

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, January 15, 2025

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 Immediate Past President Denise Furnari

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 NOVEMBER 13, 2024 MEETING

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

COMMUNICATIONS

An email was received from Kathi Young tendering her resignation as State Second Vice President. A motion was made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

A letter was received from Kathi Young requesting that an arbitration case against her be heard by the Grand Lodge Arbitration Commission instead of her local lodge. A motion was made and seconded to refer to the Orator's Report. Voted and so ordered.

A letter of intent for the vacant State Trustee At-Large position was received from Elizabeth Sandquist of the Winchester Women's Lodge # 1592. 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, Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli # 2183 (Wilmington), the Grand Lodge of California, and the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum. A motion was made and seconded to pass and file. Voted and so ordered.

TRANSFERS

Marie Newman and Mary Smith from the Methuen Lodge # 902 to the Lawrence Ladies Lodge # 2026. A motion was made and seconded to approve the transfers. Voted and so ordered.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

State Financial Secretary Matthew Ezekiel presented the report for the month ending December 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 December 31, 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.

2025 State Convention

Marisa Ranalli reported that a preliminary meeting was held last week with herself, Rudy Viscomi, Salvatore Circosta, and Paul Guida to discuss the program and that a site visit has been planned for February 3 to begin reviewing the breakout rooms and menus. She advised that as the details are ironed out, Council members will be assigned to work on the various aspects of the Convention.

A discussion followed regarding various ideas for presentations and breakout rooms for the Convention including training on parliamentary procedure, presentations by the Italian Culture/Historical, Membership, and Organization and Education Commissions.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Junior Division

Brenda Buonanno reported on the past and upcoming activities of the Samuel J. Musumeci Junior Lodge # 2693.

Italian Culture/Historical

Marisa Ranalli reported that the Commission's two La Befana celebrations were cancelled due to low interest. The Commission plans to make a presentation on La Befana at the State Convention in June so the delegates can bring the program to their lodges. Marisa also updated the Council on the Commission's upcoming events.

Scholarship

President Viscomi reported that we are still in need of a Chair for this position and that the applications for scholarship consideration are due January 31. Marisa Ranalli reported that she and Lilia Viscomi have started planning the MELA event on May 4 at the Watertown Lodge and that the hall rental fee is \$750.

OLD BUSINESS

Paul Guida informed us that the Application for Charter that was approved at the last Council meeting is on hold as the initial contact has backed out. He provided a new contact person and Paul reached out to him, but he has yet to hear back from him. President Viscomi advised he would try to reach out to him.

NEW BUSINESS

State President Rudy Viscomi made the following assignments for the 2025 State Convention:

Chair	Marisa Ranalli
Golden Lion Award	Brenda Buonanno Cheryl Caira
Ad Book	Rita Anderson Armand Buonanno Lilia Viscomi
Pot of Gold	Matthew Ezekiel Denise Furnari

The Council address the letter of resignation received from State Second Vice President Kathi Young. A motion was made and seconded to accept the resignation. Voted and so ordered.

The Council addressed the letter of intent for the vacant State Trustee At-Large position received from Elizabeth Sandquist of the Winchester Women’s Lodge # 1592. There being no other candidates, Elizabeth Sandquist was declared elected by acclamation.

WELFARE OF THE ORDER

Rita Anderson advised that she will not be running for re-election as State Recording Secretary.

Matt Ezekiel thanked everyone for volunteering to help with the State Convention, noting that we will be very busy over the coming months.

The Council members thanked Rudy and Lilia Viscomi for hosting the Christmas party and for opening their home to us.

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