

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 15, 2019

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

Absent Excused: State Treasurer Loreto Pellegrini
State Trustee Maria Stella Fiore
Absent: State Trustee Jennifer Sabino
Conference Call: State Recording Secretary Carol Rossi

State First Vice President Rodolfo Viscomi read the Principles of the Order.
State Second Vice President and Chaplain 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 OCTOBER 18, 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 Aidan and Joseph Connolly. Motion made and seconded to pass and file. Voted and so ordered.

A memo was received from State Deputy Chair Ron Hill requesting the appointment of Robert Cappello of the Massimo d'Azeglio Lodge #760 as Deputy to the Quincy Lodge # 1295. Motion made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

An email was received from Diane Modica, Chairman of the Commission for Social Justice, requesting the Council approve her list of appointments to the Commission. Motion made and seconded to refer to New Business. Voted and so ordered.

Newsletters were received from Christopher Columbus #216 (Brockton), Francesco DeSanctis #1411 (Natick), Quattro Eroi #1414 (Franklin), Braintree Ladies #1422, Giuseppe Roncalli Lodge #2183 (Wilmington), and the Grand Lodges of New York and California. Motion made and seconded to pass and file. Voted and so ordered.

TRANSFERS

Caprice DeLauder from the Methuen #902 to Lawrence Ladies Lodge #2026. Motion made and seconded to accept the transfer. Voted and so ordered.

ORATOR'S REPORT

State Orator Kathi Young advised of the status of the lodges that will be merging and/or disbanding, member transfer issues, deputy issues and a lodge special election to take place. Motion made and seconded to accept the Orator's report. Voted and so ordered.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

State Financial Secretary Michele Goss presented the report of lodges in arrears as of September 30, 2019, and informed the Council of the lodges that have paid. Motion made and seconded to approve the report. Voted and so ordered.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of State Treasurer Loreto Pellegrini, Executive Director Paul Guida presented the report. The Activities Fund, Balance Sheet, and Profit and Loss Performance Reports were presented for review. Motion made and seconded to accept the reports. Voted and so ordered.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Membership

State First Vice President Rodolfo Viscomi complimented and thanked State President Denise Furnari for her efforts while Membership Chair. He indicated that although the ideas generated were good, they did not work. He wants to try an electronic approach once the new website is up and running, using Facebook and Twitter, newspaper articles, plus cable companies.

Trustee Frank Mazzaglia shared a plan that the Masons and Shriners have been using which encompasses open houses held at the same time at varied lodges, multiple times per year, spearheaded by a central committee. He will put together a more detailed presentation for the Council next month. Suggestions were also made to get information to the Chambers of Commerce in the towns where the open houses would be held. Junior bocce leagues were also suggested. Motion made and accepted to accept the report. Voted and so ordered.

BIC

A report will be given after the January meeting.

Historical/Culture

Trustee Frank Mazzaglia reported that it was suggested that one person from the Order, the Dante, Pirandella Lyceum. St. Joseph's Society, etc. attend a joint meeting to coordinate a calendar so that cultural events would not conflict with each other. In addition, there would be a Building Trust meeting on Tuesday, November 19, at 7:00 pm with the Historical/Culture Commission to discuss renovations that were envisioned and to proceed with another grant. Motion made and seconded to accept the report. Voted and so ordered.

Scholarship

No report

Social Justice

No report; commission members to be discussed under New Business.

Organization & Education

No report

Charity

Meat Raffle

Co-Chair Kathi Young requested any unsold raffle tickets to be returned for sale at the event. A request was made that the \$20 donation made in October by the Council members for Halloween party raffles which was not used because the Halloween event did not take place be put toward the cost of the meat. Motion made and seconded that the money be put towards the meat. Voted and so ordered.

Junior Division

State President Denise Furnari reported that she has appointed Deb Deputat as liaison to the Junior Division.

Sports

No report

Budget and Finance Committee

No report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Calendar Raffle

Committee Co-Chair Michele Goss reported that 2850 of the 3000 tickets have been distributed. The amount sold to date are 259. Motion made and seconded to accept the report. Voted and so ordered.

Website

Co-Chair Nicholas Thomson reported that much of the information on the new website was cut and pasted from the former website so there would be some errors. He requested the Council members email any errors, omissions or suggested corrections to him. The first item requested of the Council was if there were any criticisms, concerns or ideas regarding the way the website functions or if there were any problems negotiating the site. It was pointed out that the links to other websites did not work and there was no link listed to the Casa Monte Cassino which is an OSIA charity. It was explained that links were difficult to achieve until the site is completely independent. The second item was whether the Council wanted to have their email information listed, and the Council members indicated they do not. Third, it was further explained that we will be responsible to update the content, names, information, etc. Co-chair Nicholas Thomson volunteered to take the lead on this once the site is up and running. Lastly, a motion was made and seconded to authorize the website co-chairs to make final payment of \$3,000 to the web designer per the contract. Voted and so ordered. Motion was also made to set up the transaction for the monthly payment to the host. Voted and so ordered.

Council Christmas Party

Co-Chair Kathi Young reminded all attendees to bring an unwrapped gift in the range of \$10-\$15; they will be brought to the Children's Hospital. Attendees were also asked to bring a wrapped Christmas ornament for themselves and any guest for a game. Council members were also asked to bring a dessert. A motion was made and seconded to pay the two extra helpers at the Hingham Lodge \$100/each for their day's work in assisting in food preparation. Motion made and seconded to accept the report. Voted and so ordered.

Sunshine

State Second Vice President and Sunshine Chair Marisa Ranalli reported on the greetings sent on behalf of the Council. Motion made and seconded to accept the report. Voted and so ordered.

Merchandise

State Second Vice President and Merchandise Chair Marisa Ranalli reported that merchandise in the amount of \$555 was sold at the Bocce Tournament, \$366 at the Hingham installation of members and \$332 at the institution of the LaFamilia di MetroWest Lodge. Motion made and seconded to accept the report. Voted and so ordered.

5K Road Race

Chair Kathi Young reported that a letter of request and a map highlighting the area that will be encompassed have been sent to the Town of Belmont which, she reported, has been more than helpful. The date, which works with Race Wire, will be Sunday, April 19, 2020. It was noted that this is the Sunday before the Marathon, and Chair Kathi Young said she will reach out to Race Wire to confirm. Immediate Past President Antonio Sestito advised

those new on the Council that the Town of Belmont also donated \$25,000 to the Grand Lodge to be used for the showcases in the hallway. Motion made and seconded to accept the report. Voted and so ordered.

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 the Piave Fiume Lodge (Watertown). Alan LaBella will be the DJ. To date, no lodges have sent in an entry, but she expects entries from Tewksbury, Wilmington, Natick and Haverhill. State Trustee Jacquelyn Bonarrigo reported that Brockton had brought an entry to the meeting, and Methuen reported that it will be entering. It was reported that the Norwood Lodge may be entering. It was brought to attention that many people were confused about the event; they thought the ticket price of \$30 was to come to taste the meatballs only rather than professional chefs doing the tasting. A corrected flyer will go out explaining the event will have a full-course Italian dinner with dancing to a DJ and the meatball contest will be the further entertainment. The Council was reminded that the purpose of this event was to generate camaraderie between lodges rather than be a major fundraiser. Motion made and seconded to accept the report. Voted and so ordered.

Father Gregory Mercurio Thank-You Dinner

State Recording Secretary Carol Rossi reported that the evening was a great success, Father Greg was truly overwhelmed and did not expect the 70+ attendees. She directed the Council members to the financial report and thanked those Council members who attended. She indicated that thank you notes have been sent to the Marlboro Lodge and the Loyal Order of Moose. Motion made and seconded to accept the report. Voted and so ordered.

Garibaldi-Meucci Museum

State Recording Secretary Carol Rossi reported that on Saturday, November 2nd, she and her husband Angelo, as MA Overseers for the Museum, National Recording Secretary Phil Privitera and his wife Toni-Ann, and National Past President Joseph Russo and Past National First Lady Pauline Russo attended the 33rd Annual Garibaldi-Meucci Museum Fundraiser held at LiGreci's Staaten on Staten Island, New York, as representatives of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

OLD BUSINESS

IRS

State Recording Secretary Carol Rossi reported that there are eight (8) lodges that are still in the process; six (6) are either actively completing their forms or have sent them to the IRS. One (1) lodge is still in limbo and one (1) still has some issues. She reported she will continue to routinely check with the lodges. Motion made and seconded to accept the report. Voted and so ordered.

Insurance Presentation

State President Denise Furnari reminded the Council that we had voted to proceed with the Plymouth Rock insurance program; she advised that she and Executive Director Paul Guida have scheduled a meeting with Mark Mobilio and Frank Pasciuto. It was suggested that they might want to be sponsors of the road race.

Part-time Office Assistant

State President Denise Furnari advised that she has a meeting with Sister Adriana Guida to discuss a college intern to fill the part time office assistant position, and that we have a limited budget.

Beatles Tribute

Trustee Deborah Deputat informed the Council that tickets will go on sale in January for this event at the Winchester Sons of Italy on Saturday, April 25, 2020.

Fundraising Committee

State President Denise Furnari would like to have this Committee meet as soon as possible. She reiterated those who had indicated interest in working on it: Immediate Past President Tony Sestito, State Orator Kathi Young, State Recording Secretary Carol Rossi and Trustees Deb Deputat and Pio Frittatta. A notice will go out regarding date and time.

5-year Budget

State President Denise Furnari advised that a meeting will be scheduled in the 2nd week of December. Two members, Past State President Carmelita Bello and BIC Commissioner Paula Sasso, are very excited to be a part of this Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Audit of Books

State Trustee Anthony LoConte inquired as to why large expenditures were put on the personal credit card of Executive Director Paul Guida and reimbursed to him, and not on a Grand Lodge credit card. A discussion was tabled until Paul is present.

Commission Committee Appointments

The memo received from State Deputy Chair Ron Hill requesting the appointment of Robert Cappello of the Massimo d'Azeglio Lodge #760 as Deputy to the Quincy Lodge #1295 was discussed. Motion made and seconded to accept the appointment. Voted and so ordered.

A motion was made and seconded to approve all names submitted as Commissioners for the Commission of Social Justice by Diane Modica, Chair, except for Marilyn Petito Devaney. Voted and so ordered

Convention

State President Denise Furnari stated that we must start thinking outside the box regarding how we will conduct the Convention in the future by perhaps eliminating Thursday and starting on a Friday at 12 noon to make it more affordable. These are things the Executive Council must consider.

The Council was reminded that there will be no meeting in December in lieu of the Council Christmas Party at the Hingham Sons of Italy.

WELFARE OF THE ORDER

The Council sang Happy Birthday to Immediate Past President Antonio Sestito whose birthday will be on the 22nd.

State Trustee Jeannine Camarda complimented the Council on its cohesiveness, participation and fraternity.

State Trustee Jacquelyn Bonarrigo invited the Council to the Christopher Columbus Lodge's (Brockton) Christmas party on Wednesday, December 4, at 6:30 pm at George's Café. The cost is \$15/pp.

State Recording Secretary Carol Rossi wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving from Nashville where she and her husband Angelo were celebrating his birthday after exiting the conference call.

State President Denise Furnari wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving, Immediate Past President Antonio Sestito a happy birthday and stated she was looking forward to celebrating the 50+1 anniversary of the Wakefield Lodge.

State Second Vice President and Chaplain Marisa Ranalli read the closing prayer.

Having completed all business in accordance with the by-laws, State President Denise Furnari adjourned the meeting at 9:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Rossi
State Recording Secretary