

ORDER SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA
Grand Lodge of Massachusetts
85 River Street Suite 2
Waltham, MA 02453

Minutes of the State Council Meeting
Wednesday, July 17, 2024

The monthly meeting of the State Council was called to order by State President Rodolfo Viscomi at 7:00pm.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

Excused: State Orator Brenda Buonanno
State Trustee Sylvia Pacetti-Poirier

State First Vice President Marisa Ranalli read the Principles of the Order.
State Second Vice President Kathi Young read the opening prayer.
State President Rodolfo Viscomi asked for a moment of silence for our departed members.
State President Rodolfo Viscomi led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

MINUTES OF THE MAY 15, 2024 MEETING

Motion made and seconded to accept the minutes as amended. Voted and so ordered.

COMMUNICATIONS

Thank you notes were received from scholarship recipients Madison Akin, Ashley Caputo, Alexa Coras, John LaFauci, Michael McCallum, Janina Varone, Adreanna Ventullo, and Angelina Ventullo. A motion was made and seconded to pass and file. Voted and so ordered.

A memo was received from State Deputy Chair Allison Crisci requesting the appointment of the following Deputies: Jeanette Salvo of the Lawrence Ladies Lodge # 2026 as State Deputy to the Methuen Lodge # 902, Denise Furnari of the Norwood Italian Lodge # 1235 as State Deputy to the Vittorio Veneto Lodge # 1035 of Fall River, Paul DiBona of the Ambrose D. Cedrone Lodge # 1069 of Newton as State Deputy to the Francesco DeSanctis Lodge # 1411 of Natick, Kathi Young of the Piave Fiume Lodge # 1036 of Watertown as State Deputy to the Sgt. Guido Perilli Lodge # 1606 of Roslindale, Joseph Salvo of the Methuen Lodge # 902 as State Deputy to the Victor Emanuel Lodge # 1646 of Haverhill, Jacquelyn Bonarrigo of the Christopher Columbus Lodge # 216 of Brockton as State Deputy to the Alessandro Volta Lodge # 1712 of Stoughton, Brian Patacchiola of the Quincy Men's Lodge # 1295 as State Deputy to the South Shore Lodge # 1850 of Hingham, and Joseph Salvo of the Methuen Lodge # 902 as State Deputy to the Lawrence Ladies Lodge # 2026. A motion was made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

A letter and ad request were received from the October Italian Heritage Month Committee for their 25th Anniversary Gala Celebration on September 27, 2024. A motion was made and seconded to refer to the C&E Trust. Voted and so ordered.

An email was received from Tammy Szelest of Definity with the recommended annual contribution to the Pension Plan and recommendation for the plan going forward. A motion was made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

Newsletters were received from the following Lodges: Christopher Columbus # 216 (Brockton), Wakefield # 1734, and the Grand Lodge of California. A motion was made and seconded to pass and file. Voted and so ordered.

TRANSFERS

Paul Salvucci from the Ambrose D. Cedrone Lodge # 1069 (Newton) to the Piave Fiume Lodge # 1036 (Watertown). A motion was made and seconded to approve the transfer. Voted and so ordered.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

State Financial Secretary Pio Frittitta presented the report of lodges in arrears as of June 30, 2024 and informed the Council of the lodges that have since paid. Motion made and seconded to accept the report. Voted and so ordered.

TREASURER'S REPORT

State Treasurer Armand Buonanno presented the Activities Fund, Balance Sheet, and P&L Budget Performance Reports for the month ending June 30, 2024. Motion made and seconded to accept the reports. Voted and so ordered.

ORATOR'S REPORT

The Orator's Report was discussed in Executive Session.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sunshine

Chair Marisa Ranalli advised the Council of the messages sent on behalf of the State President and the Council.

Merchandise

Chair Marisa Ranalli reported that she sold \$1,640 at the convention and that she will be selling merchandise at the next Hingham Lodge meeting.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Italian Culture and Historical

Marisa Ranalli reported on events that Chair Claudia Hartley and her commission members are looking into. The first event, a Wine Tasting at The Wine Bottega in Boston would be limited to 25 people with a ticket price of \$50. The net proceeds will benefit the Cooley's Anemia Foundation. A motion was made and seconded to approve the event. Voted and so ordered.

Other events included a Genealogy Ancestry Event in February, Polenta Night in February, Internation Women's Day Event in March, Sunday Mass at St. Leonard's Church in April, and Aperitif Night at Marina Bay in April. A motion was made and seconded to have the Commission move forward with researching these events and come back with further details.

The Commission is also investigating multi-lodge events for La Befana in January, and private viewings of the film *Cabrini*. There was a discussion of how to hold private viewings of the film. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to have the Commission create a template on how to hold a La Befana event and present it to interested filial lodges. Voted and so ordered.

Sports

President Rudy Viscomi stated that Chair Steve DeAngelis will be out of town for work until January 2025 and asked Pio Frittitta if he would be able to hold the Bocce Tournament at the Methuen Lodge in October. Pio will follow up with an October date.

OLD BUSINESS

Armand Buonanno discussed the proposed by-law change on limiting the number of issues of the Sons of Italy News and distribution thereof that was defeated at the Convention. He asked that we consider ways to send the newspaper electronically, reduce the costs of publishing, and sell more ads offset the cost. President Viscomi asked Paul Guida to arrange a meeting with Magazine Chair Pam Donnaruma, Armand, Rudy, and Paul to discuss options.

The Council members discussed the one-day convention and suggested improvements for future one-day conventions.

State President Rodolfo Viscomi reminded the Council that the officers of the Milford Lodge # 1356 voted to disband the lodge. A discussion ensued advising that the decision to disband the lodge must come from the entire membership. It was suggested to arrange a meeting with the members of the lodge.

Kathi Young reported that the National office will no longer be printing the By-Law books. Matt Ezekiel reported that the pages of the book are in pdf form on the National website and are available to members for printing.

NEW BUSINESS

Armand Buonanno discussed holding a general review of the budget at future state conventions. He stated there should be an ongoing discussion by the committee on ways to reduce expenses and to increase income, and offered growing membership, thereby increasing the amount of per capita collected, as an example. A discussion ensued on how to increase our income and create a five-year budget.

The Council address the letter and ad request received from the October Italian Heritage Month Committee for their 25th Anniversary Gala Celebration that was referred to the C&E Trust. A motion was made and seconded to recommend that the C&E Trust vote to purchase two tickets for the State President and subsidize one-half the ticket price for any Council member wishing to attend. Voted and so ordered.

The Council addressed the memo received from State Deputy Chair Allison Crisci regarding State Deputy appointments. A motion was made and seconded to approve the appointments. Voted and so ordered.

The Council addressed the email received from Tammy Szelest of Definity with the recommended annual contribution to the Pension Plan. Tammy reported that the plan was overfunded, and the recommended annual contribution was \$0. A motion was made and seconded to accept the recommendation. Voted and so ordered. Tammy also recommended that we unfreeze the accrual of benefits, which were frozen in 2013. A motion was made and seconded to table this pending more information on the related cost.

State Trustee Chair Matthew Ezekiel reported that the Trustees met prior to the meeting to review the books of the General Fund, Activities Fund, Charitable & Educational Trust, and Benefit Insurance Commission and found them to be in good order.

WELFARE OF THE ORDER

Kathi Young wished the attendees to the National Plenary Session in August in St. Louis all the best.

The Council members thanked Lilia Viscomi for the meeting collation and welcomed newly elected State Trustee Cheryl Caira.

Having completed all business in accordance with the By-Laws, State President Rodolfo Viscomi declared the meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Rita M. Anderson
State Recording Secretary