

**Minutes,
Executive Meeting,
Grand Lodge Office, Stratford, Ontario,
Monday February 2nd, 2004.**

The Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am with Chairman, Brother Herb Ritchie presiding. Brother Herb asked our Grand Secretary, Brother John Nichols, to verify that a quorum was present. Brother John verified that a quorum was present and the meeting proceeded.

A quorum being in attendance, our meeting opened with a prayer by Brother John Nichols.

Our Attendance Register was circulated and showed the following Brothers to be in attendance:

OFFICERS (present):

Herb Ritchie
Don Swan
John Nichols
Bob Schwalm
Terry Switzer

Guests:

Harold Farrell

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed and circulated, subject to any corrections that would be necessary, on motion of Brother Bob Schwalm seconded by Brother Terry Switzer. **CARRIED.**

Dates for this meeting were somewhat mixed around with date changes following the last meeting and, more recently, problems with weather. Brother Herb welcomed those officers that could be present.

It was moved by Brother Bob Schwalm and seconded by Brother Terry Switzer that item #9A be moved up to this point in the agenda so we could dispose of this item immediately since Brother Harold Farrell was waiting for this item. **CARRIED.**

New Business:

Item #9a.

Discussion on this matter was held in camera due to it being the personal business of one Lodge.

As a result of the discussions it was moved by Brother Bob Schwalm and seconded by Brother Terry Switzer, that, should Harmony Lodge #115 decide to replace the roof on their building that this Executive grant approval to cash a capital GIC and use the needed funds to replace the roof or they may borrow money against a capital GIC, paying the loan back to the bank when the GIC comes due, to replace the roof on the Lodge Hall. **CARRIED.**

Brother Nichols is to send a letter to the Secretary of Harmony Lodge #115 granting approval.

Committee Reports:

A) Budget, year to date.

Brother Bob Schwalm, Grand Treasurer presented the proposed budget for the upcoming year that had been assembled by our Finance Committee. The budget was examined and it was moved by Brother Terry Switzer and seconded by Brother Don Swan that the budget be approved and be distributed prior to sessions in our usual manner. **CARRIED.**

Brother Schwalm presented the audited financial statements for the Grand Lodge of Ontario and for 816012 Ontario Ltd. It was noted that the financial statements were still subject to some final adjustments and journal entries. It was moved by Brother Bob Schwalm and seconded by Brother Terry Switzer that the statements, when finalized, be approved and signed by Brothers Herb Ritchie and Bob Schwalm prior to being included in the advance journal. **CARRIED.**

Brother Bob Schwalm, Grand Treasurer, presented the budget for the year to date. A

copy of the Financial Report is attached to the end of these minutes. Expenses are being kept in line and we should end up the year in a good position. It was moved by Brother Bob Schwalm and seconded by Brother Don Swan that the Budget Report be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

Brother Schwalm brought forward the contracts for our Accounting Manager, Sister Sue Geurts and the contract was examined. It was moved by Brother Terry Switzer and seconded by Brother John Nichols that the consulting agreement as presented be approved and signed by Brothers Nichols and Schwalm. **CARRIED.**

B) Legislation.

The Legislation Committee had a meeting scheduled but had to cancel it due to bad weather. The Legislation Committee is meeting electronically and is sending information to each member via email. The Committee should have the necessary changes to our Code ready for presentation in the advance journal and will then work on the rewrite of our Code that is necessary due to the actions of the last annual session and the Sovereign Grand Lodge at their last annual session.

C) Enhancement Committee.

Brother Don Swan reported verbally that the Enhancement Committee has met and is reviewing the resolutions presented to them by our last annual session. The Enhancement Committee will also be meeting with the Executive of the Central Humanitarian Services Committee to review some items of interest in regards to the Charitable Number and membership on the Central Committee.

It was noted that Brother Stephen Kelly had told Brother Swan that he had resigned as the Membership Chairman for the remainder of this term. Brother Swan has been in contact with Brother Garnet Schenk, the incoming membership chairman to see if he would be interested in starting immediately and Brother Garnet has responded in the affirmative. Brother Herb Ritchie is to contact Brother Steve Kelly to see if he is resigning, since he has not as yet heard from Steve about his resignation and has no problem with Brother Garnet starting immediately, if Brother Steve Kelly has resigned. Brother Herb will contact Brother Kelly and will take the appropriate action after he finds out what is going on.

It was moved by Brother John Nichols and seconded by Brother Bob Schwalm

that the verbal report be received. **CARRIED.**

D) 2005 SGL Sessions.

Brother Nichols spoke about the contracts with the London Convention Centre. Brother Nichols had been at the meeting when the contracts were discussed and had asked for permission to have the contracts signed after our annual session in May and the Convention Centre had said that this would be okay. There will need to be appropriate resolutions drafted to authorize the expenditure of funds from the General Account of the Grand Lodge of Ontario to provide for deposits and the covering of any shortfalls that the 2005 SGL Committee may find.

Brother Nichols had felt that he could not sign the contracts with the London Convention Centre until such time as the Annual Session had voiced their opinion on the expenditures to cover shortfalls in fundraising by the 2005 Committee.

It was moved by Brother John Nichols and seconded by Brother Terry Switzer that this verbal report be received. **CARRIED.**

Unfinished Business:

6A) Appointment of Chairmen to Standing Committees.

Brother Nichols presented copies of the Standing Committee appointments made by our incoming Grand Master, Brother Don Swan. The Executive reviewed the list and gave Brother Don their congratulations on a job well done. Brother Swan reported that he has personally contacted each Brother or Sister on the list and they have all given their consent to serve on the Standing Committee to which they have been appointed.

The Standing Committee list will be presented to our Annual Session for their approval and ratification.

6B) Beaver Lodge #82, Ruthven.

It was decided that this item should be held in camera due to the fact that it dealt with the private business of one Lodge. This matter was left in the hands of our Grand Master, Brother Herb Ritchie, to write any necessary letter and to bring the entire matter

to a close and report back to the next Executive Meeting.

6C) Marion Lodge #131.

This item was held in camera since it dealt with the private business of one Lodge.

The Executive received the report by Brother Terry Switzer and has closed the file on this surrender of Charter, on motion of Brother Bob Schwalm seconded by Brother Terry Switzer. **CARRIED.**

6D) Beacon Lodge #201.

This item was held in camera since it dealt with the private business of one Lodge.

Since there has been no response to the letter that our Grand Treasurer was instructed to send it was moved by Brother Terry Switzer and seconded by Brother Bob Schwalm that the Grand Master write a letter to Beacon Lodge #201 to bring the matter to a close. **CARRIED.**

6E) Brighton Lodge Hall.

This item was held in camera since it dealt with the private business of one Lodge.

It was moved by Brother Bob Schwalm and seconded by Brother Don Swan that this Grand Lodge agree to pay the legitimate expenses provided the Fraternal Links agree to the appointment of a special deputy, appointed by our Grand Master, to oversee the financial operations of the Hall. The special deputy would be required to see that all income from the hall goes to offset any and all expenses. And further provided that the Fraternal Links accept a reasonable offer on the Hall, as approved by

the Grand Lodge. **CARRIED.**

6F) Connaught Lodge #440.

This item was held in camera since it dealt with the private business of one Lodge.

This matter was left in the hands of our Grand Master, Brother Herb Ritchie, to sort out and report back to the next Executive Committee Meeting.

New Business.

A) Harmony Lodge #115.

This matter had been dealt with at the very beginning of the meeting (above) and Brother Nichols is to send the appropriate letters as soon as he is back up and running on the computers.

B) Installation Reports Received.

Brother Nichols had provided the information on the Installation Reports that had been received by the Grand Lodge Office. There are still a number of Districts that are not reporting on the Installations for this term. Brother Ritchie stated that he would contact the outstanding Districts.

C) Resolutions in regards to Districts.

Resolutions had been received to merge Ottawa-Lanark District #55 into Harmony -Kemptville District #53. The Executive Committee received the resolution and it was moved by Brother Terry Switzer and seconded by Brother Bob Schwalm that this request to merge district be approved. **CARRIED.**

The resolution from Niagara-Welland District #21 to change the District Name to Niagara District #21 was received and discussed by the Executive Committee. As a result of the discussion it was moved by Brother Bob Schwalm and seconded by Brother

Don Swan that this request to change the district name be approved. **CARRIED.**

D) Stanley Lodge #268.

This item was held in camera since it dealt with the private business of one Lodge.

As a result of the discussions it was moved by Brother Terry Switzer and seconded by Brother John Nichols that the file on this Surrender of Charter be closed and that the costs incurred by the DDGM in receiving the books of Stanley Lodge #268 be paid to Ottawa District #55. **CARRIED.**

E) Hespeler Lodge #321.

This item was held in camera since it dealt with the private business of one Lodge.

This item was discussed in detail and as a result of the discussion it was moved by Brother Terry Switzer and seconded by Brother Don Swan that the bylaw change be approved since there is another active Lodge in the same city that is still meeting in the evenings. **CARRIED.**

F) Meritorious Service Award Application.

Brother Nichols was advised by the Executive Committee to hold on to this application and that it would be discussed with any others received just before our Annual Session for recommendation to the voting representatives.

G) Milton Lodge #92.

This item was held in camera since it dealt with the private business of one

Lodge.

This matter was left to Brother Herb Ritchie, Grand Master, to deal with and report back to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

H) Outstanding Annual Returns.

It was reported that three Lodges do not have their Annual Returns in to the Grand Lodge Office and that it has become necessary to debar them from attendance at the upcoming Annual Session of the Grand Lodge of Ontario.

It was moved by Brother Terry Switzer and seconded by Brother Don Swan that Brother Nichols send letters to these three Lodges advising them that they have been debarred but that a grace period will be extended to them and provided the Annual Returns and payments have been received prior to March 31, 2004 they will still be able to attend the Annual Session. **CARRIED.**

I) SGL 2005 Contracts with the Convention Centre in London.

This item had been dealt with under the 2005 Committee Report and it is noted that resolutions will be required for the Annual Session to allow the Grand Lodge of Ontario to cover any shortfalls before the contracts can be signed. The contracts with the London Convention Centre will be on hold until after the Annual Session in May.

J) Fundraising Letter in regards to the 2005 SGL Session.

It was moved by Brother Don Swan and seconded by Brother John Nichols that the Grand Secretary and Assembly Secretary be requested to send out the fundraising letter to the Odd Fellows and Rebekah Lodges in this jurisdiction in their next mailing. **CARRIED.** (a copy of this letter is in this mailing)

It was suggested that all Grand Body Secretarial Officers send this letter out in their next mailing (a copy of this letter is in this mailing).

No further business appearing it was announced that the date of the next meeting of the Elective Officers would be Tuesday March 30th, 2004, at the Grand Lodge Office at 10:00 am. The meeting was adjourned on motion of Brother John Nichols.

Future meetings of the Executive Committee will be held on Tuesday March 30th, and Tuesday June 15th. These Meetings will be held at the Grand Lodge Office, 157 Frederick Street, Stratford, Ontario, at 10:00 am.