

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, February 19, 2025

The monthly meeting of the State Council was called to order by State First Vice President Marisa Ranalli at 7:05 pm.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

Excused: State President Rodolfo Viscomi
State Trustee Elizabeth Sandquist

Absent: State Trustee Agnes Nobile

State Immediate Past President Denise Furnari read the Principles of the Order.

State Orator Brenda Buonanno read the opening prayer.

State First Vice President Marisa Ranalli asked for a moment of silence for our departed members.

State Vice President Marisa Ranalli led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 15, 2025 MEETING

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

CORRESPONDENCE

An email was received from Angelo and Carol Rossi, National Overseers to the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum, with the report of the quarterly meeting of the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum. A motion was made and seconded to move to pass and file. Voted and so ordered.

Newsletters were received from the following Lodges: Christopher Columbus # 216 (Brockton), the Grand Lodge of California, and the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum. A motion was made and seconded to pass and file. Voted and so ordered.

TRANSFERS

Sarah Talford from the Methuen Lodge # 902 to the Lawrence Ladies Lodge # 2026. Paul S. O'Halloran from the Dante Alighieri Lodge # 648 of Waltham to the Piave Fiume Lodge # 1036 of Watertown. Motion was made and seconded to approve the transfers. Voted and so ordered.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

State Financial Secretary Matthew Ezekiel presented the report for the month ending January 31, 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

State Treasurer Armand Buonanno presented the Activities Fund, Balance Sheet, and P&L Budget Performance Reports for the month ending January 31, 2025. 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.

MELA

Marisa Ranalli advised that we need a committee to work on MELA. The Council members discussed different options for the format of the event.

2025 State Convention

Chair Marisa Ranalli reported that she and Rudy Viscomi visited the Sheraton and met with the Catering Manager to review breakout room needs and menus. She reported that the St. Padre Pio Lodge # 3013 of Springfield would be hosting a welcome reception on Thursday night, and that the Committee will continue to meet to discuss the menus and agenda. She reminded the Council members that the room rate is \$159.

Ad Book

Chairs Rita Anderson, Armand Buonanno, and Lilia Viscomi reported they will be meeting to discuss the ad pricing and getting the announcement out to vendors, lodges, and members.

Pot of Gold

Chairs Matthew Ezekiel and Denise Furnari distributed tickets to each Council member. Denise explained the prize structure and the number of tickets needed to be sold to fund the prizes. Matthew Ezekiel stated how important it is to encourage all Lodges to participate and asked the State Trustees to contact the President of the Lodges in their respective Districts to sell the tickets to their members. He will ask Paul Guida to send updated lists of all filial lodges to the Trustees.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Sports

Paul Guida reported that 9 player registrations have been received to-date for the Cornhole Tournament on February 23.

Italian Culture/Historical

Marisa Ranalli reported that Chair Claudia Hartley and her Commissioners would like to attend the next Council meeting to discuss their plans and needs from the Grand Lodge. A motion was made and seconded to grant the request. Voted and so ordered.

Scholarship

Paul Guida reported that a total of 116 applications, 34 affiliates and 82 non-affiliates, had been received for the 2025 Scholarship Awards. After reviewing the affiliate applications, he advised that 5 of them would be moved to non-affiliate status as either the relative was no longer a member or did not meet the 2-year membership requirement, and 2 would be disqualified as they were missing required documents.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Council members addressed the ongoing per capita arrearage of the Alessandro Volta Lodge # 1712 of Stoughton. A motion was made and seconded to send a letter advising them that the Lodge was being placed in suspension and if the full amount due is not received within 90 days, the Lodge would be dissolved. Voted and so ordered.

Marisa Ranalli advised she will reach out to the contact for the new Lodge in Nashua, NH for a status update as we have not received any response from them.

NEW BUSINESS

State First Vice President Marisa Ranalli, on behalf of State President Rodolfo Viscomi, presented the following Chair of Permanent Commission appointment:

Budget & Finance Joseph Liquori

A motion was made and seconded to approve the appointment. Voted and so ordered.

A motion was made and seconded to have Matthew Ezekiel purchase a microphone system for the Grand Lodge office. Voted and so ordered.

Denise Furnari advised that she can no longer serve as State Deputy to the Vittorio Veneto Lodge # 1035 of Fall River.

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 Q4'2024 and found them to be in good order.

WELFARE OF THE ORDER

The Council members extended their best wishes to State President Rudy Viscomi for a speedy recovery.

Sylvia Pacetti-Poirier advised she is willing to assist where needed.

State Orator Brenda Buonanno read the closing prayer.

Having completed all business in accordance with the By-Laws, State First Vice President Marisa Ranalli declared the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita M. Anderson
State Recording Secretary