

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, August 21, 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 Salvatore Circosta

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 JULY 17, 2024 MEETING

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

COMMUNICATIONS

An email was received from State Financial Secretary Pio Frittitta tendering his resignation as State Financial Secretary. A motion was made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

A Save-the-Date announcement, ad request, and raffle books for a 'Super Raffle' for their 36th Annual Fundraiser Luncheon on Saturday, November 9, 2024 at LiGreci's Staaten in Staten Island, NY was received from the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum. A motion was made and seconded to refer to the C&E Trust. Voted and so ordered.

Newsletters were received from the following Lodges: Wakefield # 1734 and Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli # 2183 of Wilmington. A motion was made and seconded to pass and file. Voted and so ordered.

TRANSFERS

None

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Paul Guida presented the report for the month ending July 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 July 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 sold \$580 at the Leominster Italian Festival and \$289 at the Santa Famiglia Lodge # 2834 (Lynn) meeting on August 10.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Judiciary

Kathi Young reported that the National by-law committee is meeting September 15 to review proposed changes submitted by California and National. The committee will also be voting on changes to the Ritual Book regarding cancellation of members. She will update us on the progress next month.

Junior Division

Armand Buonanno informed the Council that the Samuel J. Musumeci Junior Lodge # 2693 of Methuen will be hosting a Junior Bocce Tournament in September. The flyer is being finalized and will be sent upon completion.

Sports

Rudy reported there is no date yet for the Bocce Tournament and suggested holding it in January or February 2025.

Italian Culture/Historical

Marisa Ranalli reported that 13 tickets of 25 tickets have been sold to date for the Wine Tasting event on 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 8. There will be no charge to attend. Food will be available to purchase.

OLD BUSINESS

Trustee Sylvia Pacetti-Poirier reminded the Council of the timeline of communication with the Milford Lodge # 1356 regarding the officers' desire to disband the lodge. President Viscomi reported that he explained to President Andrew DiOrio that the officers do not have the power to disband without a vote of the membership and that Andrew has not returned his phone calls or emails since then. Sylvia asked if the Orator could send a letter to the members asking for a meeting.

Denise Furnari reminded the Council of the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Italian Heritage Month Committee on September 27. The ad and ticket subsidy request was forwarded to the C&E Trust at last month's meeting. Numerous Council members indicated they were planning to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

The Council addressed the email received from Pio Frittitta resigning as State Financial Secretary. State President Viscomi advised that Paul Guida will report until the position is filled. A notice of vacancy will be sent to the delegates to the last Convention advising interested candidates to submit a letter of intent prior to the next Council meeting.

President Viscomi reported on the National Plenary session held August 8-10 in St. Louis. He advised that National has a budget deficit of \$25,000 and needs to make up this money by their fiscal year ending September

30. To make up this deficit, National will be billing each Grand Lodge an amount based on their membership. Massachusetts will be billed \$4,000. National suggested selling 4 - 50/50 boards of 100 squares each to recoup the amount expended. President Viscomi appointed State Past President Florence Guidara to Chair this effort and investigate the best options for raising the \$4,000. Rudy advised he will ask the C&E Trust to help with the payment. Rudy reported that during the Plenary session, FOTO members gave a presentation, noting they have been working hard recruiting new members for filial lodges and have been presenting seminars, which is something our FOTO members could be doing as well, and that we can address this in the coming months. A group from Perugia University in Italy gave a presentation on studying the Italian language online using AI concept. This is still in the working stages. The new OSDIA logo was presented and includes the colors of the Italian flag. The consensus was favorable to the new design.

National Historian Denise Furnari spoke about the Garibaldi Museum which is owned by the OSDIA. The museum's annual fundraiser is on November 9 in Staten Island, NY and she suggested that we hire a bus to send members interested in attending the fundraiser. She will send an email to filial lodges asking if any members would like to attend. Kathi Young reported that one of our members of the St. Padre Pio Lodge of Springfield owns a bus company and we could reach out to him. Kathi also suggested that we purchase a brick for this museum in memoriam of any deceased members rather than sending flowers or fruit baskets. The bricks are \$100 each.

WELFARE OF THE ORDER

Sylvia thanked Rudy and Lilia, Marisa, Kathi, and her husband for attending the Italian Festival in Leominster. She also thanked Marisa for selling merchandise there.

Having completed all business in accordance with the By-Laws, State President Rodolfo Viscomi declared the meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
Rita M. Anderson
State Recording Secretary