

**Minutes,  
Executive Meeting,  
Grand Lodge Office, Stratford, Ontario,  
Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005.**

The Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am with Vice Chairman, Brother David Longfield presiding. Brother Dave 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 Bill Thompson, Grand Warden.

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

**OFFICERS (present):**

Dave Longfield  
Bill Thompson  
John Nichols  
Bob Schwalm  
Terry Switzer  
Herb Ritchie

**Guests:**

Kathleen Longfield.  
Marilyn Wilson.  
Jean Clark.  
Dianne Cole.  
June Carruthers.  
June Ritchie.  
Ron Wanamaker.  
Harris McKeen.  
Robert Fox.

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

## Special Note:

This is item 7B from the Agenda for this meeting.

The Executive of the Grand Lodge of Ontario had met immediately after the Funeral of Brother Don Swan, Grand Master. The purpose of this brief, special meeting, was to read the Code of Ontario Odd Fellows Laws with a view to ensuring that the proper succession routine was followed.

It was decided that, due to the way the Code reads, and to protect the rights of the Grand Lodge in Session, Brother Dave Longfield should become “Acting Grand Master”, the position of Deputy Grand Master would remain vacant and Brother Bill Thompson would remain as our Grand Warden.

*Brother Nichols was asked to contact our Sovereign Grand Master and Sovereign Grand Secretary to ensure that the decision of the Executive was correct. After contacting Brothers Lawson and Barrett, Brother Nichols advised the Executive that our Sovereign Grand Master and Sovereign Grand Secretary were in full agreement with the way this situation was being handled. Brother Nichols had also spoken with many of this Jurisdiction's Past Grand Masters and reported that they were all in agreement with the way that this situation was being handled.*

It was moved by Brother Bob Schwalm and seconded by Brother Herb Ritchie, that the actions of the Special Executive Meeting be ratified by this Executive. **CARRIED.**

Brother David Longfield was installed as “Acting Grand Master” by Brother Terry Switzer, PGM, Grand Representative, as Installing Officer and Brother Herb Ritchie, PGM, Grand Representative, as Installing Marshal.

Brother Nichols suggested that a “Thank You Letter” should be sent to St Marys Lodge #36, Hillcrest Rebekah Lodge #372 and Brother Bev Rabbets and Sister Isa Rabbets for all the hard work, attention to detail and notifications that they had made in the passing of our Grand Master.

The Executive was in agreement and Brother Nichols stated that he would send the letters.

**Brother Nichols suggested that item 7A be moved forward** at this point as we had some of our Past Grand Masters present and they wished to address the Executive. Brother Dave Longfield moved item 7A forward at this point.

Brothers Ron Wanamaker, Bob Fox, Harvey Murray and Harris McKeen reported on the progress of the Past Grand Masters who had been sent to Harmony Lodge #115 for the past few months.

This item was held in camera due to the fact that this matter dealt with the personal business of one Lodge in the Jurisdiction.

As a result of the report, the following motion was made, seconded and **CARRIED.**

Since this was a committee that had been set up by the Grand Master at the direction of the Grand Lodge it was suggested by Brother Nichols that our Acting Grand Master make the decision on this matter and that the Executive of the this Grand Lodge show their support for the decision of our Acting Grand Master. Our Acting Grand Master, Brother Dave Longfield, decided that the Charter of Harmony Lodge #115 would remain in tact and that the Past Grand Masters who had been placed in charge of this Lodge should hold elections for Lodge Officers at the earliest date possible and install the Officers of Harmony Lodge #115 into their respective Offices, Brother Dave further explained that the Past Grand Masters were to continue to monitor this Lodge, on a once each month basis, which will be under the control of the Officers of Harmony Lodge #115, until the beginning of the new term. The Officers installed in March will be in Office until the end of the 2006 Term.

It was moved by Brother Terry Switzer and seconded by Brother Bill Thompson that this Executive support the decision of the Acting Grand Master and offer our full agreement. **CARRIED.**

Our Past Grand Masters were thanked for all the work they have done with Harmony Lodge #115 and congratulated for doing their very best. Brother Nichols requested that the Past Grand Masters submit a written report of their actions for the

Advanced Journal.

*As a note to this section, Brother Nichols attended the meeting of Harmony Lodge #115 when the Officers were elected and assisted in the installation of the Officers.*

## Committee Reports:

## Committee Appointments:

### A) Budget, year to date.

Brother Bob Schwalm, Grand Treasurer, presented the budget for the year to date. It was noted that expenses had been right on line and in some cases under budget and that it was the third year in a row that we were able to show a slight surplus at the year end. Brother Bob noted that income so far has been under budget by about \$15,000.00.

It was moved by Brother Bob Schwalm and seconded by Brother Terry Switzer that the Budget Report be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

The audited financial statements were presented and gone over. After the discussion it was moved by Brother John Nichols and seconded by Brother Bill Thompson that the Financial Statements be accepted and that the statements for the Grand Lodge of Ontario be signed by Brothers Herb Ritchie and Dave Longfield and the statements for 816012 Ontario Ltd be accepted and signed by Brothers Herb Ritchie and Terry Switzer. **CARRIED.**

The statements were signed at this point by the appropriate Officers.

### B) Legislation.

Brother Nichols reported that he had received a letter of resignation from Brother Wayne Geurts who had been placed on this Committee. This letter was received with regret by this Executive on motion of Brother Bob Schwalm seconded by Brother Herb Ritchie. **CARRIED.**

Brother Nichols reported that we currently have no Codes of Ontario Odd Fellows Laws in stock and he has not had any reprinted due to the fact that this rewrite is underway. We are in a bad position for Codes and Constitutions of Odd Fellows Lodges as Brother Nichols does not want to have the Constitution of Odd Fellows Lodges reprinted as any changes would require us to throw out old Constitutions and we would be wasting money that we don't need to waste. The Code rewrite is to become a priority.

C)      **Enhancement Committee.**

There was no report from the Enhancement Committee at this point.

D)      **Napanee Lodge Hall.**

Brother Switzer reported on this item and stated that he had met with the Napanee Lawyer and that she is working on the transfer of the Lodge Hall. Terry will have more information by the next meeting.

E)      **816012 Ontario Ltd.**

Brother Nichols reported that the building is listed and that a few people had been through the building to look at it but no acceptable offers had been received at this point. It was moved by Brother Terry Switzer and seconded by Brother Herb Ritchie that this matter be left in the hands by the committee that has been set up to handle this sale. **CARRIED.**

F)      **SGL 2005 Committee.**

Brother Nichols reported that there would be a site inspection later this month and that the International Officers would be in attendance. Brothers Switzer and Nichols are to be in attendance at the site inspection and there will be more information forthcoming after that date.

**Unfinished Business:**

**A) Outstanding Annual Returns.**

Brother Nichols reported that there were a total of 9 Annual Returns remaining outstanding and letters had been sent from our Accounting Manager and then our Grand Treasurer requesting that the returns be submitted. The Lodges that still have returns outstanding are as follows:

Samaritan #35	Otter #50	Friendship #65
Milton #92	Grey #169	Royal #286
Broadview #284	Geneva #320	Burford #405.

Brother Nichols reported that, as per the Code, he would be debarring these foregoing Lodges from attendance at the upcoming Session of the Grand Lodge of Ontario.

It was moved by Brother Bob Schwalm and seconded by Brother Herb Ritchie that a letter be sent to these Lodges informing them that they would be debarred from the upcoming Session of the Grand Lodge of Ontario if their Annual Returns and Semi Annual Returns are not received prior to the end of March. **CARRIED.**

**B) Milton Lodge #92.**

The Annual Returns are still outstanding for Milton Lodge #92 are still outstanding from 2003 and the Semi Annual and Annual Returns are still outstanding from 2004. Brother Schwalm has been working with this Lodge to try to get the returns in but things are not progressing too well.

The discussion on this item was kept in camera due to the fact that it dealt with the personal business of one Lodge in this Jurisdiction. It was moved by Brother Herb Ritchie and seconded by Brother Terry Switzer that the fate of Milton Lodge #92 be left in the hands of our Acting Grand Master and to have him report at the next

meeting as to his decisions and progress, with the full support of this Executive.  
**CARRIED.**

**C) Eastern Star Lodge #72, Whitby.**

We had a brief discussion in relation to this Lodge and the discussion was held in camera due to the fact that it dealt with the personal business of one Lodge. It was moved by Brother Terry Switzer and seconded by Brother Herb Ritchie that a registered letter be sent to the Secretary of this Lodge advising him that this Lodge must begin holding regular meetings and put steps in place to build the membership prior to March 15, 2005. **CARRIED.**

*Note: this letter has been sent via registered mail.*

**New Business.**

*Items 7A and 7B had previous been dealt with so the Executive moved on to item C.*

**C) Ontario Code Rewrite Committee.**

A Report had been received from Brother Ian McWhirter in behalf of the Ontario Code Re Write Committee (copy attached at the end of the minutes). Brother Geurts had also sent in a letter resigning from the Code Rewrite Committee (copy attached at the end of these minutes).

The report and the letter generated a good deal of discussion in regards to the fact that this Executive felt that it was unfortunate the Brother Geurts was resigning from this Committee.

It was also discussed that it was the view of this executive that this Grand Body



should go with what Sovereign Grand Lodge has accepted and presented in the new Code of General Laws, subject to any revisions that would be necessary to make the Code Jurisdictional specific. This would give us a much smaller Code that was easier to understand and directly in line with the Code of General Laws.

Brother Nichols stressed that we currently have no Codes of Ontario Odd Fellows Laws in stock and he has not had any reprinted due to the fact that this rewrite is underway. We are in a bad position for Codes and Constitutions of Odd Fellows Lodges as Brother Nichols does not want to have the Constitution of Odd Fellows Lodges reprinted as any changes would require us to throw out old Constitutions and we would be wasting money that we don't need to waste. **The Code rewrite is to become a priority.**

**D) Manual of Instruction.**

Brother Nichols reported that he has received numerous requests for a Manual of Instruction that had previously been issued by this Grand Lodge. There are currently no copies in the Grand Lodge Office. Since the Manual of Instruction had been done prior to the Code of Ontario Odd Fellows Laws that we currently have most of the references were out of date. With the Ontario Code currently being rewritten it might be good to wait until such time as the Representatives approve a new Code prior to a new Manual of Instruction is printed and made available.

It was moved by Brother John Nichols and seconded by Brother Bill Thompson that our Grand Secretary approach Brother Wayne Geurts to see if this is a project that he would undertake, subject to approval by the Executive of the Grand Lodge, and that this item then be made available as an item of supply. **CARRIED.**

**E) Gifts for the Officers of Brother Don Swan.**

Brother Dave Longfield asked what was being done in the line of gifts for the Officers of Brother Don Swan. Brothers Nichols and Schwalm said that they would talk with Sister Myrna Swan as they felt that Sister Myrna had already been doing something

for Brother Don's Officers. Brother Nichols further reported that the Past Officers Jewels had been ordered and received for the Past Appointed Officers of this Grand Lodge. Brothers Nichols and Schwalm will speak with Sister Myrna Swan and will make sure that everything is taken care of.

No further business appearing it was announced that the date of the next meeting of the Elective Officers would be held on Tuesday March 30<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday June 15<sup>th</sup>. These Meetings will be held at the Grand Lodge Office, 157 Frederick Street, Stratford, Ontario, at 10:00 am. The meeting was adjourned on motion of Brother Terry Switzer