

**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, November 13, 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**

Excused: State Second Vice President Kathi Young  
State Treasurer Armand Buonanno  
State Trustee Cheryl Caira  
State Trustee Agnes Nobile

State First Vice President Marisa Ranalli read the Principles of the Order and 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 OCTOBER 16, 2024 MEETING**

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

An email was received from Angelo and Carol Rossi, National Co-Chairs to the Overseers of the Garibaldi Meucci Museum. A motion was made and seconded to refer to Old Business. Voted and so ordered.

An Application for Charter was received from Christian DeMarco, Phil Minichiello, and Josephine Mule Frioni for a new lodge, the 'Liberia Lodge of Greater Nashua' to be located in Nashua, New Hampshire. 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**

Financial Secretary Matthew Ezekiel presented the report for the month ending October 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**

Paul Guida presented the Activities Fund, Balance Sheet, and P&L Budget Performance Reports for the month ending October 31, 2024. Motion was 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.

### **Five-Year Budget**

President Viscomi advised that he and State Treasurer Armand Buonanno met to discuss various avenues to expand on our fundraising efforts. Suggestions were to open the Bocce and Cornhole Tournaments to non-members and to reinstate the Calendar Raffle and Pot of Gold. The Council members discussed other potential future fundraisers. A motion was made and seconded to hold the Pot of Gold drawing in conjunction with this year's State Convention, and a Calendar Raffle in January 2026. Denise Furnari was appointed to Chair the Pot of Gold and Matthew Ezekiel was appointed to Chair the Calendar Raffle.

## **COMMISSION REPORTS**

### **Membership**

State President Rudy Viscomi advised he hasn't received an update on the Italian Festa in September 2025 from the Membership Chair and advised that a committee will need to be formed.

### **Junior Division**

Brenda Buonanno reported that the Samuel J. Musumeci Junior Lodge # 2693 is planning a canned food and a mittens and hat drive. They will also be signing Christmas cards for the Nevins Nursing Home in Methuen.

### **Scholarship**

Paul Guida, in the absence of a Scholarship Chair, reported that the scholarship announcement and application are usually sent to the members and schools in late November. After discussion, the Council members agreed that we should continue with the scholarship program. President Viscomi advised that he is looking for someone to fill the open Scholarship Chair position.

### **Italian Culture/Historical**

Marisa Ranalli reported on the Commission's recent and future events. She advised that the Wine Tasting on September 21 at The Wine Bottega in Boston went very well and the Commission is hoping to hold the event again in the future. The Commission will be showing the movie *Cabrini* at the South Shore Lodge #1850 of Hingham on November 15, is hosting "Arriva La Befana" on January 12 at the Quincy Sons of Italy. The Commission is also looking into a Genealogy/Ancestry event and Polenta Night in February, a Dual Citizenship Discussion in March, a Mass followed by a visit to I AM Books in the North End in April, and an Aperitivo Night in May.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The Council addressed the email received from Angelo and Carol Rossi regarding the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum. They thanked the Council members for the memorial brick that was purchased and for addressing the actions items in their prior correspondence. State President Rudy Viscomi reminded the Council members that the Trivia Night, originally scheduled for September 20, was postponed due to lack of participation. He would like to move forward with rescheduling the event and have the proceeds benefit the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum. A motion was

made and seconded to reschedule the Trivia Night as a fundraiser for the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum. Voted and so ordered.

Paul Guida advised that since the Council meeting was held a week early, the deadline for letters of intent to be submitted for the open State Trustee At-Large position had not passed, so the election would need to take place at the next meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

State President Rodolfo Viscomi presented the following Permanent Commission Chair appointment:

Organization & Education                      Chris Higgins

A motion was made and seconded to approve the appointment. Voted and so ordered.

The Council addressed the Application for Charter received from Christian DeMarco, Phil Minichiello, and Josephine Mule Frioni for a new lodge, the 'Liberia Lodge of Greater Nashua' to be located in Nashua, New Hampshire. A motion was made and seconded to approve the charter and for the Grand Lodge to cover the \$100 charter fee. Voted and so ordered.

Recording Secretary Rita Anderson advised she spoke with Marianne Leone, an actor and local author, about hosting a breakout session at the State Convention to discuss growing up Italian in Newton, MA, and will update the Council members at the next meeting.

President Viscomi spoke about the Festival of Italian Creativity being held November 14-22 and advised that he, along with the Presidents of local Italian Organizations, were invited to attend a luncheon on November 18. He tried to show a video that had been distributed, but due to technical difficulties he asked Matt Ezekiel to email the video to the Council members.

The Council discussed the annual Grand Lodge Christmas Party. After much discussion, President Viscomi and First Lady Lilia offered to host a gathering at their home on Saturday, December 14.

### **WELFARE OF THE ORDER**

Various Council members expressed their excitement about the new lodge in Nashua, New Hampshire.

Having completed all business in accordance with the By-Laws, State President Rodolfo Viscomi declared the meeting adjourned at 9:05pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Rita M. Anderson  
State Recording Secretary