

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

**Minutes of the State Council Meeting**  
**Friday, September 21, 2018**

The monthly meeting of the State Council was held on Friday, September 21, 2018. State President Antonio Sestito called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

Absent Excused:	State Trustee Shauni Turner
Absent:	Immediate Past President Carmelita Bello
	State Trustee Maria Stella Fiore
	State Trustee Loreto Pellegrini
	State Trustee Vincent Perri

State First Vice President Denise Furnari read the Principles of the Order.  
State First Vice President Denise Furnari read the opening prayer.  
State President Antonio Sestito led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.  
State President Antonio Sestito asked for a moment of silence for our departed members.

**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 17, 2018 MEETING**

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Thank you notes were received from scholarship recipients Rebecca Kendall and Evan Mizerak. Motion made and seconded to pass and file. Voted so ordered

A letter was received from Lino Rullo, Executive President Emeritus, of the October Italian Heritage Month Committee requesting a donation to help underwrite the programs and expenses associated with the 2018 October Italian Heritage Month. Motion made and seconded to refer to the C&E Trust. Voted and so ordered.

A letter was received from Cousins Against Cancer requesting an ad for their 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Luncheon Fundraiser on Sunday, October 21, 2018 at the American Legion in Newton, MA. Motion made and seconded to refer to the C&E Trust. Voted and so ordered.

An announcement, ticket form, and ad request was received from the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum for their 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser Luncheon on Saturday, November 3, 2018 at LiGreci's Staaten in Staten Island, NY. Motion made and seconded to refer to the C&E Trust. Voted and so ordered.

An Application for Charter was received from charter signers Luigi G. Natale, Louis Strazzullo, and Damien DiPaola for a new lodge to be formed in Boston, MA under the name "North End Lodge". Motion made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

An email was received from Mary Cooper tendering her resignation as State Deputy Chairman. Motion made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

Newsletters were received from the following Lodges: Christopher Columbus # 216 (Brockton), Quattro Eroi # 1414 (Franklin), Wakefield # 1734, South Shore # 1850 (Hingham), Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli # 2183 (Wilmington), and the Grand Lodge of California.

### **TRANSFERS**

Arline F. Filetti from the Methuen Lodge # 902 to the Lawrence Ladies Lodge # 2026. Motion made and seconded to approve the transfer. Voted and so ordered.

### **ORATOR'S REPORT**

State Orator Marissa Sestito reported that there was nothing from our Filial Lodges at this time.

She spoke about Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone's decision to observe Indigenous Peoples' Day instead of Columbus Day and made a motion that we revoke the Public Service award that was given to him by our Commission for Social Justice (CSJ). Motion not seconded. Sister Carol Rossi stated that we should send a letter expressing our disappointment of his non-support of his Italian Heritage and Columbus Day, noting that if we revoke the award it may bring negative attention to the Order Sons of Italy. After much discussion, a motion was made and seconded to have CSJ Chairman Carmine Rullo draft a letter, to be approved by the Council, to be sent to Mayor Curtatone expressing our disappointment in his lack of support for our heritage, Columbus Day, and our Order. Voted and so ordered. Discussion took place regarding the need to examine the selection process used by the CSJ Commission members for future recipients. State President Antonio Sestito advised he would discuss this with them at their next meeting.

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

State Financial Secretary Marisa Ranalli presented the report of lodges in arrears as of August 31, 2018 and informed the Council of the lodges that have since paid.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

State Treasurer John Argiro presented the report. The Activities Fund, Balance Sheet, and P&L Budget Performance reports were reviewed for the month ending August 31, 2018.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Sunshine**

Chairman Marisa Ranalli advised the Council of the numerous messages sent on behalf of State President Antonio Sestito and the State Council.

#### **Merchandise**

Chairman Marisa Ranalli reported that between Natick Days and the Bocce Tournament she sold \$336.00 in merchandise, and advised that she will be attending Natick's Porchetta Night.

#### **Italian Heritage Month**

State President Antonio Sestito advised the Council of the Mass at St. Leonard's Church in the North End with Cardinal O'Malley on September 30 at 12:00 PM, and of the Italian Heritage Month kick-off at the State House on October 1 at 6:00 PM. The Consul General's office will be covering the cost of the meal at the State House.

### **Calendar Raffle**

Chairman Margaret Olivieri reported that over 900 tickets have been distributed to-date. She asked the Council members to inform her of Lodges that are requesting them so she can have them sent out.

### **Halloween Party**

Chairman Margaret Olivieri reminded the Council members that the Halloween Party is on Friday, October 26 at the Watertown Sons of Italy and asked everyone to support the event by selling tickets. Raffles will be held and prizes will be awarded for best costume.

### **Columbus Day Parade**

Sister Margaret Olivieri asked the Council to decide what we are going to wear. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to wear purple shirts and black pants. Voted and so ordered. A motion was made and seconded to purchase 4 tickets for the Chief Marshall Reception on Friday, October 5, 2 for the State President and 2 for the Public Relations Chairman. Voted and so ordered.

### **Christmas Party**

Chairman Marisa Ranalli announced that the Christmas Party would be held on December 14, 2018 at the Watertown Sons of Italy. More information will be available at the next meeting.

### **Meat Raffle**

Chairman Margaret Olivieri spoke about the Meat Raffle to benefit Cooley's Anemia on November 18 at the Watertown Sons of Italy. She passed out 50/50 raffle tickets for Council members to pre-sell to family and friends, and asked for everyone's support and attendance.

State First Vice President Denise Furnari spoke about the limited edition plaque that National Cooley's Anemia Chairman Joseph Rondinelli is selling. 100% of the sales will go to Cooley's Anemia. A motion was made and seconded to purchase a plaque. Voted and so ordered.

## **COMMISSION REPORTS**

### **Membership**

Chairman Denise Furnari spoke about the upcoming membership open house at the Santa Famiglia Lodge # 2834 of Lynn on October 21. She invited Lodge President Diana Travascio to attend the last Commission meeting to discuss the program and what role the Grand Lodge would play. President Travascio has sent out press releases, flyers, and invitations to potential new members to help make this a successful event.

Chairman Furnari also reported that the Commission members discussed the upcoming North End Lodge and are looking forward to the Institution and Installation of Officers of this new Lodge by our National President Vera Ferrara Girolami on October 25.

Chairman Furnari also spoke about Natick Days and how wonderful it was to be there with applications and to talk about the Sons of Italy, and advised that the Membership Commissioners will continue to go to the many town events and festivals to promote the Order.

Chairman Furnari advised that the revised Membership Brochure will be available at the next Council meeting for the approval of the Council.

State President Antonio Sestito spoke about the forming of another lodge in Wayland and the possibility of Instituting both the North End and Wayland Lodge at the same time.

State First Vice President Denise Furnari made a motion that the Grand Lodge pays the \$75.00 Charter Application Fee for both the North End and Wayland Lodge. Motion was seconded. Voted and so ordered.

### **Sports**

Sister Marisa Ranalli gave a preliminary report of the Golf Tournament and Bocce Tournament and reported an estimated profit of \$14,000 and \$600 respectively.

### **Charity**

Chairman Carol Rossi requested approval from the Council to hold the Commission's Christmas Parties at the North End on Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 1:30 PM, the Casa Monte Cassino on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 6:30 PM, and the Don Orione Nursing Home on Sunday, January 6, 2019 at 1:30 PM. A motion was made and seconded to approve. Voted and so ordered.

Chairman Rossi advised the Council that the profit from the Night at the Races would be divided equally between the Grand Lodge of Florida and the LaFamiglia di Southeast Texas Lodge # 2887 (where four families lost everything) to be distributed as they see fit.

Chairman Rossi advised that the Field of Flags will be pursued next year with the assistance of the new North End Lodge and there are no further plans at this time to hold the Festa Italiano.

Chairman Carol Rossi reported that she spoke to the Taunton and Fall River Lodges who feel left out because of the distance to our events. She is looking to have a fundraiser for either Alzheimer's or Autism in the Fall River area sometime next year.

### **Italian Culture/Historical**

Liaison Kathleen Cammarata spoke about the free concert being held on Sunday, October 14, sponsored by the St. Joseph's Society at the Quincy High School. Anyone wishing to go to the concert should get in touch with Dean Saluti as a ticket is needed for entry.

State President Antonio Sestito reported that the Building Trust met with the Italian Culture/Historical Commission and informed that the grant money could not be used for building renovations. It was the recommendation of the Commission to change the lighting, add poster pictures, change the flooring, and white washing the walls. The funds for these changes would need to come from the Building Trust, who will be working to obtain estimates on the work to be done.

First Vice President Denise Furnari commended the Commission on all its hard work in obtaining the grants and their continued effort with the Historical project.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

State Recording Secretary Margaret Olivieri advised she was given a new list of lodges that have lost their non-profit status from the State President and that she would be in contact with Executive Director Paul Guida to review the list.

President Antonio Sestito reported that he met with the new Consul General of Italy in Boston. He told her all about the Sons of Italy, our charitable endeavors, and all that we have to offer. He advised that he looks forward to building a relationship with her, and her Deputy and Secretary, in all future endeavors of our Order.

State Trustee Carol Rossi updated us on the progress of the website. There was much discussion about the contract and the deposit needed to begin the work on the site. All information has been forwarded to Executive Director Paul Guida and it is in the process of being completed.

A committee has been formed to discuss the outline of what we want for appearance, content, and functionality. The committee will consist of Carol Rossi, Marisa Ranalli, Michele Goss, Rodolfo Viscomi, Kathi Young, Denise Furnari, and Paul Guida. Carol advised she would be forwarding a list of questions to all Council members to complete and send back to her so the committee can review the responses, and will let committee members know of the upcoming meeting and times.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

State First Vice President Denise Furnari made a motion to purchase two tickets to the Italian Heritage Month Dinner Dance at the Watertown Lodge. Motion was seconded. Voted and so ordered.

State President Antonio Sestito reported that he received a phone call from Maria Stella Fiore asking if the vacancy for State Trustee – District 2 created by her resignation had been filled, and if it had not, then she would like to rescind her resignation. State Recording Secretary Margaret Olivieri reported that no letters of intent had been received. A motion was made and seconded to reinstate Maria Stella Fiore as State Trustee – District 2. Voted and so ordered.

State President Antonio Sestito advised he received an email from the National Office with a new Ritual for the Initiation of New Members which was approved at the August 2018 Plenary Meeting in Crystal City, Virginia.

The Council addressed the Application for Charter received for the North End Lodge. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Charter. Voted and so ordered.

State President Antonio Sestito presented the following Chairman of Permanent Commission appointment:

State Deputy: Ron Hill

Motion made and seconded to accept the appointment. Voted and so ordered.

### **WELFARE OF THE ORDER**

The Council members thanked State Trustee Kathleen Cammarata for the collation.

State Orator Marissa Sestito spoke about the fundraiser for Shauni Turner, thanked everyone that contributed and attended the event, and asked that we continue to keep her our prayers.

State First Vice President Denise Furnari advised that she looks forward to all of the Heritage Month events, the Institution of two new lodges, and reminded everyone to always be proud to be an Italian American.

State Second Vice President Rodolfo Viscomi read the closing prayer.

Having completed all business in accordance with the by-laws, State President Antonio Sestito adjourned the meeting at 9:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret Olivieri  
State Recording Secretary