

Minutes,  
Executive Meeting,  
Grand Lodge Office, Stratford, Ontario,  
Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 Bill Thompson, Deputy 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.

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

**OFFICERS (present):** Herb Ritchie

Dave Longfield

Bill Thompson

Ian McWhirter

John Nichols

Bob Schwalm

Terry Switzer

**Guests:**

Bev Rabbets

Ron Wanamaker

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 Herb Ritchie. **CARRIED.**

**Committee Reports:**

## A) Budget, year to date.

Brother Bob Schwalm, Grand Treasurer, presented the budget for the year to date. Brother Schwalm reported that this is the final budget for the 2004 / 2005 term and that things looked really good with most items being at or under budget. The auditors now have the materials that they need and will do the audit but this report should be very close with few variations. All in all we have done our very best to keep expenses in line and manage the budget as the Sessions would like. 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 McWhirter reported that he and Brother Benson have been working at the Code rewrite and he expects that it will be available for the next Executive Meeting for review and for presentation at the next Annual Session.

Since the next Executive Meeting will be a joint meeting with the Executive of the Rebekah Assembly the question was asked as to whether or not the Code as rewritten could be placed in the hands of the Executive by about the 1<sup>st</sup> of November so they would have time to carefully go over the rewrite and make suggestions for changes, etc at the following Executive Meeting. If the Executive is very careful we should be able to have a rewritten Code in the hands of the Membership that will be quite workable and not require too many immediate amendments. Brother Nichols explained that as long as he had the rewritten Code in his hands by November 1<sup>st</sup> that he would get it in the hands of the Executive as quickly as he could after that date.

Brother Schwalm restated 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 is diligent and goes over the Code very carefully there should not be too

many changes that will be immediately necessary and we should be able to get the rewritten Code presented and passed at the upcoming Annual Session without too many immediate amendments.

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 restated 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.

**C) Enhancement Committee.**

The Enhancement Committee has been appointed and meetings will be at the call of the Chairman. The Membership, Public Relations and Education Committees will report to the Enhancement Committee with their ideas and Programs and the Enhancement Committee Chairman will report to the Executive at the meetings. Ideas as to the further make up and purpose of the Enhancement Committee will be discussed at future meetings of this Executive.

**D) 816012 Ontario Ltd.**

The building on Jane Street in Toronto has been sold and we are waiting for all the closing details to be finalized before we can take action to pay off the amounts owing to the General Fund and the Headquarters Endowment Fund.

**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:

Grey #169 Forms only outstanding as payment has been received.

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

Grey #169

Letters have been sent and it was left with our Grand Master and Grand Secretary to try to bring resolution to this item.

**B) 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 and Brother Nichols is to send all necessary forms and documents to Brother Hunt.

**C) 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 Brother Nichols would send the necessary forms and papers to Cayuga Lodge #386, authorizing the merger with Jarvis #191 and that the DDGM would be appointed as the Merging Officer. Brother Nichols stated that he had the letters and papers ready and would be placing them in the mail today.

**D) 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 the discussion it was decided that things were being done as per the Code of Ontario Odd Fellows Laws.

**E) Eastern Star Lodge in 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 the Grand Master would monitor this situation with input from the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer and would set up any meetings that may be required with this Lodge.

**F) Realignment of District.**

Brother Nichols reported that he was late in getting the letter out to those concerned and that he had not received any word back from those involved at this point. Brother Nichols will gather the information that comes in and will report to the next meeting of the Executive. Should the Lodges and Districts agree that this realignment is in everyone's best interest the Executive will take the appropriate action.

**NEW BUSINESS.**

**A) SGL 2005 Committee.**

Brothers Wanamaker and Rabbets reported that the 2005 Annual Session of the Sovereign Grand Lodge is over. When all the bills related to the Session have been

paid the Committee has found itself in a position where it has money left over. Brothers Wanamaker and Rabbets were seeking advice from the Executive of the Grand Lodge of Ontario as to how the distribution of the left over money should be handled.

Brother Nichols stated that since the 2005 SGL Committee was a Committee of the Joint Planning Board that the ultimate responsibility for making these decisions should be handled by the Joint Planning Board. There was a great deal of discussion about where the remaining money should go and it was decided that the 2005 SGL Committee should come up with some recommendations and make their report to the Joint Planning Board for approval.

Many of the members of the Executive spoke in favour of some form of recognition being given to the Committee who had worked so hard and spent so much of their own time and money through travel, meetings, accommodations, etc, and that recognizing these members for a job very well done should happen.

As a result of the discussions it was moved by Brother Bob Schwalm and seconded by Brother Bill Thompson that the Executive of this Grand Lodge support the 2005 SGL Committee members being acknowledged for their efforts and the job well done either by an honourarium, dinner, special award or combination thereof.  
**CARRIED.**

The Committee has left over bags and shirts that would need to be disposed of and the Grand Lodge Office will help out by advertising these items on a first come, first served basis. The bags will be given to people for a donation of \$12.00 each, and the remaining shirts given to people for a donation of \$10.00 each, to a project selected by the SGL 2005 Committee.

Brothers Wanamaker and Rabbets, and the entire Executive Committee of the Grand Lodge wished to express their sincere thanks to all the Lodges and Members who made donations to ensure that the Annual Session of the Sovereign Grand Lodge, hosted by the Jurisdiction of Ontario, came off so wonderfully and with a surplus of funds remaining.

## **B) Hospitality Suite for the Upcoming Grand Lodge Session.**

Brother David McLaughlin could not be in attendance at today's meeting but it was reported that the Members from Valley City Lodge #117 are already looking at this matter and coming up with ideas. Brother Nichols will place this item on the agenda for the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive as it was reported that Brother McLaughlin will be able to be in attendance for the January Meeting.

**C) Meritorious Service Awards..**

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, that Brother Dave will get the materials in his hands ready to present at the Annual Session of the Grand Lodge of Ontario.

**D) Fun Night Report.**

Brother Schwalm reported that the 2005 Fun Night and Grand Lodge Birthday Party was an unparallelled success. There were in excess of 870 people in attendance and all reports on the event were positive. It was noted with regret that there was one injury during the event but that those involved had been treated at hospital and that their payment for the event had been refunded.

The event found that it had a surplus of funds after all bills were paid and the 2005 Birthday Party Committee recommended that the surplus funds be given to the Camp Trillium, Odd Fellow and Rebekah Capital Fund. Donations had also been collected at the event for Camp Trillium as well. There will be a little over Fifteen Thousand Dollars left over after all bills are finalized, between the profits from the event and the donations received.

It was moved by Brother Herb Ritchie and seconded by Brother Ian McWhirter that this report be accepted and that the profits from the event, along with the donations received, be given to Camp Trillium. **CARRIED.**

**E) Valley City Lodge #117.**

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 moved by Brother John Nichols and seconded by Brother Herb Ritchie that the Grand Treasurer contact the appropriate members of Valley City Lodge #117 to work out details on the loan to replace their roof, with the loan to be made from the Lodge Rehabilitation Fund. **CARRIED.**

**F) Educational Seminars and Funding for Manuals of Instruction.**

A letter from Brother Wayne Geurts, Educational Committee Chairman was received and reviewed. The Executive discussed that Brother Wayne's proposition was a great idea and it was moved by Brother Terry Switzer and seconded by Brother Ian McWhirter that a grant of \$200.00 be made to the Educational Committee, from Executive Promotion, to fund the Manuals of Instruction for those attending the Educational Seminars. **CARRIED.**

**G) Additional Executive Meeting.**

Brother Nichols raised the concern that he felt that we would require one additional Executive Meeting, to be held in the spring, so we could ratify the Code Rewrite and handle any other business that may arise such as signing of the Audited Statements etc.

The Members of the Executive reviewed their calendars and set the additional meeting to be held at 10:00 am, Tuesday February 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Grand Lodge Office.

No further business appearing it was announced that the date of the next

meeting of the Elective Officers would be held on Tuesday November 1<sup>st</sup> , 2005. This Meeting will be a joint meeting with the Executive of the Rebekah Assembly Executive in the morning and our Executive meeting after lunch as necessary, 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.

Future meetings of the Grand Lodge Executive will be held January 10<sup>th</sup>, & February 28<sup>th</sup>.