

**Minutes,
Executive Meeting,
Grand Lodge Office, Stratford, Ontario,
Tuesday, March 29, 2005.**

The Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am with our Acting Grand Master, 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 Herb Ritchie, Grand Representative.

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:

Bev Rabbets

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed and circulated, subject to any corrections that would be necessary, on motion of Brother John Nichols seconded by Brother Bill Thompson. **CARRIED.**

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 the actual budget is looking good and that we are showing a slight surplus at this time. If we take “General Office” as an entire category we are doing quite well even though a couple of items were showing to be a bit high at this time.

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

B) Legislation.

There was no report from the Code Rewrite Committee at this time and, after a good deal of discussion it was moved that Brother Nichols send a letter to Brother Ian McWhirter, Chairman of the Rewrite Committee, outlining the feeling of the Executive in regards to the Code Rewrite. This motion was made by Brother Bill Thompson, seconded by Brother Herb Ritchie and was **CARRIED.**

It was the feeling of the Executive that going with the “Model Constitution of Grand Lodges” as it appears in the Code of General Laws, making any changes that may be necessary to reflect the manner in which Ontario handles its business, along with a set of bylaws for our Jurisdiction would be the most prudent way to handle our Code.

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, though there is a brief report in the Advanced Journal to come before our Annual Session.

There was some discussion about “Promotional Materials” and a question as to whether or not the Grand Lodge should be maintaining a quantity of promotional materials. The question about promotional materials and a review of the Enhancement Committee, its make up and its functions, is to be discussed at the next meeting of the Executive.

D) Napanee Lodge Hall.

Brother Switzer has been talking with the Lawyer in Napanee and will be meeting with the Lawyer and Lodge Trustees to bring this matter to a close for our 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.

The roof on the building is in need of repairs as it is leaking. Brother Nichols presented a quote on the repairs and it was moved by Brother Terry Switzer and seconded by Brother Herb Ritchie that the roof repairs be done as soon as possible.
CARRIED.

It was further 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 Switzer reported that the site inspection for the upcoming Sovereign Grand Lodge Sessions went very well! We have had Lodges sending in commitments to financially help with the Sessions and more donations would be gratefully received.

An Appeal has gone out for Lodges and Members to assist as workers for the Sovereign Session and some have volunteered help though we could always use a few more hands.

The Pig Roast and Birthday Party Committee is coming along well! The plans are in place and the Committee is just waiting for people to book tickets! Some Lodges in Ontario are planning on bringing along a bus load for the Birthday Party and things are looking good at this time.

A discussion was held in regards to planting a tree at Labatt Park to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge and the 150th Anniversary of the City of London. Brother Dave Longfield is to look into what is involved and report back to the next meeting on motion of Brother Terry Switzer, seconded by Brother Bill Thompson. **CARRIED.**

Unfinished Business:

A) Outstanding Annual & Semi Annual Returns.

Brother Nichols reported that there were a total of 3 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

Grey #169

Geneva #320

There were, at this point, a total of 44 Semi Annual Returns remaining to be sent in and the Due Date was the end of March.

It was moved by Brother Bob Schwalm and seconded by Brother Herb Ritchie that a letter be sent to the Lodges, which do not have their Annual or Semi Annual Returns into the Office by April 15, 2005, informing them that they would be debarred from the upcoming Session of the Grand Lodge of Ontario. **CARRIED.**

Brother Nichols is to email the Executive of the Grand Lodge with those that remain outstanding as of April 15, 2005.

B) Milton Lodge #92.

This item was handled in camera due to the fact that it dealt with the personal business of one Lodge in this Jurisdiction. There were no motions as a result of the discussion.

C) Eastern Star Lodge #72, Whitby.

This item was handled in camera due to the fact that it dealt with the personal business of one Lodge in this Jurisdiction. There were no motions as a result of the discussion.

D) Manual of Instruction.

Brother Nichols reported that he had spoken to Brother Wayne Geurts and that Brother Geurts is happy to take on the revision of the Manual of Instruction as a spare time activity. Brother Nichols had thanked Brother Geurts, in advance, for his willingness to take on this activity.

There was discussion as to whether or not this project should be placed on hold until after the Code Rewrite and it was decided that Brother Geurts could proceed and make the necessary revisions when the new code was ready.

E) Gifts for Brother Don Swan's Officers.

Brother Nichols reported that he and Sister Myrna had met and that Sister Myrna was taking care of a gift for Brother Don's Officers.

New Business.

A) Avon Lodge #41.

This item was handled in camera due to the fact that it dealt with the personal business of one Lodge in this Jurisdiction. Brothers Nichols and Schwalm left the room for this item of business since Avon Lodge #41 is their home Lodge.

As a result of the discussion it was moved by Brother Herb Ritchie and seconded by Brother Bill Thompson that the needed roof repairs, as per the quotes received be made as soon as possible and that this Lodge be granted permission to use capital funds to make the repair. **CARRIED.**

B) The Barrie Home and the Cemetery Plots.

A discussion on the Cemetery Plots in Barrie and at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto was held. It looked, to the Executive, like the mentioned plots were originally purchased for the Home and that these plots should be made available to the home in as far as the Grand Lodge had the right to allow these plots to be used. It was noted that the rights of individuals and Lodges must be protected.

As a result of this discussion it was moved by Brother Bob Schwalm and seconded by Brother Terry Switzer that So long as it would not infringe upon the rights or ownership of any Local Lodges or Individuals, that the Grand Lodge of Ontario, Independent Order of Odd Fellows support the IOOF Senior Citizen's Homes Inc assuming responsibility for the said plots. **CARRIED.**

Brother Nichols is to send a letter to Doreen Saunders, CEO of the Home, stating the results of the motion.

C) Silver City Lodge.

This item was handled in camera due to the fact that it dealt with the personal business of one Lodge in this Jurisdiction. There were no motions as a result of the

discussion. Brother Dave Longfield is to look into any situations and report back to the next meeting of the Executive.

No further business appearing it was announced that the next meeting of this Executive would be immediately prior to Session at the Hilton Hotel in London and that the meeting following Sessions would be held on Tuesday June 14, 2005.

No further business appearing the meeting was adjourned on motion of Brother Terry Switzer.