dinner, Council #32.

December 9, 2021 – Council #32 Business Meeting.

December 12, 2021 – Attended Christmas Dinner at Council #613.

December 15-16, 2021 – Worked on the Council #32 Food Basket Drive.

December 30, 2021 – Prepared Red & White Anniversary Flyer with the assistance of Br. Rod Ordoná #613.

January 6, 2022 – Attended important Board meeting via Zoom.

January 11, 2022 – Attended Grand President's Visit to St. John Bosco #613 and South San Francisco #32 at St. Cecilia's in San Francisco.

January 13, 2022 – Attended South San Francisco Council #32 Business Meeting.

Grand Secretary's Report/Business Manager's Report

The Grand Secretary highlighted the following for his report:

- a. Brother Dimech 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. He attended the Council #613's December and January Business Meeting. He also attended Council #32's Business Meeting.**
 - iii. He also had been in contact with the attorney that the YMI had hired to review a proposed By-Law change.**
 - iv. A copy of the attorney's letter was received and sent to the Grand Directors and Grand President on January 8, 2022 since they had approved the necessary funding to obtain this opinion.**
 - v. The letter from the attorney and proposed By-Law change was also submitted to the Chairman of the State of the Institute committee on January 8, 2022 for consideration from the committee.**
 - vi. In discussion with the Business Manager, I arranged a meeting for January 6, 2022 with the Grand Directors and Officers to review documentation that was received from PicRights International Inc. and Higbee and Associates in reference to unlicensed use of Associated Press's Imagery that Council #40 had used in their October 2020 newsletter.**
 - vii. He also contacted the webmaster and requested that the Council #40, October 2020 newsletter be removed from our website.****

The Business Manager reviewed the work of the Grand Council Office since November 13, 2021 that was made available on the pre-sent e-mail.

- a. Continued the process of updating Councils submitted Semi-Annual Reports.
- b. Responded to daily e-mails and phone calls.
- c. Prepared YMI monthly bills, delivered to Grand Treasurer, signed and distributed checks.
- d. Processed Council Assessment payments.
- e. Attended Council #32's Christmas Party.
- f. Prepared copy of the Institute Journal and e-mailed to Councils and members.
- g. Attended Council #32's December Business Meeting.
- h. Attended Council #613's Christmas Party.
- i. Worked on paperwork for Seminarian Educational Foundation investment changes.
- j. Helped to prepare boxes for Council #32's Food Boxes Christmas Program.
- k. Numerous trips to YMI Post Office Box.
- l. Updated Pro Patria Raffle returns.
- m. Prepared and mailed Assessment #185 to Councils.
- n. Prepared November 13, 2021 Board minutes and sent to Officers.
- o. Participated on January 6, 2022 Special Meeting Zoom call.
- p. Forward lawyer's letter on copyright infringement to Grand Secretary.
- q. Begin to organize Pro Patria Essay Contest student essays.
- r. Learned and advised Brother Fondale on the closure of Council #137.

This is a partial list.

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 several Councils have been audited, some in person by members of the committee and some over the telephone. He will include all audited Councils in his end of year report for the Advance Proceedings. Brother Hepburn was pleased with the in person audit of his Council, San Jose Council #2.

Budget Committee – Br. Alex Schmitt #8, District Deputy Grand President: the Committee will meet after the first of the year and prepare a tentative budget for the 2022-2023 YMI year. The Grand Treasurer will bring the new budget forward at the next Board meeting in March.

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 March 1, 2022. Brother Fourie, editor of the Journal, reported that the March issue will cover the election of Grand Council Officers, the Grand Council Session, State of the Institute, etc. and all other items connected with the conclusion of the present YMI year and the start of the next YMI year.

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. Brother Bob Bartoli #32 once again reminded the Officers that the application forms were in the previous Institute Journal and have been placed on the YMI Website.

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 are 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 announced that the committee had received two proposals thus far to be considered. The committee will be meeting on January 24, 2022 to begin review and discussion of these two proposals. They will report their findings at the March Board of Grand Directors Meeting.

Workshop Committee – All Grand Directors: an outline of a workshop will be developed when we have confirmation of an in-person convention.

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

Bowling – Brother Michael Sanzeri #59 – A date has been set for a Bowling Tournament on April 24, 2022 in Stockton at the Pacific Lanes. The Grand President received this information in an e-mail from Brother Sanzeri. More specific information will be forthcoming and sent to Councils.

Bocce – Brother Michael Dimech #613 – will have to be postponed until 2022 and a specific date will still need to be selected.

Golf – Brother Bob Fiorito #613 – the Chairman reported that he had been able to reserve May 22, 2022 for a tournament at Bennet Valley Golf Course in Santa Rosa. However, he has learned that there is no longer any food service at the course, and you can't bring food in. No meals, and no banquet. It appears that the land might be used for housing in the near future. Brother Fiorito asked that we consider cancelling this year's tournament and try again elsewhere next year. A motion was made by Brother Bob Fiorito #613, GM and seconded by Brother Paul Larson #32, GD, to suspend the 2022 YMI Golf Tournament until 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business –

Brother Michael Dimech #613, GS reported on the results of a legal opinion with regard to the By-Law proposal carried over from last year regarding changes in the age limit for Associate and Benefit members within the YMI. The legal opinion was in writing and confirmed that it was permissible for the State of the Institute Committee to consider the proposal. The letter has been sent to the Chairman of the State of the Institute Committee for their consideration along with a second proposal that was submitted on the same topic.

Brother Frank Hepburn #2, PGP and GD introduced Brother Paul Flores #100, DDGP who had joined today's meeting on the telephone. They reported that Council #100 had just sent in a check to cover their delinquent assessments, bringing them up to date on monies owed. They also had completed a most recent Semi-Annual Report and all the documentation requested had been included. The packet had been mailed through the US Post Office on January 21, 2022. Brother Hepburn reported on the meeting held with Grand Officers and Officers of Bakersfield Council #100 where all was explained as to bringing the Council back in line with the YMI. It was a very productive and necessary meeting. Brother Flores then spoke on behalf of Bakersfield Council #100, and thanked all the YMI Grand Council Officers for their patience and understanding in this on-going matter.

New Business –

Business Manager, Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP, reminded all Grand Council Officers that it is now time to secure the names of candidates for Grand Council Office for the 2022-2023 Grand Council year. All offices are open with the exception of four Grand Directors who have one more year to serve. The next issue of the Institute Journal will announce who the candidates are for all the YMI Brothers to consider and eventually vote for in June. He asked the candidates to make their intentions known in writing (regular mail or by e-mail) and forward this information to the Grand Council Office as soon as possible.

Immediate Past Grand President's Report – Brother Michael Amato #613, Immediate Past Grand President, stated that in the interest of time he will not make a report at this time as all of his topics had been previously covered.

Grand Chaplain's Report – Father Agnel was still at Church and not available at this time for a report.

Good of the Order – The next meeting for the Board of Grand Directors will be Saturday, March 19, 2022 and Brother Steve Cresci will be sending the sign-in information for the Zoom meeting.

Closing Prayer – Brother Bill Avery #80, GD led the closing prayer.

Adjournment – 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Br. Michael Dimech, #613, GS, PGP

Br. Thomas Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager