



**Executive Meeting
Tuesday, January 27, 2009.
Grand Lodge Office, Stratford, Ontario.**



AGENDA...

1. **Call to Order @ 10:30am .** By.....Brother Charles Benson, Grand Master.

Opening Prayer by Brother John Nichols
Welcome to all.

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

3. **Attendance Register.**

4. **Minutes of last meeting,**
approved as: - moved..... 2nd

5. **Committee Reports:**

- A) Budget, year to date (Bob Schwalm) (Attached Sheets)
- B) Signing Audited Financial Statements of the Grand Lodge of Ontario & 816012 Ont Ltd.
- C) Budget 2009-2010

6. **Unfinished Business:**

- A) Belleville #81 (**In Camera**)
- B) Forest City #38 (**In Camera**)
- C) Broadview #294 (**In Camera**)
- D) Samaritan #35 (**In Camera**)
- E) Unification of Sessions.
- F) Responses to letters to Lodges with fewer than 15 dues paying members (Charlie)
- G) State of the Order
- H) Milton #92 (**In Camera**)

7. **New Business:**

- A) Annual Returns and Debarment from Grand Lodge Sessions. (John)
- B) Outstanding Invoices. (Bob)
- C) Joint Program (Bob)
- D) 816012 Ontario Ltd., Wind up and Closing.
- E) Tabloid.
- F) Camp Trillium
- G) Other.

8. **Date of Next Meetings** - March 10, May 3, at Sessions.

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

**Executive Special Committees.
2008 -2009.**

First Listed Person to Serve as Chair.

Budget Committee:		Investments and Endowments:	
Charles Pole Russ Hadley Bev Rabbets Resource: Bob Schwalm John Nichols	Members to ask if some say no:	Bob Schwalm Don Beach John Nichols	Members to ask if some say no:
Program Enhancement & Membership Development.		Administrative and Organizational Matters:	
All Members of the Executive.		John Nichols Terry Switzer Ian McWhirter Bob Schwalm and all Elective and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers.	
Legislation and Code:		Grand Lodge and Component Unit Properties (Appointed by the Grand Secretary Chapter III, Section 9 A (2))	
Ian McWhirter Don Beach Jim Edwards Resource: John Nichols Bob Schwalm	Members to ask if some say no:	John Nichols Terry Switzer Bob Schwalm Charles Benson Don Beach	
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 27, 2009 meeting of the Executive of the Grand Lodge of Ontario was called to order at 9:30 am by our Grand Master, Brother Charles Benson.

Brother Charlie 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:

Charles Benson. Don Beach. John Nichols. Bob Schwalm. Terry Switzer.

Brothers Ian McWhirter and Jim Edwards had sent their regrets for this meeting.

5A Budget Year to Date.

Brother Schwalm presented the report on the Budget so far this year. Everything currently is falling in line and there is nothing surprising at this point. It was noted that some expenses that are customary do not happen until later in the Lodge year but that everything is going well at this point. It was moved by Brother Schwalm and seconded by Brother Switzer that the report on the budget year to date be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

5B Signing of the Audited Financial Statements for the Grand Lodge of Ontario and 816012 Ont Ltd.,

It had been passed at our last meeting that the Audited Financial Statements would be signed by the appropriate Officers when they were available and so the statements were signed at this time.

5C Budget 2009 - 2010.

Brother Schwalm presented the proposed budget for 2009 - 2010 to the Executive of the Grand Lodge. It was noted that the Budget and Finance Committee had prepared and authorized this Budget for presentation to the Executive and this budget will be referred to the Finance Committee of the Grand Lodge of Ontario prior to our upcoming Annual Sessions. The proposed budget was approved and a couple of slight amendments were proposed for items like the Membership Committee as it is Brother Don Beach's intention to have a full and functioning Membership Committee for the next term.

It was moved by Brother Terry Switzer and seconded by Brother Don Beach that the Proposed Budget, as amended, be approved. **CARRIED.**

Unfinished Business:

6A Belleville #81.

The discussion on this item was held in camera due to it being the personal and private business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction. There were no motions forthcoming as a result of this discussion. This matter was left in the hands of Brothers Nichols and Schwalm who will continue to report to the Executive Committee at future meetings.

6B Forest City Lodge #38.

The discussion on this item was held in camera due to it being the personal and private business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction. There were no motions forthcoming as a result of this discussion. This matter was left in the hands of Brothers Nichols and Schwalm who will continue to report to the Executive Committee at future meetings.

6C Broadview Lodge #294.

The discussion on this item was held in camera due to it being the personal and private business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction. There were no motions forthcoming as a result of this discussion. This matter was left in the hands of Brother Charles Benson who will continue to report to the Executive Committee at future meetings.

6D Samaritan Lodge #35.

The discussion on this item was held in camera due to it being the personal and private business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction. There were no motions forthcoming as a result of this discussion. This matter was left in the hands of Brothers Don Cooper, Nichols and Schwalm who will continue to report to the Executive Committee at future meetings.

6E Unification of Annual Sessions.

The only thing we have currently received from the Reunification was a proposed "Schedule of Events" for a Unified Session and this was the same document we had seen at other times. Concerns were raised that we have no information in relation to costs, the location, availability, physical set ups, room space and the change of dates from beginning of May to the end of May.

As a result of the discussions it was moved by Brother Terry Switzer and seconded by Brother Bob Schwalm that we table this information, for information purposes only and advise the Reunification Committee that this proposal is not going to work for us as it currently stands. Brother Benson was to inform the Committee. **CARRIED.**

6F Responses to letter to Lodges with fewer than 15 dues paying members.

The responses from Lodges with fewer than 15 Dues Paying Members were reviewed and discussed. From the discussion concerns were raised on alignment of Districts and the fact that our Membership Committee needs to become very active.

Brother Beach discussed the Membership Committee and is looking to set up a fully functioning and proactive Membership Committee for the upcoming term. Brothers Benson, Switzer, Schwalm and Nichols are to look into our current situation with Districts and make a proposal.

6G State of the Order.

Brother Nichols suggested that this Executive Committee establish a "State of the Order Committee", as a sub committee of the Executive, with a view to having this Committee meet four times a year immediately following the Executive Meetings. We are all concerned with the State of our Order in the Jurisdiction and we are in a good position to recover if we start taking immediate remedial action now.

There was a period of discussion on the merits of this Committee and the matter was left in the hands of our incoming Grand Master, Brother Don Beach, to think about this idea and to make a decision as to whether or not he feels it would be a good idea. Brother Nichols was asked to draft some terms of reference for this Committee as soon as he can. (Note: I have drafted the terms of reference for the Committee which have been approved by Brothers Benson and Beach and the terms of reference follow:

State of the Order Committee.

Sub Committee of the Executive, Terms of Reference.

This State of the Order Committee will be a subcommittee of the Executive Committee of the Grand Lodge of Ontario, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

This Committee shall consist of the Grand Master as Chair, the Grand Secretary as the Secretary of the Committee, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Warden and two Past Grands of the Odd Fellows Lodge to be selected by the Grand Master and approved by the Executive of the Grand Lodge of Ontario, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

This Committee will have access to confidential information and the members of the Committee are admonished to keep all such confidential information secure, private and confidential and shall not share the confidential information outside the confines of the Committee. The Grand Secretary shall share any other additional information to which he is privy when requested by the Committee and when it is deemed that it is necessary to share this information and is pertinent to the discussions at hand.

Materials available to the Committee shall include, but not be limited to, the Master Report compiled by the Grand Secretary composed of information taken from the Annual Returns of Lodges to the Grand Lodge, DDGM reports and reports of Official Visits of the Grand Master to Districts in the Jurisdiction of Ontario. Current and up to date Membership Plan Information will also be provided.

It shall be the duty of this State of the Order Committee to Report to the Executive Committee at each Executive Meeting on its findings and suggestions and to refer pertinent items to Grand Lodge Standing Committees for action, with follow up to ensure that appropriate action is being taken. In addition, this State of the Order Committee will also be required to submit a report to the Grand Lodge of Ontario in Annual Session, each year with the report to be submitted to the Grand Secretary no later than February 15 of each year. The Annual Report of the State of the Order Committee shall be referred to the Sessional Committee on State of the Order for each regular Annual Session of the Grand Lodge of Ontario.

Items to be considered to this Committee will be the State of the Order in the Jurisdiction of Ontario, Membership Retention, Membership Growth, Establishing New Lodges, Working with Existing Lodges to assist them in excellency in the Work of the Order, assuring quality in programs of the Grand Lodge and general work to ensure the success of the Order in Ontario.

As a subcommittee of the Executive Committee of the Grand Lodge of Ontario this Committee shall meet immediately following each meeting of the Grand Lodge Executive Committee and at other times necessary when called by the Chairman. Additional Meetings may be requested of the Chairman by any three members of the Committee making such request in writing. Mileage, at the current rates as set by the Grand Lodge of Ontario shall be paid to members of the State of the Order Committee for attendance at meetings of the Committee.

Brother Beach will look for Members interested in serving on this special sub committee and will include it when making appointments to Committees of the Executive.

6H Milton Lodge #92.

The discussion on this item was held in camera due to it being the personal and private business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction. There were no motions forthcoming as a result of this discussion. Brother John Nichols, Grand Secretary was instructed to draft a letter to Milton Lodge, copy the Executive, and send it to Milton Lodge after he receives feedback from our Executive.

New Business:

7A Annual Returns and Debarment of Lodges from the Grand Lodge Sessions.

Brother Nichols reported that the following Lodges have not submitted their Annual Returns and that he will send a letter debaring them and their members from attendance at the upcoming Annual Session:

Samaritan #35 Maple Leaf #57 Milton #92 Gananoque #114 Harmony #115
Cambridge #188 Grenville #279

It was moved by Brother Switzer and seconded by Brother Beach that our Grand Master contact these Lodges and advise them of impending debarment from the Annual Session and that Brother Nichols send a letter to these Lodges advising them that the Lodge and its Members will be debarred from attendance at the upcoming Annual Session if their Annual Returns and payments have not been received by February 28.

CARRIED.

7B Outstanding Invoices.

Brother Schwalm addressed the issue of Outstanding Invoices and Lodges owing money for supplies to the Grand Lodge. Brother Schwalm has been sending overdue invoice notices and while some are responding others are not.

The Executive discussed these outstanding invoices and it was moved by Brother Schwalm and seconded by Brother Switzer that any Lodge with an outstanding invoice over 120 days old would be debarred from attendance at the Annual Session. **CARRIED.**

7C Joint Programs.

Brother Schwalm addressed the issue of the Joint Programs and the problems that we have every year with this resource. Each year the Grand Lodge pays the invoice for the Joint Programs and charges the Units for the number they ordered, with no mark up, and for postal costs if there are any. Each year we end up in disputes over the Joint Program. We also need to get a handle on how many Joint Programs we need as a Grand Lodge and request that the other Units look at the number they need as well. The cost of printing the Joint Programs increases every year.

It was moved by Brother Schwalm and seconded by Brother Beach that the Grand Lodge order 350 Joint Programs with 300 going to the Grand Master and 50 going to the Grand Lodge Office and that Brother Schwalm draft a letter to each Unit advising them that the Unit Secretarial Officer must submit a firm order for the number of Joint Programs that Unit needs and will pay for. **CARRIED.**

Brother Schwalm has drafted the letter and sent it to the Unit Secretarial Officers.

7D 816012 Ontario Ltd., Wind up and Closing.

We are losing our tax loss carry forwards each year on the Corporation and trying to find ways to wind up the Corporation without tax implications are running into a wall. It will cost approximately \$18,000.00 to wind up the Corporation and we need to do this quickly to minimize our tax implications as the costs to wind up will only keep increasing each year that we do not take action. There is currently enough money in the Corporation Account to do the wind up if we proceed soon.

It was moved by Brother Beach and seconded by Brother Switzer that we proceed to wind up the Corporation in the manner suggested by our Auditing Firm. **CARRIED.**

7E Tabloid

The issue of the Tabloid was brought forward by Brother Switzer. Brother Bill Thompson is finding it difficult to continue with the Tabloid and has placed a plea for anyone interested in being the Editor to contact him. If Brother Thompson can find someone interested in being the Editor he is most willing to carry on with the administrative functions of the Tabloid and the mailings.

Brother Nichols stated that he thought he might know someone who may be interested in taking on the Tabloid in whole or as the Editor and was advised by the Executive to talk with this Brother.

The Executive will wait and see how many responses Brother Thompson receives to his plea and will look at all candidates for Editor after that point. The Executive expressed their thanks to Brother Thompson for all the work he does to ensure a quality publication.

7F Camp Trillium

Brother Schwalm presented a letter that he would like to send out to the Lodges in relation to Camp Trillium and the purchase of OuR Island. It was noted that we are doing okay on the Island purchase but that we need to keep working hard, even harder, at the donations for this excellent project.

Date of future meetings - March 10, May 3 at Sessions.

No further business appearing this meeting was closed on motion of Brother Nichols with the next meeting of our Executive planned for March 10, 2009, at the Grand Lodge Office.