



Executive Meeting
Tuesday, November 25, 2008.
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 final for Term Ending August 31. (Bob Schwalm) (Attached Sheets)
 - B) Budget, year to date (Bob Schwalm) (Attached Sheets)
 - C) Draft Audited Financial Statements of the Grand Lodge of Ontario.
6. **Unfinished Business:**
 - A) Belleville #81 (**In Camera**)
 - B) Forest City #38 (**In Camera**)
 - C) Samaritan #35 (**In Camera**)
 - D)
 - E)
 - F) Other?
7. **New Business:**
 - A) Unification of Sessions.
 - B) Victoria Historical Lodge (Letter Attached from Terry)
 - C) Master Report Review (**In Camera**)
 - D) Allan Simpson Fund Report (Bob) (Sheets)
 - E) Responses to letters to Lodges with fewer than 15 dues paying members (Charlie)
 - F) Status of Capital Fund, Camp Trillium (Charlie and Bob)
 - G) Report on Milwaukee Trip. (Charlie)
 - H) State of the Order - GM Visitations (Charlie)
 - I) Brainstorming Session (Charlie)
8. **TENTATIVE Date of Next Meetings** - February 27, 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 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 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 November 25, 2008 meeting of the Executive of the Grand Lodge of Ontario was called to order at 10:30 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.
Bob Schwalm.

Don Beach.
Terry Switzer.

Jim Edwards.

John Nichols.

Brother Ian McWhirter had sent his regrets for this meeting.

5A Budget for the Term Ending August 31, 2008.

Brother Schwalm presented the Budget for the Term ending August 31, 2008 and noted that our income from dues was under budget but that most everything in expenses were kept in line and the expenses had come in under budget. We are ending the year with a slight deficit and this deficit reflects the amounts that were paid out in rebates to members for sponsoring new members.

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

5B 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.**

5C Draft Audited Financial Statements of the Grand Lodge of Ontario.

Brother Schwalm presented the Draft Audited Financial Statements for the Grand Lodge of Ontario and noted that these statements were a draft. We generally do not have the final copies of these statements until mid January.

Brother Bob explained that this statement is an accurate reflection of the activities of the Grand Lodge and went over the pages explaining the questions that arose. It was moved by Brother Schwalm and seconded by Brother Don Beach that this draft statement be accepted and that the appropriate members of the Executive sign the statements for the Grand Lodge and 816012 Ontario Ltd when the final copies are completed. **CARRIED.**

6A Belleville Lodge #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 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 the Executive at future meetings.

6D 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, Grand Master.

7A Unification of All Sessions.

The Unification of all the Sessions of the Units of the Order was discussed and copies of the minutes of the Committee that is meeting were given to the members of the Executive. There is to be a further meeting this coming Saturday and Brother Benson requested that Brothers Beach and Nichols attend this meeting to represent the Grand Lodge in the discussions. Issues of concern were raised in regard to finances and how the Sessions would be conducted as well as the location of possible Unified Sessions.

It was also suggested that the entire Executive study the Grand Lodge Sessional Committees to see if there are Committees that are no longer necessary and the numbers of persons serving on the Committees and number of days that Committees are required to meet. This matter will be placed under unfinished business for the next meeting of the Executive Committee where the appropriate legislation would be drafted for submission to the upcoming Annual Session if changes were deemed to be appropriate. The Reunification of the Sessions would require us to take a look at our Committees and the way that business is handled.

7B Victoria Historical Lodge #6.

Brother Switzer had presented a letter from the Trustees of Victoria Historical Lodge in relation to the next meeting location. The Trustees have recommended that the next meeting of Victoria Historical Lodge be held in Brooklin with a view to returning to Belleville when the Lodge has secured another Hall or adequate premises to hold the meeting.

It was moved by Brother Switzer and seconded by Brother Jim Edwards that the next Annual Meeting of Victoria Historical Lodge be held in Brooklin Ontario on September 26, 2009 at the regular meeting times. **CARRIED.**

The Lodge Hall in Brooklin is owned by Beethoven Lodge #165 and is located at 42 Bagot Street.

7C Master Report Review.

This matter was held in camera due to the fact that the Master Report is a report that is completed by Brother Nichols for our Grand Master and Executive and holds information gained from the Annual Returns of Lodges to the Grand Lodge and the Reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters. The matters reported in the Master Report are the personal and private business of the individual Lodges and this report is to be considered Privileged and Confidential.

7D Allan Simpson Fund Report.

Brother Schwalm presented a report of the activities of the Allan Simpson Educational Fund. There have been many questions to the Grand Lodge office recently in regard to this fund and other funds with the market and economy not being very good at this time. Even with the downturn in the markets this fund is doing well to this point. Bob is keeping his eye on things very closely and is monitoring the investments to ensure that we do the best we can in these difficult times.

7E Responses to letter to Lodges with fewer than 15 Dues Paying Members.

Brother Charlie has received one response so far and will be monitoring this matter with Brother Nichols to ensure that responses do come in and a view to helping to grow the Order in Ontario. Brother Benson has received one request for membership help from a Lodge and we will discuss what can be done to assist Lodges at our next meeting. Brother Benson will report on responses from Lodges as well at our next meeting.

7F Status of the Camp Trillium Odd Fellows and Rebekah Capital Fund.

Brothers Benson and Schwalm reported that we need to realize donations of nine to ten thousand dollars each month and that we have not been meeting that goal. We are ahead of the game right now with the May 2009 payment having been made and a portion of the November 2009 payment having been made. If it had not been for the big jump start that we had at the beginning of this term and this project we would be in trouble at this point. We currently have one year's interest payments in the bank but need to do better at getting the funds in for the monthly payments.

It was suggested that the Grand Master pass baskets at his Official District Visits to help to bring in additional funds and that it be stressed that we cannot rest on our laurels but need to keep working for this huge and very worthwhile project.

7G Report on the Milwaukee Trip.

Brother Charlie reported that he had attended the Sovereign Grand Master's Testimonial in Milwaukee and that there had been a Leadership Seminar held at the same time. Brother Charlie presented some of the materials that had been presented at the seminar and reported that the Sovereign Grand Lodge has a new dvd and is revising brochures and promotional materials. It is hoped that in the future, instead of proclamations being issued from the Sovereign Grand Lodge, in the IOOF News, that "press releases" will be issued for use by the Lodges and Grand Lodges. Brother Charlie was thrilled with the seminar and suggested that perhaps other members of the Executive could be present at the Seminar to be held in conjunction with Sister Marilyn Wilson's Testimonial, in Niagara Falls.

7H State of the Order.

Brother Benson reported on his trips for Official Visits to Districts and stated that we need to develop plans to help to strengthen and rejuvenate Lodges. District #3 would like help to rebuild their members and has requested a Membership Seminar and it was felt that this District might be an excellent place to do a test run with the Sovereign Grand Lodge Membership Plan. This item will be further discussed at our next meeting.

7I Brainstorming Session.

Brother Charlie would like to see the Executive schedule a Brainstorming Session for some time during this term. He would like to see a group of 15 -20 members meet, give up a Saturday and talk about direction - Where we are, Where we want to be, Where we need to be and How we are going to get there. Brother Benson suggested that a good date might be March 7, 2009 at Rainbow Lake. The Executive were left to think this plan over and come back to the next meeting with ideas. Questions arose in relation to how we would bear the cost and it was suggested that we could provide lunch for those attending but that attendance would be voluntary. Brother Charlie asked the members of the Executive to think of names of members who would be good to invite to this brainstorming session.

No further business appearing this meeting was closed on motion of Brother Nichols with the next meeting of our Executive planned for January 27, 2009, at the Grand Lodge Office.