

**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, November 18, 2022**

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

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

Absent Excused: State Trustee Agnes Nobile

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 15, 2022 MEETING**

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Newsletters were received from the following Lodges: Christopher Columbus # 216 (Brockton), ITAM # 564 (Pittsfield), and Wakefield # 1734. Motion made and seconded to pass and file. Voted and so ordered.

**TRANSFERS**

Dorothea A. Crisa from the Methuen Lodge # 902 to the Lawrence Ladies Lodge # 2026. Paola Contini from the Piave Fiume Lodge # 1036 (Watertown) to the Wakefield Lodge # 1734. 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 October 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 October 31, 2022. 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**

**Calendar Raffle**

Chair Florence Guidara reported that over 1,750 tickets have gone out to Lodges. 271 raffle tickets have been sold to-date.

### **Sunshine**

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

### **By-Law**

Chair Kathi Young reported that the committee will start meeting again after the new year.

### **Merchandise**

Chair Marisa Ranalli had nothing new to report.

### **Testimonial**

Sister Kathi Young reported on income and expenses for the testimonial dinner held for State President Denise Furnari, who thanked everyone for their efforts, involvement in planning, and for attending the Testimonial.

### **Christmas Party**

A motion was made and seconded to charge each attendee \$50 for the Christmas Party on January 7, 2023. Voted and so ordered.

## **COMMISSION REPORTS**

### **Organization & Education**

Liaison Tony Isgro reported on the successful workshop held at Methuen Lodge on October 30 and advised that a schedule is being established to hold the workshop in other areas. It was mentioned that some lodge attendees were disappointed that information on ways to increase membership were not part of the agenda. This will be addressed at future workshops.

### **Membership**

Chair Rudy Viscomi reported that he and State President Denise Furnari attended an open house at the Bandiera e Concordia Lodge # 240 of Marlboro last month and that four new members signed up during the open house. He and Denise will be going to Springfield on November 19 where a new lodge is in the process of being formed. Discussion amongst Council members ensued regarding ways to increase membership in our filial lodges.

### **Charity**

Chair Florence Guidara updated the Council members on the lodges who have contributed to the toy drive for the Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley and advised that the Commission is hosting a wine tasting fundraiser on Sunday, March 26, 2023 at the Newton Lodge. Paul Guida will send a letter that Council members can use to solicit merchants for gifts, donations, silent auction, and raffle prizes.

### **Scholarship**

President Furnari reported on the ongoing updates to the criteria for scholarship applicants.

### **Italian Culture/Historical**

Chair Armand Buonanno reported on plans for an afternoon performance of a 'Live at The Met' event at a Lowell theater on April 5, 2023. The plan is to get lodges in the Methuen area to attend.

### **Sports**

Pio Frittitta reported that plans are in process for a Cornhole tournament on February 26, 2023 at the Waltham Lodge.

### **Junior Division**

Liaison Brenda Buonanno reported on the ongoing collection of food items for Cor Unum, a shelter and food pantry in Lawrence, and the fun Christmas activities planned in conjunction with the canned food drive. She reported that the Junior Lodges have added a few more members to their rolls.

### **Benefit Insurance Commission**

State President Denise Furnari updated the Council on her meeting with Benefit Insurance President Rick Vitali and Treasurer Paula Sasso, who provided history and financials of the Commission. Liaison Jacky Bonarrigo reported on the financials of the Commission's previous meeting. Their next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2023.

### **Charitable & Educational Trust**

State President Denise advised she attended a meeting on Tuesday, November 15, and reported that it was a productive meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Brother Pio updated us on the sale of the Grand Lodge building. Brother Pio discussed the paperwork needed for the closing, which is on track for December 2. The lease of new office space in Waltham is still in process.

President Denise Furnari thanked Brothers Pio and Armand for their hard work on the sale of the building. She thanked Pio, Armand, Brother Matt, and Sister Kathi for their efforts in clearing out the office.

Convention Chairs Rudy Viscomi and Marisa Ranalli reported that they are considering the Sheraton Nashua in Nashua, NH for the State Convention in June 2023. Room rates are \$129 per night. They are awaiting availability information from the hotel for either the first or second weekend in June. A motion was made and seconded to book the Sheraton Nashua for the second week in June 2023. Voted and so ordered.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

President Denise Furnari informed us that there is another vacant seat as Agnes Nobile will not be able to continue in her role as State Trustee. She advised that the three open State Trustee seats (Districts 1, 2, and 4) will be left open until the elections in June 2023.

State President Denise Furnari discussed giving a thank you gift to Brother Matt for his assistance in the office over the last three months. A motion was made and seconded to give \$500 to Brother Matt. Voted and so ordered.

A motion was made and seconded to give a \$300 gift to Sister Kathi Young and Brother Pio Frittitta who have also done work at the office. Voted and so ordered.

State President Denise Furnari discussed giving a Christmas bonus to Brother Paul Guida. A motion was made and seconded to give Paul Guida one week's salary. Voted and so ordered.

State President Denise Furnari appointed Sisters Florence and Jacky to Chair the Golden Lion nominating committee. She informed us that at the odd year state convention, the Golden Lion Award is awarded to a female and male who has at least 25 years in the organization.

State President Denise Furnari appointed Richard Vita as Chair of the Commission for Social Justice. A motion was made and seconded to accept the appointment. Voted and so ordered.

Sister Kathi Young made a motion that moving forward, the Council meets in person on a quarterly basis (in the months coinciding with the quarter audit (January, April, July, and October) or as otherwise needed, with the balance of the monthly meetings being held via Zoom. The motion was seconded. Voted and so ordered.

President Denise Furnari discussed having various tour trips set up for members through Sister Lilia Viscomi, who is a travel agent. A motion was made and seconded to go forward with Sister Lilia designing tour trips for the Grand Lodge.

President Furnari advised that Italian organizations have been approached for help in sending letters to Washington, DC to get a commemorative coin in honor of Fr. Vincent Capodanno, Lt, USN for acts of heroism in the Vietnam war.

### **WELFARE OF THE ORDER**

Sister Jacky Bonarrigo reported that Anthony Petti, brother of Brockton Lodge President Todd Petti, recently passed away.

Many Council members expressed their sadness over the sale of the building but noted they are looking forward to the new office in Waltham. State President Denise Furnari shared her sentiments for the building because her father was instrumental in making the building a reality.

The Council members thanked Brothers Pio and Armand for facilitating the sale of the building and securing the lease of the Waltham office, Sisters Kathi and Brothers Pio and Matt for helping with the clearing of the office, Lilia Viscomi for providing the meeting collation, wished Tony Sestito a happy birthday, and extended holiday greeting to each other.

President Denise stated that elections are coming in June, noting we need a good team, a good council, and people to be held accountable. She advised that in January, Council members usually announce what position they plan to run for in June and asked everyone to think about their plans.

Having completed all business in accordance with the By-Laws, State President Denise Furnari declared the meeting adjourned at 9:43pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Rita M. Anderson  
State Recording Secretary