



**Executive Meeting
Tuesday, January 15, 2013.
Stratford, Ontario.**



AGENDA...

1. **Call to Order @** By.....Brother Wayne Geurts, 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) Review and Signing of the Audited Financial Statements. (Bob Schwalm)
 - C) Proposed Budget for the 2013 Annual Session. (Bob Schwalm)
6. **Unfinished Business:**
 - A) Investment of the Home Trust Funds (Wayne Geurts & John Nichols)
 - B) Internet Donations, Pay Pal and donations (Wayne Geurts)
 - C) Districts 33 & 36 (Wayne Geurts)
 - D)
 - E)
 - F)
7. **New Business:**
 - A) Thamesville #157 (In Camera) (attached sheets)
 - B) Dress Code for Grand Lodge Officers
 - C) Lodges and mailings via email. (Wayne Geurts)
 - D) Rebekah Lodges (Terry Switzer)
 - E) Rebekah Executive (Terry Switzer)
 - F) Warriner Lodge #75. In Camera.
 - G) Harmony Lodge #115. In Camera.
 - H)
 - I)
8. **Date of Next Meetings** - March 12/13, Sessions if necessary.
9. **Adjournment @**..... . Moved by.....

Executive Special Committees.

2012 -2013.

First Listed Person to Serve as Chair.

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|---|--|---|--|
| Budget Committee: | | Investments and Endowments: | |
| Bob Schwalm Don Beach Don Sedgwick Tom Robinson | | Bob Schwalm John Nichols Wayne Geurts Tom Robinson Sandra McWhirter Terry Switzer Jim Edwards | |
| Program Enhancement & Membership Development. | | Administrative and Organizational Matters: | |
| Tom Robinson Sandra McWhirter Charles Benson Dave Longfield Charles Pole | | Wayne Geurts Tom Robinson Sandra McWhirter John Nichols Bob Schwalm Terry Switzer Jim Edwards | |
| Legislation and Code: ??? | | Grand Lodge and Component Unit Properties (Appointed by the Grand Secretary Chapter III, Section 9 A (2)) | |
| Terry Switzer Jim Edwards Wayne Geurts Resource: John Nichols Bob Schwalm | | John Nichols Terry Switzer Bob Schwalm Jim Edwards Ralph Dufresne Wayne Geurts | |
| State of the Order: | | | |
| | | | |
| Special Note: 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. | | | |

The January 15, 2013 meeting of the Executive of the Grand Lodge of Ontario was called to order at 10:00 am by our Grand Master, Brother Wayne Geurts.

Brother Wayne 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:

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| Wayne Geurts | Tom Robinson | Sandra McWhirter | John Nichols |
| Bob Schwalm | Terry Switzer | Jim Edwards | |

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting.

It was moved by Brother Jim Edwards and seconded by Brother Terry Switzer that the Minutes of the last meeting be approved as printed and circulated, subject to any corrections.

CARRIED.

5A. Budget Year To Date.

Brother Bob Schwalm presented the Budget year to date and noted that things are going well for this point in the year. The Per Capita Dues stated is what has actually come in at this point and reflects an estimate of those currently not in as of this meeting. If everything holds, as we anticipate it will, we should end our year right on with the budget.

It was moved by Brother Terry Switzer with second by Sister Sandra McWhirter that the report of the budget, year to date, be approved as presented. **CARRIED.**

5B. Review and Signing of the Audited Financial Statements.

Brother Schwalm, on presenting the Audited Financial Statements noted that these statements were still "Draft" statements at this point and went on to explain the difference in the Audited Statements and our internal statements as the Auditors do the statements on the accrual basis of accounting and the Grand Lodge does their statements on the cash basis of accounting.

Brother Schwalm reviewed the statements and it was moved by Brother Edwards with second by Brother Switzer that we accept these draft statements and that the statements be signed by the appropriate Officers as soon as the Final Audited Statements are ready. **CARRIED.**

5C. Proposed Budget for the 2013 Annual Session.

Brother Schwalm presented the proposed budget for the 2013 Annual Session of our Grand Lodge of Ontario. This budget is prepared by the Grand Treasurer, with input from the Grand Secretary and then is reviewed and adjusted by the Finance Committee as appointed by our Grand Master. This proposed budget has, at this time, received approval by the Finance Committee and it will be distributed with the advance information that is sent out prior to our Annual Session.

After the Finance Committee approves the proposed Budget it is brought to the Executive for their review, adjustments and approval and from there goes to the Sessional Finance Committee for their review and then to the Grand Lodge in Session for their approval before it becomes official.

The Finance Committee went over the wage increase of 2%, which is per the Code of

Ontario Odd Fellows Laws where it states that wages will increase by the annual cost of living.

Brother Schwalm presented and explained the entire proposed budget.

Brother Wayne Geurts, Grand Master, had sent out a document for discussion in relation to the proposed budget and presented his opinions on adjustments that could be made. As a result of the discussion some small adjustments to the proposed budget were made.

We had a lively discussion on the budget and some proposed legislation that will be coming to the Annual Session of the Grand Lodge of Ontario and as a result of the discussion it was moved by Brother Switzer, with second by Brother Tom Robinson, that the proposed budget, as amended today, be accepted and given to the Sessional Finance Committee as the next step in our process. **CARRIED.**

6A. Investment of the Home Trust Funds

Brother Nichols was at the last Board meetings at the IOOF Senior's Homes Inc. and reported that with the passing of accounts and the current investment climate, the IOOF Senior's Homes was not willing to proceed further at this time in filing with the courts and attempting to get the investments back and have the Order and the Home be joint trustees for the funds. The Home has currently spent approximately \$7,500.00 in legal fees and the legal opinion is that, with Scotia fighting the process that we should not proceed at this time. If we were to proceed further, at this time, the Grand Lodge would incur legal costs for a process that would likely fail.

A question arose about the Executive Members who were also Members of the Board of the IOOF Senior's Homes Inc. and whether they would have a conflict of interest issue if a motion was presented at this meeting. Brother Wayne Geurts, Grand Master, determined that there is no conflict of interest for the Executive Members who are on the board and that all of our Executive could vote on this issue.

As a result of the discussion it was moved by Brother Robinson, with second by Sister McWhirter that we concur with the Board of the Home and that we are not willing to proceed at this time. **CARRIED.**

6B. Internet Donations, Pay Pal and donations.

Brother Geurts answered questions that had been left with him in relation to this unfinished business, at our last meeting and responded that yes, paypal or other internet donation expenses are legally allowed to be deducted from the charitable givings and people would receive a receipt for the full amount donated but that paypal is now an issue as Camp Trillium is no longer using paypal but their own internet system for electronic donations.

Brother Wayne has been talking with Fiona Fischer at Camp Trillium and they are putting donation sites on their own website. Camp Trillium would put a fundraising page on their site for us and people could donate via credit card at this site.

Questions arising were answered and as a result of the discussion it was moved by Brother Switzer with second by Brother Nichols that we allow Camp Trillium to proceed with an internet donation site for us. The question was called and resulted in a tie vote and Brother Geurts, as chair, cast a vote in the negative and the motion was **DEFEATED.**

6C. Districts 33 & 36.

There has been no official reply, as yet, from Districts 33 & 36 in relation to merging these two districts. Brother Nichols will send a reminder letter to the two Districts involved and will place the matter on the agenda for our next meeting, under unfinished business.

7A. Thamesville Lodge #157 (In Camera)

Due to this matter of business being the private business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction, the matter was held In Camera. There were no motions as a result of this discussion but the matter was left in the hands of Brothers Nichols and Schwalm for resolution.

7B. Dress Code for Grand Lodge Officers.

We had a discussion in relation to the Dress Code for Grand Lodge Officers in relation to female Officers and whether or not we should continue to use a white formal jacket.

White Jackets are becoming increasingly difficult to procure and the prices for them are getting almost out of reach, especially for the Appointed Officers of the Grand Lodge. Lady Officers have difficulty getting a white formal jacket and they are quite expensive. The white formal jackets look nice but the question was raised as to whether or not they are really necessary.

The discussion continued as to the benefits of the white formal jacket and the disadvantages of the same and as a result of the discussion it was decided that when the male Officers wear the white jackets that the women would wear a white dress and that when the men wear the black jackets that the women would wear a black dress. The issue of how long the "formal dress" should be and that if our Grand Lodge Officers continued wearing a tuxedo just how long a formal dress should be because with changing styles women's formal wear is both long and shorter.

Brother Schwalm stated that we should say "formal dress" and leave that decision to the female Officer to decide what was an appropriate length. The other members of the Executive agreed.

7C. Lodges and Mailings via Email.

Brother Geurts had requested that this item be on our agenda as we currently have one Lodge in the Jurisdiction that does business with the Grand Lodge via email that no longer wants to receive the emailings from the Grand Lodge.

There was a great deal of discussion as to whether we should institute a rebate for Lodges that are receiving mailings via email or whether we should institute a charge of \$30.00 per Lodge for the Lodges that want to receive their mailings via Canada Post. The general consensus seemed to be that if Lodges want to do business, via email, with the Grand Lodge that they must be willing to accept the emailings from Grand Lodge.

There were no motions made as a result of this discussion.

7D. Rebekah Lodges. In Camera.

As this discussion was In Camera and for information purposes only, there were no motions made as a result of the discussion.

7E Rebekah Assembly Executive. In Camera.

As this discussion was In Camera and for information purposes only, there were no motions made as a result of the discussion.

7F Warriner Lodge #75. In Camera.

Due to this matter of business being the private business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction, the matter was held In Camera. There were no motions as a result of this discussion but the matter was left in the hands of Brothers Nichols and Schwalm.

7G Harmony Lodge #115. In Camera.

Due to this matter of business being the private business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction, the matter was held In Camera. There were no motions as a result of this discussion but the matter was left in the hands of Brother Nichols.

No further business appearing the meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm, with the next meeting of the Executive to be held at the Grand Lodge Office, in Stratford, on March 12, 2013, at 10:00 am.