

**Young Men's Institute
Board of Grand Directors Meeting
March 21, 2026 @ 8:45 a.m.**

Agenda

Call to Order – Brother Mike Amato #613, Chairman, Board of Grand Directors @ 8:49 a.m.

Opening Prayer – Bill Avery, PGP

Pledge of Allegiance – Brother Chris McCann #8, GM

Roll Call – Brother Michael Dimech #613, GS/PGP

Michael Amato #613 GD/PGP (Chairman)

Danny Avila, #44 GD (Vice Chair)

Luis Alvarenga #32, GD

Domenic Carinalli #54 GD

John Cleary #613

Manuel Drumonde, #44, GD/PGP

Ed Silva, #54, GD

Gus Solidum #94, GD

Bill Walls #80 GP

Richard Murphy #32 GFVP

Mario Balistreri #613 GSVP

Billy Avery #80 IGP

Rev. Angel De Heredia #32 GC - Excused

Michael Dimech #613 GS/PGP

Bob Bartoli #32, GT/PGP

Chris McCann #8, GM

Paul Larson #32, GOS - Excused

Bob Fiorito #613, GIS -

Tom Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager

DDGPs:

Clement Gusman

Alex Preciado

Frank Dimaggio - Excused

Others:

Steve Cresci

Approval of Board Minutes- Br. Mike Dimech, GS/PGP:

- **Grand Sessions Meeting: January 24th (Motion needed to approve)**

Motion to approve: Br. Gus

Seconded: Br. Dominic

Motion Approved

Communications - Br. Mike Dimech #613, GS/PGP & Br. Tom Fourie #32, BM/PGP

Council Newsletters:

- San Jose Council #2 - January, February
- St. John Bosco Council #613 - February, March
- South San Francisco Council #32 - February, March
- Francis Council #573 - February, March

Letter to all Councils from Business Manager, Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP on their expected attendance at the March 14, 2026 Red and White Mass.

Red and White Mass Flyer

Court documents on the disbursement of assets from the late Brother Robert E. O'Donnell #1's estate. Ymi to receive \$11,286.84.

2026 Annual Grand Council Golf Tournament Flyer

St. John Bosco #613 - flyer for their Annual Ladies Night Dinner

Catholic Voice - Diocese of Oakland

YLI - Voice of YLGI - Holiday/Winter Issue

Report of the Grand Treasurer & Approval to Pay Bills – Br. Bob Bartoli #32, GT/PGP

- Status of Bills/Receipts (Motion needed to pay bills)
- Status of Investments
- Other
- Investments are looking good
- All bills have been paid
- We are currently in the Final month of 2025 -2026 – budget
- Provided budget documents in the last year (deposit sheets)

- Funds as of 3/21/26
- Schaub UBS
- Death Benefits: \$ 2,507m 257k
- Reserve Fund: \$ 362k \$74k
- Motion to approve the Treasurer Report: Danny
-
- Seconded: John
- Motion Passed

Reports of Grand Directors Board Committees for 2025-2026

- Charters (includes Archives): Brothers Ed Silva #54 (Chairman), Dominic Carinalli #54 & Manuel Drumonde #44
 - Any progress other than the clearing YMI storage area at All Souls in December?
 - This committee takes the lead on any issues regarding charter applications or the storage of YMI records for safekeeping.
 - Storage locker cleaned up in December – More room
 - Nothing new regarding charters
- Finance (includes Fundraising/Insurance): Brothers John Cleary #613 (Chairman) Michael Amato #613, & Luis Alvarenga #32
 - This committee reviews the monthly bills of the Grand Council. Two members sign off on each bill. This is usually done around the 15th of each month in coordination with the Business Manager and the Grand Treasurer. Bills are being paid.
 - The committee addresses insurance issues (should they arise) in coordination with the Grand Council Office
 - Committee monitors and promotes YMI Fund Raising programs. To be discussed later
 - Br. John would like to see a list of bills that are paid to the committee to review against the budget

- Br. Bob sends out a document / list of bills of what is being paid on a monthly basis to committee
- Reached out to Br. Cresci to arrange an audit of Grand Council books
- **Long Range Planning: Brothers Danny Avila #44 (Chairman), Michael Amato #613, Ed Silva #54 & Gus Solidum #94**
 - Any progress?
 - This committee should be looking to undertake efforts to consider how to implement goals in the 2025 Advanced Proceedings, as well as identify new goals for 2026.

Nothing new going on as of yet
Br. Danny did send out an e-mail

- **Council Activities: Brothers Domenic Carinalli #54 (Chairman), Danny Avila #44 & Gus Solidum #94**
This committee keeps abreast of Council planned activities, sharing results and best practices.
- Council #54 -3/14/26 corned beef dinner almost sold out
- **Supplies: Brothers Luis Alveranga #32 (Chair), John Cleary #613**
 - Inventory of pins/YMI supplies already submitted. Thank you!
 - The committee advises on issues involving YMI supplies (e.g. pins, hats) and verifies inventory.
- Pin Inventory on the website
- Councils can contact Grand Council Office for pins
- Will maintain 25 / 50 yr. pins going forward

Grand President's Report – Br. Bill Walls #80, GP

- Discussion of Official Visits &/or his GP YMI Program
- Other events/activities
- Using Zoom for Business meetings
- Went to three masses
- Went to Coda church
- Worked with pastor
- Granddaughter won't play at the golf Tournament
- Gave a \$100.00 donation for Golf Tournament and will attend the banquet
- Visited Council Oakland # 8 Council and Council # 59

- **Grand First Vice President's Report – Br. Richard Murphy #32 GFVP**

- Pro Patria Essay Contest: Status Update or Final Report
- Raffle: Final Report
- Other official events/activities
- 2026 Red and White Mass: Final Report
- Other official events/activities
- Raised over \$15,500k in raffle funds from raffle
- Possibly using Venmo / Zelle for future raffles – Need more participation from Councils is needed
- 12 YLI Councils purchased raffle tickets
- 412 essays received
- HS Division – Riordan top winner
- Grammar School 1st place winner came from Sacred Heart School – Turlock
- Thanked Br. Tom for his assistance

Grand Second Vice President's Report – Br. Mario Balistreri, #613 GSVP

Red & White Mass Recap:

- 85 people attended dinner
- \$800.00 in profit made
- Thanked all Councils 8, 44, 80, 94, 32, 613 and two YLI Council (#1, #100) for attending the Red & White Mass and dinner
- St. Cecilia's Pastoral staff attended
- Thanked Council # 2 for their \$200.00 donation for event
-

Grand Secretary's Report – Br. Michael Dimech #613 GS/PGP

- YMI Website Updates Status
- Other official events/activities

Since our January 24, 2026 Grand Director Board Meeting:

I requested the Webmaster to update our YMI Website with the following documents:

- *Grand Director Minutes of November 15, 2025*
- *Council newsletters received from the Business manager and the individual Councils have been uploaded onto the YMI Website.*
- *Red & White, Winter Lamp Post & Bowling Flyers on the website*

Other activities since our January Grand Director Meeting

- *Prepared and sent out the January 24, 2026 Grand Director Meeting minutes*
- *Worked on the Grand Council's Pasta Bingo Dinner with Br. Cresci and other Brothers from Council # 32 & #613.*
- *Also reached out to some Councils and obtained monetary donations to support the Pasta Bingo Dinner*
- *I also reached out to the caterer, St. Cecilia's Business Office and Parish Bingo representative on a few occasions to ensure the Pasta Bingo Dinner will run smoothly*
- *Attended St. John Bosco Council's February and March Business Meetings and Council 32's March Business meeting*
- *Rescheduled Council 613's 16th annual bocce ball tournament for Saturday, October 3, 2026 at Orange Park in South San Francisco*
- *Met with Convention committee on a few occasions*
- *Read a package of essays*
- *Presently working on my articles, that I am responsible for the Advanced Proceedings*

Business Manager's Report – Br. Tom Fourie #32 PGP, Business Manager.

- Coverage of the wide array of business matters coming into the YMI Grand Council Office.
- a. Prepare Grand Council's January bills for payment by the Grand Treasurer.
 - b. Daily receiving and processing of Pro Patria Essays for the 2026 contest.
 - c. Continuous visits to YMI Post Office Box in Burlingame, CA.
 - d. Attended YMI Education Foundation Meeting on January 27, 2026.
 - e. Processed YMI Education Foundation donations.
 - f. Prepared Treasurer's Report for the Seminarian Education Foundation.
 - g. Prepared and attended the February Convention Planning Committee Meetings.
 - h. Prepared Essay Judges' envelopes.
 - i. Attended Seminarian Education Foundation Meeting on February 5, 2026.
 - j. Prepared packets for Pro Patria Essay judges - continue moving to a variety of different judges.
 - k. Contacted Bally's Hotel in South Lake Tahoe working on details for Convention meals, registration, etc.
 - l. Attend South San Francisco Council #32's business meeting on February 12, 2026.
 - m. Begin work on Institute Journal.
 - n. Attended YMI Pasta/Bingo Mass and Dinner at St. Cecilia's Church.
 - o. Print out 440 individual student participation certificates for the Pro Patria Essay Contest.
 - p. Attend Grand Treasurer's Finance Committee Meeting with Br. Steve Davis and Mark Chapman.
 - q. Prepared YMI February bills and receipts for the Grand Treasurer.
 - r. Daily update and movement of Pro Patria Essays to different judges.
 - s. Attend YMI Budget Committee Meeting.
 - t. Prepare Death Benefit requests for Grand Treasurer.
 - u. Attend South San Francisco Council #32 Social (lamb dinner)
 - v. Daily processing of Pro Patria Raffle returns.

- w. Collect and organize Pro Patria Essay judging results.
- x. Attend South San Francisco Council #32's Business Meeting
- y. Attend YMI Red and White Mass and Dinner.

Received a dance card from Sonoma Valley Council dated in 1906 after earthquake took place

This is only a partial list.

Immediate Past Grand President's Report – Br. Billy Avery #80 IPGP

- Bus from Valley to Red & White Mass: Were you able to pay for bus?
- State of Institute: Status of Proposals for GC Sessions:
- Other

Enclosed are my IPGP notes for this morning's meeting.

January 7 Chowchilla #94 Meeting (BUS)

January 8 Hilmar #44 Meeting (BUS)

January 24 with GP Oakland Redshirt Breakfast

February 4 Seminarian Education Foundation Zoom

February 11 Convention Planning Phone Call

February 12 Hilmar #44 Meeting (BUS)

February 17 Convention Planning Zoom

February 25 Atwater #80 Meeting February 17 (BUS, ETC)

March 4th Chowchilla #94 Meeting (BUS)

March 14th Red/White Bus Trip

Lesson learned-Apologize for address of wrong church

spoke with Br Bob Rabiteau to let him know their ticket was pulled.

March 17th Hilmar Corned beef

Merced Going through change of assignments

****I Need to Sponsor Golf Tournament with Br Bob Florito**

For God and Country.

Br. Billy Avery

Unfinished Business –

- YMI GC Fundraising Efforts in February 26:
 - Pasta Bingo – Feb. 14th (Br. M. Dimech#613/B S. Cresci #32)
 - i. Successful effort raising almost \$2600 for the Pro Patria Fund! Kudos!
 - Super Bowl Pool – Feb 8th (Br. B. Bartoli #32)
 - i. Raised \$300 for Pro Patria Fund & added to Br. Murphy's wallet!
 - ii. Likely raise squares to \$20.00 a square next year.

- 2026 Grand Council Sessions: June 15-18 - Br. Walls #80 & Committee) -
 - Committee Planning Report
 - YMI Councils should be seeking delegates for the convention
- Need mailing to go out to the Councils, delegates, registration form
- Working with different people at the hotel
- Need to reserve rooms at the hotel
- Paid fees in advance to Grand Council
- Follow deadlines
- Fr. Agnel to send ltr.to archdiocese / Mases all set
- Delegates certificate / credential to be provided at the convention

New Business –

- YMI Business Manager Contract Renewal - Discussion (**Will need a motion**)
- We need to receive nominations from those seeking YMI Office for 2026-27
(**see the YMI Candidate Slate at the end of this agenda**)
- YMI Advanced Proceedings: Reports are in April! Deadline: April 30th
- Other:

Motion to renew Business Mgr.'s contract for YMI year 2026 -2027 made by:

Br. Danny

Seconded by: Br. Luis

Motion Approved

Nomination:

Received candidates for all positions except for 2nd VP and two Grand Council positions

Br. Mike sent out document to all Brothers who are responsible for submitting reports to the Advanced Proceedings

Reports from Grand Council Committees 2025-2026

- **Audit/Reserve Committee – GD Board Appointment: Br. John Cleary #613. The Committee Chair: Br. Steve Cresci #32, PGP**
 - *Audit plan for 2025-26 to ensure the best practices are being followed by YMI Councils and Foundations.*
 - *Audit of the Grand Council Books will be performed in the next couple of weeks*

- **Budget/Reserve Fund Committee** – GD Board Appointment: Br. John Cleary #613.
The Committee Chair is Brother Bob Bartoli #32 GT
 - *Review of YMI investment portfolio periodically considering market changes/risks and the level of liquidity and diversification needed.*
 - *New developments from doing actuarial analysis of the YMI DB Accounts.*
 - *New proposal on handling rising Insurance costs*
- *A few minor changes were made to the budget for 2026-2027*
Changes
- *Sports were broken down to different accounts*
- *The Treasurer presented the 2026-2027 budget to the Board for approval*
- *Not sure what the insurance cost will be at this time – Based on membership totals*
- *Not taking enough money from the Councils to cover Insurance cost*
- *Take in \$9,500.00 / Spend \$12,000.00 on Insurance*
- *Will be seeking a \$5.00 increase per member at Grand Council Sessions*
- *Br. Gus made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 budget*
- *Br. Ed seconded the motion*

Motion passed

Met with both Investment advisors (Steve Davis - UBS / Scott Chapman - Schwab

- *Death Benefits and Reserve funds managed by UBS will be sent to Schwab for management. Change is being made for simplicity purposes*
- *UBS will continue to manage funds for the Seminarian and Education Foundations*
- *Finance Committee proposed to increase the current death Benefits from \$2,500.00 to \$3,000.00*

- **Ceremonials Committee** – GD Board Appointment: Br. Domenic Carinalli #54. The Committee Chair: Br. Bill Walls #80, PGP (*pending an appointment by the GP*).

Nothing to report

- **Institute Journal Committee** – GD Board Appointment: Brother Mike Amato #613.
The Committee Chair is Br. Tom Fourie #32 BM/PGP.
 - *Status of the next Lamp Post edition?*

Need articles a week prior to 4/15/25 for publication of the Lamp Post

- **Laws and Revisions Committee** – GD Board Appointments: Brother Ed Silva #54 PGP.
The Committee Chair is Br. Nick Franceschine, #54, PGP.
 - *Any By-Law changes under review?*

Nothing to review

- **Man & Council of the Year Committee** – GD Board Appointments: Br Domenic Carinalli #54. The Committee Chair is Br. Bob Bartoli #32 GT/PGP.
- *Request for nominations has been posted in YMI Lamp Post and on-line on the YMI website*
- **Membership Committee** – GD Board Appointments: Br. Danny Avila #44 & Br. Manuel Drumonde. The Committee Chair: Br. Billy Avery, #80 IPGP.
 - *Should be working to review & implement LR Planning Committee recommendations for membership, among other ideas.*
- *The Committee will be sending out a letter to the Councils in the next couple of weeks with ideas and encouragement to bring in new members*
- **Organization Committee** – GD Board Appointment: Br. Luis Alvarenga, #32 Committee Chair is Brother Michael Dimech #613 GS/PGP.
 - Working on article for the Advanced Proceedings
- **Resolutions Committee** – GD Board Appointment: Brother Manuel Drumonde #80 PGP Committee Chair is Br. Alex Schmitt #8, PGD
 - Any requests made to nominate people deserving of resolutions?
- Something will be placed in the Institute Journal promoting resolutions
- **Advanced Technology: Committee Chair & GD Board Appointment: Br Gus Solidum**
 - *The committee is intended to look at ways the YMI can use modern technologies to improve its operations and how it communicates information. Action should build off 2025 work.*
 - ***Did the Committee finalize its best practice document?***
- TAC updates
- 1. Scheduling TAC meeting (week of 3/23) to review the draft policies for Institute approval
- 2. Propose to change the by-laws terminology of the Advancement Technology Committee (ATC), to Technology Advancement Committee (TAC) and submit to the Institute Journal for approval.
- 3. Zoom usage report (attached)
- 4. Suggest changing the YMI phone to Zoom phone (virtual phone)
- 5. Password manager subscription

- **Pro Deo Committee** – Board Appointment: Br. Mike Amato #613. Committee Chair is Brother Mario Balistreri #613 GSVP.
 - *Report to be skipped as covered previously in the GSVP Report.*
- **Pro Patria** – GD Board Appointment: Br. Luis Alvarenga, #32. The Committee Chair is Brother Richard Murphy #32 GFVP.
 - *Report to be skipped as covered previously in the GFVP Report.*
- **State of the Institute** – GD Board Appointment: Br. Danny Avila #44. Committee Chair is Brother Billy Avery #80 IPGP.
 - *Report to be skipped as covered previously in the IPGP Report.*

New Proposal – Increase in Death Benefits from \$2,500.00 to \$3,000.00

- **Credentials Committee** – GD Board Appointment: Br. Ed Silva #54. The Committee Chair is Br. Mike Dimech #613 GS/PGP.
 - *YMI Credentials prepared and will be handed out at the Grand Sessions this year*
- **Workshop Committee** – GD Board Appointment: Brother Gus Solidum #94. The Committee Chair is the Grand Council Office.

Nothing to report at this time

Reports from Sports Committees:

- **Golf** – Br. Bob Fiorito #613/Br. Paul Larson #613 (April 19th) - Status
 - Have 12 teams signed up to date
 - Requested a donation from Grand Council in the amount of \$250.00 (use funds from membership funds)
 - Motion: Br. Danny
 - Seconded: Br. John
 - Received donations from six Councils to include Council # 2, 32, 99 & 613 –Possible donation from Council # 94
 - Br. Manny to donate \$100.00
 - Also received \$300.00 donation from friend of Bob Fiorito (Monte Cristo Club)
 - Banquet Fees: \$50.00 to attend banquet only.

Bowling – This year's Bowling tournament is scheduled for May 17th

- Flyer is on the website

Bocce Ball Tournament

- This year's tournament is scheduled for October 3, 2026
- Flyer is on the website

San Jose Minor League Baseball game – July 25th / 5:00 p.m.

Flyer is on the website

San Jose Giants vs. Ontario Tower Buzzers

Grand Chaplain's Report – Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, Grand Chaplain

No Report

Good of the Order:

Br. Dimech recommended that we rename the YMI Essay contest beginning next year, as the YMI Thomas A. Fourie Essay Contest. Board members believed this was well delivered and were very supportive to honor Br. Tom in this manner.

Motion: Br. Manny

Seconded: Ed Silva

Motion passed

Closing Prayer – Steve Cresci #32, Grand Chaplain

Please keep Steve's daughter, Danielle and Frank Cisek in our prayers.

Next Meetings: *Potential Dates/Times*

- May 16th (Sat) @ 8:45 a.m.

Adjournment: 11:15