

ORDER SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA
Grand Lodge of Massachusetts
85 River Street
Waltham, MA 02453

Minutes of the State Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 20, 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

Excused Absent: Immediate Past President Denise Furnari

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 FEBRUARY 21, 2024 MEETING

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

COMMUNICATIONS

A letter was received from Anthony Isgro tendering his resignation as State Trustee At-Large. 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 Wakefield #1734. Motion made and seconded to pass and file. Voted and so ordered.

TRANSFERS

Janis Stanziani-Stoler from the Figli D'Italia Lodge # 2692 of Saugus to the Greater Boston Renaissance Lodge # 2614. Motion made and seconded to approve the transfer. Voted and so ordered.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

State Financial Secretary Pio Frittitta presented the report of lodges in arrears as of February 29, 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 February 29, 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 on behalf of the State President and the Council.

Merchandise

Chair Marisa Ranalli reported that she will be selling merchandise at an event at the Tewksbury Lodge in May.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Membership

Chair Renee Ouellette reported that she has begun planning the first OSDIA Festa scheduled for September 27, 2025 in Marshfield. She is working on the budget and other details. The Charity, Italian Culture and Historical, and Membership Commissions will be involved in organizing this event.

Kathi Young advised she will attend the April meeting of the Santa Famiglia Lodge # 2834 of Lynn to discuss holding a membership drive. Rita Anderson and Chair Renee Ouellette may also attend.

Sports

Rudy Viscomi reported on the Cornhole Tournament held Sunday, February 25 at the Watertown Lodge. About 28 people played and a team from Watertown won the tournament. It was a fun event.

Benefit Insurance

Rudy Viscomi updated the Council on the Commission and said they are doing very well. They are still having difficulty finding beneficiaries on policies. He is planning to attend all their future meetings.

Organization and Education

Rita Anderson, Recording Secretary of the Lawrence Ladies Lodge # 2026, reported that Chair David Crisci came to her home to sit with her, the President, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, and one Trustee (who will train the other Trustees) to train them on the process of auditing their books. It went very well.

Junior Division

Brenda Buonanno reported that at the last meeting of the Samuel J. Musumeci Junior Lodge # 2693 of Methuen the kids were able to put together over 200 care packages for the Daybreak Shelter in Lawrence. They were excited to be part of this charitable event and the Daybreak Shelter officials were very appreciative of all their efforts and posted the event on their social media site. Next month, they will learn how to make homemade pasta, in May they will put together flowerpots for Mother's Day for a local nursing home, and in June they will be spending a day in the North End.

Brenda advised she met Dan Onofrio, Immediate Past President of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut at the FOTO event. They discussed Junior Lodges and Dan wanted more information so he could start one in Connecticut. Brenda and Junior Division President Joe Salvo will be meeting with him in the future to discuss the process.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Sylvia Pacetti-Poirier updated the Council on visits and communications she had with Lodges in her District. She noted one Lodge that is struggling and could use some assistance from the Council. Rudy asked her to arrange a meeting with the Lodge President.

Rudy Viscomi reported that he met with Consul General of Italy in Boston Arnaldo Minuti to discuss a Festival of Italian Creativity that the Consulate is sponsoring November 21 through 23 at the SoWa Power Station in Boston. The event will include art, music, technology, and culinary arts. Rudy would like us to get involved with one of these sessions and asked us to think of ideas to bring forward to the committee. Rudy will have a few more meetings with the Consul. The committee will be looking for sponsors and would like to promote Grand Lodges in the New England area.

Kathi Young reported that the committee is in the beginning stages of planning for the 2025 State Convention.

Sylvia Poirier discussed having our By-Laws reprinted to include all the changes since the last printing in 2007. Discussion ensued on creating a timeline and obtaining quotes for the printing.

Armand Buonanno reminded the Council of the email he sent regarding the 2025 budget. He would like to have input from everyone to prepare a long-term plan. The Council discussed this, and all agreed this was a very good idea.

WELFARE OF THE ORDER

Kathi Young read a statement on the incident of February 9 at the Watertown Lodge.

Rudy Viscomi also made a statement on the incident.

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 8:43pm

Respectfully submitted,
Rita M. Anderson
State Recording Secretary