

Central Council Meeting Minutes
Saturday February 14, 2015
San Jose, CA

DRAFT

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Grand President Bob Basuino.

Opening Prayer: led by Msgr. Cardelli

Salute to Flag/ICF Pledge: GP Bob Basuino

Roll Call of Officers: CC Member excused: Leonard Zasoski, Franklyn Lopes, Lisa Crudo, Michael Cannady, Leonard Rossi, Steve Fuentes

CC Life Members Emeritus and Members Emeritus present: Bob Acquistapace, Carmen Kilcullen, Jerry Delfino, Larry Marsalli, Nettie Descalso-Del Nero and Jim Jones

Introductions: GP Bob Basuino welcomed guests from visiting branches.

CC Meeting Minutes: Minutes for October 18, 2014 approved as presented.

Communications

- Thank you from Bishop Calvo from Reno Diocese for seminary burse gift presented at Bishop's Day.
- Acknowledgement from ICF office regarding in memory donations to the Providenza Fund for Frank Basuino, Armandina Centurioni, Pat Mages' Dad Wayne Shriwise and Albert Ranzani.
- Acknowledgement from ICF office regarding in memory donation to the Gifts of Love for Tom Pollicita
- Acknowledgement from ICF office regarding get well wishes donation to Providenza Fund for Denise Antonowicz
- Thank you from Nettie Descalso-Del Nero for Donation to Gifts of Love in memory of Tom Pollicita
- Thank you from Frances Teglia for donations to Gift of Love and flowers in memory of Al Teglia
- Thank you From Danny Centurioni for donation in memory of his grandmother to the Providenza Fund
- Thank you from Pat and Lou Mages for donation in memory of Pat's father to the Providenza Fund.

Reports

Spiritual Director – Monsignor Daniel Cardelli

- Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting. We think of lent in terms of sacrifice and giving up something that is good, in reality lent is an opportunity for us to spend some time to think of our personal relationship with Jesus. JESUS IS THE BEST OF ALL OUR BEST FRIENDS. Our Faith is validated by the resurrection.

Grand President – Bob Basuino

INSTALLATIONS ATTENDED:

- January 4 Stockton; January 10 Santa Clara; January 11 San Francisco; January 17 San Mateo; January 18 East Bay; January 20 Marin; January 24 Blessed Sacrament; February 8 Los Angeles; February 10 Las Vegas
- Andy Pappani: January 17 San Bernardino; January 31 Santa Rosa; February 8 San Diego
- Roselynn Jarrett: January 17 Contra Costa

INSTALLATIONS TO ATTEND:

- February 15 Orange; February 26 Chicago; February 28 Central Coast
- February 21 Andy Pappani at Tucson
- February 22 Leonard Zasoski at Fresno

BISHOPS' DAYS TO ATTEND:

- March 1 Oakland Diocese; March 7 Orange; March 28 Stockton Diocese; April 12 San Francisco Archdiocese

OTHER EVENTS:

- Feb 14th the CC meeting

Grand Treasurer – Roselynn Jarrett

- Roselynn Jarrett met with UBS last week. Hospitalization performed better than the index, did okay overall but not well in the international market. Verizon recalled 2 Billion in bonds; we reinvested 25k of that bond in eBay, interest went into General Fund. Next bond to mature in October. ICF named in someone's will, UBS will set up a new account when we receive the money.
- Reviewed 2014 budget. Still a draft as there are a few things still being finalized.
- Bollettino ads went up in 2014.
- Convention amounts correct in convention budget but not on our general budget. When 2014 budget finalized those numbers will marry up.
- Central Council insurance is higher due to a policy that comes once every three years...we were not aware of it so we did not budget for it...it is now notated for future Treasurers.
- Heritage is high for expenses, due to the fact the receipts were not turned in for last October but turned in June 2014, so the number is inflated.
- Tax preparation was higher than budgeted, as we did not know how much to put in the budget and extra work needed to be done to improve reconciling. That has been corrected for the future with a spreadsheet created by the accountants for our use.
- Our programmer Gary has offered us a new contract lowering his price for 2015.
- Page 11 of itemized budget shows the Providenza Fund is struggling-needed to borrow money from our general fund to pay out the Bishops' Day disbursements.
- Carmen Kilcullen asked why aren't we taking more money from hospitalization to bring up the Providenza Fund. She stated the 4% was created by us...several members stated that no the lawyers informed us that percentage would leave the principle untouched. Carmen Kilcullen feels that we should be able to pull more money out. Roselynn Jarrett requested for Nina Malone to look over the paperwork and find where it states what we can take out safely. Let's allow hospitalization to review the situation and come back to us at the June meeting.
- Dante Galeazzi commented that we need to give back the 2K we took away from 2nd, 3rd and 4th year scholarships.
- One month into 2015 budget, members can review on their own. Dante Galeazzi questioned Ways and Means having a budgeted item for novelties...Roselynn Jarrett explained it is there for seed money just in case they need it for purchasing something. Marco Galeazzi commented on total cost of running an office is a lot. Roselynn Jarrett stated that to run a business takes money! We are trying to find many ways to save money and the ladies in the office are also trying to find ways to keep costs down.
- Bob Basuino mentioned the reworking of our lease saved us a lot of money.

Deputy Chairperson – Andy Pappani reported for Leonard Zasoski

- Met with District Deputies by conference call November 22, 7 District Deputies phoned in. They went over forms and responsibilities. Got email address of deputies. New deputy packet being put together. Next meeting is March 21 with the District Deputies. Dante Galeazzi wanted to know who the 7 Districts were at the conference...Andy Pappani felt it was inappropriate to give the info out due to possible finger pointing.
- Marco Galeazzi asked about District Deputy for Chicago. They are working on it.

Committee Reports

Workshop – Dante Galeazzi

- Committee met today. Concentrating on smaller Districts. A letter has been sent out, have received no responses. April there is a tentative workshop set for Santa Rosa. Workshops only at convention are not the answer many branches only send one delegate...the mobile workshop allows so many others to attend and get info and ask questions.

Ways and Means – Lisa Crudo NO ONE FROM COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE

- CC members instructed to take their Districts raffle tickets.
- Considering having only 2 seminarian nights. One is scheduled for June 6 at St Mary's in Los Gatos.
- Something else they are looking into is the play Late Night Catechism.
- Dante Galeazzi wanted to know about golf tournament. The flyer shows that they have increased the fee to \$160. And increased the cost of banquet to \$45. Bob Basuino to check with Lisa Crudo on this.

Task Force – Vince Piro reported for Leonard Zasoski

- A reminder has gone out to those committees that have not done their committee procedures report. It is due by the end of the year. Mike Rossi volunteered to write up drafts for the committees that have not turned in their procedures so they can edit it and hopefully turn them in. Mike Rossi will have it done by June and the procedures will be completed by September.
- Strategic Plan...now in the implementation part of the plan. A lot of work has been going on behind the scenes. Apologizes for not keeping everyone in the loop. Will try to give weekly updates.
- Nina Malone reports they have been working on ways to communicate better with the branches. See more in membership report.
- Roselynn Jarrett reported working on reducing expenses for convention, CC and making the Bollettino sound. Sending mailings through the web portal, a great savings on paper, postage and time.
- PowerPoint program for leadership. We are losing branches due to the fact they cannot get officers, especially President. Franklyn Lopes has drafted a letter to go to Presidents to contact their pastors and sit down with them and find out what we can do to help them. Vince Piro wants you to go back and get your District Presidents to contact or return the call to Vince Piro regarding the workshop on leadership, membership etc.
- We don't need CC members going around and undermining things...we need to be positive to survive. It will be a very interactive workshop.
- Training workshops not just for District officers...it is open to any branch members interested.

Scholarship – Deborah Rodondi

- Judging 1st year scholarships on April 20. Students applications due March 15th, also remind branches to send in scholarship donations.
- Trying to eliminate a lot of excess mailing. Deborah Rodondi will be emailing notices to the applicants that do not get a scholarship rather than a postcard being sent.
- Jim Friebel asked why do we give scholarships to students without a family member in the ICF, sited Monterey as an example? Deborah Rodondi stated the plan was originally set up to go out into the community and benefit any Catholic Italian. Bob Acquistapace added we wanted to be more inclusive than exclusive. Yes we do look at whether they are members or not when there is equality in competitiveness the one with a family member in ICF gets the scholarship. Deborah Rodondi stated even if they do not check the box that they have a family member in the ICF Charlene Kramer in the office fills it out including branch # so we have the information. It gives them an edge but not a guarantee.
- Jim Jones what would we have to do to change that? Deborah Rodondi stated that the committee would have to review it and then bring before the CC. Any active member of the CC could make a motion to change or send a letter to the committee to review. David Botta feels it should go the committee to discuss.
- Mike Rossi commented that if we make it exclusive we may not have enough applicants for the amount of scholarships we receive; Deborah Rodondi stated that is likely.
- Teresa Helfand last year a very needy child in the Chicago area did not get a scholarship, does the application ask about need. There is a section asking about the finances and other children in family. Deborah Rodondi stated we get at least 50 applications from the Chicago area and only 1-3 scholarships, so a lot of deserving students do not get a scholarship.
- Bob Acquistapace suggested at the April 20th meeting/judging of scholarships the judges make a list of students with family in ICF...lets bring numbers to June meeting.
- Dante Galeazzi worried about 2nd, 3rd and 4th year scholarship applications not getting to students this year if we do it online. Deborah Rodondi reported that we will be mailing them to the students.

Public Relations – Vince Piro

- Have not received a lot of seminarian bios; they will try again to get some.
- Still challenges on changing the database for opting out of Bollettino in hard copy. Delay in Bollettino due to the fact that the format had to be reworked the first few the printer reformatted but now we must do it. Should be out in next 10 days.
- Richard Interrante has been doing a great job in helping out on the website.
- All seminary libraries are getting the Bollettino. Working on getting all Diocese offices on the Bollettino mailing list. Lauren Kilcullen mention Santa Rosa Diocesan newspaper...had an entire article on ICF feels that a lot of it was pulled from the Bollettino articles.
- New Presidents' Portal has been added to hold quarterly mailings.
- BG Zasoski has created a first draft of the Public Relations Policy/Procedures for the Bollettino and Website.
- Dante Galeazzi asked who do we attribute the increase in Bollettino ads...Vince Piro stated Charlene Kramer and Michelle Feldman.

Membership – Nina Malone

- Very hard at work trying to implement many things put before them by Strategic Plan.

- We should welcome our new members, make them feel engaged. New membership packet consisting of a welcome letter, an ICF Brochure, Structure of the ICF, branch calendar, branch contact list and member questionnaire are now online. Also available is a visitor packet consisting of an ICF card rack color brochure, guest sign-in form, branch calendar and membership application.
- Buddy system “*Amici di Cuore*”...encouraging Presidents to appoint a membership chairperson. Also sending out a letter to the District President’s to follow through with this. One of their goals is to assess what is going on at the branch and district level.
- Today the committee decided to design a Membership Tool Kit to contain all the necessary resources to host a successful membership drive. Jim Jones has offered to make the tool box.
- Anne Interrante designed a Power Point presentation “ICF Youth Program” available upon request for Branches and Districts.
- Talking with GP on the possibility of adding 1-2 more members at large to the committee.
- Jerry Delfino asked have you thought of adding an ICF pin to the packet? A copy of the by-laws and rituals? Nina Malone will add as a suggestion for the branches to do in setting up the packets.
- Mike Rossi suggests to continually hi lite branches that are successful in membership in the Bollettino. Who is doing it right and what are they doing.
- Roselyne Jarrett shared that the Pleasant Hill branch used survey monkey to see how the members felt about the ICF. If you don’t attend...why? What would you like to see added. What do you enjoy about the ICF. 33 households out of 90 responded. This is something maybe some of our branches could do for info...share with the membership.

Live to Give – Jane Dianda

- Have talked to Franklyn Lopes about adding blood drive to the apostolate report. Was too late to get in the report this year but will work on adding to next year.

2:55...10 minute break

3:03 resumed meeting

Hospitalization – Nina Malone

- Trying to build up the plan. 410 current members
- As of September 30, 2014: BofA \$29,863.68, UBS \$869,838.44; Dues income \$9,075.00; Claims \$7,335.00
- The “other category” on the claim form does max out fast so we need to have more categories...cancer itself is not on this form...some items on the form are things you are not hospitalized for anymore. As long as we pay out no more than \$500 per category item the insurance board is not an issue.
- Website hospitalization form is correct.

Heritage – Jim Friebe

- Past Wednesday met at the Ventos house and met again this morning.
- Looking for a flatbed to purchase that can be modified to have rails that come down while driving then moved in position for the event. Make it available to branches. Mike Rossi...regarding the trailer for parades do we have insurance for that trailer?
- Getting email addresses from all the heritage committee chairs so that they can communicate back and forth. Contacting District Presidents to get this information.

- Would like to do workshops at convention.
- Wednesday they are going to start putting the pictures at the office on cd's.
- Different committee members to do articles in the Bollettino.
- Also to make themselves available to the workshop committee.

Gifts of Love – Pat Mages

- March meeting will be in San Diego.
- Biggest complaint right now is the funds are there but not enough applications coming in.
- Receiving more applications from veterans.
- 11 applications in January, approved 7 of them in the amount of \$6,800.
- Mike Rossi asked how do people find us? Word of mouth seems to be the way.
- Teresa Helfand asked if Gifts of Love is for just California? Can Chicago people apply? YES, it is not for just people in ICF areas.

Finance Committee – Roselynn Jarrett

- Accounting procedures with acknowledgment form were sent out to all CC, if you have the acknowledgment form signed we will collect it today, if not extra copies being pass around.
- Look at the most economical way to travel. Must be 30 day in advance booking on flights unless okayed by GP
- Training took place in office with the auditor and Dave Rose. Quick books is fine for the office but not for reconciling of accounts. So to make it easier we had the auditor come out to create new spreadsheets to input in for reconciling accounts. This will save us from paying the auditor to re-input all our info to make it work.
- Roselynn Jarrett attended a seminar with the State Board of Equalization regarding non-profits. About 500 attended. They were called together to be educated on the loss of revenue for the state and what you are responsible for. Many areas we are responsible for paying taxes. Roselynn Jarrett is going through the paperwork she received and is trying to formulate questions for the next seminar and then will compile it for the branch and district use.
- There are things we do that needs a seller's permit. Items other than food are taxable. Much discussion followed.

Guests escorted out for next discussion.

- Discussion regarding reducing cost of Bollettino and the number of issues. Needs to be discussed in private since it would effect the editor of the Bollettino...turning microphone over to Bob Acquistapace. The finance committee met earlier today and moved that the CC direct Public Relations to develop a plan to distribute the Bollettino every other month to begin January 2016. Public Relations to bring the plan before the CC at the June meeting. Vince Piro is in favor of implementing this plan.
- Can't guarantee the paper getting to the reader by a certain time.
- Pat Mages asked how does this effect our editor...right now her contract is to produce 11 issues so the salary should be prorated or adjusted.
- Msgr. Cardelli pointed out less papers means less advertising....less circulation and getting our information out there.
- Vince Piro will develop a report with pros and cons...email any thoughts you have to Vince Piro regarding this.
- PASSED to have Public Relations look into this.

Expansion – David Botta

- Have not heard from Oakdale area...Faith Hill has got to talk to Pastor. Marco Galeazzi reported the pastor recently passed away.
- Half Moon Bay...have not heard back from them.
- Las Vegas...Danny Centurioni is now moving back to LA.
- Father Chris Bennett wants a branch at his new parish in Santa Clara District. David Botta is concerned about how close it is to another branch. Per Bob Basuino Mother Cabrini parish is the closest and Father Chris's parish doesn't want to join something not attached to their parish so it should not be a problem.
- Even though Br. 186 closed, Bishop Daly had the parish rename their center to the ICF center.
- Cloverdale doing well and working on gaining members.
- Can't wait 2-3 years to find out there are problems. If you know of branches having trouble especially in getting future presidents let expansion know.
- Oakland Br 223 voted twice to close, closed. 10 have already transferred.
- David Botta working with Chicago.
- Br 67 LA Italian church-voted to close-Carmelo working on re-organization of this branch.
- We have 128 branches as of today. Currently we have 5 active branches with 14 or less; 14 branches with less than 25 members. Problems always seem to surface at election time.
- Going back 5 years we closed 26 branches...expansion is important but retention is more important to survive.
- Dante Galeazzi stated our Deputy program is critical. We need to build up that program.
- Nettie Descalso-Del Nero deputy program has been broken for many years...we ask so much from them...their own meeting, the branch they are deputy to, district meeting...we ask too much of our members/ leaders.
- Jim Friebel can't a member be the deputy of their own branch for a while to get comfortable with it then they might be willing to go to another branch?

Convention Directors – Roselyne Jarrett reported for Steven Fuentes

- Roselyne Jarrett reported the 2014 convention made profit of \$19,846.36. Pointed out that without the raffle the convention would be in a deficit.
- Steve Fuentes has already met with Las Vegas branch.
- Hotel info in packet, for suites go through Steve Fuentes.
- Jim Friebel asked about the letter he received from Chicago. Bob Basuino: we have talked about it and working on coming up with ideas. Teresa Helfand cautioned care in handling the letter.
- Rose suggests that workshops be interactive and give them something to take home. The Convention committee comes up with the workshops after reviewing the surveys. It is up to the people in charge to make them interesting.
- Dante Galeazzi how do we get more people to participate in the convention?

By-Laws and Rituals – David Botta

- The new by-law books are out.

Awards – Jim Friebel

- Will be contacting District Presidents to look for candidates for the awards. Working on a possible celebrity.
- Thinking of taking the picture of the winners and displaying at convention.

- Anne Interrante asked if we keep the packets to those that did not get the award? Yes. Then she asked can you request to have it back to resubmit for this year. YES.

Apostolate/Charity – Nina Malone reported for Franklyn Lopes

- Working with the Strategic Plan, branches and parishes.
- CC please go back to your branches and have the apostolate chair go to the pastors and ask what we can do for the parish.

Unfinished Business

NONE

New Business

- Roselynn Jarrett made motion seconded by Nina Malone to give \$150 to Parish for use of hall today.
- Dante Galeazzi reports that the shrine of Mother Cabrini needs help to repair/replace door to her chapel and replace cabinets for the displaying of her artifacts. Dante Galeazzi made motion to send \$100 seconded by Vince Piro to come out of the Apostolate fund. PASSED. Dante Galeazzi asks that you go back to your branches and spread the word.

David Botta brought up the Strategic Plan Page 11 item #3 states to evaluate structure and size of CC. The Federation by March to June will be under 10,000 members. 1998 was the last time the CC was reduced with 18,000 members. He therefore presented a proposal to reduce the number of CC members from 24 to 18 (9 Life and 9 Elected) by the 2019 convention. Discussion followed:

- Bob Acquistapace submitted an amendment “In the event that a Life Member dies or resigns before September 2019, the vacancy shall not be filled and the reduction of elected members shall take place at the next upcoming convention” seconded by Vince Piro. AMENDMENT ACCEPTED
- Mike Rossi state it is the right idea but is it sending a message to the branches...some people today will not be here next year and will not have an opportunity to be a life member...will others want to run when the count is lower.
- Denise Antonowicz feels that no board is normally this big. Why can't non CC members be on committees especially if it is their field of expertise.
- Nettie Descalso-Del Nero...this is not about getting elected or being a life member this is about the ICF.
- Teresa Helfand felt people from out of state will probably not be voted in. Marco Galeazzi spoke of Chicago being eliminated with this. Roselynn Jarrett mentioned that the CC from outside areas get high votes and she disagrees with the fact they won't get voted in.
- Carmen Kilcullen adds that emeritus are still thinking and able to work.
- Pat Mages members want to know why they don't have a say in life members...many would like more elected CC less life members.
- Nina Malone sees merit in this...need to make sure our members are informed in a positive way.
- Dante Galeazzi - we need to do a better job of communicating with the members.
- Jim Friebel - I don't feel it is selfish to not want to decrease the number of CC. Will we attract new people want to run when the numbers go down?
- Jane Dianda commented on negativity to the strategic plan and reminded everyone that when Jim Jones was president 6 years ago this strategic plan was brought up and was being worked on. It is not being held up by Leonard Zasoski and Bob Basuino.

- Vince Piro called for the question. PASSED.
- Vote yes to change and no to leave as is. 11 yes, 7 no...CHANGE PASSED.

The following is the passed proposal.

June 2015 - George Bacigalupi retires as a Life Member - no one is elected to take his place.

September 2015 Convention - only 11 Members are elected to the Central Council.

Now there are only 22 Members on the Central Council - 11 Life Members and 11 Elected Members.

June 2018 - Michael Cannady retires as a Life Member - no one is elected to take his place.

September 2018 Convention - only 10 Members are elected to the Central Council.

Now there are only 20 Members on the Central Council - 10 Life Members and 10 Elected Members.

June 2019 - David Botta retires as a Life Member - no one is elected to take his place.

September 2019 Convention - only 9 Members are elected to the Central Council. Now there are only 18 Members on the Central Council - 9 Life Members and 9 Elected Members.

In the event that a Life Member dies or resigns before September 2019, the vacancy shall not be filled and the reduction of elected members shall take place at the next upcoming convention.

Action on Communications

NONE

Good of the Order

- David Botta talked to Mike Cannady, knee was replaced. His leg gained 60 lbs. of water due to cellulitis, it is going down slowly. He is going home tomorrow.
- Save the date - November 7 Bob Basuino's Testimonial
- Deborah Rodondi save the date for San Mateo District's 50th anniversary September 19
- 90th celebration by 2 branches April 25
- May 31 4th Italian Fiesta in Lodi
- June 28 Br. 191 50th Anniversary
- Teresa Helfand extends greeting from Vince Picciola and his wife
- Bob Basuino wants to thank everyone for the thoughts, prayers, phone calls, support in the loss of dad. Also, thank you to Msgr. Cardelli for being there to celebrate the mass for dad.

Closing Prayer: led by Msgr. Cardelli

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m. by Grand President Bob Basuino

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Rodondi

Grand Secretary

- Next Meeting: Saturday June 13