

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, February 21, 2024

The monthly meeting of the State Council was called to order via Zoom by State President Rodolfo Viscomi at 7:00pm.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

Absent: State Trustee Anthony Isgro

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 JANUARY 17, 2024 MEETING

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

COMMUNICATIONS

An email was received from Jeannine Camarda tendering her resignation as State Deputy to the Santa Famiglia Lodge # 2834 of Lynn. Motion made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

A memo was received from State Deputy Chair Allison Crisci requesting the appointment of Dario Gagliano of the St. Padre Pio Lodge # 3013 of Springfield as State Deputy to the ITAM Lodge # 564 of Pittsfield. Motion made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

Quotes for Directors & Officers (D&O) Liability Insurance were received from the Great American Insurance Group and Travelers Insurance. Motion made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

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

TRANSFERS

Joanne M. Cushing and Janette Fasano from the Figli D'Italia Lodge # 2692 of Saugus to the Wakefield Lodge # 1734. Motion made and seconded to approve the transfers. Voted and so ordered.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

State Financial Secretary Pio Frittitta presented the report of lodges in arrears as of January 31, 2024 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 January 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 and received on behalf of the State President and the Council.

Merchandise

Chair Marisa Ranalli reported that she sold \$372 worth of merchandise at the FOTO event.

FOTO Workshop

Chair Salvatore Circosta reported that the event was a tremendous success. Thirty-two young people from Massachusetts and a few from Connecticut attended. There were an array of great speakers, including National President Michael Polo and Consul General of Italy in Boston Arnaldo Minuti, who spent over an hour speaking with FOTO members. The Consul General is trying to build relationships with our universities and the Italian government and will be hosting an event on March 21 with Italian university students in the Greater Boston area and suggested we set up a table there to explain who we are, and hopefully recruit some of the students to join.

A North End resident who attended the event is thinking of restarting a lodge there, and attendees from Milford are thinking of joining the Milford Lodge.

Ian Hatfield discussed the 'Rose' (what is beautiful and good about our organization), 'Bud' (ideas to improve our organization), 'Thorn' (weaknesses to be addressed) exercise held with the attendees. Salvatore Circosta advised he will be creating a survey for the attendees to give their feedback.

Massachusetts Education and Law Awards (MELA)

MELA will take place on Sunday, May 5 at the Quincy Sons of Italy and will be a luncheon instead of a breakfast. Paul Guida gave a breakdown of the anticipated income and expenses for the event. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to set the ticket price at \$60. Voted and so ordered.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Organization and Education

Chair David Crisci held a training for lodge Presidents at the FOTO event on February 17 in the downstairs hall. Approximately 14 Presidents attended and shared many ideas.

Sports

Rudy Viscomi reminded the Council of the Cornhole Tournament on February 25 and reported that twenty-seven people have registered to-date.

Junior Division

Brenda Buonanno reported that the Samuel J. Musumeci Lodge # 2693 of Methuen is collecting donations March for the Day Break Shelter in Lawrence. They are putting together care packages and are taking donations until March 5. They are hoping to donate 200 care packages, which are 100 more packages made than last year.

Scholarship

Chair Cynthia Gage reported that 119 applications had been received to date.

OLD BUSINESS

Matt Ezekiel reported that city has approved the permit application for the sign for the outside of the building and advised the sign will be installed in the next couple of weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

Rudy Visconti suggested finding someone to clean the office monthly. Matt Ezekiel will investigate this.

President Visconti reported that he and Paul Guida will have a meeting with the Commission Chairs to discuss their respective Commission's plans and events.

The Council addressed the memo received from State Deputy Chair Allison Crisci requesting the appointment of Dario Gagliano of the St. Padre Pio Lodge # 3013 of Springfield as State Deputy to the ITAM Lodge # 564 of Pittsfield. A motion was made and seconded to approve the appointment. Voted and so ordered.

The Council addressed the email received from Jeannine Camarda tendering her resignation as State Deputy to the Santa Famiglia Lodge # 2834 of Lynn. A motion was made and seconded to accept her resignation. Voted and so ordered.

The Council discussed the quotes received for Directors & Officers (D&O) Liability Insurance. A motion was made and seconded to purchase the liability insurance through Travelers Insurance. Voted and so ordered.

Kathi Young suggested purchasing three or four pop up banners for our Grand Lodge events. A motion was made and seconded to have Lilia Visconti design and order the banners. Voted and so ordered.

WELFARE OF THE ORDER

Kathi Young extended her best wishes to the attendees to the upcoming National plenary session.

Ian Hatfield reported that the Santa Famiglia Lodge # 2834 of Lynn reached out to him because they have recently lost many members and have many officer's positions vacant. They requested help with increasing their membership.

Armand Buonanno thanked the Council members for the expressions of sympathies received on the passing of his mother.

State President Rodolfo Visconti congratulated the FOTO organizers on a fantastic and well-organized event. He advised that National President Michael Polo and Consul General Arnaldo Minuti were impressed with the event.

State First Vice President Marisa Ranalli led the closing prayer.

Having completed all business in accordance with the By-Laws, State President Rodolfo Viscomi declared the meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Rita M. Anderson
State Recording Secretary