

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, May 15, 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 Trustee Salvatore Circosta

Absent: State Financial Secretary Pio Frittitta
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 APRIL 17, 2024 MEETING

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

COMMUNICATIONS

An email was received from Andrew DiOrio, President of the Milford Lodge # 1356, advising that the officers agreed to dissolve the Lodge. A motion was made and seconded to refer to Old 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 reported for State Financial Secretary Pio Frittitta and presented the report of lodges in arrears as of April 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 April 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 advised she will be selling merchandise at the Tewksbury Festa on May 18.

MELA

Kathi Young reported that MELA was very successful and that most people preferred a luncheon rather than a breakfast. The committee will meet soon to discuss any changes for the next year.

State Convention

President Rudy Viscomi discussed inviting Consul General of Italy in Boston Arnaldo Minuti to speak at convention about the Festival of Italian Creativity that the Consulate is sponsoring November 21-23, 2024.

A motion was made and seconded to cover the airfare and car rental for Paul Guida during his visit in June for convention. Voted and so ordered.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Budget and Finance

Paul Guida presented the 2025 Proposed Budget that would be submitted for approval by the delegates to the 110th Annual State Convention. He reviewed the 2023 Actual vs. Budget and commented on material fluctuations greater than 10%. He reviewed the proposed 2025 income and expense line items and the calculations and formulas used. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed budget, with one minor change, and include it in the 110th Annual Convention business book. Voted and so ordered.

A discussion regarding the five-year budget committee followed. A committee had been formed but due to the pandemic, discussions stalled. It was suggested to revitalize the committee by asking if any members at the State Convention would be interested in joining.

Membership

Ian Hatfield reported that Commission members are planning to attend the next meeting of the Santa Famiglia Lodge # 2834 of Lynn to discuss holding a membership drive.

Junior Division

Brenda Buonanno updated the Council on the activities and events of the Samuel J. Musumeci Junior Lodge # 2693 of Methuen. They will plan their fall activities at their next meeting and will have a fun event to wrap up the year prior adjourning for the summer.

OLD BUSINESS

Kathi Young discussed the status of the Milford Lodge # 1356 and the email received from Lodge President Andrew DiOrio advising that the officers agreed to dissolve the Lodge. Trustee Salvatore Circosta has been in contact with the five men who told him they wanted to join the Lodges at the FOTO event. Salvatore will setup

a meeting with the five men, Rudy Viscomi, Marisa Ranalli, Kathi Young, and Sylvia Pacetti-Poirier to discuss this so the Council can then move forward with notifying President DiOrio and the other lodge members that these men are interested in joining and keeping the lodge open.

The Council again addressed the issue with the release of restricted funds and status of the request that the C&E Trust donate an additional \$1,500 over and above donations collected at State Convention for the Garibaldi Meucci Museum, noting the error in the April 21, 2023 minutes stating that the matter was referred to New Business rather than stating it was referred to the C&E Trust.

NEW BUSINESS

State President Rodolfo Viscomi discussed holding a Grand Lodge Trivia Night fundraiser on Friday, September 20 at the Watertown Sons of Italy. Lodges will be invited to participate with their own teams. The cost will be \$25 per person which includes snacks. Attendees can bring their own food. More information will be forthcoming. A motion was made and seconded to move forward with the event. Voted and so ordered.

A vote was taken via email (due to time constraints) on a motion to cover the airfare and hotel room for one night for two attendees to the NELA Gala in Washington, DC on May 23, 2024. The motion passed with a vote of 11-yes, 1-no, and 1-abstention.

Kathi Young discussed the need to sell merchandise and have Grand Lodge representatives attend upcoming festas as a way for us to increase our visibility.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding training for filial lodges for the iMembers app, database, and event platform to get more Lodges to use these resources.

WELFARE OF THE ORDER

Marissa Ranalli congratulated President Viscomi on a great meeting.

State Second President Kathi Young led the closing prayer.

Having completed all business in accordance with the By-Laws, State President Rodolfo Viscomi declared the meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita M. Anderson
State Recording Secretary