

# **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, April 17, 2024**

The monthly meeting of the State Council was called to order by State First Vice President Marisa Ranalli at 7:00pm.

### **ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

Excused: State President Rodolfo Viscomi  
State Financial Secretary Pio Frittitta  
State Trustee Agnes Nobile

State Second Vice President Kathi Young read the Principles of the Order.

State Immediate Past President Denise Furnari read the opening prayer.

State First Vice President Marisa Ranalli asked for a moment of silence for our departed members.

State First Vice President Marisa Ranalli led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

### **MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2024 MEETING**

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

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

An email was received from the Sons of Italy Foundation with sponsorship and ticket information for the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual National Education & Leadership Awards Gala on Thursday, May 23, 2024 at the Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center in Washington, DC. Motion made and seconded to refer to the C&E Trust with the recommendation that a bronze sponsorship be purchased which includes two tickets to the event for State President Rudy Viscomi. Voted and so ordered.

An email was received from Paul Taylor, President of the Granite State Lodge # 2380 of Rochester, NH, advising that they are in the process of closing the Lodge. Motion made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

An email was received from Carol and Angelo Rossi, MA Overseers to the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum once again questioning the release of restricted funds and status of the prior request that the C&E Trust donate an additional \$1,500 over and above donations collected at Convention. Motion made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

Newsletters were received from the following Lodges: Francesco DeSanctis # 1411 (Natick) and Wakefield # 1734. Motion made and seconded to pass and file. Voted and so ordered.

### **TRANSFERS**

None

## **FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT**

There were no updates to the report due to the absence of State Financial Secretary Pio Frittitta.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

State Treasurer Armand Buonanno presented the Activities Fund, Balance Sheet, and P&L Budget Performance Reports for the month ending March 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.

### **Merchandise**

Chair Marisa Ranalli reported that she wants to buy baseball caps, jackets, and beach towels to sell at upcoming events. A motion was made and seconded to purchase the items. Voted and so ordered.

### **MELA**

Matt Ezekiel advised that 40 tickets have been sold to date.

### **2024 State Convention**

Chair Kathi Young reported that to meet the budgeted profit and cover the associated costs (hall rental, A/V, meals, supplies, photos, etc.), the registration fee would need to be \$325. A motion was made and seconded to set the delegate registration fee to \$325. After discussion, the motion was moved and passed.

### **2025 State Convention**

Chair Kathi Young shared a spreadsheet of sites that the committee investigated, with room rates, food and beverage minimums, room rental costs, A/V, and other miscellaneous items, for the 2025 State Convention. Sites included the Sheraton Springfield, Envision Mansfield, Marriott Quincy, Sheraton Portsmouth, Hotel 1620 Plymouth, and Emerald Isles Hyannis. Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded to select the Sheraton Springfield for the 2025 State Convention. Voted and so ordered. The Convention will be held June 19-22, 2025.

## **COMMISSION REPORTS**

### **Junior Division**

Brenda Buonanno reported that she and Junior Division President Joe Salvo were in continued contact with Dan Onofrio, Immediate Past President of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, regarding their interest in starting a junior lodge in Connecticut.

### **Membership**

Ian Hatfield reported that he and Chair Renee Ouellette had planned to attend the April meeting of the Santa Famiglia Lodge # 2834 of Lynn to discuss a membership drive, but the meeting was cancelled due to the passing of a lodge member.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the status of the Milford Lodge # 1356. A motion was made and seconded to have Trustees Salvatore Circosta and Sylvia Pacetti-Poirier work with the Lodge to determine how we can assist them. Voted and so ordered.

### **Italian Culture/Historical**

Marisa reported on a tentative calendar of events and activities submitted by Chair Claudia Hartley and her commission members. A motion was made and seconded to have them move forward. Voted and so ordered.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The Council addressed the email received from Angelo and Carol Rossi, MA Overseers to the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum, once again questioning the release of restricted funds and status of the prior request that the C&E Trust donate an additional \$1,500 over and above donations collected at Convention. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made and seconded to have State President Rudy Viscomi work with Paul Guida to send a letter to finally put this issue to rest. Voted and so ordered.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Council addressed the email received from Paul Taylor, President of the Granite State Lodge # 2380 of Rochester, NH, advising that they are in the process of closing the Lodge. State Orator Brenda Buonanno will reach out to them to ensure they follow the proper procedure for disbanding a Lodge.

Rita Anderson discussed the need for an agenda prior to each meeting. She offered to create a template to send to the Council members prior to the meeting so they can fill in any items they wish to discuss and any questions they have and send the form back to her prior to the next meeting.

Matthew Ezekiel reported that the Trustees met prior to the Council meeting to review the books of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Charitable and Educational Trust, and Benefit Insurance Commission for the quarter ending March 31, 2024 and found them to be in good order.

The Trustees met following the Council meeting to elect a Chair, and Matthew Ezekiel was elected Chair of the Trustees.

### **WELFARE OF THE ORDER**

The Council members commended Marisa on a well-run meeting.

Lilia Viscomi advised she is investigating a trivia night as a fundraiser for the Grand Lodge.

Marisa thanked everyone for their patience with her running the meeting.

State Immediate Past President Denise Furnari led the closing prayer.

Having completed all business in accordance with the By-Laws, State First Vice President Marisa Ranalli declared the meeting adjourned at 9:10pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Rita M. Anderson  
State Recording Secretary