

**Minutes,
Executive Meeting,
Grand Lodge Office, Stratford, Ontario,
Tuesday, June 14th, 2005.**

The Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am with 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 Dave Longfield, Grand Master.

Brother Nichols added that we had a great number of items that would need to be handled in camera due to the fact that they were the personal business of individual Lodges. The Executive agreed that these items would need to be handled in camera.

Brother Dave gave a brief message welcoming all of the Executive and letting us know that, when it came to him, “what we see is what we get”. The Executive laughed and reassured Dave that we knew he would do an excellent job as our Grand Master. Brief congratulations were given on the Grand Master’s Reception and it was noted that “a good time was had by all!”

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

OFFICERS (present):

Dave Longfield
Ian McWhirter

John Nichols
Bob Schwalm
Terry Switzer
Herb Ritchie

Guests:

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.**

Brother Dave will work at getting the Committees of the Executive together for the next meeting and will most likely closely follow the committees from last year as long as the members are willing to continue serving.

Committee Reports:

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 unless we have any extraordinary problems we should be able to show a slight surplus at the end of this year. Brother Bob Congratulated our Grand Secretary on the monitoring of the Budget to ensure that expenses are being kept in line. It was moved by Brother Bob Schwalm and seconded by Brother Terry Switzer that the Budget Report be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

B) Legislation.

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 a major priority. Brother Nichols reported that we are in a dire, dire situation when it comes to Codes and Constitutions of Odd Fellows Lodges.

Brother Switzer raised the question about Codes that had been returned to the Grand Lodge due to amalgamations etc and Brother Schwalm advised that in most cases these Codes are useless because they had never been updated or improperly updated.

Brother Ian McWhirter, Chairman of the Committee, was present (he is our Grand Warden). Brother Ian reported that the Code rewrite is underway and he felt that the most important parts are done. The Code rewrite should be ready for the Executive prior to the next Annual Session so that it may be included in the Advanced Legislation to go out to the Lodges.

The question was asked as to whether the Code would be coming to the floor of the next session or if the Executive should have a year to fine tune what is written and Brother Nichols stated that he would prefer that the rewritten Code be able to be brought to the floor of the Grand Lodge at our next Annual Session as he has had many calls and questions about when the rewrite is going to be done and presented to the membership. Brother Schwalm stated that a motion should be put in by the committee to ask for permission to place the entire code before the body at the Annual Session and ask for our people to pass the rewritten Code without pages and pages of amendments at the next Session. If the Representatives can accept the rewritten Code some amendments, if necessary, could be worked on the following year at the Annual Session. The rewritten Code would be modeled after the Constitution and Bylaws of Grand Lodges in the Code of General Laws, from the Sovereign Grand Lodge, so there should not be too many things that would have to be changed at subsequent Annual Sessions.

If the Executive goes over the Code carefully there should not be too many changes that will be immediately necessary.

The Executive will ask that the Code be accepted with amendments, if any should be necessary, in following year's Annual Sessions to keep things manageable. The statement was made that if we are modeling things after the materials that are given to us by the Sovereign Grand Lodge, there should not be too many amendments necessary.

Brother Nichols stated that there will have to be some things changed from the materials in the Code of General Laws as we will want to keep doing our Grand Lodge Legislation the way we have done over the past great number of years instead of modeling our legislative process to the way it is handled by the Sovereign Grand Lodge. We don't want to change the way that our Grand Lodge Representatives are comfortable doing legislation and a couple of other minor things. The Executive agreed with this statement.

Our Grand Master appointed Brothers Charles Benson and Doug Wilson to act with Brother Ian on this rewrite.

C) Enhancement Committee.

The Enhancement Committee was discussed as to a reason for their existence and for our Executive to set some guidelines as to what this Committee should be doing. This item is to be discussed at a future Executive Meeting and Brother Dave stated that he would get this Committee appointed and get them meeting as soon as possible.

D) 816012 Ontario Ltd.

This item was handled in camera and as a result of the discussion it was decided that Brother John Nichols was to be appointed to act, as necessary, with advice from Brothers Longfield and Schwalm.

E) 2005 Grand Lodge Birthday and Pig Roast and Fun Night.

Brother Schwalm reported that tickets are going quite well and it looks like we might have a situation where we are sold out. Unfortunately, aside from those registered with the SGL 2005 Committee, there are only 22 people from Ontario with tickets to attend this event. It was suggested that the Executive speak with those areas that have indicated that they plan to attend to get them to get their ticket orders in as soon as possible so that they will not be disappointed. It looks like this event will be a big success.

Unfinished Business:

A) Outstanding Annual Returns.

Brother Nichols reported that there were a total of 2 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 annual returns outstanding are as follows:

Samaritan #35 Grey #169

The Lodges that still have semi annual returns outstanding are as follows:

Samaritan #35 Grey #169 Burford #405 (US dollars outstanding)

The next step is for Brother Nichols to write to these Lodges and require their returns at the earliest possible convenience.

Brother Dave Longfield was to contact Samaritan Lodge #35 and Brother John Nichols was to contact Grey Lodge #169.

B) Enhancement Committee, make up, function and promotional materials.

This item had been handled in the Committee report area with the members of the Grand Lodge Executive to continue to revise this committee and its duties. This item will be discussed at future meetings.

C) Silver City Lodge #206.

This discussion was held in camera due to the nature of the discussion and it being the personal business of one Lodge in this Jurisdiction. As a result of the discussion it was decided that Brother Dave Longfield would work with Brother Norman Hunt to see how things can be handled. Brother Longfield is to report on this matter at our next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS.

Glanworth Lodge #289.

This discussion was held in camera due to the nature of the discussion and it being the personal business of one Lodge in this Jurisdiction. As a result of the discussion it was decided that Brothers Nichols and Schwalm were to meet with this Lodge at the earliest possible opportunity to bring this matter to a close.

A) Cayuga Lodge #386.

This discussion was held in camera due to the nature of the discussion and it being the personal business of one Lodge in this Jurisdiction. As a result of the discussion it was decided that Brothers Nichols and Longfield would work to set up a meeting with this Lodge, with Brothers Longfield, Nichols, Schwalm and Switzer to attend, to see how this matter can be brought to a close.

B) Ridgetown Lodge #144.

This discussion was held in camera due to the nature of the discussion and it being the personal business of one Lodge in this Jurisdiction. As a result of this discussion it was decided that this matter would be left in the hands of Brother Nichols to deal with in his usual manner and if need be, report to the next meeting of the Executive.

C) Letter from Brother George McLellan.

This discussion was held in camera due to the nature of the discussion and it being the personal business of one Lodge in this Jurisdiction. As a result of the discussion it was decided that this matter would be left with our Grand Master, as per the discussion of the Executive, and that Brother Dave would report back if necessary.

D) Eastern Star Lodge, Whitby.

This discussion was held in camera due to the nature of the discussion and it being the personal business of one Lodge in this Jurisdiction. As a result of the discussion it was decided that this matter would be left in the hands of Brother Terry Switzer to contact Eastern Star Lodge and set up a meeting at the earliest convenience.

E) Realignment of a District.

Brother Switzer addressed the alignment of District #53. Brother Switzer stated that he had been speaking with a couple of Brothers from the District and that the Ottawa Lodges seem to be finding it too far to travel to attend things in District #53. The suggestion was that the two Lodges in Ottawa could be moved into a new District with Vivian Lodge #146 of Arnprior, especially since Vivian Lodge is now the only remaining Lodge in Renfrew District #56. If the Lodges wished to do this they could form a new District with a new name much in the same way that they did when the Districts were realigned a few years ago. This move would put 3 lodges in District #56 and 5 Lodges in Harmony-Kemptville District #53.

It was suggested by Brother Terry Switzer that Brother Nichols send a letter to the DDGM of District #53, Carleton Lodge, Westboro Lodge and Vivian Lodge to see if this realignment would interest these Lodges and if District #53 would be in favour of this realignment. Brother Nichols responded that he would send the letter to see if there is any interest in this realignment.

F) The Odd Fellows Grip.

Brother Terry Switzer raised a question about the Odd Fellows Grip. Apparently Brother Switzer has been in attendance at Initiatory Degrees when the incorrect grip was exemplified. The Grip had changed in 1991 and is shown in the books of unwritten work that are available to Lodges from the Grand Lodge. Brother Switzer stated that the unwritten work must be kept uniform under Sovereign Grand Lodge and that we need to inform our Membership, perhaps through the Education Chairman at the

Educational Seminars.

It was suggested that all Lodges be notified that the Unwritten Work (in full written format with pictures) is available from the Grand Lodge at a cost of approximately \$25.00. Brother Nichols stated that he would put that information in these minutes but that we have to make it clear that these books are not for sale to members but only to Lodges.

Brother Nichols also stated that he would talk with Brother Wayne Geurts, our Educational Chairman, to see if he can fit a discussion of the Grip into the Educational Seminar and advise people that the Unwritten Work is available from the Grand Lodge Office.

G) Grand Warden and the Barrie Home Board.

A question had been raised about the Grand Warden being automatically appointed to the IOOF Senior Citizen's Home Board, thus relieving us from the necessity of nominating Directors at Large.

Brother Nichols reported that this move had been at the request of the IOOF Senior Citizen's Home Board and that it had been approved by our Grand Lodge in Session. Brother Nichols stated that this Executive is accountable to the Grand Lodge in Session and that we must follow their wishes on all matters. The Grand Lodge in Session had spoken, made their wishes known and we should follow the request of the Home Board and the Grand Lodge in Session.

The reason that this request was acted upon was to place our three Line Officers on the Board, starting by placing the Grand Warden on the IOOF Senior Citizen's Home Board in this year.

There are other positions available on the IOOF Senior Citizen's Home Board which members of the Order or others may still serve upon when needed. The Home Board had relieved all questions that were raised from members of the current Home Board.

The Executive agreed that we must always follow the wishes of the Grand Lodge in Session and considered the matter closed.

H) Grand Warden and the UNEPY.

Brother Ian McWhirter raised a question about his commitment to the UNEPY and as to whether or not the Grand Warden automatically went on the Pilgrimage as a chaperone. Brother Nichols reported that he had sent an email to Brother Ron Wanamaker but had not received a response as of today. Brother Nichols assured Brother Ian that he would forward Brother Ron's response to him as soon as he received it.

Brother Switzer reported that the chaperone alternates each year with an Odd Fellows representative going one year and a Rebekah representative going the next year.

I) Harmony Lodge #115.

This discussion was held in camera due to the nature of the discussion and it being the personal business of one Lodge in this Jurisdiction. As a result of the discussions it was moved by Brother Terry Switzer and seconded by Brother Herb Ritchie that Harmony Lodge #115 be permitted to use capital funds for the required building upgrades, either by cashing a GIC or borrowing money against a GIC and that since the required information had not been received in time for this meeting that the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer be authorized to act for this Executive in this regard if action is required prior to our next meeting. **CARRIED.**

J) Westpoint Hall, Toronto.

This discussion was held in camera due to the nature of the discussion and it being the personal business of one Lodge in this Jurisdiction. As a result of the discussion it was agreed that the Executive of the Grand Lodge of Ontario would wait to see what happens and see if we are officially contacted by the Westpoint Hall Board.

No further business appearing it was announced that the date of the next meeting of the Elective Officers would be held on Tuesday September 27th , 2005. This Meeting 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.