

**Central Council Meeting Minutes DRAFT**  
**Saturday, February 8, 2020**  
**Castro Valley, CA**

The meeting was called to order at 12:50 PM by Grand President Vince Piro.

**Opening Prayer:** led by Msgr. Cardelli.

**Salute to Flag/ICF Pledge:** Salute to the Flag was led by Andy Pappani. Grand President Vince Piro led the ICF Pledge.

**Roll Call of Officers and CC Members: Excused:** Denise Antonowicz, Bob Basuino, Nancy Corsi, Leonard Zasoski.

**Central Council Life Members Emeritus and Members Emeritus present:** Bob Acquistapace, Carmen Kilcullen, Jerry Delfino, Jim Jones.

**Introductions:** Grand President Vince Piro welcomed guests from visiting branches.

**Central Council Meeting Minutes:** The minutes for October 19, 2019 were approved as written.

**Communications**

- Thank you from Archbishop Cordileone for our Christmas Card and 2020 Calendar
- Thank you from Bishop Wiesenberger of Tucson for our Providenza Fund donation.
- Request for a donation from Jane Gasperson, Br. 36, for Sr. Benedicta's nephew in Tanzania, for him to attend school.

**Reports**

***Spiritual Director- Monsignor Daniel Cardelli***

- We are becoming a very effective organization. Monsignor is enthralled by the concept of the National Branch. He's envisioning the ICF will exist in states where we're not, now, and we'll have a more national presence. Monsignor suggested utilizing the Bollettino for the national branch and print the Bollettino all in color. He prays for us and the Federation.

***Grand President – Vince Piro***

- He spent January and February attending Installations. Deborah Rodondi, Denise Antonowicz and Lauren Kilcullen represented him at a few installations.
- Grand President Piro met with Br. 67, who's running the National Branch for us. They are gearing up for the Los Angeles Education Congress. He's very encouraged with the leaders of the branch.
- He met with the San Diego District to discuss the challenges they are facing. The differences haven't been resolved, and they are splitting in to two Districts. The Executive Committee has approved the by-laws of the new District, the San Diego de Alcala District.

### ***Grand Treasurer/Finance Committee –Franklyn Lopes***

- The 2019 budget was distributed.
- The committee met on January 31 at the office and with UBS. Our stocks are doing well but have their ups and downs like any other investments.
- Bob Acquistapace said the January 31 meeting was one of the best finance committee meetings. He hopes everyone pays attention to the finance reports.
- Franklyn thanked Deborah Rodondi for working behind the scenes.

### ***Mentor Chairperson – Deborah Rodondi***

- The mentor program has been suspended, as we decide what we need to do to make the program more functional. She's found that communication is a problem. The Central Council is not hearing about troubles in branches.
- A letter was mailed asking for feedback. So far, she's received two responses.
- A suggestion is to receive reports from branch presidents in addition to the branch deputies, so we get a more rounded picture of what's happening in the branch.
- Deborah is putting together a call list and assigning each Central Council member 5 to 6 branches to call several times a year, to open up the lines of communication.
- Bob Acquistapace was looking at the By-Laws and on page 31, under the Articles of Incorporation, (that can only be changed by Central Council), branch and district mentors cannot be suspended without coming to the entire Central Council. Deborah said that the Executive Committee thought action needed to be taken right away and not wait until the February Central Council meeting. Bob Acquistapace said there is a stipulation that a special meeting could be called, and this could have been debated. He thinks the Executive Committee exceeded its authority and should have come to the entire Central Council. Roselyne Jarrett said she agrees because she was asked from her district what her vote was, and she said she didn't have a vote. Grand President Piro said that in the future if there's an issue, we should have an emergency meeting. Steve Fuentes said the Executive Committee did not go against the by-laws because we just suspended the program, we didn't end the mentor program.

### **Committee Reports**

#### ***Task Force – Steve Fuentes***

- The committee is looking at two areas: Central Council statutes and Branch By-Laws. Some ideas and potential changes are coming from the strategic plan and some are from necessity.
- Branch By-Laws:
  - Computing Dues: Right now, the way dues are computed is too complicated. A suggestion is that the smallest breakdown of dues to pay is quarterly. When a new member joins in each quarter they pay that quarter's dues. This makes it easier for finance secretaries/treasurers.
  - Number of branch officers: Do branches need two Vice Presidents, separate financial secretary/treasurer, and three trustees? Branches need five core officers: President, one Vice President, financial officer, recording secretary and one trustee. If a branch wants more officers, then that's up to each branch.
  - Carmen Kilcullen is in favor of decreasing the number of officers. Bob Acquistapace said that individual branches can develop a proposal and bring to the June Central Council meeting. He suggested having a president and a president-elect. He thinks that

the proposal coming from a branch is better than coming from the Central Council. Steve Fuentes said he would be than happy if a branch develops the wording, he will help them with the wording. Andy Pappani said he's in favor of leaving the orator as a core officers as we're a spiritual organization. Steve Fuentes asked does that person need to be an officer or be an apostolate chairperson, without being an officer? Steve Fuentes said these 5 positions are ones that are needed. Mike Rossi said that he's a larger branch and has a difficult time getting a president. Is there a way to lessen the burden on presidents? Roselynn Jarrett said we need to convey the message that being president isn't a difficult job. Do we need to send out all the information that we send out from the office? It's overwhelming getting all the paper from the office. Right now, there's no flexibility in the by-laws regarding the number of officers. Carmen Kilcullen also suggested some flexibility in president, if you can't get a president for a full year, have people be presidents quarterly. Franklyn Lopes said Santa Cruz, Br. 21 is doing that. Under the current by-laws, there's nothing that says anything about co-presidents. Roselynn Jarrett suggested having 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President as part of the rotation with the President. She also suggested having an orientation each year at the beginning of the year. Grand President Piro thinks requiring five officers may make it easier for expansion efforts. Mike Rossi reminded everyone that there are officer slides on the website, that many people may not know about it. Pat Mages said that Los Angeles has some small branches that all the members are officers, with only five officers, they can have officers and members. Theresa Helfand said we have a problem on a district level about getting officers. Steve Fuentes asked if districts really need 12 officers and/or meet monthly to only coordinate bishop's days and installations. Mike Rossi asked if branches could share officers? Bob Acquistapace said that the branch mentor to Br. 103, Sonoma, become the financial secretary to Br. 103. This happens.

- Central Council Statutes:
  - Steve attended the finance committee meeting on January 31. The convention raffle and calendar sales are decreasing.
  - We need to look at ourselves, are we as efficient as we could be.
  - One suggesting is to lower the number of Central Council members. If we go to 12 total members, then they're all the Executive Committee. Attrition isn't happening as quickly as was in the past. Why do we have Life Members? It was to provide continuity and backbone.
  - It might be time to start merging committees. Some committees have a single purpose, such as Live to Give, which could be part of Apostolate-Charity. Maybe have bi-annual terms and elect six and six members every year for two-year terms and for continuity.
- Steve Fuentes encouraged everyone to have an open mind. Twenty Central Council members to too many for the number of branch members that we have. Maybe let some members age out for five years and if Life Members want to run, then they can run.
- Carmen Kilcullen said she will send the committee consolidation that she and David Botta worked on, a few years ago.
- Pat Mages said if we reduce the number of Central Council members, we'd have to use more of the general membership who then would see what the Central Council does and would develop leadership.
- Roselynn Jarrett said any possible changes would go into effect into 2021, as we send out notices about running for Central Council, soon, before any changes can be implemented.

### ***Expansion –Mike Rossi***

- Stockton, Br 138: Mike Rossi may call his own meeting of the branch. Dante Galeazzi has been to meetings and there's a lack of participation from the members.
- Grand President Piro gave a suggestion that the expansion committee oversees the new branches for two years instead of only one year.
- Los Angeles: Trying to reestablish contact St. Monica in Santa Monica.
- San Diego: Mother of Confidence. The pastor wanted us, but now haven't heard from him.
- Tucson and Phoenix Dioceses: There is one branch in Tucson and none in Phoenix. Surprise may be interested in re-establishing the branch, there.
- San Bernardino: There is a new Bishop.
- Santa Rosa: American Canyon has a brand-new church. Ken Marshall will follow up.
- Mike Rossi wants each Central Council member to find a pastor who is open to having the ICF at their parish. Send Mike the parish names by Easter.
- Mike Rossi distributed the Assessment Checklist for each Central Council member to use in determining potential parishes for the ICF to expand. Roselynn Jarrett asked about the 2<sup>nd</sup> item, regarding 20 miles between parishes. Mike Rossi said that needs to be changed. Proximity is an issue that needs to be looked at.
- Mike Rossi and Lou Mages discussed that seven steps to opening and ICF branch in a new parish. At sign-up weekend, should have 100 people on the list, as 60 – 70% of the people don't come to the other meetings. The information meeting has to be already arranged when you have the sign-up weekend. 35 members are needed to start a branch.
- When a new branch is inaugurated, Central Council members should try to attend, as it helps the new branch see ICF leadership.

Adjourned for a 10-minute break.

### ***Workshop – Leonard Rossi***

- The Committee can present the new or refurbished mentor program to our members, if the program is finalized before the convention or can present it as a workshop at the Convention. Grand President Piro assigned Leonard Rossi to the mentor committee.

### ***Ways and Means – Lisa Crudo for Bob Basuino***

- Convention Raffle Tickets are here, today, please take them back to your districts. Convention Raffle: This year, we will still do the separate raffle for branches who sell more tickets than last year. This was going to be eliminated; however, it's printed on the collateral.
- Golf Tournament: July 31 at Bennett Valley Golf Course, which is a new venue for the tournament. We need participation. There will be a Wine Tasting Tour on Saturday, August 1.
- 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History Book: The Committee wants to start on this, now. Any Central Council members who either want or spearhead this project or be on the committee, please let Bob Basuino know.
- Notecard project: Children are sending in artwork. The cards will be packaged as eight cards for \$10.00.
- 2021 Calendar: The theme is "Travel with our Family."
- Letters to La Befana: 28 children received letters from La Befana. The project raised about \$200.

### ***Scholarship – Lisa Crudo***

- The Committee will meet in mid-April for judging. Lisa urged everyone to obtain donations and applications.
- Mike Rossi said one of their members passed away and the family asked for scholarship donations. The branch received enough money for five 1<sup>st</sup> year scholarships.

### ***Public Relations –Leonard Zasoski***

- None.
- Dante Galeazzi complimented the Editor for getting the Bollettino out on time.

### ***Membership – Pat Mages***

- Pat reported that on October 2018, we had 8,500 members and on October 2019, we had 8,218 members. At the end of January 2020 there were 497 cancellations. 89 deceased members.
- Jerry Delfino asked if the Hospitalization Program is retaining members.
- Grand President Piro asked if we can get information to find out how many years members who canceled had belonged to the Federation.
- The Committee wants to update the brochure, by having it less “corporate” and warmer and fuzzier. They want to emphasize support for seminarians and charitable works. Send Pat Mages any ideas for updates. Grand President Piro wants the updates by March 13.
- Pat Mages said Br. 326, Temple City, wants to close. They talked to Charlene and Pat will follow up with Anne Iarossi Armenio.
- Mike Rossi asked how we’re getting members for the National Branch. Grand President Piro and Perry Shurko said the big push will be at the Los Angeles Education Congress.
- Lisa Crudo asked to have the hospitalization application as part of the membership applications.
- Perry Shurko has 18 people who have signed up to help at the Los Angeles Education Congress. The big push will be signing up people for the National Branch. We have a better booth space, this year. Lisa Crudo asked to have hospitalization and scholarship information at the booth. Grand President Piro said we will have a 30 second video promo (this will be produced in-house) for the Congress.

### ***Live to Give – Ken Marshall***

- None.

### ***Hospitalization –Lisa Crudo***

- The Committee is happy with open enrollment. Collected \$19, 070.56 in dues in 2019 and claims were \$11,600. As of December 31, there are 774 members in the plan, almost double the number of members from before. Lisa Crudo wants to have the hospitalization plan application as part of the membership application. New members who are over 70 can still join the plan, when they join the ICF.

### ***Heritage – Denise Antonowicz***

- None.

### ***Gifts of Love – Teresa Helfand***

- The Committee awarded \$8,700, today. Eight applications were awarded.
- The Committee wants to make a flyer for Gifts of Love to send to each branch, for people to apply and make donations.

### ***Convention' Director's – Roselynn Jarrett***

- Roselynn Jarrett sent out the convention rationales via email to everyone earlier in the week.
- The 2019 Convention made a profit of \$13,000. The awards program cost us about \$6,000 in 2019.
- 2020 Convention:
  - Roselynn distributed the travel details for hotel.
  - The Orange District will be hosting the Thursday night dinner and the Friday Tour to Children's Hospital Los Angeles. They are working with Laurice Levine. The tour will probably be limited to 25 people. Laurice is working to move the blood drive to later in the day.
  - Agenda updates:
    - No Bocce on Friday, due to needing too much square footage.
    - No Friday Mass. If people want to attend Mass, they can go to the Cathedral.
    - The Sunday night dinner is being moved to Friday night. The dinner cost will be part of the Convention registration. Dinner will happen about 6:30 PM. Opening will be at 8:00 PM. Perry Shurko will be the MC.
    - Workshops: The Committee will work on the schedule.
    - Saturday night Banquet: Steve Fuentes will be the MC.
    - Sunday Mass: 5:15 PM at the Cathedral. There will be busses from the hotel for \$10.00. The Cathedral is about a mile from the hotel.
    - Convention registration: Currently the registration is \$275. The Committee making a motion to raise the registration to \$325, which includes the Friday night dinner. Late registration would be \$350 after July 1. Steve Fuentes asked since we're increasing the registration, it may not be the year to charge \$10 for the busses. Registration fee passed. The Committee will discuss the bus pricing and decide regarding the pricing.
    - Dante Galeazzi asked about the family lunch.

### ***By-Laws & Rituals – Bob Basuino***

- None.

### ***Apostolate & Charity – Lauren Kilcullen***

- Reminded Central Council members to make sure their districts have 100% participation in turning in reports.
- Dante Galeazzi asked if branches are not participating in the District, are they counted as part of the 100% participation.

### **Unfinished Business**

- None.

### **New Business**

- Dante Galeazzi asked about the banners for the new branches, the yellow is difficult to see. The Executive Committee has discussed ideas for new banners. Ideas will be presented at the June Central Council meeting.

### **Action on Communications**

- Donation to Sr. Benedicta's nephew – no.

### **Good of the Order**

- Lauren Kilcullen said the Santa Rosa District Bishop's Day is Sunday, September 20.
- Theresa Helfand said her Mom and her sister have recently passed away. She thanked everyone for their prayers and donations.
- Grand President Piro asked for a moment of silence for David Botta and Rosalind Crudo.
- Dante Galeazzi said the Stockton Diocese has a new district chaplain. They are working on a new project for the seminarians.

**Closing Prayer:** Led by Grand President Piro.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm by Grand President Vince Piro.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Lauren Kilcullen  
Grand Secretary*

- Next Meeting: June 13, 2020 in