

Young Men's Institute
Board of Grand Directors
Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2023

Call to Order — Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. PST via a Zoom Conference Call.

Opening Prayer — The opening prayer was offered by Grand Chaplain, Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, GC prior to his leaving for his 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. John's Catholic Church, asking for God's blessings on all Brothers present.

Pledge of Allegiance — the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brother Phil Fondale #900, Grand Marshal.

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:

Grand Officers:

Bill Walls #80, GD
Alex Preciado #2, GD, DDGP
Alex Schmitt #8, GD, DDGP
Tommy Figueira #573, GD
Domenic Carinalli #54, GD
Bill McNeany #40, GD
Paul Larson #32, GD
Darrell Fonseca #99, GP
Steve Cresci #32, GFVP
Bill Avery #80, GSVP
Phil Fondale #900, GM, DDGP
Nick Franceschine #54, IPGP

Rev. Angel De Heredia #32, GC

Michael Dimech #613, GS

Jack Albrecht #32, GT

Tom Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager

Bob Bartoli #32, PGP, Assistant Business Manager

Frank DiMaggio #59, PGP, DDGP

Clement Gusman, #573, DDGP

Grand Officers who asked to be excused:

Eugene Espinola #94, GD

Cosmo Amato #63, GIS

Bob Fiorito #613, GIS

Michael Amato #613, PGP, DDGP

Grand Officers marked absent:

Steve Ortiz #80, DDGP

Bob Bacchetti #92, DDGP

Scott Vogelgesang #612, DDGP

Approval of the Minutes from the Board of Grand Directors November 19, 2022 Meeting

— Chairman of the Board, Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Grand Director, asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the November 19, 2022 Board of Grand Directors meeting. Brother Alex Schmitt made a motion to accept the minutes from the November 9, 2022 Board of Directors meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Brother Paul Larson. There was no discussion. The Board accepted the minutes as presented unanimously.

Communications - Brother Michael Dimech #613, Past Grand President, Grand Secretary had no report from his Office.

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 – December and January**
 - b. South San Francisco Council #32 – December and January**
 - c. Sadoc Council #59 - January**
 - d. Francis Council #573 – December and January**
 - e. St. John Bosco Council #613 – December, January and February**
- 2. Acknowledgement from Mrs. Janice Basuino for the death benefit check she received on behalf of her late husband, Brother Joe Basuino #613**
- 3. Letter from San Jose Council #2 requesting clarification on assessment charges**
- 4. Copy of December 3, 2022 letter sent to Bakersfield Council #100, penned by the Grand Secretary, notifying them of their change in status**
- 5. Notice sent by Br. Michael Amato #613, PGP, DDGP on a proposal for bus transportation to the Red and White Mass**
- 6. Three issues of the Catholic Voice magazine (Diocese of Oakland)**
- 7. One issue of the Catholic Herald (Diocese of Sacramento)**

Reports of the Grand Treasurer – Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP, BM presented the Grand Treasurer's two-page financial report that had been e-mailed to all Officers the week previous. There were no questions at this time. Brother Fourie also reported on behalf of Br. Albrecht that the Grand Council Office had received a notice from the Bank of the West that the check submitted by Bakersfield Council #100 had been returned due to the account being closed. There was a \$15.00 service charge attached to the returned check. This issue would be covered under Unfinished Business. There were no questions on the Grand Treasurer's report. Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors, asked for a motion to accept the report as presented. Brother Bill Walls #80, GD, made the motion to accept and Brother Bill McNeany #40, GD seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously by the Board of Grand Directors. Brother Albrecht joined the meeting at this time.

Reports of Grand Directors on the Board of Grand Directors Committees for the year 2022-2023 – Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Chairman of the Board of Grand

Directors asked for reports from the Grand Directors assigned to the Grand Directors Committees for the 2022-2023 YMI year:

Charters/Archives: Brothers Eugene Espinola #94, Tommy Figueira #573, and Paul Larson #32, Bill Walls #80

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Finance: Brothers Alexander Schmitt #8, and Paul Larson #32

This committee reviews the monthly bills of Grand Council and two members sign off on each bill. This is usually done around the 15th of the month in conjunction with the Business Manager and the Grand Treasurer. All the bills were in order as Brother Larson had signed off on the checks.

Long Range Planning: Brothers Alexander Schmitt #8, Alex Preciado #2, Bill McNeany #40, and Tommy Figueira #573

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Council Activities: Brothers Domenic Carinalli #54, Eugene Espinola #94 and Bill Walls #80

No Council had submitted any plans to hold events in which more than \$1500 would be involved.

Insurance: There were no specific Board Members assigned to this committee as it is handled directly through the Grand Council Office.

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Fund Raising: No specific assignments were made at this time.

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Supplies: Brothers Alex Preciado #2 and Eugene Espinola #94

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Grand Council Planning Committee: Joining Brothers Tom Fourie #32, Bob Bartoli #32, Michael Dimech #613, Michael Amato #613 are Darrell Fonseca #99, Steve Cresci #32, Bill Avery, #80 and Tommy Figueira #573

As mentioned at the previous Board Meeting, the next Grand Council Convention in 2023 will again take place at Bally's Hotel and Casino in South Lake Tahoe on the week after Father's Day. The two Masses have been confirmed at St. Theresa Catholic Church in South Lake Tahoe. Everything that is needed to be complete at this time has been done. Council packets will be

distributed in a timely fashion and the Institute Journal will have details in its next issue.

Grand President's Report – Grand President Darrell Fonseca #99 reviewed his schedule of Council Visits. He had made visits to Bakersfield Council #100, Francis Council #573 (Hilo, Hawaii), South San Francisco Council #32, St. John Bosco Council #613, St. Augustine Council #497 (Huntingburg, IN), and Gonzaga Council #612 (Richmond, IN). He thanked all these Councils for their hospitality. He has made plans to visit soon Madera Council #60 and Tracy Council #92. He will review the work with Bakersfield Council #100 under Unfinished Business. The Grand President had provided a lengthy and detailed outline of his calendar of events since the November 19, 2022 meeting. It was obvious that he had been very busy in the past several weeks. All officers had copies of this calendar.

Grand First Vice President's Report – Brother Steve Cresci #32, Grand First Vice President provided all the officers with an email summarizing his activities and they are listed here:

Meetings via Zoom:

12/5 – State of the Institute Committee Meeting

12/14 – Council #32 Food Basket Committee Meeting

1/3 – State of the Institute Committee Meeting

1/24 – Education Foundation Committee Meeting

2/2 – Seminarian Education Foundation Meeting

Other Meetings (in person):

12/3 – South San Francisco Council #32 Christmas Dinner

12/8 – South San Francisco Council #32 Business Meeting

12/16-17 – South San Francisco Food Basket Preparation and Delivery

1/14-15 – Official Visit to Frances Council #573 with Grand President Darrell Fonseca

1/26 – South San Francisco Council #32 Social Dinner

2/3 – Pick-up Essays and distribute to judges

Brother Cresci reported on the number of essays which had been received for this, the 49th Pro Patria Essay Contest. The total was approaching 500. His report

on the supporting raffle was not as exciting. Thus far \$9,300 had been received for the raffle and this was definitely down over past years. Only four Councils had bought tickets thus far. He urged all present to implore their fellow Council Brothers to buy tickets. The amount received is down by \$4000. He had sent each officer a comparative chart with sales from the last year in contrast to the sales so far this year. On a bright note, the YLI Institutes had been very supportive in purchasing the raffle tickets.

Grand Second Vice President's Report – Brother Bill Avery #80, Grand Second Vice President, covered activities including his on-going efforts to arrange the 2023 Red & White Mass at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Atwater on March 11, 2023. It has been confirmed for that date. He has prepared a flyer for all YMI Brothers indicating the Mass time (now set for 4:00 p.m.), dinner reservations, etc.

Brother Amato who had previously brought forward the renting of a bus from the Bay Area to attend the Red and White Mass had a report to be covered under New Business.

Grand Secretary's Report/Business Manager's Report

The Grand Secretary reported as follows:

I requested several updates from our Webmaster to our YMI Website.

As directed at the November 19, 2022 Grand Director's meeting, I sent a letter to each Council #100 member on 12/3/2022 putting them on notice that the Board members have agreed to suspend YMI Council #100 in accordance with Article VII of the YMI By-Laws and that their Council may be dissolved if certain actions are not undertaken.

I advised them that assessments #186, #187 and #188 have not been sent in nor has the Semi-Annual report been sent in that was due October 1, 2022.

They were also advised that if unless these YMI Assessments and the Semi-Annual Report are fully corrected and returned to Business Manager Tom Fourie, YMI Council #100 will be dissolved effective January 28, 2023.

I also sent in updates to the Webmaster of the Council newsletters that have been received.

The updated Matching Funds letter and application have also been placed on the website.

I also sent the Red & White flyer that was recently sent to me by Brother Bill Avery and it has been posted to the YMI website.

I also sent in several pictures from the Grand President's and the Grand First Vice President's trip to visit Council #573 in Hawaii and a picture that was taken when the Grand President made his Bay Area visit to Council #32. If you get a chance, please take a look at the pictures.

I also attended Council #613's Christmas Party and Business Meetings for both Council #613 and Council #32.

The Business Manager reviewed the work of the Grand Council Office since November 19, 2022 that was made available on the pre-sent e-mail.

1. Prepared YMI Bills for December and January, delivered to the Grand Treasurer, signed checks and distributed.
2. Prepared Council Assessment #189 and accompanying letter; mailed.
3. On-going trips to the Post Office Box in Burlingame, CA.
4. Accompanied Grand President Fonseca and his wife on the Official Visit to the two YMI Councils in Indiana.
5. Updated on-going changes into the computer from the new Beneficiary forms.
6. Prepared and sent minutes from the November 19, 2022 Board Meeting to Officers.
7. Continued to record Pro Patria raffle returns.
8. Attended Council #32's December and January Business Meetings.
9. Attended both South San Francisco Council #32's and St. John Bosco Council #613 Christmas Parties.
10. Responded to countless emails and phone calls.
11. Began processing the submitted student essays for the Pro Patria Essay Contest.
12. Processed YMI Death Benefit requests, sent checks.
13. Attended YMI Education Foundation Zoom meeting.
14. Sent Agenda for February 4, 2023 Board of Grand Directors Meeting.
15. Attended and participated in the Vigil Service for our late PGP John Musgrove #32.
16. Received check and paperwork from Bakersfield Council #100.
17. Spent necessary time and preparation for the family arrangements in connection with my brother, Brother Jerry Fourie #32's death and subsequent funeral arrangements.

This is only a partial list.

Reports of Grand Directors to Grand Council Committees: in accordance with the Grand Council By-Laws a member of the Grand Council Board of Directors is to be assigned to each of the Grand Council Committees that are delineated in the Grand President's Program for 2022-2023. In the program, each committee chairman as chosen by the Grand President is listed along with the goals and objectives of each committee.

The following are the Board Appointments and current reports for 2022-2023:

Audit Committee – Brother Alex Preciado #2, DDGP – Brother Bartoli reported that the two Councils in Indiana which were audited by the Grand President and the Business Manager during their visit appeared to be in order. However, their Council By-Laws need much work at this time. Upcoming audits are being planned for Council #32, Council #613 and Council #900.

Budget Committee – Br. Alex Schmitt #8, District Deputy Grand President – the next budget committee meeting will be forth coming but no date has been scheduled as of yet.

Reserve Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32 – the Grand Treasurer stated that the stocks have recently taken a hit, however, nothing has changed. The \$3700 paid this year to Councils for their participation at the Grand Session was taken from the Reserve Fund.

Ceremonials Committee – Br. Eugene Espinola #94 – no report

Credentials Committee – Br. Domenic Carinalli #54 – no report

Institute Journal Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32...Brother Fourie thanked all the officers for the articles they submitted in the past and inquired as to when the next issue should be published and sent. He asked for the Board recommendation given the time between this meeting and the Grand Council Session. He reminded the Officers that there was no limit to the number of pages given the process being presently used. Should two issues be sent before the Convention? Should only one be sent? After a discussion it was decided that one major issue should be sent in April. Given this decision, Brother Fourie reminded all the Officers of some of the items that will be needed for the April issue:

- a. Grand President's Article
- b. Pictures and Article from the Red and White Mass, Flower Ceremony and Dinner
- c. Convention Registration Form
- d. Candidates for Grand Council Office (boxes)
- e. State of the Institute Report
- f. Publication of the Essay Winners

- g. Announce next essay information**
- h. Many more smaller articles, etc.**

Laws & Revisions Committee – Br. Bill Walls #80...Considering the State of the Institute change on Death Benefits removing the Associate Member category, Brother Rob Bartoli needs to tweek all Council by-laws and have them approved by the Board of Grand Directors. Council #613 has already made their initial changes and the Committee is reviewing their updated document. Nothing else is available to report. The Business Manager will attempt to locate the draft of what should be included in Council By-laws that was made available ten years ago to all Councils. Some Councils (very few) have begun the updating process, but many have not. It is something which needs to be done.

Man and Council of the Year Committee – One application have been submitted and ads have been published in the Institute Journal and will continue to appear there.

Membership Committee – Br. Bill McNeany #40 – no report

Pro Deo Committee – Br. Bill Walls #80 – reference to the prior discussion of the Red and White Mass.

Pro Patria – Br. Paul Larson #32 – reference to the prior discussion on the Pro Patria Essay and Raffle.

Organization Committee – Nothing to report at this time.

Resolutions Committee – Br. Bill McNeany #40... Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD reports that the committee has received one possible resolution at this time.

State of the Institute Committee – Br. Domenic Carinalli #54, Br. Tommy Figueira #573 – Brother Franceschine reported the committee was working on several issues and might have four proposals to present at the Grand Council Session (eliminating District Deputies, eliminating committees that don't function, adding two new committees, adding language to Grand Officers duties, and addressing Council #900). Their report will be in the next Institute Journal.

Workshop Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32 – no report at this time.

Chairmen of the Sports Group of Committees: the following announcements were made.

Bowling – Brother Michael Sanzeri #59 – no report at this time

Bocce – Brother Michael Dimech #613 – nothing to report at this time as the 2022 tournament has been cancelled. Looking to plan a tournament in September 2023.

Golf – Brother Bob Fiorito #613 – has a date: June 4, 2023 at the Valley of the Moon Golf Course in Santa Rosa. Dinner will be included.

Unfinished Business –

- A. Grand President Darrell Fonseca did in fact visit Bakersfield Council #100. He reported they have 12 members and he would hope they could stay active as a Council. He had been given the check that was returned when he made his visit. Given that the check was not good and there was a service charge attached, they were now still four assessments behind. The Grand President also was able to obtain a Semi-Annual Report, which indicated that three Brothers from that Council had passed away in the past eighteen months, however, the Grand Council Office had not received any paperwork concerning their passing. After much discussion, Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Chairman of the Board asked that the Grand President continue to work with this Council given the recent developments and this would be the final outreach from Grand Council to Bakersfield Council #100.**

- B. The Grand Council Session for 2023 has already been discussed previously in the meeting. See that report.**

- C. The Business Manager reported that some Councils had not paid their recent assessments: namely, Council #5, Council #59, Council #92, Council #94, Council #99, Council #612 and Council #497. The Office is hoping for these payments to be in the mail shortly.**

New Business – The Grand Officers had received a detailed report from Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP, DDGP concerning the renting of a bus for transportation to the Red and White Mass from the Bay Area. He had e-mailed the details to all the Officers and it would be necessary for a discussion and vote on this issue be taken at this meeting. Briefly, buses to and from the Valley have been utilized in the past for Red and White Masses. Many Brothers do not wish to drive the roads at night, etc. In the past Grand Council has allocated funds to help with the rental of such a bus. Brother Amato had done all the pre-work in determining time, departure site, etc.

A motion was made by Brother Alex Preciado #2 and seconded by Brother Bill McNeany #40 to allocate \$1500 towards the rental of the bus for this year's Red and White Bus. The motion passed unanimously.

The process of distributing the Institute Journal was brought forward and a discussion ensued on the history of distribution, cost, work to be done, and where the responsibility of the present process of distribution lies. No changes were suggested to be made to the current process. It continues to remain with the individual Councils.

Councils have not completed sending in their updated Beneficiary Forms.

Immediate Past Grand President's Report – Brother Nick Francschine #54, IPGP – Brother Nick had nothing further to report.

Grand Chaplain's Report – Father Agnel was at Mass.

Good of the Order –

Brother Fourie reminded everyone to get their respective Councils and those that they visit to send in Seminarian Application Forms by May 1, 2023. Also don't forget to submit Matching Funds Applications to the Education Foundation.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2023.

Closing Prayer - Brother Fonseca led the Board in a closing prayer.

Adjournment – 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Br. Michael Dimech, #613, GS, PGP

Br. Michael Amato #613, PGP, DDGP

Br. Thomas Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager