

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, September 18, 2024

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

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

Absent: State Orator Brenda Buonanno
State Trustee Agnes Nobile
State Trustee Lilia Viscomi

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 AUGUST 21, 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 Anthony Fraone, Jack Keaney, and Joshua Pupa. A motion was made and seconded to pass and file. Voted and so ordered.

An email was received from Cynthia Gage tendering her resignation as Scholarship Commission Chair. A motion was made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

A memo was received from Charitable & Educational Trust Chair Mark DeLuca requesting the appointment of the following members to the Trust: Tino DeGisi of Piave Fiume Lodge # 1036, Paul DiBona of Ambrose D. Cedrone Lodge # 1069, Michael Forte of Piave Fiume Lodge # 1036, Elpidio Marini of Piave Fiume Lodge # 1036, and Larry Pellegrini of Piave Fiume Lodge # 1036. A motion was made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

Letters of intent for the vacant State Financial Secretary position were received from Matthew Ezekiel, Dario Gagliano, and Brian Patacchiola. 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

None

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Paul Guida presented his report for month ending August 31, 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 August 31, 2024. Motion made and seconded to accept the reports. Voted and so ordered.

ORATOR'S REPORT

None

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, along with Rudy Viscomi, Denise Furnari, and Lilia Viscomi, attended Norwood Day on September 7 and sold \$565 worth of merchandise. Denise was happy to report that the Norwood Italian Lodge # 1235 obtained seven new members that day.

COMMISSION REPORTS

By-Laws

Kathi Young reported on the recent meeting of the National By-Law Committee and advised the Committee revised the wording in the Ritual Book, so that 'State Lodge' now reads 'Grand Lodge' throughout the book. The committee also removed the requirement that the Financial Secretary report the names of members of delinquent members to be cancelled due to nonpayment of dues as they felt it was inappropriate and embarrassing to these members. Instead, the Trustees should reach out to these members to see if they can be of any help in retaining their membership.

Junior Division

Armand Buonanno reported on the Bocce Tournament being held by the Samuel J. Musumeci Junior Lodge # 2693 on Saturday, September 21 and advised that eleven teams have signed up to play.

Organization and Education

Kathi Young reported that Chair David Crisci is planning a Zoom meeting on parliamentary procedures and will invite all officers and members to attend. He will record the presentation so that Filial Lodges can refer to it as needed.

State Deputy

Kathi Young reported that Chair Allison Crisci is planning a meeting for deputies to discuss their roles and responsibilities.

Italian Culture/Historical

Marisa Ranalli reported for Chair Claudia Hartley and advised 16 people have purchased tickets to the Wine Tasting event on Saturday, September 21 at The Wine Bottega in Boston, and that the movie *Cabrini* will be shown at the South Shore Lodge # 1850 of Hingham on Friday, November 15, instead of Friday November 8.

OLD BUSINESS

Florence Guidara, who is Chairing the raffle to recoup the \$4,000 we are sending to National for their deficit, joined the call. She reported that she is already selling one board of 100 squares for \$20 each with prizes totaling \$1,000, which would generate a profit of \$1,000. Rather than selling three more boards, her recommendation was to sell 200 raffle tickets at \$20 each with prizes totaling \$1,000, generating a profit of \$3,000. The two efforts would recoup the \$4,000 expenditure. A motion was made and seconded to move forward with selling one board and 200 raffle tickets. Voted and so ordered.

Kathi Young asked the Council members to consider what breakout sessions we would be interested in for next year's convention and reminded the Council that the survey sent to the delegates after the 2023 Convention showed that many people enjoyed the sessions that were included at that convention.

The Council addressed the suggestion that, in lieu of sending flowers or a fruit basket, a \$100 brick at the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum be purchased in memory of a deceased Council member or their immediate family member that was made at the last meeting. A motion was made and seconded to adopt this policy. Voted and so ordered.

NEW BUSINESS

The Council addressed the letters of intent for the vacant State Financial Secretary position received from Matthew Ezekiel, Dario Gagliano, and Brian Patacchiola. After a discussion on the eligibility of these candidates, a motion was made and seconded to refer the letters to State Orator Brenda Buonanno so she can interpret the by-laws and rule on each candidate's eligibility and postpone the vote until next month pending her ruling. Voted and so ordered.

The Council addressed the memo received from Charitable & Educational Trust Chair Mark DeLuca requesting the appointment of the following members to the Trust: Tino DeGisi of Piave Fiume Lodge # 1036, Paul DiBona of Ambrose D. Cedrone Lodge # 1069, Michael Forte of Piave Fiume Lodge # 1036, Elpidio Marini of Piave Fiume Lodge # 1036, and Larry Pellegrini of Piave Fiume Lodge # 1036. A motion was made and seconded to approve the appointments. Voted and so ordered.

President Viscomi informed us that there is another organization in Chicago with the name 'Sons and Daughters of Italy in America'. Kathi Young advised it was a lodge that separated from our Order and formed an independent non-profit in 2008. They have issued a cease-and-desist letter to National from using that name on our resigned logo. National's attorneys have suggested that we revise our logo to add the word 'Order' back to our name to resolve the issue. A meeting is being held on Friday, September 20 to vote on the change. President Viscomi asked that we ask our filial lodges not to use the new logo until further notice.

Kathi Young reported that the National At-Large Membership has increased from \$35 to \$50 and discussed what other states charge for their At-Large Members.

State Trustee Cheryl Cairra suggested we reinstate publishing thank-you notes received from scholarship recipients in the Sons of Italy News. President Viscomi discussed the cost of publishing these letters and advised we will discuss this at a later date.

WELFARE OF THE ORDER

Rita Anderson, Armand Buonanno, Salvatore Circosta, and Paul Guida thanked Sunshine Chair Marisa Ranalli for the birthday cards they received.

Salvatore Circosta thanked the Council members for the prayers and expressions of sympathy received on the passing of his mother.

Denise Furnari reminded the Council members October is Italian Heritage Month and of the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Italian Heritage Month Committee on September 27.

Having completed all business in accordance with the By-Laws, State President Rodolfo Viscomi declared the meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita M. Anderson
State Recording Secretary