

**Minutes,
Executive Meeting,
Grand Lodge Office, Stratford, Ontario,
Tuesday, September 28th, 2004.**

The Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am with Vice 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.

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

OFFICERS (present):

Guests:

Dave Longfield
Bill Thompson
John Nichols
Bob Schwalm
Terry Switzer
Herb Ritchie

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 Terry Switzer. **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 expenses had been right on line and in some cases under budget and that it was the third year in a row that we were able to show a slight surplus at the year end. There were a couple of areas, like Sessional Expense, that would be balanced out by other areas of the budget that will be under and sale of supplies would have to be adjusted by our auditors as we had been in a position where we had to write off so many things this past year as a result of the new Sovereign Grand Lodge Code and the New Ritual.

It was moved by Brother Bill Thompson and seconded by Brother Herb Ritchie that the Budget Report be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

Brother Bob Schwalm suggested that a portion of the Grand Master's honourarium could be held back and given to those Officers who are having to make the travels in Brother Don's place, during his recovery. It was moved by Brother Terry Switzer and seconded by Brother Herb Ritchie that we accept Brother Bob's suggestion and carry through with the suggestion as long as our Grand Master, Brother Don Swan, is in agreement. **CARRIED.**

Brothers Schwalm and Nichols are to talk to Brother Don in regards to this item when they visit him in the hospital.

B) Legislation.

There was no written report at this time. Brother Nichols had received an email from Brother Geurts outlining the responsibilities of each person on the Code Rewrite Committee. The opinion was expressed that it would be good to have something in our hands for the next Executive Meeting if the New Code will be available for the next Grand Lodge Session.

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.

There was a good deal of discussion in regards to the fact that most Jurisdictions use the Code of General Laws as their guide and have very small Constitutions and Bylaws for their Jurisdictions. The Executive of the Grand Lodge seemed to be in agreement that we did not need a big and cumbersome Code for Ontario when we could use the Code of General Laws and a smaller Code for Ontario. Brother Bill Thompson, the member of the Executive who is working with the Code Rewrite Committee stated that he would ensure that the Committee was aware of this.

C)2005 SGL Sessions.

Brother Nichols reported that the 2005 SGL Committee have requested that the Grand Lodge cover the cost of a luncheon that will be hosted by the Committee when the official site inspection is carried out in January. There will be approximately 40 - 50 people in attendance with some Committee Members and the people from the Units of the Sovereign Grand Lodge in attendance.

It was moved by Brother Terry Switzer and seconded by Brother Herb Ritchie that any monies in support of the 2005 Sovereign Grand Lodge Committee that come from the Grand Lodge of Ontario, in support of the upcoming Sovereign Sessions, be made in the form of a loan to the Committee so that in the event of a surplus, the Grand Lodge will be able to receive a repayment and thus keep the costs to our Jurisdiction to a minimum. **CARRIED.**

It was moved by Brother Bill Thompson and seconded by Brother Terry Switzer that our Grand Secretary be allowed to extend the loan to cover the luncheon, with the funds coming from Travel in our budget, so that the 2005 Committee could keep the limited cash that they have in their account for other upcoming expenses. **CARRIED.**

The SGL 2005 Committee is still in need of funds and an appeal letter has been sent out to all Odd Fellows and Rebekah Lodges. The SGL 2005 Committee is hoping that the appeal will be well responded to. Sponsorships are needed!

Unfinished Business:

Outstanding Annual Returns.

The Annual Return is still outstanding for Milton Lodge #92 and this is the only Annual Return that is still outstanding. Brother Schwalm has been working with this Lodge to try to get the return in but things are not progressing too well.

The discussion on this item was kept in camera due to the fact that it dealt with the personal business of one Lodge in this Jurisdiction. It was moved by Brother Herb Ritchie and seconded by Brother Bill Thompson that no more interest cheques be

sent to Milton Lodge #92 until such time as the returns and semi annual returns are filed to the satisfaction of the Grand Treasurer. **CARRIED.**

This matter is to be referred as unfinished business for the next Executive Meeting.

Eastern Star Lodge #72, Whitby.

We had a brief discussion in relation to this Lodge and the discussion was held in camera due to the fact that it dealt with the personal business of one Lodge. It was moved by Brother Terry Switzer and seconded by Brother Herb Ritchie that a registered letter be sent to the Secretary of this Lodge advising him, and the members of the Lodge, that Brothers Thompson, Nichols, Switzer and Ritchie would be in attendance at their regularly scheduled meeting of October 19th, 2004, to discuss the prospects and future of the Lodge. **CARRIED.** *Note: this letter has been sent via registered mail.*

Napanee Lodge Hall.

Brother Terry Switzer reported that he is currently involved in meetings with a local lawyer and should be able to report this item as completed by our next Executive Meeting.

816012 Ontario Ltd and the Sale of the Toronto Property.

Brother Nichols reported that he is currently still working with one of the tenants as that individual is quite interested in purchasing the property. The interested individual is finding a lot of road blocks placed in his path while trying to arrange for funding for the purchase and has asked for a bit more time to be able to get an offer together.

It was moved by Brother Bill Thompson and seconded by Brother Herb Ritchie that we give this interested individual until October 31st, 2004, to be able to come up

with a solid offer and that if no offer is in place by November 1st, 2004, we list the property with real estate. **CARRIED.**

With the way that property is selling in the area this delay will not put us any further behind that we are. Properties in this area of Toronto are not selling quickly and are, for the most part, not selling for what people have paid for them. Brother Nichols stated that the Committee responsible for this sale will keep abreast of the situation and will do their best to get the property sold, within the rules, as quickly as possible.

Algoma Lodge #267.

Brother Nichols provided information on the sale of the Algoma Lodge Hall Property, for information purposes, to the Executive. This item was held in camera due to the fact that it was the personal business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction.

Arthritis Committee and the letter from Brother Leo Burns.

The letter from Brother Leo Burns was received and read over by the Executive and there was some disagreement with some statements in the letter. As a result of the letter it was moved by Brother Terry Switzer, seconded by Brother Bill Thompson that a letter be sent to Brother Leo Burns outlining the following points:

- 1 All letters should come to the Grand Lodge Executive and should not be sent to the Grand Lodge Accounting Manager.
- 2 Deadlines for all reports to come before the Annual Session of the Grand Lodge must be received in time at the Grand Lodge Office.
- 3 Books should be kept by the Arthritis Chairman for all monies received in behalf of the Arthritis Society or donations should be sent directly to the Arthritis

Society with them providing a report of donations to the Grand Lodge Office in time for inclusion in the Advanced Journal.

- 4 The \$650.00 in audit fees was for two years of audit.
- 5 The donated funds can be used for costs like audit fees for the Administration of the fund as the audit is required by law by our Government.
- 6 The \$10,000.00 donation given at the last session. Our records indicate that Brother Burns authorized our Accounting Manager to issue the cheque for presentation.

This motion was **CARRIED**.

It was also suggested at this time that this Committee should be a committee of more than one person and it was suggested to incoming Grand Masters that they think about this when making Committee appointments.

New Business.

A) Annual Returns.

Brother Schwalm reported that the returns are coming in but that he has noticed that the requirements, as per the Code, for non contributing members may not be being followed. The Code states that a member with 40 years of consecutive service, be unable to pay dues, and must make application in writing:

(59) Non-Contributing Membership. A brother who shall have been a contributing member of an Odd Fellow lodge for forty consecutive years immediately preceding his present age, and shall from any cause be unable to pay dues, may make application in writing to be transferred to non-contributing membership.

- (a) Any such application shall be referred to an investigating committee which shall submit its report in writing, with its recommendations, at the next regular session, unless by request of the committee further time shall be granted.
- (b) When the report of the investigating committee shall have been submitted a ball ballot shall have been taken on the application, and if a majority of the ballots cast shall be white or favorable, the brother shall be declared transferred to non-contributing membership.
- (c) Any such non-contributing member shall thereafter be relieved from the payment of any and all dues and assessments, and shall be entitled to the passwords, fraternal fellowship, the right to hold office, and to vote in the lodge in which such membership is held.
- (d) The lodge shall not be required to pay Per Capita Dues on any such non-contributing member or members, but the annual reports of the lodge to the Grand Secretary shall show the number and names and ages of all non-contributing members on its rolls.
- (2002)**
- (e) Non-contributing members shall be entitled to the passwords, fraternal fellowship, the right to hold office, and to vote in the lodge, but non-contributing members shall not have any claim whatever upon the lodge for pecuniary benefits of any kind, nor shall their widows, orphans, or personal representatives have any such claim.

Questions were raised as to the names of some of the people in non contributing membership status and whether they met the requirements as per our Code and Brother Schwalm gave information as required.

It was moved by Brother Robert Schwalm and seconded by Brother Herb Ritchie that our Grand Secretary send a letter in his next mailing requesting each Lodge to review their lists on Non Contributing Members to see if they meet the requirements as per the Code. **CARRIED.**

- B) Joint Planning Board.
- C) Committee on Sessional Arrangements.

At the request of the Executive these matters were handled together as they dealt with issues that need to be addressed together.

The letters were reviewed and it was moved by Brother Bob Schwalm and seconded by Brother Terry Switzer that these items be put on hold and be brought back as unfinished business until such time as a meeting can be arranged between the Executive Committees of the Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly to discuss these matters. **CARRIED.**

Brother Nichols stated that he would send a letter to the Assembly President to ask for a couple of proposed dates for such a meeting and would advise the Executive when he had received word. The Executive proposed that October or November would be good times to arrange a combined meeting.

D) Lyn Lodge #284.

Brother Nichols reported on a letter he had received from Lyn Lodge #284 and asked the Executive to give consideration to their request for use of funds, from the sale of building, for needed Lodge Hall improvements. This item was held in camera due to the fact that it dealt with 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 a letter be sent to Lyn Lodge #284 advising them that the Executive had approved the expenditure for the replacement of the furnace but that they could not approve the ovens or the unknown as these items do not fall within the restrictions of the Code. **CARRIED.**

E) Rebekah District #16 and Lynda Rebekah Lodge #374.

This item was held in camera due to the fact that it dealt with the personal business of one Lodge in this Jurisdiction as reflected in the letter from the District.

As a result of the discussions it was moved by Brother Bill Thompson seconded by Brother Herb Ritchie that our Grand Secretary send the letter he had written in response to the letter received, with the approval of the Executive as to the contents of the letter and arrange with the President of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario to have a meeting with Lynda Rebekah Lodge and the Executives of the Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly of Ontario to bring this matter to a close. **CARRIED.**

The Grand Secretary's letter has been sent with copies to the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario and the Sovereign Grand Secretary, along with a letter to Sister Marilyn Wilson, Assembly President, requesting that a meeting be set up.

F) **Meeting with the Executive of the Rebekah Assembly.**

Since this matter had already been handled it was unnecessary to revisit it at this time.

G) **Connaught Lodge #440, Brinston.**

Brother Nichols reported that he had received a letter from Connaught Lodge advising that they have surrendered their charter as of August of this year.

Brother Nichols is dealing with the local Rebekah Lodge on sale of property and will keep this situation as unfinished business for the next meeting. The Secretary of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario is currently involved in this matter as well.

Brother Switzer reported that he was very happy to see that information had been sent out in regards to the Educational Seminars which have been scheduled by our Education Committee and he hoped that these seminars would be well supported by the Lodges sending Noble Grands,

Vice Grands, Secretaries, Financial Secretaries and Treasurers. Brother Switzer reported that the Past Grand Masters had discussed sending representation to these seminars to offer moral support. Brother Nichols stated that the Elected Grand Lodge Officers have visited Educational Seminars in the past to offer moral support as well and should continue to do so as time and travel will permit.

Brother Switzer asked if Visiting Past Grand Masters or Elected Officers would have to pay the full fee for the seminar to make their visit and perhaps have lunch and Brother Nichols stated that he would contact our Education Chairman, Brother Wayne Geurts, to see what the cost would be.

Note: Brother Nichols has contacted Brother Geurts and received word that Visiting Past Grand Masters or Grand Lodge Officers would be required to pay for the lunch, if they were attending, but would not have to pay the full fee as they would not be collecting the seminar materials.

No further business appearing it was announced that the date of the next meeting of the Elective Officers would be Tuesday, January 11th, 2005, at the Grand Lodge Office at 10:00 am. The meeting was adjourned on motion of Brother Terry Switzer.

Future meetings of the Executive Committee will be held on Tuesday March 30th, and Tuesday June 15th. These Meetings will be held at the Grand Lodge Office, 157 Frederick Street, Stratford, Ontario, at 10:00 am.