

# **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, September 19, 2019**

Prior to the opening of the State Council meeting, Mark Mobilio, a BIC Commissioner and insurance agent, and Frank Pascuito, insurance agent and member of the Renaissance Lodge #2614, representing Plymouth Rock Insurance and Bunker Hill Insurance respectively, presented a proposal to the Council. This proposal incorporated the willingness of these insurance companies to partner with OSDIA MA to provide discounted home and auto insurance to our members and potential members, to pay members' dues, and to become a corporate partner with our organization by providing monies towards our fundraising events.

It was suggested that a Marketing Committee be appointed to develop the mechanisms to disseminate this information to the members, the advertisement of the program, how the membership payment would come to us and how this program would potentially increase our membership before being brought to the Council for approval.

Following the presentation, the monthly meeting of the State Council was called to order by State President Denise Furnari at 7:39 PM.

### **ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

Absent Excused:	Jacquelyn Bonarrigo
	Frank Mazzaglia
Absent:	Jennifer Sabino

State First Vice President Rodolfo Viscomi read the Principles of the Order.

State Second Vice President Marisa Ranalli read the opening prayer.

State President Denise Furnari asked for a moment of silence for our departed members.

State President Denise Furnari led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

### **MINUTES OF THE JULY 19, 2019 MEETING**

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

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Thank you notes were received from scholarship recipients Julia Farry, Giovana Rodriguez, and Andrew Wojtas. Motion made and seconded to pass and file. Voted and so ordered.

A thank you card and donation was received from National Immediate Past President Vera Girolami and husband Al thanking State President Denise Furnari, State Immediate Past President Antonio Sestito and all their Brothers and Sisters in Massachusetts for the hospitality shown to them during their visit last October. Motion made and seconded to pass and file. Voted and so ordered.

Thank you cards were received from National President Nancy DiFiore Quinn and National Past President Vera Girolami for the gifts received. Motion made and seconded to pass and file. Voted and so ordered.

An announcement, reservation form, and an ad request was received from the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum for their 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Fundraiser Luncheon on Saturday, November 2, 2019, at LiGreci's Staaten in Staten island, NY, together with an invitation to attend a champagne toast to the Veneto Region of Italy at the Museum following the Fundraiser Luncheon. Motion made and seconded to refer to Old Business. Voted and so ordered.

A memo was received from Ron Hill, State Deputy Chairman, requesting the appointment of Jeannine Camarda of the Veturia Romana Lodge #1200 of Salem as State Deputy to the Santa Famiglia Lodge #2834 of Lynn, and Paul DiBona of the Ambrose D. Cedrone Lodge #1069 of Newton as State Deputy to the LaFamiglia di Metro West Lodge #2997 of Wayland. Motion made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

An email was received from Charles DeStefano, President of the Junior Division, requesting the Council approve his list of appointments to the Junior Division Commission. Motion made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

An email was received from Dr. Dean Saluti, Chairman of the Italian Culture/Historical Commission, requesting the Council approve his list of appointments to the Italian Culture/Historical Commission. Motion made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

An email was received from Margaret Olivieri, Chairman of the Charity Commission, requesting the Council approve her list of appointments to the Charity Commission. Motion made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

Newsletters were received from the following Lodges: Christopher Columbus #216 (Brockton), Francesco DeSanctis #1411 (Natick), Quattro Eroi #1414 (Franklin), Wakefield #1734, South Shore #1850 (Hingham), Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli #2183 (Wilmington), and the Grand Lodge of California. Motion made and seconded to pass and file. Voted and so ordered.

### **TRANSFERS**

Florence Ferullo Guidara from the Regina Margherita di Savoia Mixed Lodge #1094 (Waltham) to the Piave Fiume Lodge #1036 (Watertown).

Frank Guidara from the Cristoforo Colombo Regina Elena Lodge #169 (Fitchburg) to the Piave Fiume Lodge #1036 (Watertown).

Rosa Aliberti, Evelina D'Amato, Rosa DiPlacido, Anna Maria Gregoli, Anna Pietrantozzi, Paola Pietrantozzi, and Cettina Shepis from the Quincy Ladies Lodge #1436 to the Braintree Ladies Lodge #1422.

Motion made and seconded to approve the transfers. Voted and so ordered.

### **ORATOR'S REPORT**

The following inquiries were received by State Orator Kathi Young:

- (1) whether all applications for membership must be accepted; advised that if the applicant met all our membership requirements, the application must either go to the Lodge's Committee or its members for a vote, but there can be no discrimination as to membership;
- (2) concerns regarding an election that took place for a Trust position which had not been done correctly and was to take place again; attended meeting, no elections were held but meeting was well done;
- (3) whether a Lodge can appoint a member to a Council position; advised that a Special Election would have to be held;

Further, State Orator Kathi Young reported the following:

- (4) attempted contact with former President of a lodge regarding the status of the disbandment of the Lodge; advised by Executive Director Paul Guida that the lodge had disbanded, and letters had gone out from the Grand Lodge to the members giving them until September 22 to transfer their membership or they will be dropped from the Grand Lodge membership rolls;
- (5) contacted a lodge that had requested guidance regarding disbanding or merging with another lodge to offer assistance; and
- (6) attended a Lodge installation of new members and advised that the Deputy did not follow any of the procedures for the ritual; the matter was referred to Ron Hill, State Deputy Chairman, for follow-up with the Deputy.

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

State Financial Secretary Michele Goss presented the report of lodges in arrears as of August 31, 2019 and informed the Council of the lodges that will be forwarding payment.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

State Treasurer Loreto Pellegrini presented the report. The Activities Fund, Balance Sheet, and P&L Budget Performance reports were reviewed for the month ending August 31, 2019. The second quarter reports for the Charitable and Educational Trust, Benefit Insurance Commission and the OSIA Trust of 1985 were also distributed.

A question arose as to why the Convention report shows a loss of \$3649. State President Denise Furnari, as the Convention Chair, explained that it had been discussed at the Council prior to Convention that we could not charge the delegates a higher registration fee than we did because the delegates would not attend. A discussion followed as to how we can avoid this going forward and how we will make up the deficit in the future.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Calendar Raffle**

Committee Co-Chair Michele Goss first thanked Executive Director Paul Guida for his assistance, above and beyond, to the Co-Chairs of this Committee. She reported that she and Co-Chair Carol Rossi have contacted all lodges to request their participation, and to date, 1900 of the 3000 tickets have been distributed. Sister Goss urged the Council members to promote the raffle when visiting lodges and suggestions were made to aid in selling them. It was noted that the potential gross revenue from sale of all the tickets would be \$30,000. State President Denise Furnari concurred that this is one of our biggest fundraisers and encouraged the Council to do its best to get tickets sold.

#### **Columbus Day Parade**

Chairman Kathi Young requested that we all make calls to lodges to encourage participation in the parade and essay contest. Chairman Young reported that when she was at the North End Lodge meeting their Secretary, who works in the Mayor's office, she was advised that there is already talk of changing to Indigenous Peoples Day, so it is important we have a strong presence at the Parade. She also advised that some donations have been received to help offset the cost of the essay prizes and particulars of the essay contest have gone out to many entities. Regarding the actual parade, she advised that we assemble at City Hall Plaza at 10:00 am on October 13, wearing our purple shirts. The venue of the collation after the parade is still undetermined.

#### **Website**

Co-Chair Nicholas Thomson reported that they have been in discussion with the developer and his vision and ours are very much aligned. Some changes to the original order will be the replacement of the Tweeter fed with our active Facebook feed and the addition of a scrolling feed for the news we post. The website will eventually feature our merchandise as well. We will have our first sample by October 10.

One issue that needs to be addressed is the periodic updates of the site once up and running to keep it fresh and current. This upkeep of the site was not a part of the developer's contract. This was referred to New Business.

It will be confirmed with the developer as to whether application forms will be available online. Questions that will have to be resolved regarding on-line applications are whether it will be converted to a paper application or stored as an electronic file, will it be available to all members or just lodge members, and whether there will be a processing fee to cover the on-line cost.

### **Golf Tournament**

Chairman Loreto Pellegrini presented a preliminary report of a net figure of \$13,100. His goal is \$20,000. The date for next year will be August 31, 2020. State President Denise Furnari stated it was a great event and well run and organized. Sunshine Chair Marisa Ranalli stated that she will send thank you notes to National Immediate Past President Vera Girolami for her \$100 donation and to Paul Polo for his donation of \$250 towards this event.

### **Halloween Party**

Chairman Kathi Young reminded the Council that the Halloween Party will take place on Friday, October 25, at the Quincy Sons of Italy. The incentive of our State President is to support as many lodges as we can who have their own building since we ask the lodges to support us. Thus bocce will be in Watertown, Meat Raffle in Newton and Council Christmas Party in Hingham.

### **Bocce Tournament**

State President Denise Furnari reminded the Council that the Bocce Tournament was in Methuen on September 21. There will be a Grand Lodge Women's Team, but no Grand Lodge Men's team represented at the Tournament.

### **Council Christmas Party**

Co-Chair Kathi Young reported that the Council Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 7 at 7:00 pm at the Hingham Sons of Italy. Attendees will be requested to bring an unwrapped gift for Toys for Tots. A motion was made and seconded to host the Council Christmas Party at the Hingham Sons of Italy. Voted and so ordered. A motion was made and seconded that Council members provide the desserts. So ordered.

### **Meat Raffle**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meat Raffle for Cooley's Anemia will be held on Sunday, November 2, from 1:00 – 4:00 pm at the Newton Sons of Italy. Tickets will be 15 for \$10. There will be 50/50 raffle tickets sold at 3/\$10. Last year we made \$3600 with a goal this year of \$5,000.

### **5K Road Race**

Chairman Kathi Young advised that the race will be held in April and she will contact Race Wire for a date.

### **Grand Lodge Meatball Cook-off Championship**

Co-Chair Carol Rossi reported that the Grand Lodge Meatball Cook-off Championship will take place on Saturday, March 28, 2020, at 7:00 pm at a venue to be determined which will depend on the number of lodges entering their champion. There will be a \$20 fee to enter a Lodge for the event. Local chefs will be the judges. The ticket price will be \$30/pp which will include a buffet dinner, dancing, prizes and fun, and lodges will be given a minimum of 30 tickets to sell for the event. Lodges entering their Meatball Champion will be encouraged to support their Champion with a cheerleading squad to cheer on their Champion.

### **Sunshine**

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

## **Merchandise**

Merchandise Chair Marisa Ranalli reported that merchandise will be for sale at the Bocce Tournament and at the Hingham Sons of Italy at the installation of its new members.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **IRS**

State Recording Secretary Carol Rossi reported that she has been in contact with the nine (9) lodges still outstanding: two (2) lodges (Roslindale and Winthrop) are in the process of completing the forms; one (1) lodge (Stoughton) has had to revise and resend the forms to the IRS; one (1) lodge (Melrose) is disbanding; three (3) lodges (Medford, Peabody Ladies and Billerica) still had some confusion/questions which have been explained and forms sent to them to begin the process; and one (1) lodge (Walpole/Foxboro) could not advise what has been done. State Recording Secretary Carol Rossi advised she will continue to reach out to Walpole/Foxboro and periodically check with the other lodges.

### **Lodge Installations**

State President Denise Furnari reported that the Institution of the La Familia di Metro West Lodge #2997 of Wayland will take place on Wednesday, October 9, at 7:00 pm at the Piave Fiume Lodge #1036 (Watertown) during the regular meeting. Immediate Past State President Antonio Sestito advised that he has not yet obtained a date for the Alessandro Volta Lodge #1712 of Stoughton for its installation.

### **Father Gregory Mercurio Thank-You Dinner**

State Recording Secretary Carol Rossi reported that a thank you dinner for Father Greg will take place on Tuesday, October 29, at 6:30 pm at the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge in Marlboro. Tickets will be \$15 per person for an Italian buffet. Council members are to bring dessert. Lodges may also contribute toward a monetary gift for Father Greg to be presented at the event. A gift will be given from the Grand Lodge, in addition to a Citation from the State House.

### **Garibaldi-Meucci Museum**

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Fundraiser for the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum will be on November 2 from 11am – 3 pm at LiGreci's Staaten on Staten Island, NY. Tickets are \$85/pp. At the request of State President Denise Furnari, State Recording Secretary Carol Rossi had explored various modes of transportation and contacted various individuals and lodges to determine interest in attending the event. At this time, besides herself and husband Angelo, National Recording Secretary Philip Privitera, Esquire, will be the only attendees from Massachusetts. Trustee Jeannine Camarda was a possibility.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Executive Director Paul Guida reminded the Council that we did approve at Convention the way the Senior Members are to be billed. We have several at-large members on the Grand Lodge roll to which he sends a renewal notice for \$50.00 in October for the following year, but we have not set an amount for the Senior dues which he suggested to be \$25.00. With the per capita being \$21.52, we would have a profit of \$3.48. A motion was made and seconded to charge our Senior members \$25.00 for dues. Voted and so ordered.

### **Budget and Finance Committee**

State President Denise Furnari advised the Council that she has formed a Budget and Finance Committee consisting of State President Denise Furnari, State Treasurer Loreto Pellegrini, State First Vice President Rodolfo Viscomi, State Second Vice President Marisa Ranalli, Immediate Past State President Antonio Sestito, Past President Carmelita Bello, Executive Director Paul Guida and Benefit Insurance Commission Treasurer Paula Sasso. State President Denise Furnari stated that their primary duty will be to formulate a five-year budget.

**Part-time Office Assistant**

State President Denise Furnari suggested that, in addition to Executive Director Paul Guida, a part-time employee is needed in the office. The Council suggested that Paul prepare a job description. It was agreed that the parameters of the position need to be defined as to number of hours, salary per hour, and whether it is a college intern. State President Denise Furnari suggested 25 hours/week would be needed to cover the website, filing and other duties.

A question arose as to how the salary would be funded since we are already running in a deficit. It was the consensus that we should be looking for a college intern. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

**Italian Opera**

State President Denise Furnari informed the Council that on Friday, October 18, an Italian opera would be performing at the Colonial Theatre in Boston which is a once-in-a-lifetime event and to which a few Council members had purchased tickets. This event coincides with the next Council meeting and since most members would be attending the Council meeting, the meeting remained as scheduled.

**Commission Appointments**

State President Denise Furnari presented the following appointments as Chairpersons of Permanent Commissions:

Organization and Education	Anthony Panaggio
Membership	Rodolfo Viscomi
Social Justice	Diane Modica
Charitable and Educational Trust	Kevin Caira
Judiciary	Joseph Boncore

In addition, State President Denise Furnari presented the following appointments as Liaisons to the Permanent Commissions:

Junior Division	Nicholas Thomson
Italian Culture/Historical	Frank Mazzaglia
Scholarship	Anthony LoConte
Charity	Marisa Ranalli
Social Justice	Maria Stella Fiore
Organization and Education	Jeannine Camarda
Judiciary	Kathi Young
Benefit Insurance	Jacquelyn Bonarrigo
Sports	Loreto Pellegrini

**Commission Committee Appointments**

Motion made and seconded to approve the appointment of Jeannine Camarda of the Veturia Romana Lodge #1200 of Salem as State Deputy to the Santa Famiglia Lodge #2834 of Lynn, and Paul DiBona of the Ambrose D. Cedrone Lodge #1069 of Newton as State Deputy to the LaFamilia di Metro West Lodge #2997 of Wayland. Voted and so ordered.

Motion made and seconded to approve the appointments made by Charles DeStefano, President of the Junior Division, to the Junior Division Commission. Voted and so ordered.

Motion made and seconded to approve the appointments made by Dr. Dean Saluti, Chairman of the Italian Culture/Historical Commission, to the Italian Culture/Historical Commission. Voted and so ordered.

Motion made and seconded to approve the appointments made by Margaret Olivieri, Chairman of the Charity Commission, to the Charity Commission. Voted and so ordered.

## **National Convention**

State President Denise Furnari gave a brief report of the National Convention. Our National President is Nancy Fiore Quinn and the National Second Vice President is Senator Joseph Boncore; National Trustee is Immediate Past President Antonio Sestito; National Recording Secretary is Philip Privitera, Esquire; Foundation Trustee and Arbitration Commissioner is Past President James DiStefano. The Council also was advised that National Trustee John Saladino received the Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro Award, the highest award in the Order. Kevin Caira is now the National President of the Social Justice Commission Emeritus.

The Council was advised that National has comprised a new ritual book that will be out shortly.

It was requested that a thank you note be sent to Philip Privitera, Esquire, for the donation of \$1,000 used by the Massachusetts delegation to host a breakfast at the National Convention.

State President Denise Furnari also advised that National Immediate Past President Vera Girolami gave a donation of \$250 in appreciation for our hospitality when she visited.

## **WELFARE OF THE ORDER**

The Council members thanked Sister Kathi Young for the collation.

Immediate Past State President Antonio Sestito informed the Council that the Hingham Lodge will be initiating 45 new members at its next meeting on September 23. He advised that it is part of a plan to initiate 180 new members.

State Trustee Anthony LoConte informed the Council that the Haverhill Lodge will be celebrating its 62<sup>nd</sup> Memorial Mass to be held on Sunday, September 22 at 8:00 am at All Saints Church. They will be honoring two deceased members: Anthony's grandfather Carmine LoConte and Frank Azzarito. In addition, they will be donating \$10,000 to the Carmine LoConte Memorial Scholarship.

State President Denise Furnari encouraged communication among one another and to feel free to ask questions. She stated that there is no such thing as a wrong question; the only wrong question is the one you do not ask. She also encouraged Council members to visit two lodge meetings per month. Further, she encouraged us to continue to work together as she has already seen the results.

State First Vice President Rodolfo Viscomi read the closing prayer.

Having completed all business in accordance with the by-laws, State President Denise Furnari adjourned the meeting at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Rossi  
State Recording Secretary