

**ORDER SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA**  
**Grand Lodge of Massachusetts**  
**93 Concord Avenue**  
**Belmont, MA 02478**

**Minutes of the State Council Meeting**  
**Friday, January 20, 2023**

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

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

Absent Excused: State Recording Secretary Rita Anderson

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2022 MEETING**

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

An email was received from Angelo and Carol Rossi, MA Overseers to the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum, which included a report on the Museum's 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Luncheon Fundraiser and request to publish an article and membership form in the next issue of the SOI News. 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, Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli # 2183 (Wilmington), and the Grand Lodge of California. Motion made and seconded to pass and file. Voted and so ordered.

**TRANSFERS**

Katherine A. Young from the Winthrop Mixed Lodge # 2057 to the Piave Fiume Lodge # 1036 (Watertown). Cheryl DiGaetano McPhee from the Braintree Ladies Lodge # 1422 to the Christopher Columbus Lodge # 216 (Brockton). 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 December 31, 2022 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 December 31, 2022. 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**

Chair Florence Guidara reported that approximately 1,350 tickets were sold. A final report will be available at the next meeting.

### **Wine Tasting**

Charity Chair Florence Guidara reported that the Commission will host a Wine Tasting fundraiser on Sunday, March 26 at the Newton Lodge. Letters have been sent to the filial lodges requesting donations for the silent auction. She has also asked Sister Lilia Viscomi to be part of her Commission.

### **Sunshine**

Chair Marisa Ranalli advised the Council of the numerous messages sent on behalf of State President Denise Furnari and the State Council.

### **By-Laws**

Chair Kathi Young reported the committee will be meeting to prepare their report for Convention.

### **Merchandise**

Chair Marisa Ranalli had nothing new to report.

### **Christmas Party**

Chairs Marisa Ranalli and Lilia Viscomi reported on the Christmas dinner held in January.

### **Pot of Gold**

Chairs Lilia Viscomi and Florence Guidara discussed charging \$50 per ticket instead of \$100 for the Pot of Gold. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the ticket price, the possibility of doing Calendar Raffle instead of the Pot of Gold, and the need to have discussions to develop a plan for our events and fundraisers for the year.

## **COMMISSION REPORTS**

### **Organization & Education**

Sister Kathi Young reported that Chair Anthony Panaggio will reach out to Brother Tony Sestito regarding the availability of the Hingham Lodge to sponsor the next seminar.

### **Membership**

Chair Rudy Viscomi had nothing new to report.

### **Scholarship**

Liaison Matt Ezekiel inquired on the progress in selecting a venue for the MELA breakfast on Sunday, May 7. It was reported that the Watertown Lodge is available, and Sister Kathi Young updated the Council on prices she received from other venues, including the Burlington Marriott. A motion was made and seconded to let Denise, Rudy, Kathi, and Marisa decide on the venue. Voted and so ordered. Matt advised that any questions regarding scholarship criteria can be emailed to himself or Paul Guida.

### **Italian Culture/Historical**

Chair Armand Buonanno updated the Council on plans for an afternoon performance of Puccini's *Falstaff*, a 'Live at The Met' event, at the Showcase Cinemas in Lowell on April 5. The Commission is also hosting a presentation on Italian Opera on Sunday, February 19 at the Methuen Lodge.

## **Sports**

Liaison Pio Frittitta reported that Commission is holding a Cornhole Tournament on Sunday, February 26 at the Waltham Lodge. The entry fee is \$25 per person and includes morning refreshments, lunch, and prizes for the first and second place team.

## **Junior Division**

Liaison Brenda Buonanno reported that pictures were posted online of the Methuen Junior Lodge's pizza making event. She gave an update of their upcoming activities and fundraisers.

## **Benefit Insurance Commission**

Liaison Jacky Bonarrigo reported that the Commission will be meeting next week and she will have more information at the next Council meeting.

## **Commission for Social Justice**

State President Denise advised she will have a meeting with Richard Vita next week and will update the Council at the next meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **State Convention**

Sister Marisa Ranalli reported that we are awaiting a contract from the Sheraton Nashua for the State Convention. The tentative dates are June 1 through June 4. She will ask Paul Guida to send a save-the-date once the contract is finalized.

### **Italy Tour**

Chair Lilia Viscomi gave an update on designing a trip to Italy in 2024. The 9-day tour is called 'Italian Tapestry' and travels from Venice to Sorrento. Breakfast and a couple of dinners are included. The price will be approximately \$3,500 per person, not including airfare. Sister Lilia will create a flyer to send out to members to gauge interest in this trip before she goes any further.

### **New Office**

Brother Matt updated the Council on the progress and needs of setting up the new office in Waltham. He reported that we currently have cancelled member cards dating back to 2007. A motion was made and seconded to discard cancelled member cards over 5 years old. Voted and so ordered. Sister Kathi Young discussed the need to move toward a paperless environment, which would enable us to be more efficient and will save us money on envelopes, stamps, etc. Brother Matt advised Council that we have a federal contract with Pitney Bowes for the mail meter and that the contract cannot be broken until November 2024. He also informed us on where we can go paperless at this point. A motion was made and seconded to go paperless. Voted and so ordered.

State President Denise Furnari mentioned the need to address the office position of our Financial Analyst Paul Guida and advised it would be discussed at the next Executive Council meeting. A motion was made and seconded to discuss what our office needs are moving forward. Voted and so ordered.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

State Treasurer Armand Buonanno reported on a meeting of the OSIA Trust of 1985 (Building Trust) with Nino Visconti of CRR CPA, our auditing firm, to discuss the tax implications of the sale of the building. He reported that should the funds remain in the Trust, we will have to pay capital gains tax of approximately \$300,000. His initial opinion is to dissolve the OSIA Trust of 1985, and transfer the money to the Grand Lodge, the beneficiary

of the Trust, which as a 501(c)8, thereby potentially avoiding the capital gain tax. Nino noted the transfer of funds must occur within 65 days following the close of the fiscal year. A motion was made, seconded, and passed, contingent on confirmation from Nino that we will not have to pay taxes if the proceeds are transferred to the Grand Lodge, to dissolve the Trust.

State President Denise Furnari reported that we have received the charter for our new Lodge, the St. Padre Pio Lodge of Springfield. She is hoping to schedule the Institution ceremony on February 18 at the Natick Lodge home and will send an update as soon as plans are finalized.

### **Garibaldi-Meucci Museum**

The Council addressed the request from Angelo and Carol Rossi, MA Overseers to the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum, to publish an article and membership form in the next issue of the SOI News. A motion was made and seconded to approve the request. Voted and so ordered.

### **WELFARE OF THE ORDER**

Brother Tony Sestito advised he received an email from the National office regarding the passing of National Past President Peter Zuzolo of New York. He was 94 years old.

President Denise Furnari mentioned that Marie Jackson, former State Recording Secretary, recently passed away.

Sister Lilia Viscomi reported that the Watertown Lodge is having their La Festa della Donna (International Women's Day) celebration on March 5.

Sister Florence Guidara reported that the Watertown Lodge will finally have their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party on May 20. The cost is \$125 per person and includes dinner and open bar. She wished everyone a happy and healthy new year and stated that we need to focus our efforts on membership over the coming year.

Sister Jacky Bonarrigo reported that the Brockton Lodge initiated 3 new members and have 2 more people interested in joining.

State President Denise Furnari reported that there will be a President's Meeting on Wednesday February 15 at 7pm via Zoom to discuss the upcoming filial lodge elections and address questions and concerns from the lodge Presidents. An Executive Council is also planned for Wednesday, February 8 via Zoom.

State President Denise Furnari stated that this was a long meeting, noting that while we all have our own opinions, we need to respect each other's opinions. We also need to support our lodges and see how we can be of assistance to them. We need to communicate better with the lodges and work together and support one another. We do great work, giving to charities and scholarships. Our Mission Statement is to promote our Italian culture. She wished everyone a happy new year.

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