

Executive Meeting
Tuesday, October 31, 2006.
Grand Lodge Office.



AGENDA...

1. **Call to Order** @ 10:00 am. By.....Brother Bill Thompson, Grand Master.

Opening Prayer by Brother
Welcome to all.

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

3. **Attendance Register.**

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

5. **Committee Reports:**

- A) Budget, year to date
- B) Enhancement Committee & Duties of DDGM & Membership Committee. Brother Terry Switzer
- C) Other?

6. **Unfinished Business:**

- A) Legislation & Code Rewrite.
- B) Bay of Quinte Lodge #143. Brother Bob Schwalm
- C) Highland Lodge #388 (wrap up) Brother Terry Switzer
- D) Rebekah Lodge Property Forms. Brother John Nichols
- E) Items in Camera.
- E) Other???

7. **New Business:**

- A) Delhi (In Camera). [\(See Sheets\)](#)
- B) Maple Leaf Lodge #57 (In Camera) [\(See Sheets\)](#)
- C) Letter from Brother George McLellan (In Camera) [\(See Sheets\)](#)
- D) Letter from Unity Lodge #47. [\(See Sheets\)](#)
- E) Sovereign Grand Master's Pins [\(See Sheets\)](#)
- F) Education and Old Rituals. Brother Terry Switzer
- G) Letters from Sister June Ritchie. [\(See Sheets\)](#)
- H) GM Itinerary. [\(See Sheets\)](#)
- I) Other.

8. **Date of Next Meetings** - January 9, 2007. March 13, 2007. Meeting at our Annual Sessions.

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

Executive Special Committees.

2005 -2006.

First Listed Person to Serve as Chair.

Legislation and Code: Ian McWhirter Charles Benson Bill Thompson Resource: Dave Longfield Terry Switzer		Finance: Members to ask if some say no:	Bev Rabbets Don Beach Jim Barker Resource: Bob Schwalm John Nichols	Members to ask if some say no:		
Investments and Endowments:		Program Enhancement				
Bob Schwalm John Nichols Dave Longfield Ian McWhirter	Members to ask if some say no:	Bill Thompson Ian McWhirter Victor Hughes Charles Benson Wayne Geurts				
Administrative and Organizational Matters:						
John Nichols Bob Schwalm Terry Switzer and all Elective and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers.						
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.						

Executive Special Committees.

2006 -2007.

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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.			

**Minutes,
Executive Meeting,
Grand Lodge Office, Stratford, Ontario,
Tuesday, October 31st, 2006.**

The Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am with Chairman, Brother Bill Thompson presiding. Brother Bill 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 John Nichols.

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

OFFICERS (present):	Guests:
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Bill Thompson	
Ian McWhirter	
Charles Benson	
John Nichols	
Bob Schwalm	
Terry Switzer	
Herb Ritchie	
Dave Longfield	

The Minutes of the last meeting were dealt with at this point. It was moved by Brother Terry Switzer and seconded by Brother Charles Benson that the minutes of the last meeting be adopted as printed subject to any corrections. **CARRIED.**

Item #5 A Budget Year to Date and Year End.

Brother Schwalm presented the Budget Year to Date and the Executive reviewed the figures and felt that things were progressing well.

Brother Schwalm presented the year end figures as calculated by the Grand Lodge Office and the Executive studied the figures. Brother Schwalm reported that these figures should be fairly accurate but that they would be subject to some minor adjustments by the Auditors as per usual. It was moved by Brother Charles Benson and seconded by Brother Herb Ritchie that these reports be accepted by the Executive with thanks to Brother Schwalm for his comprehensive reports. **CARRIED.**

Brother Benson asked about the audit fees for the Arthritis Committee and Brother Schwalm responded that the Arthritis Committee is now collecting and handling funds in the same way that the Camp Trillium Capital Fund is set up and that we should be able to avoid audit fees for this committee in the future. With the funds going directly to the Arthritis Society and not coming in to the Grand Lodge and being entered into our books there should no longer be any audit fees. Brother Switzer asked how we would be able to report the funds donated by Lodges in our Advanced Journal and it was explained that the Arthritis Committee will be responsible for ensuring that we receive a report of funds donated in the same way that the Camp Trillium Committee gets a report from Camp Trillium for placing in our Advanced Journal.

Item #5 B Enhancement Committee, Duties of DDGMs and Membership Committee.

Brother Switzer reviewed his recommendations in regards to the DDGMs and their duties (copy attached at the end of these minutes). Through discussion it was decided that this important matter would be left with Brother Ian McWhirter to handle and that we should wait until such time as we have a Membership Committee functioning and in place.

Item #6 A Code Rewrite and Legislation.

Brothers Benson and Nichols reported on a couple of matters that needed review in our new Provisional Code of Ontario Odd Fellows Laws. There were a couple of instances in which our new Code were in conflict with the Laws of the Sovereign Grand Lodge and we had to make those adjustments immediately. Brothers Benson and Nichols also were in agreement that we need to change our terminology in this Jurisdiction to “Consolidation of Lodges” rather than “Merging of Lodges” as per the Ritual and the Code of General Laws of the Sovereign Grand Lodge. The Code of General Laws also has had terminology changes from “Junior Past Grand Master and Junior Past Grand, etc” to “Immediate Past Grand Master and Immediate Past Grand, etc and Brother Benson will make these adjustments as necessary to bring us in line with the current terminology of the Sovereign Grand Lodge.

Brother Nichols also reported that, due to some substantial legislation to appear before the Sovereign Grand Lodge that we may not be able to print our new Code after the Session next May. If the legislation that is before the Sovereign Grand Lodge passes there will be a Constitution of Grand Lodges, Rebekah Assemblies, Odd Fellows Lodges and Rebekah Lodges in the Code of General Laws of the Sovereign Grand Lodge that will only be able to be changed at the Sovereign Sessions. That would leave the Jurisdiction of Ontario with the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge only that could be amended at our Annual Sessions. Brother Nichols further stated that, in the event that this legislation passes at the Sovereign Grand Lodge that the Sovereign Grand Lodge is suggesting that each Jurisdiction form a set of standard bylaws for Lodges under its Jurisdiction. Brother Nichols wasn’t certain of how this would be a benefit for Lodges in Ontario but reminded us that this would allow us to keep some of the good things we currently have in our Constitution of Odd Fellows Lodges that would be deleted if a standardized Constitution of Odd Fellows Lodges were to be put in place.

It was moved by Brother Bob Schwalm and seconded by Brother Terry Switzer

that this report be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

Item #6 B Bay of Quinte Lodge #143.

This Item was held “In Camera” due to the fact that it dealt with the personal business of one Lodge in the Jurisdiction. It was noted that this situation has been completed.

Item #6 C Highland Lodge #388 (wrap up).

This Item was held “In Camera” due to the fact that it dealt with the personal business of one Lodge in the Jurisdiction. Brother Switzer was thanked for his efforts in this regard.

Item #6 D Rebekah Lodge Property Forms.

Brother Nichols reported that the forms for Rebekah Lodges to report ownership of property had been sent to the Office of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario and that these forms had been sent to the Rebekah Lodges with their Annual Returns.

Brother Nichols is waiting for the report from the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario and will report make that report to this Executive as soon as he receives it.

Item #6 E Items in Camera.

The nature of items that are discussed In Camera was discussed and the Executive was reminded that these items were to remain in camera.

Item #7 A Delhi.

This Item was held “In Camera” due to the fact that it dealt with the personal business of one Lodge in the Jurisdiction.

Item #7 B Maple Leaf Lodge #57

This Item was held “In Camera” due to the fact that it dealt with the personal business of one Lodge in the Jurisdiction. As a result of the discussion it was moved by Brother Terry Switzer and seconded by Brother Charles Benson that the Grand Secretary be instructed to flag this file so that future Executives would be apprised of the details. **CARRIED.**

Item #7 C Letter from Brother George McLellan.

This Item was held “In Camera” due to the fact that it dealt with the personal business of one Lodge in the Jurisdiction. Brother George’s letter was received and read for information purposes and it was moved by Brother Bob Schwalm and seconded by Brother Ian McWhirter that this letter be received. This motion **CARRIED** with one opposed.

Item # 7 D Letter from Unity Lodge #47.

A letter was received from the Secretary of Unity Lodge #47 and reviewed (copy attached at the end of these minutes). Brother Nichols included the appropriate pages from our Code so that the letter could be discussed. Brother Nichols reported that Life Membership are not granted if members try to purchase it and it is not at the minimum dues rate prescribed by the Grand Lodge but that the figures in the chart are most helpful because you can take the dues rates currently in the Code and combine them to come up with the correct figures, ie, a Life membership at \$40.00 per year, you take the age of the member and double the twenty dollar dues rate found in the chart.

Brother Nichols said he would send a letter to Unity Lodge thanking them for their concern and noting why the dues rates shown are the way they are.

Item #7 E Sovereign Grand Master's Pins.

Brother Schwalm reported that we had received a box and invoice from the Sovereign Grand Lodge with a number of the pins for our current Sovereign Grand Master, Brother Rob Robbins. A letter had also been received with the pins instructing us to send out two pins to each Lodge with an invoice and a letter telling them they could order more of the pins if they like but each Lodge would have to buy the two pins sent to them.

There was a good deal of discussion about the pins with the result being that it was moved by Brother Bob Schwalm and seconded by Brother Herb Ritchie that the pins and invoice be returned to the Sovereign Grand Lodge with a letter explaining that the Jurisdiction of Ontario has already paid for a House at the SOS Children's Village, in Cambodia, and that we feel we have done our part. This motion **CARRIED** with one opposed.

Item #7 F Education and Old Rituals.

Brother Switzer brought up that he has been at Lodges where Old Rituals are being used for Opening and Closing the Lodge and where Degrees are being conferred from the Old Ritual. In the case of Degrees the Sovereign Grand Lodge has indicated that it is okay to use the old charges as long as gender neutral terms are used instead of the masculine form. Brother Switzer was also concerned that Grips and Signs that are no longer part of our Ritual are being communicated to new members during these Degrees.

It was decided that our Grand Secretary would communicate with Brother Wayne Geurts, our Educational Chairman in regards to this issue and have Brother Wayne include education on the unwritten work and Ritual, as far as is possible, in the Educational Seminars.

Item #7 G Letters from Sister June Ritchie.

Sister June Ritchie has been appointed by Sister Marilyn Wilson the new Warden of the International Association of Rebekah Assemblies, to act as a Fundraising Chairperson for the funds that will be necessary to help Sister Marilyn with associated costs when she is the President of the IARA. Sister June asked the permission of the Executive to send fundraising letters to the Odd Fellows Lodges in Ontario. Our Executive reviewed the letter and approved sending it out with one noted change in that Raffles cannot be permitted unless a government license is obtained and then the funds would have to go to charities and not a project of this sort. Brother Herb Ritchie was to inform Sister June of the necessary change and have her forward a revised letter to Brother Nichols for distribution in an upcoming mailing to the Lodges.

The Executive of the Grand Lodge of Ontario extended its best wishes to Sister Marilyn our IARA Warden. Brother Nichols stated that he would be most happy to send out the revised letter as soon as he receives it.

Item #7 H Grand Master's Itinerary.

The Itinerary of our Grand Master, Brother Bill Thompson was distributed again for the information of the Executive Committee. Brother Bill noted a couple of changes that had become necessary and a copy of the Itinerary is included at the end of these minutes.

Item #7 I Other.

A number of additional items were discussed by our Executive for consideration and a brief note on these items follows.

It was suggested that to clear up questions about Victoria Historical Lodge #6 that our Grand Master and Executive place Victoria Historical Lodge #6 in a Historical District and that the DDGM who will be conducting the Installation of the Officers be listed as the DDGM for this Historical District (this is the way that

other Jurisdictions with Historical Lodges handled such items). It was moved by Brother Terry Switzer and seconded by Brother Herb Ritchie that this Executive create "Historical District #1" and that our Grand Secretary place it in the listing of Districts and DDGMs in our Journal. **CARRIED.**

Eastern Star Lodge #72, Whiby.

This Item was held "In Camera" due to the fact that it dealt with the personal business of one Lodge in the Jurisdiction. As a result of the discussion this matter was left in the hands of our Grand Master, Brother Bill Thompson for action as he deems necessary.

Lodge Program. Brother Switzer discussed that we need to have a compilation of activities that the Odd Fellows Lodges are involved with. This information could then be handed to the Joint Planning Board for inclusion in their Yearly Listing of Events. Brother Switzer volunteered to manage this compilation of activities and Brother Nichols stated that he would send a letter to all Lodges requesting them to notify Brother Terry of all activities such as Anniversary Parties, Degree Rallies, Special Events, etc..

No Further Business appearing this Meeting of the Executive closed at 3:05 pm.

