



Grand President's Message

YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE



Further Travels of the Grand President

Brothers of the YMI,

Since my last report, I have gone to some wonderful places and met many wonderful people. First, I would like to especially like to thank my wife Melody for all the help she has provided me in remembering dates and events, without her help I would surely have missed some things, and I enjoy her company on long distance trips. She has been on my lifelong adventure for over 44 years now.

Secondly, I would like to thank Br. Bill Walls (G1VP) for always being ready to travel with me as I visit our brothers in other councils and sharing the driving.

My last report ended with Br. Walls and me going to American Council Oakland #8. I am proud to tell others about a 70-year YMI member who is still an active council president at 100 years old.

My next stop was in Chowchilla for their December Christmas party and family social.

Then Br Walls and I traveled to Tracy #92 meeting where the Bacchetti Brothers cooked up a Fantastic Polenta dinner. I didn't realize how good Polenta could be before then.

Then back to Atwater 80 for the 3rd annual YLI-YMI Christmas party hosted by the ladies of the YLI. Followed by Christmas Social at Hilmar 44, where I got my first taste of Peanut Butter Whiskey.

What a Great Season to be a YMI Brother.

Followed by the official visit with G1VP Bill Walls to 32 at All Souls Church. An annual event that Br. Walls and I attended last year with PGP Steve Cresci.

PGP Mike Thissen accompanied me Back to SF for Pasta Bingo at St. Cecilia's with 613 St. John Bosco. Good food and raffle prizes provided fun for all who attended.

Then the Island adventure and Travel with G1VP and our wives for a visit to Hilo 573. There we were able to visit St. Joseph school, several local restaurants, and almost every square inched of the Island of Hawaii with Br Tommy Figueira as our guide. A wonderful adventure and truly a visit to remember.

Once back on the Main Land, we were off again to SSF to the Red White mass hosted by G2VP Br Richard Murphy

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The Valley councils shared a bus and the event turned out great for all who attended. It's much nicer to go on a day trip when the driving is handled by a professional driver.

My Next event was to attend the 100-year anniversary celebration of YLI Council #117 of Merced. The event was attended by 5 PGP's for the YLI and PGP's from YMI.

My wife, G1VP Br Walls and his wife Cora then attended Santa Rosa #40 Polenta fund raiser. The event was held at the hall for the St. Eugene Cathedral in Santa Rosa where we were well received and had another Fantastic Polenta Dinner.

I have just returned in time to report in this issue, a grand Visit with the councils of Indiana. Indiana is breath taking country and the brothers of Councils #497 Huntingburg are very proud of being the largest council in YMI, and work diligently to maintain the YMI Club. The brother of St Augustine Council keeps updating and improving their resources and provide much for the community.

The Brothers of Gonzaga Council #612 in Richmond work with several parishes in the area and are very supportive of Catholic schools in the area. I will remember my trip to Indiana with fond memories for the rest of my life. A trip well worth taking.

With that said, I have been honored to serve as the YMI Grand President, and I am very grateful for the opportunities I have had to travel and meet my brothers across the USA.

Pro Deo

Pro Patria

Br. Billy Avery

Grand President 2024-2025



2025 Huntingburg #497

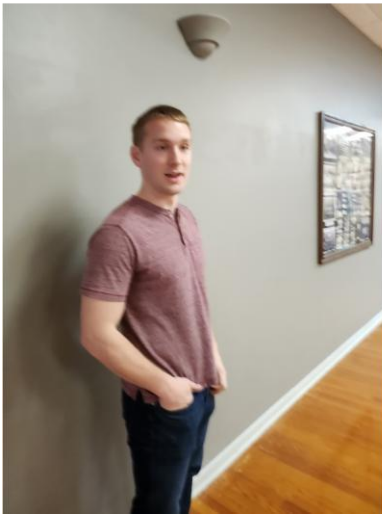
Meet President Mitch Mundy

Happening in Huntingburg

Huntingburg President Mitch Mundy says the YMI Club in Huntingburg Indiana has been improving.

The club has moved the billiard tables up from the basement and the basement is now used for storage. Meetings have been moved upstairs as well and the meeting hall is setup with access for serving for hosting events, including Mass and Breakfast.

The bar that was once part of the outside is now fully a part of the club indoors and has added 'Touch Tunes' for picking songs on the juke box. It's a phone app that allows patrons to select music. The club hosts a Pizza Dinner Buffet on Monday's which helps with patrons visiting the club.



President Mundy also told me that they are close to having the money needed to replace the roof, which is scheduled for June. Br Mitch also said that the 4th of July is a big Event for the Brothers for Council 497, and the club is available for other events.

The club holds a mass and breakfast twice a year and I was fortunate to visit on one of those days. Good Food is always happening everywhere I visited a YMI council. The local church (St. Mary's) is having the YMI cook for an upcoming Hamburger thank-you meal for volunteers who help out with the church.

STATE OF THE INSTITUTE

Brothers,

The following proposals for changes to the Grand Council By-Laws will be presented on the floor of the 140th Grand Council Session this June. All Brothers, and in particular, all voting delegates, should review these proposals prior to the secret ballot vote.

Yours for God and Country,

Steve Cresci #32, IGP

Committee Chairman

Proposal #1

Article IV: Committees, Powers, And Duties

Current Language:

Section 4 AUDITING COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of seven (7) members, one (1) who shall be a Grand Director appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors, six (6) appointed by the Grand President, one (1) who shall be a Grand Officer and designate its chairman. The Committee shall audit and examine the records and accounts of each Council once every six (6) years on a rotating basis, and whenever the Committee deems it advisable or when directed by the Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors. For the purpose of such an audit, the chairman of this Committee shall have the power to call special meetings of the Officers of the Council to meet with the Auditing Committee and to produce the books and records of the Council. The books and records must be returned to the Council within seven (7) days. Failure or refusal of the Officers of a Council to meet with this Committee, and produce the books and records, shall be reported at the next meeting of the Board for disciplinary action. The judgment of the Board shall stand unless reversed by the next Grand Council. This Committee shall also conduct an annual physical audit of all books and funds of Grand Council and furnish the Board with a certificate of correctness of its findings. The Grand President shall appoint to the Committee members qualified to do this audit.

Section 5 BUDGET COMMITTEE: This committee shall consist of seven (7) members: the Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Business Manager, one Grand Director appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors, and three (3) appointed by the Grand President, one (1) who shall be a Grand Officer. The Grand President shall appoint the chairman of the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee shall prepare a written preliminary budget for inclusion in the Advance Proceedings distributed to all Grand Officers and Delegates. Included in the proposed budget shall be the appropriations for each item in the Fixed and Customary Funds for the ensuing year, as set by Grand Council. To assist the Budget Committee in preparing the budget, the Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Business Manager and the Board of Grand Directors, each year as soon after March 31st as possible shall prepare a detailed estimate of the expenses of the Order for the ensuing year.

Section 6 CEREMONIALS COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of seven (7) members, one (1) who shall be a Grand Director appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors, six (6) appointed by the Grand President, one (1) who shall be a Grand Officer and designate its chairman. This Committee shall have supervisory powers in all matters that pertain to the Ceremonials of the Order. The Committee shall insist upon the proper and fitting presentation of the Ceremonials of Initiation of Members, the Installation of Officers, and the proper observance of the established Order of Business and Council Procedure, both on the Council and Grand Council levels. Failure of Council Officers or members

to observe the proper Ceremonials shall be reported to the next meeting of the Board for disciplinary action. The judgement of the Board shall stand unless reversed by the next Grand Council.

Section 7 CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of one (1) Grand Director appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors, one (1) appointed by the Grand President, who shall designate its chairman. Committee members shall be appointed sufficiently prior to the convening of Grand Council. The Committee shall examine the Credentials of members registering for Grand Council, collect the registration fees, provide each member with identification and information, and shall submit a full report to Grand Council.

Section 8 INSTITUTE JOURNAL COMMITTEE: The Chairman of this Committee shall be the Editor of the Institute Journal and shall be appointed by, responsible to, and compensated by the Board of Grand Directors, and shall serve at their discretion. The Committee shall include a member of the Board, appointed by the Chairman of the Board, a Grand Officer appointed by the Grand President and may include as many members as may be required by the Chairman of this Committee. The Committee shall edit, manage, and publish the Institute journal, the official organ of the Young Men's Institute, and shall have it distributed to all members on the rolls of the Councils. The Committee shall report to each meeting of the Board and shall not change or enter into any contract in relation the Institute journal without the prior approval of the Board.

Section 9 LAWS AND REVISIONS COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of seven (7) members, six (6) to be appointed by the Grand President, who shall designate the Chairman, with one (1) of the six (6) being a Grand Officer, and the seventh member shall be a Grand Director appointed by the Chairman of the Board. The Committee shall examine all amendments to the By-Laws of Councils as adopted and submitted by the Councils, and at the Committee's next meeting shall give its approval or disapproval to the submitted amendments. The Committee shall then immediately notify the Council concerned as to its approval or disapproval, giving the reason in the case of disapproval, and shall also report its decisions at the Board of Grand Directors next meeting. A Council whose amended By-Laws have been disapproved by the Committee may appeal to the Board for approval. Such amended By-Laws as the Committee disapproves of shall have no binding effect, unless approved by the Board of Grand Council. The Committee shall report to Grand Council concerning all such amendments it has approved or disapproved. During a Grand Council Session, the Grand President shall fill any vacancy in the 11 Committee. The Laws and Revisions Committee shall review and make consistent the language of all amendments passed by the State of the Institute to the Grand Council Constitution and By-Laws. The Committee need not present the corrected language to the Grand Council for an approval vote provided the changes in verbiage do not change the intent of the passed amendment. The Committee shall be responsible for the publication, in the first issue of the Institute Journal following adjournment of Grand Council, of all amendments to the Grand Council Constitution, Grand Council By-Laws, and Councils' By-Laws adopted by Grand Council.

Section 10 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of seven (7) members, six (6) to be appointed by the Grand President, ho shall designate the Chairman, with one (1) of the six (6) being a Grand Officer, and the seventh member shall be a Grand Director appointed by the Chairman of the Board. District Deputy Grand Presidents shall be ex officio members of the Committee with voice only. The Committee shall plan and promote membership drives, programs to correct lapsation, membership workshops, may provide membership awards and incentives, and shall advise and assist those Councils in need of assistance in their membership programs.

Section 11 ORGANIATION COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of all the Grand Officers and may include other members as deemed necessary and shall have the Grand Secretary as

Chairman. The Committee shall meet within ninety (90) days after adjournment of Grand Council. The Committee shall formulate plans for the systematic expansion of the Young Men's Institute, promote growth in membership by the institution of new Councils and offer the benefits of the Order to a greater number of Catholic men.

Section 12 PRO DEO COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of seven (7) members and shall have the Grand Second Vice President as Chairman. It shall include one (1) Grand Director, appointed by the Chairman of the Board, and the Grand President shall appoint five (5) members, one of whom shall be a Grand Officer. This Committee shall plan and promote all the programs pertaining to the spiritual welfare of our members within the Church and our Order. The Committee shall consult with and seek the advice of the Grand Chaplain, and, wherever possible, the Chaplains of the Councils, in developing and promoting programs that will advance the spiritual life of our members and their families. These should include such programs as regular Communion, retreats, renewal of marriage vows, sanctity of hum life, Hour of Memory Programs, Good Friday Movement, the securing of vocations, and aid to seminaries in our jurisdiction.

Section 13 PRO PATRIA COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of seven (7) members and shall have the Grand First Vice President as Chairman. It shall include one (1) Grand Director, appointed by the Chairman of the Board, and the Grand President shall appoint five (5) members, one of whom shall be a Grand Officer. This Committee shall be responsible for keeping our membership informed on legislation, which pertains to our beliefs, and to our country, and views on these matters. It shall encourage and attempt to develop a viewpoint of the Order on such matters, which, with the approval of Grand Council or the Board, may be released for publication. It shall suggest and promote civic and charitable programs for the participation of the entire Order, or which may be conducted by each Council and its members. This Committee is authorized to raise and expend money necessary to perform its work.

Section 14 RESERVE FUND COMMITTEE: This Committee of seven (7) members shall include the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, and the Grand President shall appoint five (5) members and designate its Chairman. One (1) of the appointed members shall serve for a term of two (2) years. The Committee, with the prior approval of the Board, shall have authority to invest the surplus funds of Grand Council for the benefit of Grand Council, and shall report to the Board concerning its actions and condition of the funds. The Grand Treasurer shall make a full report on the condition of the funds at each Grand Council.

Section 15 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of seven (7) members, six (6) to be appointed by the Grand President who shall designate the Chairman, with one (1) appointee being a Grand Officer, and the seventh member shall be a Grand Director appointed by the Chairman of the Board. The Committee shall consider all Resolutions it receives and may initiate Resolutions for the approval of Grand Council or the Board. No Resolution proposed by this Committee shall become official nor be published unless and until approved by Grand Council or the Board.

Section 16 STATE OF THE INSTITUTE COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of seven (7) members and shall have the Immediate Past Grand President as Chairman. It shall include one (1) Grand Director, appointed by the Chairman of the Board, and the Grand President shall appoint five (5) members, one of whom shall be a Grand Officer. The Committee shall consider all recommendations it receives for the improvement of the Order, and may initiate recommendations of its own for submission to Grand Council. It shall examine the reports and recommendations of the Grand Officers, the Grand Council Committees, and of the Board, which it may include in its recommendations. At least forty-five (45) days prior to the convening of Grand Council, this Committee shall prepare a preliminary report of its proposed recommendations to Grand Council, and submit it to all Councils for the consideration of their members and delegates. The report shall also be included in the Advance Proceedings. When no action is taken by this Committee on a recommendation it receives, the Committee shall so notify the member or Council concerned prior to the convening of Grand Council. In such an event, the member or Council wishing to present the recommendation to Grand Council for action shall first submit the recommendation, in duplicate, to the Grand Secretary with a petition signed by at least twenty (20) properly seated members of Grand Council. The Committee then shall present the submitted recommendation to Grand Council, and Grand Council shall determine what action to take on the recommendation. Successful amendments by the State of the Institute Committee approved by majority vote of Grand Council, that involves constitution or by-la changes, shall be reviewed and the language made consistent by the Laws and Revisions Committee.

Section 17 WORKSHOP COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of seven (7) members, six (6) to be appointed by the Grand President, ho shall designate the Chairman, with one (1) of the six (6) being a Grand Officer, and the seventh member shall be a Grand Director appointed by the Chairman of the Board. The Workshop Committee shall have

supervision of overall matters of an educational value to the Young Men's Institute. It shall prepare and present educational programs for the benefit and improvement of the Officers and members of the Councils, using whatever means it deems most appropriate, such as study groups, panels, or speakers, and shall also make use of the pages of the Institute Journal for this purpose. At Grand Council Sessions, the Committee shall prepare and present an educational program to review and discuss the aims, the purposes, and the improvement of the Order, and each Grand President shall allow sufficient time during the Session for the Committee to present its program.

Proposed Language Changes to Article IV (New, in bold type)

Section 4 AUDITING COMMITTEE: This committee shall consist of **five (5)** members, one (1) shall be a Grand Director appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors, **four (4)** appointed by the Grand President, one (1) who shall be a Grand Officer and designate its chairman.

The remaining Section is unchanged.

Section 5 BUDGET COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of **five (5)** members: the Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Business Manager, a Grand Director appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors, and **one (1)** appointed by the Grand President, who shall be a Grand Officer.

The remaining Section is unchanged.

Section 6 CEREMONIALS COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of **three (3)** members, one (1) who shall be a Grand Director appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors, **two (2)** appointed by the Grand President, one (1) who shall be a Grand Officer and designate its chairman.

The remaining Section is unchanged.

Section 7 CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE: *No changes to this Section.*

Section 8 INSTITUTE JOURNAL COMMITTEE: *No changes to this Section*

Section 9 LAWS AND REVISIONS COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of **five (5)** members, **four (4)** to be appointed by the Grand President, who shall designate the Chairman, with one (1) of the **four (4)** being a Grand Officer, and the **fifth** member shall be a Grand Director appointed by the Chairman of the Board.

The remaining Section is unchanged.

Section 10 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of **five (5)** members, **four (4)** to be appointed by the Grand President, who shall designate the Chairman, with one (1) of the **four (4)** being a Grand Officer, and the **fifth** member shall be a Grand Director appointed by the Chairman of the Board.

The remaining Section is unchanged.

Section 11 ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE: *No changes to this Section*

Section 12 PRO DEO COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of **five (5)** members and shall have the Grand Second Vice President as Chairman. It shall include one (1) Grand Director, appointed by the Chairman of the Board, and the Grand President shall appoint **three (3)** members, one of whom shall be a Grand Officer. This Committee shall plan and promote all the programs pertaining to the spiritual welfare of our members with the Church and our Order.

The remaining Section is unchanged.

Section 13 PRO PATRIA COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of **five (5)** members and shall have the Grand First Vice President as Chairman. It shall include one (1) Grand Director, appointed by the Chairman of the Board, and the Grand President shall appoint **three (3)** members, one of whom shall be a Grand Officer.

The remaining Section is unchanged.

Section 14 RESERVE FUND COMMITTEE: This Committee of **five (5)** members shall include the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, and the Grand President shall appoint **three (3)** members and designate its Chairman.

The remaining Section is unchanged.

Section 15 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of **three (3)** members, **two (2)** be appointed by the Grand President, who shall designate the Chairman, with one (1) appointee of the **two (2)** being a Grand Officer, and the **third** member shall be a Grand Director appointed by the Chairman of the Board.

The remaining Section is unchanged.

Section 16 STATE OF THE INSTITUTE COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of **five (5)** members and shall have the Immediate Past Grand President as Chairman. It shall include one (1) Grand Director appointed by the Chairman of the Board, and the Grand President shall appoint **three (3)** members, one of whom shall be a Grand Officer.

The remaining Section is unchanged.

Section 17 WORKSHOP COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of **three (3)** members, two (2) to be appointed by the Grand President, who shall designate the Chairman, and the **third** member shall be a Grand Director appointed by the Chairman of the Board.

The remaining Section is unchanged.

Rationale:

YMI Committee numbers, as defined in the YMI By-Laws, were established in an era when many more YMI Councils existed, and many more Members were in the YMI. As YMI Councils and membership levels have declined significantly over the years, the Order is having difficulty finding enough YMI members to serve on the various YMI Committees. Accordingly, this By-Law Proposal seeks to reduce the sizes of our various YMI Committees, because we don't have the membership number to adequately fill YMI Committees as currently mandated. Therefore, this proposal would reduce the size of various Committees from 7 members to either 3 or 5 members as shown above.

Proposal #2

Article I: Delegates to Grand Council

Current Language

Section 7: ATTENDING GRAND COUNCIL CONVENTION: To help defray the expense of attending the Grand Council Convention, each elected Council Delegate and current Grand Officer shall receive from the funds of his Council a reasonable allowance as set by the Council. A Council member attending the Grand Council Convention as a Past Grand President or a District Deputy should also be given consideration for such an allowance as they also have a vote. Each Council who sends one or more delegates to the Grand Council Convention shall receive from the Reserve Fund up to \$500.00 per Council to help defray the expense of sending delegates to the Grand Session. The amount will be determined by a vote of the Board of Grand Directors at the January Board of Grand Director's meeting and each Council will be notified of the availability of such funds.

Section 8: PROXIES: No proxy will be permitted to represent a Delegate.

Section 9: DISTRICT DEPUTIES AT GRAND COUNCIL CONVENTION: The District Deputies, as a group, having been nominated and receiving a 2/3 vote from the previous Grand Council Convention delegates, are eligible to vote at the succeeding Grand Council Convention. If the District Deputies did not receive a 2/3 vote from the previous Grand Council Convention delegates, they are not eligible to vote but may voice their opinions on any issue brought to the Grand Council Convention.

SECTION 10: CREDENTIALS: Upon the convening of the Grand Council Convention, each Delegate or Alternate shall register with the Credentials Committee, presenting his credential properly signed and attested to by his Council that he is a member in good standing and certifying that he has elected in accordance with the provisions of the Grand Council By-Laws. Grand Officers, Past Grand Presidents, and District Deputies shall register with their credentials, which have been properly signed and attested to by their Council.

SECTION 11: GRAND COUNCIL FEES AND EXPENSES: Each Delegate, Grand Officer, Past Grand President, and District Deputy, upon registering with the Convention Committee, shall pay a registration fee as authorized annually by the Board of Directors. The fees so collected shall be used to defray the expenses of conducting the Grand Council Convention.

In addition, to further help defray the expenses and entertainment of the Grand Council Convention, the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) shall be appropriated from the funds of the Grand Council and ordered paid by the Board of Grand Directors prior to the convening of the Grand Council Convention.

SECTION 12: VOTING: The members of Grand Council entitled to a vote shall be all properly seated Delegates of Councils, all elective incumbent Grand Officers, the Grand Chaplain, the Past Grand Presidents and the District Deputies.

Proposed Language Changes to Article 1 (New, in bold type)

SECTION 7: ATTENDING GRAND COUNCIL CONVENTION: To help defray the expense of attending the Grand Council Convention, each elected Council Delegate and current Grand Officer shall receive from the funds of his Council a reasonable allowance as set by the Council. A Council member attending the Grand Council Convention as a Past Grand President or a District Deputy should also be given consideration for such an allowance as they also have a vote. Each Council who sends one or more **elected Council Delegates** to the Grand Council Convention shall receive from the Reserve Fund up to \$500.00 per Council to help defray the expense of sending to the Grand Session. The amount will be determined by a vote of the Board of Grand Directors at the January Board of Grand Directors meeting and each Council will be notified of the availability of such funds.

SECTION 8: PROXIES: No proxy will be permitted to represent an **elected Council Delegate**.

SECTION 9: DISTRICT DEPUTIES AT GRAND COUNCIL CONVENTION: The District Deputies, as a group, having been nominated and receiving a 2/3 vote from the previous Grand Council Convention delegates, are eligible to vote at the succeeding Grand Council Convention. If the District Deputies did not receive a 2/3 vote from the previous Grand Council Convention delegates, they are not eligible to vote but may voice their opinions on any issue brought to the Grand Council Convention.

SECTION 10: CREDENTIALS: Upon the convening of the Grand Council Convention, each **elected Council Delegate** or Alternate shall register with the Credentials Committee, presenting his credential properly signed and attested to by his Council that he is a member in good standing and certifying that he as elected in accordance with the provisions of the Grand Council By-Laws. Grand Officers, Past Grand Presidents, and District Deputies shall register with their credentials, which have been properly signed and attested to by their Council.

SECTION 11: GRAND COUNCIL FEES AND EXPENSES: Each **elected Council Delegate**, Grand Officer, Past Grand President, and District Deputy, upon registering with the Credentials Committee, shall pay a registration fee as authorized annually by the Board of Directors. The fees so collected shall be used to defray the expenses of conducting the Grand Council Convention.

In addition, to further help defray the expenses and entertainment of the Grand Council Convention, the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) shall be appropriated from the funds of Grand Council and ordered paid by the Board of Grand Directors to the convening of the Grand Council Convention.

SECTION 12 VOTING: The members of Grand Council entitled to a vote shall be all properly seated **elected Delegates of Councils**, all elective incumbent Grand Officers, the Grand Chaplain the Past Grand Presidents and the District Deputies.

Rationale:

Elected Delegate(s) to clarify the intent that only elected delegates shall receive the incentive for attending the Grand Council Sessions.

Proposal #3

Article IV: Committees, Powers and Duties

Proposed change is to add Section 19

SECTION 19: Advance Technology Committee: This Committee shall consist of five (5) members, one (1) who shall be a Grand Director appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors and four (4) appointed by the Grand President, one (1) who shall be a Grand Officer and designate its chairman. The Committee is to look at ways the YMI can use modern technologies to improve its operations and how it communicates information.

Rationale:

To define the formation and purpose of the Advance Technology Committee in 2025.

Proposal #4

Article IV: Committees, Powers and Duties

Current Language:

SECTION 1 GRAND COUNCIL COMMITTEES: The Grand President shall appoint members of the following Grand Council Committees as indicated by the membership requirements for each Committee: Arbitration, Auditing, Budget, Ceremonials, Credentials, Institute journal, Laws and Revisions, Membership, Organization, Pro Deo, Pro Patria, Reserve Fund, Resolutions, State of the Institute, and Workshop.

Proposed language change to Article 1 (New, in bold print)

SECTION 1 GRAND COUNCIL COMMITTEES: The Grand President shall appoint members of the following Grand Council Committees as indicated by the membership requirements for each Committee: Arbitration, Auditing, Budget, Ceremonials, Credentials, Institute Journal, Las and Revisions, Membership, Organization, Pro Deo, Pro Patria, Reserve Fund, Resolutions, State of the Institute, Workshop **and Advanced Technology.**

Rationale:

To incorporate into the Committees, Powers, and Duties the newest Grand Council Committee – Advanced Technology.

Proposal #5

Article IV: Committees, Powers and Duties

Current Language

Section 16 STATE OF THE INSTITUTE COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of seven (7) members and shall have the Immediate Past Grand President as Chairman. It shall include one (1) Grand Director appointed by the Chairman of the Board, and the Grand President shall appoint five (5) members, one of whom shall be a Grand Officer. The Committee shall consider all the recommendations it receives for the improvement of the Order and may initiate recommendations of its own for submission to the Grand Council Convention. It shall examine the reports and recommendations of the Grand Officers, the Grand Council Committees, and of the Board, which it may include in its recommendations. At least forty-five (45) days prior to the convening of the Grand Council Convention, this committee shall prepare a preliminary report of its proposed recommendations to Grand Council and submit it to all Councils for the consideration of their members and delegates. The report shall also be included in the Advance Proceedings. When no action is taken by this Committee on a recommendation it receives, the Committee shall notify the member or Council concerned prior to the convening of the Grand Council Convention. In such an event, the member or Council wishing to present the recommendation to the Grand Council Convention for action shall first submit the recommendation, in duplicate, to the Grand Secretary with a petition signed by at least twenty (20) properly seated members of Grand Council. The Committee then shall present the submitted recommendation to the Grand Council Convention, and the Grand Council Officers shall determine what action to take on the recommendation. Successful amendments by the State of the Institute Committee approved by majority vote of Grand Council that involves constitution or by-law changes, shall be reviewed and the language made consistent by the Laws and Revisions Committee.

Proposed language change to Article IV (New, in bold print)

SECTION 16 STATE OF THE INSTITUTE COMMITTEE: This Committee shall consist of seven (7) members and shall have the Immediate Past Grand President as Chairman. It shall include one (1) Grand Director, appointed by the Chairman of the Board, and the Grand President shall appoint five

(5) members, one of whom shall be a Grand Officer. The Committee shall consider all the recommendations it receives for the improvement of the Order and may initiate recommendations of its own for submission to the Grand Council Convention. It shall examine the reports and recommendations of the Grand Officers, the Grand Council Committees, and of the Board, which it may include in its recommendations. At least forty-five (45) days prior to the convening of the Grand Council Convention, this Committee shall prepare a preliminary report of its proposed recommendations to Grand Council and submit it to all Councils for the consideration of their members and delegates. The report shall also be included in the Advance Proceedings. When no action is taken by this Committee on a recommendation it receives, the Committee shall notify the member or Council concerned prior to the convening of the Grand Council Convention. In such an event, the member or Council wishing to present the recommendation to the Grand Council Convention for action shall first submit the recommendation, in duplicate, to the Grand Secretary with a petition signed by at least twenty (20) properly seated members of Grand Council. The Committee then shall present the submitted recommendation to the Grand Council Convention, and the Grand Council Officers shall determine what action to take on the recommendation. Successful amendments by the State of the Institute Committee approved by **2/3 (two-thirds) vote of Grand Council members present and voting**, that involves constitution or by-law changes, shall be reviewed and the language made consistent by the Laws and Revisions Committee.

Rationale:

To provide consistency between Article IV, Section 16 and Article XI, Section 1 Amendments. See Article XI Amendments. Replace majority vote with 2/3 (two-thirds).

Proposal 6

Article XI, Amendments, Section 1

Current Language

Article XI Amendments

SECTION 1: AMENDMENTS: These Grand Council By-Laws may be amended at a regular Grand Council Convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Grand Council members present and voting. Any Council, or any member of the Order, may propose amendments to the Grand Council By-Laws by submitting them to the Grand Secretary, or directly to the Chairman of the State of the Institute Committee, at least ninety (90) days prior to the regular Grand Council Convention. The Grand Secretary shall immediately forward such proposed amendments he receives to the Chairman of the State of the Institute Committee, which Committee shall examine and consider the proposed amendments, may revise the proposed amendments, and shall report to the Grand Council Convention concerning those proposed amendments it deems necessary for the well being of the Order. All amendments to the Grand Council By-Laws adopted by the Grand Council Convention shall take effect immediately, unless otherwise provided for by the Grand Council Convention.

Proposed language change to Article XI, add Section 2

Upon approval, at the Grand Council Convention, of changes and amendments to Grand Council By-Laws, the State of the Institute Committee shall submit in writing to the current Laws and Revisions committee the approved changes and amendments. The Laws and Revisions Committee will review the changes and amendments and present their approval to the first Board of Directors meeting following the Grand Convention.

Within 30 days of the Board of Directors meeting, the Grand Secretary shall; after receiving from the Board of Directors the change and amendments incorporate all changes and amendments to the By-Laws for distribution and posting on the YMI web site.

Rationale:

To set a clear procedure and time frame for adopting and publishing changes and amendments to the By-Laws.

Rest in Peace Brothers

John F. Gallagher	11-16-2024	Council #80
John Campus	11-24-2024	Council #613
Jerry Nolan	11-26-2024	Council #613
Fernando Teglia	11-24-2024	Council #32
Lloyd Fantazia	10-3-2024	Council #44
John Prouty	12-29-2024	Council #32
Charles Kempf	12-6-2024	Council #497
Daniel Coelho	1-15-2025	Council #44
James Arriaga	1-10-2025	Council #80
Erwin Giacomini	2-8-2025	Council #54
Joe Bertsch	12-8-2024	Council #612



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Name	Sponsor	Date
RAMON FERNANDEZ #32	MICHAEL BELMESSIERI & MARIO DA SAN MARTINO	03-06-2025
JOHN DESMOND #613	MICHAAL AMATO	12-10-2024
DANIEL RODRIGUEZ #573	IAN TERPSTRA	12-15-2024

High School Winning Essay

Johnieanne McDonnell,

Seton High School
Richmond, Indiana

To Kill a Mockingbird is a classic novel written by Harper Lee. Lee wrote this book to look at racism. This book was written based on her own experiences of Monroeville, Alabama where she was raised. This book was inspired based on events she witnessed as a child. The book speaks to the issues of racism and how people are treated in society. After reading this book it has altered the way I view society and racism. This book also inspired me to reflect on how I engage with others in my daily life.

Before reading this book, I thought of racism as a problem that was not in my everyday life. But during reading about the trial of Tom Robinson I realized just how racist people can be just because people are different from them. Atticus Finch stands up for Tom even though most of the town is turning against him. After reading how Atticus handled this situation it has encouraged me to be more aware of injustice around me and to question people's action more closely and stand up for what I believe in and what I know is right. We all experience or witness racism in our towns and schools every day.

In reading To Kill A Mockingbird it helped me look at different perspectives and be more open to differences even if I disagree with that perspective. In the book Atticus urges Finch to take time and pretend like he is walking around in someone else's skin. This opens his eyes to what others may be feeling and how they view the world. I try to be more open to everyone and listen to all points of view without judgement until I truly understand all facts. Sometimes I know I can be stubborn and want to do things my way, but I always need to think of others and what their feelings may be toward the situation. I always want everyone to feel like they are treated fairly and equally.

One of the most impactful parts of the novel is how it teaches the importance of moral courage. Standing up for someone, even when its unpopular, is a lesson I will carry with me. Atticus's defense of Tom Robinson is a reminder that it takes bravery to do the right thing, especially when others in society resist it. The novel emphasizes the dangers of prejudice and assumptions of others. I realize now how important it is to avoid judging others before understanding their situation and circumstances.

To Kill a Mockingbird is more than an old book that was written in 1960. This book is a reminder to all that we need to be more compassionate to others if we want a fair society. This book has also challenged me to confront my own issues and to have great empathy for people who may be going through a racist situation. I will stand up for others when it is right, no one is better than the other person and we are all equal in God's eyes. We must all have courage to defend others when it is the right thing to do.



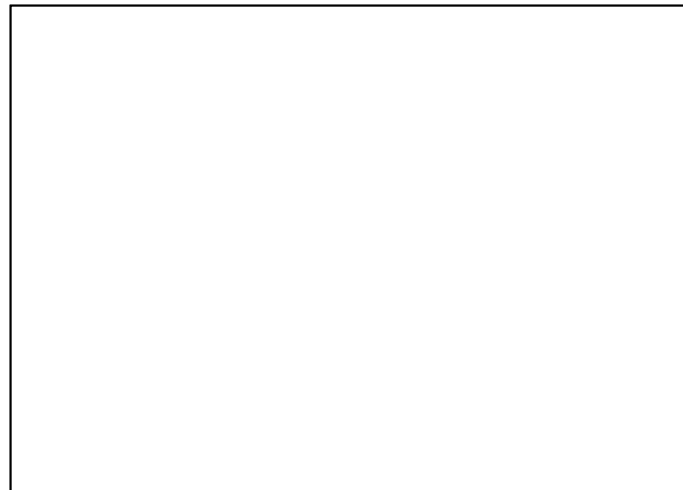
Essay Contest Winners

High School Winners

First Place	Johnieanne McDonnell	Seton - \$2000
Second Place	Katelyn Dunbar	Notre Dame SJ - \$800
Third Place	Isabella Caskey	Seton - \$800
Fourth Place	Nicholas Bartolomei	Cardinal Newman - \$600
Fifth Place	Annelise Hall	Riordan - \$500
Sixth Place	Megan Dunbar	Notre Dame SJ - \$500
Seventh Place	Omar Batarseh	Cardinal Newman - \$200
Eighth Place	Kayleigh Dudley	Seton - \$200
Ninth Place	Abigail Bagby	Seton - \$200
Tenth Place	Kimberly Groverman	St. Vincen De Paul - \$200
Eleventh Place	Sydney Gill	St. Ignatius - \$200
Twelfth Place	Katie Bower	Sacred Heart Cathedral - \$200
Thirteenth Place	Andy Oandason	Cardinal Newman - \$200
Fourteenth Place	Emilia Ross	Riordan - \$200
Fifteenth Place	Allen Goretti	St. Joseph Hillo - \$200

Middle School Winners

First Place	Jordyn Haynes	Seton - \$1000
Second Place	Issac Nevarez	St. Anthony Atwater - \$500
Third Place	Matthew Niclolas	All Souls - \$500
Fourth Place	Theresa Laupati	St. Robert - \$400
Fifth Place	Mason Hernandez	All Souls - \$200
Sixth Place	Abigail Costa	Sacred Heart Turlock - \$100
Seventh Place	Maci Working	St. Anthony Atwater - \$100
Eighth Place	Ada Vu	Seton - \$100
Ninth Place	Ekamjat Rai	St. Anthony Atwater - \$100
Tenth Place	Christiana Samano	Sacred Heart Turlock - \$100
Eleventh Place	Breanna Martinez	All Souls - \$100
Twelfth Place	Braylen Anderson	Seton - \$100
Thirteenth Place	Adelaide Fraley	Seton - \$100
Fourteenth Place	Elmer Ramos	Holy Angels - \$100
Fifteenth Place	Annika Becker	Good Shepherd - \$100



Faith Amidst Trials

by

Jordyn Haynes, Seton Catholic School

Middle School Winning Essay

At the young age of fourteen, my cousin Janie was diagnosed with Lyme disease. This battle has triggered issues with her heart and nervous system over the past fifteen years. She has a port, takes multiple intravenous injections, and consumes over thirty medications a day. She has had multiple major surgeries and hospitalizations year after year. In spite of all this, Janie never gives up. I cannot put into words how miserable this has been for her. She has consulted with doctors all over the country who try to help her. Even though she is struggling, she lives each day to the fullest. It is difficult to tell she is chronically ill by her mannerisms and her bubbly personality. She best exemplifies Christ for me, my family, and everyone whose lives she has touched.

Every experience I have had with Janie has been magical. She has an incredible heart and never stops giving. Janie volunteers once a week at a program for at-risk, impoverished kids. She pours her heart into making their lives better. She also has a special relationship with her nephews. She is a nanny and teaches her nephews about God's love and creation. I can live out her mission by also volunteering at local organizations in which I have a deep connection and interest. I could also donate a portion of the money I get from my jobs to food pantries and organizations to help those in poverty. Her faith is incredibly strong and it has impacted me to have a close relationship with Christ.

Janie is involved in several Bible studies where she has formed meaningful relationships. For one Bible study in particular, she hosts guests once a week at her house, providing a warm meal for each of them. She is an excellent baker and cook. Although health complications have left her without much of an appetite, she finds joy in pleasing others with her delectable food. Janie not only loves to cook for people, but she is a renowned gift giver as well. She gains more joy searching for and giving gifts than receiving any gift.

Janie's example of faith, despite her adversity, has brought her closer to God rather than driving her away. Although this disease has taken an enormous toll on Janie's life, she still strives to maintain a separate identity. Each day may be uncertain regarding health or any obstacles, but a reminder of "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ," (Philippians 4:7) can give others the strength to keep pushing. Janie exemplifies this scripture with living life in peace despite her circumstances. Furthermore, I can personally be more like Janie through Christ by not worrying about issues that are out of my control. Only God knows the outcome; everyone needs to put their complete trust in Him. "Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge." (Psalm 62:8)



Educational Foundation Memorials

Name	Donor(s)
Fernando Teglia	South San Francisco Council #32
Mark Schwery	South San Francisco Council #32
Joe Bertsch	Gonzaga Council #612
Rita Wright	Gonzaga Council #612
John Prouty	Michael and Mara Amato, South San Francisco Council #32, Manuel and Celeste Drumonde
Daniel Coelho	Holy Rosary Council #44, Manuel and Celeste Drumonde
Madeleine Banfield	Jack Albrecht
Decease Members of Francis Council #573	Francis Council #573
Alice Albrecht	Manuel and Celeste Drumonde

SEMINARIAN FOUNDATION DONATIONS

In memory of Alice Albrecht by Michael and Mara Amato

In memory of Mary Schwery by Michael and Mara Amato

In memory of Mark Schwery by Philip and Alicia Oberst

In memory of Nicholas Renke by Philip and Alicia Oberst

In memory of Mark Schwery by Cosmo Amato

In memory of John Campus by Cosmo Amato

In memory of Jerry Nolan by Cosmos Amato



Brothers of the YMI

I am honored and proud to invite all Brothers of the YMI to attend the 140th Grand Council Sessions of the Young Men's Institute. We will meet yet again at Bally's Resort and Casino in South Lake Tahoe. You can find the Registration form in this issue of "Under the Lamp Post" and also at Young Men's Institute Website (<https://ymiusa.org/>) where the issue will be posted. Early registration is recommended and rooms fill quickly.

Remember, each YMI Council is entitled to elect delegates to attend and vote on YMI proposals.

Proposals that guide our organization in the work that we perform. The number of delegates who can attend from a Council is based on the membership roll for that individual Council. But of course, you can attend as a non-delegate (no vote) and participate in the events and sessions. Either way, please consider attending the Grand Council Sessions this year. You will be glad you did. Brothers can see the work of the YMI in action and gain a better understanding of the reasons why we work with the YMI, and the great things that we do for our Catholic communities and fellow members.

I am looking forward to seeing many of my Brothers there.

Yours for God and Country

Billy Avery

Grand President

Pro Deo

Pro Patria



**140th Grand Council Session of the Young Men's Institute
 Bally's Resort and Casino
 55 Highway 50, Lake Tahoe, Nevada 89449
 June 16-18, 2025
Registration Form**

Member's Name: _____ Council #: _____ Tel:# _____ E-Mail _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Names of all other Guests _____

Participating as a Delegate (check one): Council Delegate _____ Grand Council Officer _____ District Deputy _____
 _____ Past Grand President _____ Alternate _____

Delegate Registration Fee - \$60 Total:\$ _____

Event Reservations:

Monday, June 16, 2025 – 6:00 p.m. – St. Theresa Catholic Church, 1041 Lyons Avenue, South LakeTahoe, CA –
 Opening Mass/Remembrance Ceremony Number Attending _____

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 – 8:00 a.m. – Grand Breakfast – Evergreen B Banquet Room – Bally's Resort and Casino –
 Tahoe Buffet - \$35 per person (Children under 15 - \$15)
 Adults Attending: _____ Children Attending: _____ Total:\$ _____

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 – 12 Noon – Delegate Lunch
 Box Lunch – (only for YMI Brothers) - \$25
 Check sandwich choice: Roast Beef _____ Turkey _____ Chicken _____ Total:\$ _____

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 – 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. – Optional Event – Italian Buffet Dinner (with wine Included) –
 "Heavenly Social at Club Blu" – Bally's Resort and Casino - \$55 per person (Children under 15 - \$15)
 Adults Attending: _____ Children Attending _____ Total:\$ _____

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 – 4:30 p.m. – St. Theresa Catholic Church, 1041 Lyons Avenue, South Lake Tahoe, CA –
 Celebration Mass/Installation Ceremony
 Number Attending: _____

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 – 6:00 p.m. ~ Cocktails and 7:00 p.m. ~ Grand Banquet at Bally's Resort and Casino –
 Evergreen B Banquet Room - \$60 per person (Children under 15 - \$20)
 Adults Attending: _____ Children Attending: _____
 Entrees: New York Strip Sirloin _____ Grilled Halibut _____ Chicken Fingers (Children only) _____ Total:\$ _____

Grand Total for Registration and Events **Total Submitted: \$ _____**

****Registration forms are due in the Grand Council Office no later than May 15, 2025. Make checks payable to YMI Grand Council and mail to YMI, PO Box 281047, San Francisco, CA 94128. No refunds after June 1, 2025.**

Candidates running for office 2025-2026

BROTHER BILL WALLS

For
Grand President

*Supported by the Brothers of
St. Christopher Council #80*

Brother Richard Murphy

For
Grand First
Vice President

Sponsored by the Brothers
Of South San Francisco
"CC"

St. John Bosco Council #613
Proudly Sponsors

**BROTHER MARIO
BALISTRERI**
**For Grand Second Vice
President**

**ST. JOHN BOSCO COUNCIL
#613 PROUDLY SPONSORS**

Br. Michael Dimech

**For the office of
Grand Secretary**

Brother John Cleary
For
Grand Marshal
*Supported by the Brothers
of Council #613*

South San Francisco
Council #32
Announces Its Support For
**BROTHER
BOB BARTOLI**
For
Grand Treasurer

COUNCIL # 32 SUPPORTS

BROTHER PAUL LARSON
FOR
GRAND OUTSIDE SENTINEL

**ST. JOHN BOSCO COUNCIL #613
GIVE THEIR SUPPORT
TO**
BOB FIORITO
FOR
GRAND INSIDE SENTINEL

**St. John Bosco Council #613
Announces the Candidacy
Of
Brother Michael Amato**

**For
The Office of Grand Director**

**BROTHERS OF COUNCIL #44
SUPPORT
BROTHER DANNY AVILA**

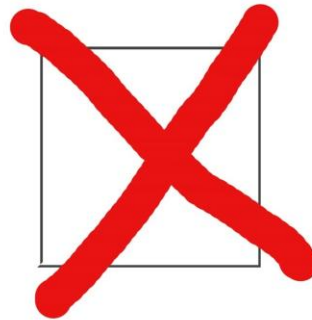
**FOR
THE OFFICE OF GRAND
DIRECTOR**

BROTHER JOHN CLEARY

**Announces his candidacy
For Grand Director**

**SUPPORTED BY
ST. JOHN BOSCO COUNCIL #613**

VOTE

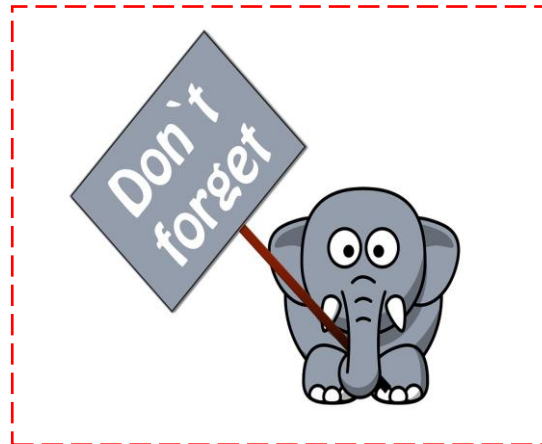


Grand Director Board Meeting Recap

The YMI Board of Grand Directors met via Zoom on January 11th and March 15th. The meetings were led by the Board Chairman (Br. Mike Amato #613) and many YMI Grand Directors and Officers participated in active discussions during these meetings covering a range of topics. The following list provides highlights of the two meetings:

- Grand President (GP) Billy Avery shared his travel plans and experiences meeting with various YMI Councils on his official visits. His visit with his wife to Hilo, Hawaii was reported to be a highlight. Br. Avery was also granted funds from the Grand Council to charter a bus for YMI Brothers in the Central Valley to attend the Red & White Mass.
- Grand First Vice-President Bill Walls #80 and Business Manager Tom Fourie #32 provided updates of the Pro Patria Raffle and Essay Contests at each meeting. This year's raffle proceeds unfortunately fell short of covering the essay contest/raffle expenses (largely due to a relatively weak YMI member participation rate of only about 15%). The essay contest received 316 essays from students and the results should be announced in April 2025.
- Grand Second Vice-President Richard Murphy #32 covered the Red & White Mass planning efforts during the January meeting. At the March meeting, Br. Murphy reported the results of a very nice YMI event, while offering thanks to several YMI Brothers for helping him run the event.
- Event co-chairs (Br. Mike Dimech #613 and Br. Steve Cresci #32) discussed their planning efforts for the YMI Pasta Bingo in January and event results in March. The event received much praise from those who attended and it successfully netted a much-needed \$1440 profit to cover the costs of the Pro Patria Essay Contest.
- YMI Grand Council finances generally look to be in solid shape, except for the Insurance account. Insurance expenses are exceeding the insurance assessment by about \$5000 per year. The Board supported a proposal for an insurance rate adjustment to be presented by Grand Treasurer Bob Bartoli #32 at the upcoming Grand Council Sessions to reduce and possibly eliminate the shortfall.
- The Board's Finance Committee also met with investment advisors to review the respective Death Benefit and Reserve Funds' portfolios and performances.
- The Board reviewed the dues collection status for YMI Council #900. 32 current members of that Council have paid dues and remain in good standing.
- The Board reviewed planning efforts for various YMI Sporting Events. The YMI Golf Tourney is set for April 27th in Castro Valley, while the Bowling Tourney is planned for May 18th at Pacific Bowl in Stockton. The YMI Bocce Ball Tourney is scheduled for September 27th in South San Francisco. In addition, the YMI has organized a Minor League Baseball Game (Modesto Nuts v San Jose Giants) for July 19th in San Jose.
- The Board discussed planning efforts for the upcoming Grand Council Sessions to be held in Lake Tahoe on June 16th-19th. Besides going over various hotel and event details that will be shared with all YMI Councils via a letter in the Spring, the Board approved a \$125 stipend per elected delegate for attending the 2025 Grand Council Session. The stipend is limited to 4 elected delegates or \$500 per YMI Council.

- To prepare for the Grand Council Sessions, the Board discussed deadlines & assignments for Grand Officers and Committee Chairs to complete the Advance Proceeding document to be issued to identified YMI delegated by June 1st.
- The Board has been seeking candidates for its Grand Council 2025-26 officer slate. In response, we have successfully received candidate applications for many of the available positions. We are presently looking for volunteers to fill the Grand Marshall position and two expected Grand Directors vacancies.



DON'T FORGET.....Due Date:

The next issue of the Institute Journal will be the Summer Issue.
All articles, pictures, etc. to be submitted to the Business Manager

by *August 1, 2025.*

Send to YMIUS@aol.com

DON'T FORGET