

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

Minutes of the State Council Meeting
Friday, October 19, 2018

The monthly meeting of the State Council was held on Friday, October 19, 2018. State President Antonio Sestito called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Absent Excused: | State Trustee Loreto Pellegrini |
| | State Trustee Shauni Turner |
| Absent: | State Orator Marissa Sestito |
| | State Treasurer John Argiro |
| | State Trustee Kathleen Cammarata |
| | State Trustee Justin DiNicola |

State Second Vice President Rodolfo Viscomi read the Principles of the Order.
State Second Vice President Rodolfo Viscomi 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 SEPTEMBER 21, 2018 MEETING

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

COMMUNICATIONS

A memo was received from Ronald Hill, State Deputy Chairman, requesting the appointment of Kathi Young of the Winthrop Mixed Lodge # 2057 as State Deputy to the North End Lodge # 2996 of Boston. Motion made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

An Application for Charter was received from charter signers Bob DeFrancesco, Gino Coppola, Joseph Mastroianni, and James Sdoia for a new lodge to be formed in Wayland, MA under the name “La Familia di Metro West Lodge”. Motion made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

Newsletters were received from the following Lodges: Christopher Columbus # 216 (Brockton), Veturia Romana # 1200 (Salem), Francesco DeSanctis # 1411 (Natick), Quattro Eroi #1414 (Franklin), Braintree Ladies # 1422, Wakefield # 1734, and the Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli # 2183 (Wilmington).

TRANSFERS

Ronald Berardi from the Massimo d’Azeglio Lodge # 760 of Braintree to the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge # 278 of East Weymouth. Motion made and seconded to approve the transfer. Voted and so ordered.

ORATOR’S REPORT

None

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

State Financial Secretary Marisa Ranalli presented the report of lodges in arrears as of September 30, 2018 and informed the Council of the lodges that have since paid.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of State Treasurer John Argiro, Executive Director Paul Guida presented the report. The Activities Fund, Balance Sheet, and P& L Budget Performance reports were reviewed for the month ending September 30, 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 she will be visiting the Santa Famiglia Lodge of Lynn and the Lawrence Ladies Lodge to sell merchandise.

Columbus Day Parade

Sister Margaret Olivieri reported that the Columbus Day Parade committee has not had their final meeting yet and advised that Sister Kathi Young will report on the parade once the committee has met.

Halloween Party

Chairman Margaret Olivieri reported that approximately 80 people will be attending and that she looks forward to seeing everyone there.

Italian Heritage Month

State President Antonio Sestito spoke about the many events that are being held during the month of October in celebration of October Italian Heritage Month.

Meat Raffle

Chairman Margaret Olivieri spoke about the upcoming Meat Raffle to benefit Cooley's Anemia on November 18 at the Watertown Sons of Italy and requested the support of the Council for this event.

Website

Chairman Carol Rossi reported that the committee met to discuss the initial questions submitted by the designer. There was much discussion regarding whether the site should be completely redesigned, or to use the existing template with changes to color, look, font, and content to make it more user friendly. The primary question from the designer was "Who is the site for – who is your target audience?" After much discussion, a motion was made and seconded that the site should target current and prospective members. Voted and so ordered.

Calendar Raffle

Chairman Margaret Olivieri reported that 900 tickets have been distributed and will give tickets to Council members that have not yet received them. She is also calling the Lodges that have yet to request tickets.

Christmas Party

Chairman Marisa Ranalli reported that the Christmas Party will be held on December 14 at the Watertown Lodge and that more information will follow at the next meeting.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Membership

Chairman Denise Furnari discussed the upcoming open house with the Santa Famiglia Lodge # 2834 of Lynn on October 21. The Commission will be financing the refreshments and cost of materials for the open house. She will be presenting videos from the National Lodge that show what the Sons of Italy is about and the many charities that we support.

She reported that the Commission members discussed the upcoming Institution of the North End Lodge on October 25 and advised they are looking forward to having our National President Vera Ferrara Girolami in attendance to Institute this new Filial Lodge. A collation will follow the Institution at the Fisherman's Club of Boston.

Chairman Furnari talked about her meeting with the Regina Margherita Mixed Lodge # 1094 of Waltham to discuss the future of the Lodge. There was much discussion on whether to merge or transfer to another lodge. She advised that she listened to the input and concerns of the members and offered a suggestion that they have an open house to try to get more members.

Chairman Furnari reported that she looks forward to another new Lodge, the La Famiglia di Metro West Lodge of Wayland, and thanked State President Antonio Sestito for all his work with the initial organization of the Lodge. State President Sestito reported that the Lodge has signed up approximately 60 members, and that he looks forward to the growth of this Lodge.

Chairman Furnari reviewed the Quarterly Membership Report for the quarter ending September 30, 2018 and was glad to see that new members are being brought in. She reported that she has contacted many of the lodges that have a small membership to see how the Commission can assist them.

Charity

Chairman Carol Rossi reported that the Commission sent out many cards to members wishing them well. She also hopes to see many Council members at the upcoming Christmas Parties.

Italian Culture/Historical

State President Antonio Sestito advised that representatives from the Town of Belmont's Community Preservation Committee will be visiting the Grand Lodge to view what has been done with the grant money received and to view a presentation showing the future plans.

OLD BUSINESS

State Recording Secretary Margaret Olivieri reported that she and Executive Director Paul Guida are going to set up a time next month to go over the list of Lodges that have had their non-profit status revoked and contact the Lodges to see where they are in the reinstatement process.

State Trustee Carol Rossi brought up the recommendation from the Council to have a letter drafted by Commission for Social Justice Chairman Carmine Rullo to the Mayor of Somerville. State President Antonio Sestito advised he will address this with Carmine, and have something to report to the Council soon.

State President Antonio Sestito spoke about the upcoming visit from National President Vera Ferrara Girolami and the many events that she will be attending during her visit, including a small welcome reception at the Hingham Lodge, a visit to the State House with State Senator Joseph Boncore, the Institution of the North End Lodge, and the 100th Anniversary of the Methuen Lodge.

NEW BUSINESS

The Council addressed the memo received from Ron Hill, State Deputy Chairman, requesting the appointment of Kathi Young of the Winthrop Mixed Lodge # 2057 as State Deputy to the North End Lodge # 2996 of Boston. Motion made and seconded to approve the appointment. Voted and so ordered.

The Council addressed the Application for Charter received from the La Familia di Metro West Lodge of Wayland. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Charter. Voted and so ordered.

State President Antonio Sestito spoke about a conference call that was held with the Supreme Council regarding a change of wording to the Trust Agreement for donations made from the Sons of Italy Foundation. The Trust Agreement currently limits donations to charitable organizations within the United States or any of its possessions. The new wording will allow them to give to any charitable organization in the world. He reported that the Foundation will be presenting \$100,000 in Central Italy earthquake relief to the Andrea Bocelli Foundation for the rebuilding of a kindergarten and elementary school in Muccia, a town located in the Marche region of Italy.

WELFARE OF THE ORDER

The Council members thanked State Trustee Pio Frittitta for the collation.

State First Vice President Denise Furnari welcomed State Trustee Maria Stella Fiore back to Council, spoke of the great work done by Chairman Kathi Young to make the Columbus Day Parade such a great success, and reported that she was happy to see the many Lodges that participated. She also looks forward to attending the many upcoming events that make her 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 9:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Olivieri
State Recording Secretary