

**MINUTES OF THE GRAND COUNCIL MEETING
ORDER SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY GRAND LODGE OF THE NORTHWEST
April 27, 2024**

The meeting of the Grand Lodge of the Northwest Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy in America Grand Council held on April 27, 2024, at the Embassy Suites in Lynnwood, WA was called to order at 10:00 A.M.

ATTENDANCE of State Officers, Deputies and Lodge Presidents is included as Attachment "A".

President Linda welcomed all to the Spring Grand Council and specifically acknowledged our new Lodge Presidents.

MOMENT OF SILENCE – President Linda Buccini Anderson took a moment of silence for the departed members of the Grand Lodge. Prayer in English was read by VP Barbara Blair and in Italian by Mary Jane Fascia Rogers.

STATE RECORDING SECRETARY – Gina Natucci

The minutes of the GLNW Grand Council meeting, held October 21, 2023, were unanimously approved by the attendees.

CORRESPONDENCE – No communications

Vote to Accept Grand Lodge Officers – Mary Jane Fascia Rogers, Janet Fritz, Judy Anselmo, Jackie Haberstock, Marcel Bergeron. Tony Bisceglia Anderson made a motion to accept the new officers, Joe Chicano seconded. All approved, Motion Passed

STATE OFFICER REPORTS:

4th NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT REPORT – There is updating of the National Office. Shayla Kaestle is now the Executive Director. She lives in Florida and travels often to the National Headquarters. Joana Bala is still working there. The National President Micheal Polo is traveling to Italy which is why he could not be at the Grand Council Meeting. He will be meeting with Lisa Marchese who lives in Milan, Italy. She is the daughter of Seattle Fedele member Joanne Marchese.

President Polo and the executive officers meet weekly. The next National Convention will be in Orlando Florida.

National President Michael Polo was in Seattle a few weeks ago for a surprise dinner for 80-year member Lucy Salle. She will be 96 years old soon. Laura Salle, Past President of Seattle Fedele was there as well as Past Grand Lodge President Rosetta Stella Beyersdorf, Tony and Linda Anderson and a few other people. Lucy was surprised by the award and meeting National President Polo, who presented Lucy with a framed Certificate from the National Office.

4th National President Tony Bisceglia Anderson reported that himself, Grand Lodge President Linda Buccini Anderson and Past Grand Lodge President Rosetta Stella Beyersdorf will be going to NELA on May 22.

He also reported that each lodge needs to make the meeting fun. Bring kids to meetings like Auburn and Seattle Fedele.

STATE TREASURER'S REPORT – Mary Jane Fascia Rogers report is Attached.

STATE FINANCIAL SECRETARY – Janet Fritz's report is Attached. Janet Fritz reported that the 990 form (for IRS) needs to be completed annually by each lodge. Bill Haberstock of Cataldo lodge noted he would be happy to help or answer any questions concerning the IRS process. Failing to submit the 990 form can result in fines from the IRS and legal cost to your lodge and eventually losing your charitable designation and connection to the Sons and Daughters of Italy. There should not be any charge for submitting your 990 for those with incomes under \$50,000. Please fill out your form online and once you have confirmation, send a copy to Financial Secretary Janet Fritz @ fritz.janet@gmail.com. Most should be done by June of each year.

President Linda noted that the Grand Lodge financial situation is starting to be of concern. We need to ensure that we are financially sound. Due to limited Grand Lodge fundraising partially due to Covid and allowing lodges to get their fundraising programs up and running without being in competition with the Grand Lodge. Also, it has been hard to get a large fundraiser supported as well as increasing costs in general and a decrease in membership. President Linda asked Tony Anderson to chair a committee to investigate ways to improve our future funds. Current ideas are increasing our per capita (which have not been increased since 1991), changing how often we get the NWIN, etc. President Linda noted she is bringing this up as we have over a year to review and discuss and bring forward the plan for the convention where a decision will be voted upon by all the delegates. The committee that Tony Anderson will be asking to consider overseeing the budget is: Mary Jane Rogers, Janet Fritz, Holly Cochran, Kim Asay, Bill Haberstock, and Debbie Sonsteli.

4th National President Tony Bisceglia Anderson reported that per capita for members of the Grand Lodge have not increased since 1991 but this cannot be guaranteed for 2025. Chris Gerling asked how much is the per capita for each member is. The answer was \$8 a quarter per member and \$5.50 goes to the National.

President Linda encourages all officers and members to review the Grand Lodge budget documents attached to better understand the budgetary concerns.

CRAB DINNER CHAIR – President Linda asked Rosetta to head the Grand Lodge Crab Dinner fundraiser for 2025, but the Grand Lodge will need to find another chairperson and location for further Grand Lodge Crab dinners.

STATE TRUSTEES – State trustee Debbie Sonsteli reported that the Grand Lodge Trustees conducted an Audit of the books. All accounts, warrants and investments were reviewed with no finding of errors not correctable. Report Attached.

STATE PRESIDENT – President Linda reported that she will have the Grand Lodge Orator let each lodge know how many delegates they get at the end of 2024 so there is no confusion. Remember, lodge president and any Grand Lodge officers do not count into your lodge delegate number. She reported that the Membership Ambassador is an integral part of the strengthening membership. They help to welcome, introduce them to how the lodge works, how the leadership works and start a connection with guests and new members for the first few months. The lodges should all have a membership committee to help keep a connection with other members who aren't attending. They can call and check in to see if they need a ride or how they are doing. The committee also helps to set up membership booths at events to bring attention and awareness to your community about the Sons and Daughters of Italy. She also reported on the movie Cabrini about Mother Cabrini's life and struggles. Report attached.

President Linda reported that members should consider looking for grants or sponsorships for their lodges. She is also very adamant that lodges update iMembers with their correct lodge memberships.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP/AMBASSADOR – President Linda reported that the person or committee is to make sure to connect with members before dues are due. Also, be with the new members for a couple of months to make sure they are settled in.

Judy Anselmo reported that she would like to do a zoom meeting with the ambassadors in the Grand Lodge.

CHARITIES – Barbara Blair reported that they are thinking about using Sees Candies as a fundraiser. Her report is attached. Tony Bisceglia Anderson reported that the National Charities group is working extremely hard. They are working to develop a National Coin. He reported that the Military Heros has 100% of their donations going to the program and not to administrative costs. Someone put an article in the Ranger newspaper which is a military newspaper. If each soldier gives only \$1, they will have over \$80,000.

SCHOLARSHIP– Chairman Lenny Folino noted that the Scholarship committee was in the process of screening the applications received. The two recipients will be announced in the June NWIN.

NOVEMBER RAFFLE: Lenny Folino handed out the November raffle tickets to all lodge presidents and officers. The drawing is each day the entire month of November. Each lodge should consider purchasing several tickets. One year Yakima lodge won \$500 drawing. Tickets are in a new format which should be easier to handle. The stub should be filled out and returned to Rosetta Beyersdorf with the money. The address is on the back of the stub. Please make sure that the name and phone number are clear. Please keep track of the tickets you hold. This is one of two main fundraisers for the Grand Lodge. You can sell the raffle tickets to anyone, not just lodge members. The prize amounts have increased in several areas. Remember to say when selling tickets that if you win, your ticket automatically goes back in to possibly be drawn again.

HISTORIAN – Lenny Folino reported that he scanned all of the Northwest Italian News. He reported that the Grand Lodge used to have a lodge in Hawaii. He reported that he will have to rename the pictures as there are technical difficulties.

BREAK FOR LUNCH

NWIN/GLNW WEBSITE – Patrick Jacoby showed members the GLNW.org site and where there is a lot of information is available to lodge presidents, membership committee members and members themselves under Member Resource. Also, there is the Questo Mese which is the monthly Newsletter from the National Office. The National President shares much information about what is happening at the National level, other lodges, and also some member discount opportunities.

Patrick Jacoby still needs the hard copies of the applications for membership. He prints it off and keeps it in a file. He stated that the date of membership is the date of initiation. Patrick showed the council members the Grand Lodge website. He asked the council members if they would like the NWIN quarterly as opposed to every month. He also reported that all lodges should put the new events in the NWIN. He also suggested that when taking a picture, people need to move closer together. He reported that President Linda has been very adamant about lodges updating their membership with iMembers and on May 20th, he will pull both iMembers and his own database and do a comparison. If there are only a few fields that need updating, he will do it but if there are more than a few, then he will use his own database to send.

SPECIAL PROJECTS LEADERSHIP – Judy Anselmo reported that the American Italian Club had a retreat for their officers. They worked on building relationships between the officers and members. Judy has put together a packet for lodge officer positions. The bylaw for each position is in bold which must be followed, then other responsibilities are noted. Each lodge can review and use this packet as a guide to add/adjust to their own experience for each position. Many have noted that they did not feel they knew or understood what to expect when they were asked or voted into their job. This packet will be on the GLNW.org website under Member Resource and should allow you to utilize the information to explain, share and help your officers. It also should be helpful in preparing future officers. Patrick Jacoby reported that he will give the job descriptions to the officers at his lodge and tell them to mark through the things that do not apply to them. Judy Anselmo agreed and reported that the lodge makes it fit their officers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – President Linda had a formal vote to accept the new members since the last Grand Council Meeting. Tony Bisceglia Anderson made the motion, Joe Chicano seconded the motion. Vote was taken, motion passed.

IMEMBERS – President Linda noted that she has mentioned for several months that May 20th will be the cutoff date where each lodge imember membership roster will be used for the NWIN, the Italian American Magazine and for Per capita totals. President Linda wants all current members to receive what they have paid for and expect. This is each lodge's responsibility to ensure this will happen. If you are having troubles or issues using Imembers, please contact President Linda or the imembers support line (1-833-446-3627) asap and let them know you are with imembers and in the Grand Lodge of the Northwest. The support staff are very helpful and usually will get back to you within the hour. If you or your members need additional training, please let President Linda know to help set this up.

President Linda demonstrated how to use the imember program to send the members/new members the "how to get onto the website" information, get their password and where the Quick Start guide is located to

print off for helpful beginning lessons to use the program. She explained that Pmail is for lodge member information sharing within your own lodge. Use of it will help considerably. When you send anything via Pmail it goes to their regular email address. There is no listing of all others receiving the same email, thus privacy and no three-way emails. Security is very important to the imembers program. When a person in a lodge sends out an pmail, they can see when it was read and by whom. President Linda went over how to send a Pmail. She suggests calling iMembers if there is a problem.

SANTELLI PICNIC – The Santelli picnic will be held on July 20th at Tony and Linda Anderson’s home. This is a fundraiser to honor Mario and Dorothy Santelli who gave much of their life to Sons and Daughters of Italy. The money raised will go into the scholarship fund. The family is donating \$2000. Diane Scillo was the recipient of this award last year. There will be two recipients this year. Diana Warczak and Lenny Folino. This event is held the opposite year of the Convention. There will be great fun, wine and fun. The tickets are \$30 and the event starts at 1pm. All expenses have been donated so all proceeds will go to support the Scholarship Program. Contact Linda or Tony Anderson (253) 225-2483 or (253) 677-9366 as soon as possible to support this event and celebrate with Lenny and Diana.

50-YEAR+ MEMBERSHIP: The Grand Council is looking to recognize its long-term continuous members. Please check your records and send a list of names you consider fit the bill as 50+ years as a member in the Sons and Daughters of Italy. If you are not sure, please send a list of names to Patrick Jacoby patrick@glnw.org and he possibly can help clarify your information. As Presidents, you can take the opportunity within your own lodge, in the NWIN or other ways to recognize those members. This is impressive to see and share.

NEW BUSINESS – Saturday October 5, 2024, is the Fall Grand Council which will be held at the Embassy Suites in Lynnwood Wa.

Preparing for the May 16-17, 2025 Convention

President Linda stated that all lodges need to already be preparing for the 2025 Convention. She is taking this time to ensure that lodge Presidents and more specifically the new lodge presidents know some important information needed to prepare for the Convention:

1. All Grand Lodge Officer positions will be open to being Elected. If you are interested or considering running for any Grand Lodge position, this is the time to talk with members who have done or are doing the job, reviewing the job description, and let people know your plans.
2. President Linda noted she will not be running for President.
3. Publisher Patrick Jacoby has noted he will not be running for his publisher position. He asks anyone interested or has questions about his position to contact him asap.
4. The Grand Lodge has squeezed the meeting to two days to help reduce the costs to lodges and individuals attending. The cost for the room is already set at \$125 plus, tax/fees per night. The Registration fee (covers food/entertainment/use of the meeting rooms/coffee-beverage set up etc.) is expected to be at least \$300 per person. As meal costs won't be known until closer to that date, this is an estimate. Each lodge chooses how these costs are covered (by the lodge, by the individuals or a combination of both.) President Linda encourages everyone to do fundraising, use some of the lodge meeting raffle funds etc. to help with the costs.
5. Friday night is hospitality night. Usually, Auburn provides various foods and Seattle provides sausage sandwiches, and Tacoma provides tripe. Most of the food and beverages for this open night evening come from these lodges. President Linda is asking that other lodges help support the event by bringing food and beverages or setting up another type of item for the event. If your lodge wants to do so, please let President Linda know asap what that would be to prevent doubling up on same things. (possible ideas- Italian Soda's, desserts etc.)
6. There will be a block of rooms set aside to ensure availability. However, be aware there is a deadline and a specific number of rooms set aside. Please do not wait until the last moment to reserve your room. It is expected that all participants stay at the Embassy hotel. This helps to defray costs on all.
7. Saturday morning all will attend a memorial service for our departed members who have passed since our convention in 2023. Each lodge should submit all names of their departed members during that time period and if they were a Veteran. A brochure will be given to all in attendance and for the family of departed members.

8. Saturday night will be a formal evening with live music, the Rosellini award, and the large silent auction. It is asked that each lodge as well as individuals help by donating items/basket/gift cards etc. for this event.

9. Attending the convention by delegates and officers is part of the duties for each officer and lodge. You are electing your future Grand Lodge Officers. It is also a great opportunity to meet other Sons and Daughters of Italy officers and members. There are fun activities: limoncello contest, bocce etc.

10. The final expectation is that each lodge donates to the National Charities. This is done under the Good and Welfare of the Order where each lodge President comes forward with a check to the GLNW to go to the National charities. Everyone, at the time of joining, takes an oath to support the National charities. Please be generous.

11. Any member can attend the convention or any part of it. For those wanting to be a part of any or all the meals, a separate packet will be available for purchase.

A Convention brochure is put together prior to the convention where lodges, individual members running for office, memorial to family members, business etc. submit ads to be in the Convention Brochure. The Brochure will all have the meeting agenda. Each member attending will receive a copy.

Tony Anderson reported that there is one delegate for the first 20 members. He reported that if someone is going to run, they should be transparent and honest. He also reported that when President Linda runs for the convention, she will have to run as a delegate.

GOOD & WELFARE OF THE ORDER – President Linda recognized Judy Anselmo with a Merit pin. Grand Lodge Trustee Debbie Sonsteli previously received a merit pin from President Linda at Debbie's lodge. This was for all her help with the Crab dinner and the Fall Grand council.

Joe Chicano spoke about his meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month at Amerigo Vespucci. 5:30pm is the social hour.

Paula Jacoby is the membership ambassador at the Mille Cugini lodge.

David Madrid reported that if someone asks about a committee, he makes them the chairperson. They meet on the 1st Wed of the month at 5:30pm.

Debbie Sonsteli reported that Auburn is holding their wine tasting event on May 11th at Holy Family Catholic Church in Auburn. Tickets are \$35. She has tickets.

Bill Haberstock reports that they are part of a bazaar in Bremerton from May to Sept on the 2nd Saturday at the Crossroads Church.

Tony Anderson asked Bill Haberstock to come to the Auburn Wine Tasting after his bazaar and he would pay for Bill's ticket.

John Intravartolo reported that many people came to their first Bocce game of the year.

Marcel Bergeron reported that they are having a bocce game in May. Margie Garner's husband Bill Garner passed away. Jack Barnaby would be at the Grand Council, but his wife Julianna took a tumble, and he is home with her.

Barbara Blair asked if there was still interest in the cookbook. Kathy Butorac reported that the price of the cookbook should be raised to \$20. Their membership has increased as well.

Closing Prayer

The Grand Council meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina Natucci
State Recording Secretary

GLNW-Grand Council

Grand Lodge Officers	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	
President	Linda	Buccini Anderson	
1st VP	Brock	Ricci	Excused
2nd VP	Lenny	Folino	
3rd VP	Barbara	Blair	
4th VP	Judy	Anselmo	
Imm Past Pres	Rosetta	Beyersdorf	
Orator	Dan	Chicketti	
Rec Sec	Gina	Natucci	
Fin Sec	Mary Jane	Rogers	
Treasurer	Janet	Fritz	
Trustee	Debbie	Sonstelie	
Trustee	Judy	Anselmo	
Trustee	Dorothy	Miori Whitney	Excused
Trustee	Kathy	Butorac	
Trustee	Marcel	Bergeron	
Dir Pub	Patrick	Jacoby	
Nat 5th VP	Tony	Bisceglia Anderson	
Past Pres	Diane	Scillo	Excused
LODGE NAME	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	
Am Italian			
President	Kim	Asay	
Amerigo Vespucci			
President	Joe	Chicano	
Auburn			
	John	Partridge	Excused
	David	Manning	
Bella Vita			
President	Aaron	Smith	
Bellevue			
	Greg	Osgood	
Black Diamond			
President	Janice	Malvesti Cole	Excused
	linda	osborne	
Cataldo			
President	Bill	Haberstock	
Cle Elum			

President	Mike	Butorac	excused
Mille Cugini			
President	Patrick	Jacoby	
Olympic Penninsula			
President	Armando	Muggia	Excused
Seattle Fedele			
	Mike	Croce	Excused
	Christine	Gerling	
Tacoma			
President	David	Madrid	
Tre Citta			
	Jack	Barnaby	excused
	Linda	Bergeron	
Vancouver			
President			
	Linda	Cherney	
Yakima			
President	Robin	Miller	Unexcused

St. Deputy American Italian	Ansano	Guintini	Excused
St. Deputy Amerigo Vespucci	Vera	Kay	Excused
St. Deputy Auburn	Dot	Whitney	Excused
St. Deputy Bella Vita	Mary Jane Fascia	Rogers	
St. Deputy Bellevue	Rosetta	Beyersdorf	
St. Deputy Black Diamond	Janet Rosi	Fritz	
St. Deputy Cataldo	Linda	Anderson	
St. Deputy Cle Elum	Janice	Stauffer	
	Lisa	Stauffer	excused
St. Deputy Mille Cugini	Mark	Gerling	
St. Deputy Oly Penn.	Jackie	Haberstock	
St. Deputy Seattle	Tony	Anderson	
St. Deputy Tacoma	Bill	Haberstock	
St. Deputy Tre Citta	John	Intravartolo	
St. Deputy Vancouver	Gina	Natucci	
St. Deputy Yakima	Mike	Butorac	Excused
	Kathi	Butorac	