

# **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, July 16, 2025**

The monthly meeting of the State Council was called to order by State President Rodolfo Viscomi at 7:06 pm.

### **ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

Excused: State First Vice President Marisa Ranalli

State Second Vice President Brenda Buonanno read the Principles of the Order and opening prayer.  
State President Rudy Viscomi for a moment of silence for our departed members.  
State President Rudy Viscomi led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

State President Rudy Viscomi welcomed the newly elected Council members and expressed his appreciation for their willingness to serve.

### **FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT**

State Financial Secretary Matthew Ezekiel presented the report for the month ending June 30, 2025 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**

Treasurer Armand Buonanno presented the Activities Fund, Balance Sheet, and P&L Budget Performance Reports for the month ending June 30, 2025. Motion made and seconded to accept the reports. Voted and so ordered. A lengthy discussion followed regarding our investment account and whether any of the funds had been used since its inception. Paul confirmed that none of the funds, including interest and dividends earned, had been withdrawn. Paul advised that to give the Council members a clearer picture of our finances, he will remove the income from investments on future P&L Budget Performance reports.

### **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 reported that \$1,700 of merchandise was sold at Convention, and that members of the St. Padre Pio Lodge # 3013 of Springfield sold \$3,341 at the Italian Feast in Springfield. She requested Council members assistance in selling merchandise at upcoming events on August 2 in Leominster, September 6 in Norwood Day, and September 21 in Easton. She requested funds to secure new merchandise. A motion was made and seconded to allocate up to \$2,000 to secure new merchandise. Voted and so ordered.

## **2025 State Convention**

President Viscomi reported that the Convention was extremely successful and well-organized noting that the attendees were engaged, participated in the discussions, and that the breakout sessions were informative. He thanked the committee members for their efforts, noting that he would like to see a survey go out so delegates to share their feedback. He was disappointed in the number of Lodges that did not attend. A lengthy discussion followed including ways to ensure all Lodges attend, to keep the cost reasonable, ideas for changing the format, and to reduce the number of nights for future conventions. President Viscomi reported that the Watertown Lodge has been secured for the one-day Convention on Saturday, June 28, 2026.

## **Calendar Raffle**

Matt Ezekiel reported that the fundraiser was announced and tickets distributed to some Lodges at Convention. He requested the State Trustees' assistance in contacting the Lodges in their District to promote this fundraiser, reminding them that \$2 of every ticket sold is reimbursed to the Lodge via a per capita credit.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

President Viscomi discussed the upcoming National Convention being held August 12-17 in Orlando, FL. He will be scheduling a meeting of the National Delegates next week but reminded the attendees from the Council that they will receive a per diem of \$150 per night stayed, and reimbursement for airfare and airport transfers. He advised that the Grand Lodge has historically given a gift at the Massachusetts sponsored breakfast to all Convention attendees and has asked Lilia Viscomi to secure the gifts.

President Viscomi advised he would like to form a committee to investigate higher risk investment options for our portfolio. A motion was made and seconded to form the committee. Voted and so ordered.

President Viscomi reported that a meeting including himself, Marisa Ranalli, Brenda Buonanno, Salvatore Circosta, and Paul Guida with a professional fundraiser has been scheduled for Sunday, July 27 to see how they can help us. He will report more after the meeting. Salvatore Circosta suggested holding a New England Italian Exposition featuring everything Italian. President Viscomi advised he would mention that at the meeting.

President Viscomi advised that he received an email from Ivana Maroncelli, Education Director for the Consul General of Italy in Boston's, to donate \$3,500 to C.A.S.IT., Inc. to support Italian Language Programs in New England Schools. A motion was made and seconded to refer to the C&E Trust with a recommendation to approve the request. Voted and so ordered.

Salvatore Circosta questioned whether we could adopt C.A.S.IT., Inc. as one of our Grand Lodge charities. He also suggested forming a committee for the promotion of the Italian language.

A lengthy discussion regarding the scholarships awarded by the C&E Trust followed with numerous ideas and suggestions for the program going forward.

Armand Buonanno advised he spoke with Magazine Chair Pamela Donnaruma at Convention regarding selling ads to offset the cost of the newspaper. He offered to Chair a committee to investigate options and ads. A motion was made and seconded to form the committee. Voted and so ordered. President Viscomi appointed Armand to Chair the committee.

Sylvia Pacetti-Poirier questioned whether we could move the Council meeting back to Friday nights. After some discussion, President Viscomi advised we could discuss this more at the September meeting.

Sylvia Pacetti-Poirier suggested doing something to honor the oldest member of the Grand Lodge. Dario Gagliano suggested we also do something to recognize members that have just had a child.

State Financial Secretary Matthew Ezekiel reported that the Trustees met prior to the meeting to review the books of the General Fund, Activities Fund, Charitable & Educational Trust, and Benefit Insurance Commission for Q2'2025 and found them to be in good order.

State President Viscomi advised there will be no meeting in August.

**WELFARE OF THE ORDER**

The Council members thanked Lilia Viscomi for coordinating the collation for the meeting.

State Second Vice President Brenda Buonanno read the closing prayer.

Having completed all business in accordance with the By-Laws, State President Rodolfo Viscomi declared the meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leanna Daniele  
State Recording Secretary