

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 17, 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 Recording Secretary Rita Anderson
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 NOVEMBER 20, 2023 MEETING

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

COMMUNICATIONS

An ad request was received from the New York State Grand Lodge Foundation for the Souvenir Journal for their 28th Anniversary Winter Charity Ball on Friday, January 26, 2024 at Leonard's Palazzo in Great Neck, NY. Motion made and seconded to refer to the C&E Trust. Voted and so ordered.

Newsletters were received from the following Lodges: Christopher Columbus # 216 (Brockton), Wakefield # 1734, and the Grand Lodge of California. Motion made and seconded to pass and file. Voted and so ordered.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

State Financial Secretary Pio Frittitta presented the report of lodges in arrears as of December 31, 2023 and informed the Council of the lodges that have since paid and contacts made with Lodges that have not. 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, 2023. 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

FOTO Workshop

Salvatore Circosta and Dario Gagliano updated the Council on the FOTO Workshop on Saturday, February 17 and advised there are 23 confirmed attendees to date. They are also targeting attendees from college Italian clubs and Italian social societies with the hope that these attendees will also become members.

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 will be selling merchandise at the FOTO Workshop.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Charity

Kathi Young reported that she spoke with Charity Chair April Etter regarding the possibility of the Commission hosting a breakfast to benefit Cooley's Anemia. She advised April to reach out to Lilia Viscomi.

Scholarship

Matthew Ezekiel advised that 3 applications had been received to date at the office. Applications must be postmarked by February 14, 2024.

Sports

Sports Commission Chair Stephen DeAngelis has scheduled a Cornhole Tournament for Sunday, February 25 at the Sons of Italy in Watertown. Information has been disseminated to all members.

Junior Division

Brenda Buonanno reported that the Samuel J. Musumeci Lodge # 2693 of Methuen will be collecting donations in March for the Day Break Shelter in Lawrence and advised that a flyer is being finalized. The Lodge is also working on other upcoming events including a membership drive.

Italian Culture/Historical

Marisa Ranalli reported that Chair Claudia Hartley is planning an event on March 8 at Marina Bay in Quincy. The Commission is also investigating holding a pasta making night.

Membership

Kathi Young reported that Chair Renee Ouellette and her commissioners will be visiting Lodges to assist them with setting up membership drives. The Commission is also discussing holding a Festa on the South Shore.

Organization and Education

Kathi Young advised that Chair David Crisci will be holding a training for Lodge Presidents on February 17 in the downstairs hall of the Watertown Sons of Italy.

OLD BUSINESS

Matthew Ezekiel updated the Council on the status of the sign for the outside of the building. The permit application has been submitted to the city. Once approved, the sign company can schedule the installation. He is working with the management company regarding the sign kiosk at the front of the parking lot to determine which slots are available.

Kathi Young advised that another round of training for iMembersdb will be announced in the next week or so.

NEW BUSINESS

State President Rodolfo Viscomi presented the following appointments as Chairs of Permanent Commissions:

Budget and Finance	Raymond Catuogno
State Deputy	Allison Crisci

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

State President Rodolfo Viscomi appointed Fr. Paolo Bagattini to serve as State Chaplain. A motion was made and seconded to approve the appointment. Voted and so ordered.

The Council discussed ideas for various fundraisers including the Calendar Raffle and a Turkey Trot. More discussion will take place at 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 December 31, 2023 and found them to be in good order.

State President Rodolfo Viscomi reported that MELA has been scheduled for Sunday, May 5 at the Quincy Sons of Italy. The event will be a luncheon instead of breakfast. More details will be forthcoming.

WELFARE OF THE ORDER

The Council members commended State President Rodolfo Viscomi on a well-run meeting.

State Immediate Past President Denise Furnari encouraged every Council member to visit Lodges.

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 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul M. Guida
Chief Operating Officer