



**Executive Meeting  
Tuesday, January 14, 2013.  
Stratford, Ontario.**



**AGENDA...**

1. **Call to Order @** By..... Brother Tom Robinson, Grand Master.

**Opening Prayer** by Brother  
**Welcome to all.**

2. **Quorum Present?** .....yes, .....no.

3. **Attendance Register.**

4. **Minutes of last meeting,**

approved as:

5. **Committee Reports:**

- A) Budget, year to date, (Bob Schwalm) (Attached Sheets)
- B) Signing of the Audited Financial Statements
- C) Review and approval of the Proposed Budget

6. **Unfinished Business:**

- A) North Bay Lodge #271 (In Camera) (Tom Robinson)
- B) Oakville Lodge #132 (In Camera) (Tom Robinson)
- C) Bracebridge Lodge #251 (In Camera) (Tom Robinson)
- D) Campbellford Lodge #248 (In Camera) (Tom Robinson)
- E) Westboro Lodge #426 (In Camera) (Tom Robinson)
- F) Aurora #148 (In Camera) (Tom Robinson)
- G) Ridgely #250 (In Camera) (Tom Robinson)
- H) New Hope UYG (In Camera) (Tom Robinson)
- I) Other

7. **New Business:**

- A) Avon Lodge #41 (In Camera) (Attached Letter)
- B) Membership (Attached Sheet)
- C) Harrow #309 (In Camera) (Tom Robinson)
- D) Otter #50 (In Camera) (Tom Robinson)
- E) Milton #92 & Golden Star #101 (In Camera) (In Camera) (Tom Robinson)
- F) Invitees to our upcoming Annual Session (In Camera) (Tom Robinson)
- G) Letter from Jason Walt (Attached Sheet) (Tom Robinson)
- H) Other.

8. **Date of Next Meetings** - March 11, 2014, Session 2014 if needed.

9. **Adjournment @**..... . Moved by.....

# **Executive Special Committees.**

**2013 -2014.**

## **First Listed Person to Serve as Chair.**

<b>Budget Committee:</b>	<b>Investments and Endowments:</b>
<b>Bob Schwalm</b> <b>Don Beach</b> <b>Don Sedgwick</b> <b>Tom Robinson</b>	<b>Bob Schwalm</b> <b>John Nichols</b> <b>Wayne Gard</b> <b>Tom Robinson</b> <b>Sandra McWhirter</b> <b>Terry Switzer</b> <b>Wayne Geurts</b>
<b>Program Enhancement &amp; Membership Development.</b>	<b>Administrative and Organizational Matters:</b>
<b>Sandra McWhirter</b> <b>Wayne Gard</b> <b>Charles Benson</b> <b>Dave Longfield</b> <b>Charles Pole</b>	<b>Tom Robinson</b> <b>Sandra McWhirter</b> <b>Wayne Gard</b> <b>John Nichols</b> <b>Bob Schwalm</b> <b>Terry Switzer</b> <b>Wayne Geurts</b>
<b>Legislation and Code:</b>	<b>Grand Lodge and Component Unit Properties (Appointed by the Grand Secretary Chapter III, Section 9 A (2))</b>
<b>Terry Switzer</b> <b>Wayne Geurts</b> <b>Tom Robinson</b>  <b>Resource:</b> <b>John Nichols</b> <b>Bob Schwalm</b>	<b>John Nichols</b> <b>Bob Schwalm</b> <b>Terry Switzer</b> <b>Sandra McWhirter</b> <b>Wayne Gard</b> <b>Wayne Geurts</b>
<b>Special Note:</b>  <b>Our Grand Master has requested that the Chairperson of each of these Committees contact the other persons listed on these Committees and advise them of any meetings, progress, etc.</b>	

The January 14, 2014 meeting of the Executive of the Grand Lodge of Ontario was called to order at 10:00 am by our Grand Master, Brother Tom Robinson.

Brother Tom welcomed everyone present and asked Brother John Nichols to open our meeting with prayer.

Brother Nichols ascertained that a quorum was present and the attendance register was circulated. Present at this meeting were:

Tom Robinson  
Bob Schwalm

Sandra McWhirter  
Wayne Geurts

Wayne Gard

John Nichols

#### **4. Minutes of the Last Meeting.**

It was moved by Brother John Nichols and seconded by Sister Sandra McWhirter that the Minutes of the last meeting be approved as printed and circulated, subject to any corrections. **CARRIED.**

#### **5A. Budget, year to date. (Bob Schwalm)**

Brother Bob Schwalm presented the Budget year to date. It was noted that per capita dues and Sovereign Grand Lodge Dues are down at this point with 9 Lodges not having their Annual Returns in at this point.

We are basically on track at this point and will monitor things as they happen.

It was moved by Brother Bob Schwalm with second by Brother Wayne Geurts that the report of the budget, year to date, be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

#### **5B Signing of the Audited Financial Statements.**

We had reviewed a draft statement at our last meeting and passed a motion to allow the appropriate officers to sign these documents when the final ones arrived. The Audited Financial Statements were signed at this time.

#### **5C Review and approval of the Proposed Budget.**

The proposed Budget had been prepared and reviewed by the Budget Committee and show a \$2.00 Dues increase. It was discussed and noted by everyone that we need to start balancing our Grand Lodge Budget with Membership increases.

It was moved by Brother Bob Schwalm, with second by Brother Wayne Gard, that the proposed budget be accepted and forwarded to the Sessional Finance Committee at the upcoming Annual Session. **CARRIED.**

#### **6A North Bay Lodge #271. (In Camera).**

This item of business was held "In Camera" since it was the private business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction. There were no motions as a result of the discussion. This matter was left in the hands of our Grand Master, Brother Tom Robinson.

**6B. Oakville Lodge #132. (In Camera).**

This item of business was held “In Camera” since it was the private business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction. There were no motions as a result of the discussion. This matter was left in the hands of Brothers Nichols and Schwalm.

**6C Bracebridge Lodge #251. (In Camera).**

This item of business was held “In Camera” since it was the private business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction. There were no motions as a result of the discussion. This matter was left in the hands of our Grand Master, Brother Tom Robinson .

**6D Campbellford Lodge #248. (In Camera).**

This item of business was held “In Camera” since it was the private business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction. There were no motions as a result of the discussion. This matter was left in the hands of our Grand Master, Brother Tom Robinson .

**6E Westboro Lodge #426. (In Camera).**

This item of business was held “In Camera” since it was the private business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction. There were no motions as a result of the discussion. This matter was presented for information purposes.

**6F Aurora Lodge #148. (In Camera).**

This item of business was held “In Camera” since it was the private business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction. There were no motions as a result of the discussion. This matter was presented for information purposes.

**6G Ridgely Lodge #250. (In Camera).**

This item of business was held “In Camera” since it was the private business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction. There were no motions as a result of the discussion. This matter was presented for information purposes and remains in the hands of Brothers Nichols and Schwalm to monitor.

**6H New Hope United Youth Group #1. (In Camera).**

This item of business was held “In Camera” since it was the private business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction. There were no motions as a result of the discussion. This matter was presented for information purposes.

**7A. Avon Lodge #41. (In Camera).**

Brothers Nichols and Schwalm asked to be excused from the discussion and any votes because they are members of Avon Lodge #41. Permission was granted for Brothers Nichols and Schwalm to be excused from the discussion and any vote that might take place.

This item of business was held "In Camera" since it was the private business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction. As a result of the discussion it was moved by Brother Wayne Geurts, with second by Sister Sandra McWhirter, that Avon Lodge #41 be allowed to use \$9,000.00 (nine thousand dollars) of building funds for the needed building repairs. **CARRIED.**

#### **7B. Membership**

Brother Charles Benson had sent letters to each of our Lodges with fewer than 10 Members, offering Membership help and asking for an action plan to increase Membership. As of today's meeting, none of the Lodges had responded and Brother Charlie was asking for guidance from the Executive of the Grand Lodge of Ontario.

This matter was thoroughly discussed due to the fact that we need to turn our membership decline around. As a result of the discussion it was suggested by Brother Wayne Geurts that Brother Benson contact each of these Lodge Secretaries by phone to see what can be done to help. Brother Nichols will talk with Brother Charles Benson.

#### **7C. Harrow Lodge #309. (In Camera).**

This item of business was held "In Camera" since it was the private business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction. There were no motions as a result of the discussion. This matter was left in the hands of Brother Tom Robinson and Brother John Nichols.

#### **7D. Otter Lodge #50. (In Camera).**

This item of business was held "In Camera" since it was the private business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction. There were no motions as a result of the discussion. This matter was left in the hands of Brother Tom Robinson.

#### **7E. Milton Lodge #92 & Golden Star Lodge #101. (In Camera).**

This item of business was held "In Camera" since it was the private business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction. There were no motions as a result of the discussion. This matter was left in the hands of Brother Tom Robinson.

#### **7F. Invitees to our upcoming Annual Session. (In Camera at the request of our Grand Master).**

This item of business was held "In Camera" at the request of our Grand Master. There were no motions as a result of the discussion. This matter was left in the hands of Brother Tom Robinson.

#### **7G. Letter from Brother Jason Walt.**

Brother Jason Walt had sent in a letter in relation to our Grand Lodge Sessions and he asked many excellent questions as to how things could be changed and improved. Brother Jason's points were brought up one point at a time and discussed.

Brother Wayne Geurts suggested that he draft a letter of response (copy attached immediately following), in conjunction with Brother Nichols and that the response letter, when

completed would be included in these minutes.

The Grand Lodge Executive wanted to thank Brother Jason on his comments and concerns.

The Following is the reply from Brother Wayne Geurts, to Brother Jason Walt, in behalf of the Grand Lodge Executive:

**To: Brother Jason Walt, PG, Trenton Lodge # 113.**

**From: the Grand Lodge of Ontario Executive. Dear Brother Jason,**

You raised some questions during my Session in 2013, and we asked you to give us a list so that we could properly address your concerns. The list was received and was discussed at length at our January Executive meeting.

I have been asked to reply to your concerns.

We appreciate all input from members and this letter will be included in the executive minutes mail out, because these questions were asked at the Sessions and other members would like to know those answers as well.

**Question # 1 Session Days - Why not start on Sunday and end Tuesday, so that working members have one more day left over for their own holidays.**

Currently we already start on Sunday with committee meetings, so we would have to start those committee meetings on Saturday. However, no matter what venue we have our sessions at, we cannot get the Large rooms on a Friday evening or a Saturday, unless we pay full price. These rooms are very expensive Friday evenings and Saturdays because those are their prime rental times. This would thus effectively prevent us from having Committee meetings on a Thursday and Friday and have sessions on a Saturday and Sunday. We pay no money for these large rooms as long as we have the Banquet.

(The last year we were at the Royal York, they presented us with a total bill over \$ 39,000.00)

The Arden Park Hotel has a very successful Brunch on Sundays, and we can not get the Large Sessional meeting rooms until 3 PM on a Sunday.

The large room schedule currently is as follows:

Sunday 3 pm we have practice for the introduction of Dignitaries and the Devine Service. Sunday 4 pm we have practice for the Memorial Service. Then at 7 pm these events will take place.

Mondays 12.30 pm the Rebekahs start their Sessions.

Mondays 7 PM the Rebekahs confer the Rebekah Degree.

Tuesdays both Rebekahs and Odd Fellows meet until 4 PM at the latest due to the Banquet and the Odd Fellow installations happening starting at 6 PM

Wednesdays Odd Fellows meet till noon, Rebekahs meet till noon followed by their installations at 2 PM.

The Rebekahs are chartered under the Grand Lodge of Ontario. The Grand Lodge needs to approve Legislation they pass before it is allowed to go to the Sovereign Grand Lodge. Because of that need, they have to start prior to the Odd Fellow Session and we have laws in place that forces them to provide us with all their approved legislation prior to 4 PM Tuesday.

If we were to be able to have the Rebekahs start Monday Morning, then we could start Monday afternoon. However that would force us to complete our session no later than 4 PM Tuesday. Everyone has to check

out by noon or people would have to get a room for 2 nights instead of 1 night, which is currently the case. Because of all the above reasons we believe we have done the best for all, at the lowest price possible.

**Question # 2 Ballots You wondered why the ballots are numbered.**

The reasons are as follows:

As you are aware, it appears sometimes that the ballots received vary from the count taken. This certainly was the case in 2013. If we did not have numbers, then we would not know whether anyone voted 2 or 3 times for that matter. I know that everyone is supposed to be honest like you are, however we have to make sure that the balloting also has to have the appearance of being honest. If you know of a better way of achieving both objectives, we are open to suggestions.

**Question # 3 Sale of Odd Fellow items at Sessions.**

I am going to go into a little history here. I was on the Board of Directors for ten years and again on the executive for the last 3.5 years. You might remember or your dad would remember that Brother Elmer Teft used to run the gift department. It was part of our Grand Lodge By-Laws and he passed a small percentage of sales to the Grand Lodge. Time came however that his income fell so low that he was not even earning a small percentage for all his efforts, so he quit.

The Gift Department was then taken over by Brother Tom Smith, Past Grand Master. He brought in a bunch of new items, including rings and other items. His sales however never even covered his costs, so after a few years he requested that the Grand Lodge bail him out and purchase all his stock and cover a small loss he had.

At that time the Board of Directors did not really get anymore takers to run the gift department. It was decided that the Grand Lodge would run it itself and try to have things for sale. This was done until recently, however the problem with a gift items is that they have to be made to order and minimum numbers are required to have anything made. For example we had 3 link watches, which I believe sold for \$ 55.00. (Cost was around \$ 35.00 if I am not mistaken.) We only ended up purchasing a minimum number, the stock sold that slow, that the batteries died before we sold them our overall profit was virtually nil.

We had Leather Melton Jackets, again after the initial sales success we had to eventually sell them at a loss. Again no real profit to be had. I could get a lot of details, however let it be said, that the objective to make a real profit appears to be difficult, because of the minimum orders that are needed for specialty stuff.

The Grand Lodge would be willing to have someone run a gift department for a 5% royalty to the Grand Lodge, so if you know of someone who might be interested, we could certainly discuss it. Also with all of the accounting function now being handled by the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, the workload for them has increased.

**Question # 4. Has there ever been a thought of planning a golf tournament?**

time to hold a golf tournament. You would need 4 to 6 hours to complete a tournament. I could only see one organised for a Sunday morning or Monday morning, however the rest of the sessional needs need to be organized and most of the executive are involved with committees, and all other fraternal things happening, so if you are offering to organise one, feel free.

If you are referring to another time of the year, Sister Bernice Hall-Stevenson organised one last September for all Odd Fellows in Ontario. Low and behold she had about 9 Odd Fellows who played in the tournament. All the rest were club members. I was one of the golfers at that tournament.

We do however have a hospitality suite which is open Monday and Tuesday and members do have a chance to get together.

**Question # 5 The Sessions are boring, what can be done to make them more interesting.**

Most of our Sessions are business oriented. In order to complete Sessions, we must be business like in getting the work completed. Usually we get this work done by around 11 AM Wednesday Morning.

If we were to add a number of interesting items, like say some skits or plays or comedians or whichever you feel would be interesting to other members, then we would need more time. Working people would have to take additional time of work, and surely we would have additional costs to Sessions.

At a membership of 1650 to 1700 members, any multiple of those numbers would see the need to increase income. Our main income is dues.

We thank you for the message that you sent and for the ideas that you have expressed. If you have ideas to improve things within all the constraints that we face, we will gladly listen to those ideas and allow the Representatives to vote on them if that is what is needed.

Yours in Friendship, Love and Truth,

The Grand Lodge Executive, ( per Wayne Geurts, JPGM)

No further business appearing the meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm, with the **next meeting of the Executive to be held March 11, 2014**, at the Grand Lodge Office.