

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, March 18, 2026

The monthly meeting of the State Council was called to order by State President Rudy Viscomi at 7:07 pm.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

Excused: State Trustee Cheryl Caira

Absent: State Immediate Past President Denise Furnari

State First Vice President Marisa Ranalli read the Principles of the Order.

State Second Vice President Brenda Buonanno read the opening prayer.

State President Rudy Viscomi led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2026 MEETING

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

CORRESPONDENCE

An email was received from the Sons of Italy Foundation with sponsorship and ticket information for the 37th National Education and Leadership Awards (NELA) Gala on Thursday, May 28, 2026 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC. Motion made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

A memo was received from State Deputy Chair Jacquelyn Bonarrigo requesting the appointment of the following Deputies: Angelo Geso of the Christopher Columbus Lodge # 216 of Brockton as State Deputy to the Massimo d'Azeglio Lodge # 760 of Braintree, and Gregg Giambanco of the Norwood Italian Lodge # 1235 as State Deputy to the Quincy Men's Lodge # 1295. Motion made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

An email was received from State Orator Salvatore Circosta requesting a \$5,000 donation to the Sons of Italy Foundation for aide in the cyclones that hit the coasts of Calabria and Sicily. Motion 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, and Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli # 2183 (Wilmington). Motion made and seconded to pass and file. Voted and so ordered.

TRANSFERS

Michael DeJulio from the Dante Alighieri Lodge # 648 (Waltham) to the Piave Fiume Lodge # 1036 (Watertown). Motion made and seconded to approve the transfer. Voted and so ordered.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

State Financial Secretary Matthew Ezekiel presented the report for the month ending February 28, 2026 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 February 28, 2026. Motion made and seconded to accept the reports. Voted and so ordered.

ORATOR'S REPORT

State Orator Salvatore Circosta advised there was nothing new to report.

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 advised there was nothing new to report.

Advertising Committee

Chair Armand Buonanno reported that the Committee met with Magazine Chair Pam Donnaruma. Pam suggested focusing on three different ad sizes for businesses and lodges. Pam will review our current pricing structure and get back with recommendations for pricing. Pam also suggested finding someone to solicit ads on a commission basis.

Gala Committee

Marisa Ranalli reported that Joe Campanelli, CEO of Needham Bank, has been confirmed as our honoree and John Calipari, Head Basketball Coach at the University of Arkansas, will be presenting the award. The Committee is working on a list of potential host committee members and asked the Council members for their suggestions. The Committee is working on finalizing the sponsorship levels. A welcome event for host committee members is being planned for June.

2026 State Convention

President Viscomi advised that Paul Guida sent the call for proposals for by-law changes to the Lodges and that the submission deadline is April 15.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Sports

Armand Buonanno reminded the Council of the Bocce Tournament on Saturday, April 11 at the Methuen Lodge. He reported that 3 teams have registered to-date and reminders will be going out.

Social Justice

President Viscomi reported that the Commission would like to hold the MELA on Sunday, May 3 at the Newton Marriott. The food and beverage minimum is \$5,000 plus a 15% service charge and 12% administrative fee. The Commission will also be soliciting ads for the program book to help offset the costs. Rudy advised that the other available venue is the Winchester Lodge. After much discussion, a motion was made and seconded to hold the event at the Winchester Lodge. Voted and so ordered.

Scholarship

Salvatore Circosta reported that the Chair Michael DiVenuto and his commission members had made their selections and they are in process of being notified.

Budget & Finance

Paul Guida reported that he spoke with Chair Anthony Rondinelli regarding the 2027 budget and that they will begin the budget process once tax season is over.

OLD BUSINESS

Matthew Ezekiel reported that he has left numerous messages with the contact for the potential new lodge in Nashua, NH but has not received a call back.

President Viscomi reported that the National Plenary Session was held on February 20 and 21 via Zoom and advised there was nothing noteworthy to report. The August Plenary Session will be in San Francisco, California.

NEW BUSINESS

The Council addressed the email received from the Sons of Italy Foundation regarding the 37th National Education and Leadership Awards (NELA) Gala. A question arose regarding the vote taken at the last meeting to subsidize half the cost of the ticket for any Council member wishing to attend and whether a non-profit should do so. Paul Guida reported that the auditors had recommended against it. After discussion, President Viscomi advised a motion to retract the motion from the February meeting is in order and will need to be made at the next meeting when the motion maker and seconder are present. A motion was made and seconded to refer the sponsorship to the C&E Trust. Voted and so ordered.

The Council addressed the email received from State Orator Salvatore Circosta regarding a \$5,000 donation to the Sons of Italy Foundation for Cyclone Harry aide. Salvatore Circosta updated the Council on the efforts on the National level and meetings he had while he was in Italy. A motion was made and seconded to refer to the C&E Trust. Voted and so ordered.

The Council addressed the memo received from State Deputy Chair Jacquelyn Bonarrigo regarding State Deputy appointments. A motion made and seconded to accept the appointments. Voted and so ordered.

Matthew Ezekiel asked if we wanted to hold a Pot of Gold drawing this year. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to forgo the Pot of Gold this year.

WELFARE OF THE ORDER

The Council members congratulated Rudy Viscomi on a well-run meeting.

Matthew Ezekiel reiterated his thanks to the Council members for their efforts to make the Calendar Raffle a success. Paul Guida in turn thanked Matt for all his efforts as Chair.

State Second Vice President Brenda Buonanno read the closing prayer.

Having completed all business in accordance with the By-Laws, State President Rudy Viscomi declared the meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Leanna Daniele
State Recording Secretary