

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
Friday, February 17, 2023

The monthly meeting of the State Council was called to order at 7:00pm by State President Denise Furnari.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

Absent Excused: State Orator Kathi Young
State Trustee Brenda Buonanno
Absent: State Trustee Agnes Nobile

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 20, 2023 MEETING

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

COMMUNICATIONS

A letter was received from James Ficco tendering his resignation as State Deputy to the Francesco DeSanctis Lodge #1411 of Natick. Motion made and seconded to refer to the State Deputy Chair. Voted and so ordered.

NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters were received from the following Lodges: Christopher Columbus # 216 (Brockton), Wakefield # 1734, Lawrence Ladies # 2026, and the Grand Lodge of California.

TRANSFERS

Carmelina D'Alleva, Phillip D'Alleva, and Michael A. Pelosi from the Burlington Lodge # 2223 to the Wakefield Lodge # 1734.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

State Financial Secretary Pio Frittitta presented the report of lodges in arrears as of January 31, 2023 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 January 31, 2023. Motion made and seconded to accept the report. Voted and so ordered.

ORATOR'S REPORT

The Orator's Report was discussed in Executive Session.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Calendar Raffle

The final report of the Calendar Raffle was distributed to the Council.

Christmas Party

The final report of the Christmas Party was distributed to the Council.

Wine Tasting

Chair Florence Guidara updated the Council on the fundraiser being held on Sunday, March 26 at the Newton Lodge.

Sunshine

Chair Marisa Ranalli had nothing new to report.

By-Laws

Due to the absence of Chair Kathi Young, there was no report.

Merchandise

Chair Marisa Ranalli had nothing new to report.

Pot Of Gold

Chair Florence Guidara had nothing new to report.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Organization & Education

State President Denise Furnari introduced Commission Chair Tony Panaggio. Tony reported there will be another seminar at the Hingham Lodge on April 30 at 1:00pm and discussed plans to change the program to make it more efficient.

Membership

Chair Rudy Viscomi had nothing new to report.

Scholarship

Liaison Matt Ezekiel updated the Council on the MELA breakfast at the Burlington Marriott Hotel on May 7. Tickets are \$40.00 per person.

Italian Culture/Historical

Chair Armand Buonanno updated the Council on plans for an afternoon performance of Verdi's *Falstaff*, a 'Live at The Met' event, at the Showcase Cinemas in Lowell on April 5, and reminded the Council of the presentation on Italian Opera on Sunday, February 19 at the Methuen Lodge. Attendees to the opera on April 5 will have the option to have dinner at the Methuen Lodge after the performance. If this is successful, Chair Buonanno hopes to offer this program at multiple theaters throughout the state. A motion was made and seconded to advance \$325 to Chair Buonanno to pay for dinner expenses. Voted and so ordered.

Sports

Nothing new to report.

Junior Division

Nothing new to report.

Benefit Insurance Commission

Liaison Jacky Bonarrigo updated the Council on the Commission's last meeting.

Charitable & Educational Trust

Nothing new to report.

Commission of Social Justice

Nothing new to report.

OLD BUSINESS

State Convention

Chairs Rudy Viscomi and Marisa Ranalli discussed sites for the Convention. Options were the Sheraton in Nashua, NH and the Weymouth or Braintree lodge. They recommended holding the Convention at the Sheraton where we would have various rooms for breakout sessions. To cover expenses and meet the budgeted profit for Convention, the registration fee would need to be \$750 per delegate, but they recommended charging only \$475 per delegate. A motion was made and seconded to have the convention at the Sheraton and to charge a \$475 registration fee. Voted and so ordered. The nightly room rate is \$159 plus taxes. A motion was made and seconded to reimburse Council members and Commission Chairs one-half the room rate for nights stayed. Voted and so ordered. A motion was made and seconded to cover the full cost of the room for State President Denise Furnari. Voted and so ordered.

Italy Tour

Chair Lilia Viscomi updated the Council on the planning of the 9-day 'Italian Tapestry' tour from Venice to Sorrento. A meeting will be held on May 25 at the Watertown Lodge to make a presentation to members interested in the trip. An ad will also be placed in the Sons of Italy News and flyers will be sent to members to gauge interest in the trip before going any further.

Grand Lodge Office

Brother Matt Ezekiel discussed the staffing needs of the office. He believes the responsibilities can be handled by checking into the office periodically during the week and by forwarding the office phone to a cell phone. This would save the Grand Lodge on salary expense for a part-time worker. He discussed the need for a new laptop for the office at a cost of approximately \$1000. A motion was made and seconded to purchase a laptop for the office. Voted and so ordered.

NEW BUSINESS

State President Denise Furnari reminded the Council of the Institution and Installation ceremony for the St. Padre Pio Lodge # 3013 of Springfield on February 18 at the Natick Lodge. She thanked the members who helped organize and prepare for the event.

Brother Matt Ezekiel discussed other states' membership applications that are accessed and filled out online. He recommended that we have our applications online as a printable version as well. This would save us about \$300-\$400/year on postage. There would be no need for application cards. We can upload scholarship application online as well.

WELFARE OF THE ORDER

State President Denise Furnari stated she is excited about attending the Institution of the St. Padre Pio Lodge # 3013 of Springfield tomorrow and she is also looking forward to the Convention.

President Furnari asked members to consider applicants for the Golden Lion Award to be presented at Convention. Sisters Jacky Bonarrigo and Florence Guidara will be the Chairs of the selection committee. She reminded the Council that we will be publishing an Ad Book for the Convention.

President Furnari asked the Council members to advise their intention for the elections being held at Convention for the 2023-2025 term.

State Recording Secretary Rita Anderson advised she is unsure if she will seek re-election. She recommended that the Council become more proactive in providing help to lodges in need and actively assisting lodges in increasing their membership moving forward.

State Trustee At-Large Tony Isgro advised he plans to run for re-election and thanked everyone for attending the Francesco DeSanctis Lodge # 1411 of Natick's Porchetta Night. He reported that the Lodge continues to enroll new members.

State Financial Secretary Pio Frittitta advised he would run for re-election provided there are no other candidates.

State Treasurer Armand Buonanno advised he plans to run for re-election.

State Trustee At-Large Matt Ezekiel advised he plans to run for re-election.

State Trustee Lilia Viscomi advised she plans to run for re-election.

State Immediate Past President Tony Sestito advised that although he will no longer be on the Council, he will be happy to help in any way needed.

State Trustee Florence Guidara announced she will not run for re-election but will be happy to help in any way needed.

State Second Vice President Marisa Ranalli announced she plans to run for State First Vice President.

State First Vice President Rudy Viscomi announced he plans to run for State President.

State Trustee Jacky Bonarrigo announced that she will not be running for re-election but will be happy to help in any way needed.

Having completed all business in accordance with the By-Laws, State President Denise Furnari declared the meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita M. Anderson
State Recording Secretary