



# Executive Meeting June 13, 2025, 4:00 pm, Stratford, Ontario.



## AGENDA... **VIA ZOOM.**

1. **Call to Order @** By.....Brother Jason Walt, Grand Master.  
**Opening Prayer** by  
**Welcome to all.** - Special Welcome to Brother Philip Benson, Grand Warden
2. **Quorum Present?** .....yes, .....no.
3. **Attendance Register.**
4. **Minutes of last meeting,**  
  
approved as:
5. **Committee Reports:**
  - A) Appointments to the Committees of the Executive (Jason & John)
  - B) Budget year to date, (Bob Schwalm)
  - C) Bank Signing Authorities (Bob Schwalm)
6. **Unfinished Business:**
  - A) 2025 Sessional Wrap up. (Bob and All)
  - B) Sessional Venue 2026 Discussion (Bob)
  - C) Collingwood #54 (In Camera) (Gene)
  - D)
  - E)
  - F)
7. **New Business:**
  - A) Grand Lodge Regalia (John)
  - B) Allan Simpson Educational Fund (John)
  - C) Other (If any) (John)
  - D) *for October 17 Grand Master promotion and promotion in General (Jason)*
  - E)
  - F)
  - G)
  - H)
  - I)
8. **Date of Next Meetings - Friday October 17,** In Person Stratford, **Friday January 2,** Zoom, **Friday March 13,** In Person Stratford.
9. **Adjournment @**..... . Moved by.....

# Executive Special Committees.

2025 -2026.

## First Listed Person to Serve as Chair.

<b>Budget Committee:</b>	<b>Investments and Endowments:</b>
<b>Bob Schwalm Tom Robinson Don Beach Philip Benson</b>  <b>John Nichols, as resource.</b>	<b>Bob Schwalm John Nichols Jason Walt Mark Volkov Gene Dopp</b>
<b>Program Enhancement &amp; Membership Development.</b>	<b>Administrative and Organizational Matters:</b>
<b>Gene Dopp Kathie Noble Philip Benson</b>  <b>Resources: Barry Smith, Membership Chairman Paul Jackson, Tabloid Editor</b>	<b>Jason Walt John Nichols Bob Schwalm Mark Volkov Philip Benson Gene Dopp</b>
<b>Legislation and Code:</b>	<b>Grand Lodge and Component Unit Properties (Appointed by the Grand Secretary Chapter III, Section 9 A (2))</b>
<b>Wayne Geurts Philip Benson Mark Volkov</b>  <b>Resource: John Nichols Bob Schwalm</b>	<b>John Nichols Jason Walt Bob Schwalm Mark Volkov Philip Benson Gene Dopp</b>

The June 13, 2025, meeting of the Executive of the Grand Lodge of Ontario, via zoom, was called to order at 4:00 am by our Grand Master, Brother Jason Walt. Brother Jason opened the meeting with prayer.

Our Grand Secretary, Brother John, ascertained that a quorum was present. There was a quorum present for the transaction of our business.

**Present at this meeting were:**

Jason Walt	Mark Volkov	Philip Benson	John Nichols
Bob Schwalm	Gene Dopp		

**4. Minutes of the Last Meeting.**

It was properly moved and seconded, that the Minutes of the last meeting, be adopted as printed and circulated, subject to any corrections. **CARRIED.**

**5A Appointment of Committees of the Executive.**

Brother Mark Volkov moved that the Committee appointments, as made by our Grand Master and Grand Secretary be accepted. **CARRIED.** (The appointments to the Committees are listed on page two of these minutes.)

**5B Budget Year to Date.**

Brother Bob Schwalm presented the year-to-date budget report, noting that per capita and Sovereign dues were under budget due to member losses, and members being added to the Non Contributing Membership category. Sessional expenses were slightly over budget but expected to come in under by about \$1,000. The Budget will continue to be closely monitored by Brothers Nichols and Schwalm.

It was properly moved and seconded that the Budget report be approved as presented. **CARRIED.**

**5C Bank Signing Authorities.**

The Executive discussed bank signing authorities, with Brother Bob explaining that he would need to collect photocopies of Jason's driver's license and credit card, along with signatures, to complete the necessary paperwork and get this all finalized by June 28th. It was asked who the signing authorities are for the Grand Lodge and Brother Bob replied that our signers were the Grand Master, Grand Secretary, and Grand Treasurer.

**6A 2025 Sessional Wrap Up.**

Brother Bob reported that we had a very successful Session with positive feedback on the Venue and Banquet, though Banquet attendance was below target at 131 so we ended up losing money on the Banquet. The feedback on the hotel and banquet were excellent and there were no complaints but only

positive feedback from everyone.

Brother Paul Jackson is going to do an article in the Tabloid about the Sessions. The Executive agreed to return to the same venue, noting the convenience of using the Grand Lodge offices in Stratford. Everyone expressed that they felt the Rodeway Inn met and/or exceeded our expectations.

**6B Sessional Venue 2026 Discussion.**

Since the Executive had been pleased with the way things went at the Annual Session, Bob is negotiating with the hotel to secure a contract for 2026. He is trying to get the banquet room for free, or at least half price and is awaiting caterer pricing for next year. The reason the Banquet lost money was due to having to pay for the Banquet Room.

Brothers Bob and John will work with the hotel and caterer to get the best possible contract and report back as necessary. At this point the arrangements for the Annual Session in 2026 will be the responsibility of the Committee on Arrangements.

**6C Collingwood Lodge #54. (In Camera)**

This item was held In Camera due to it being the private business of one Lodge in our Jurisdiction. There was nothing to report at this time and there were no motions as a result of this order of business. Brother Gene will continue to monitor this situation.

**7A Grand Lodge Regalia.**

The Executive discussed the fact that some of our Collars are not in great condition at this time. We had a discussion on repair or replacement for our Collars. The Executive will have a look at the Grand Lodge Regalia at a future convenient time. Brother Mark offered to consult with his colleague's partner, a professional costume maker, about potential repairs.

We also discussed use of Regalia that was not issued by this Grand Lodge. Brother John discussed a complaint he received about Brother Jason's collar, emphasizing that he is the Grand Secretary, not the Grand Master, and therefore cannot address such issues directly. He explained that he will refer any written complaints to the executive, but without a letter, he will not take action. The group agreed that if there is an issue with the Grand Master's Collar, the complaint should be directed to Brother Jason personally, rather than to Brother John. That matter was left in the hands of Grand Master Brother Jason Walt.

**7B Allan Simpson Educational Fund.**

Brother John praised Sister Carolyn Benson for her excellent work as bursar, noting that they had professionally printed applications for mailing. There was a high volume of submissions, particularly from single-parent homes.

He emphasized their priority to support full orphans of Odd Fellows or

Rebekahs, single-parent homes with such connections, and others, and highlighted that they were able to award 6 scholarships this year. We will be looking at how many we can award next year pending fund performance. John anticipated more applications in the future and encouraged continued support for Sister Carolyn, while Phil attributed the increase in applications to expanded criteria and efforts by Sister Carolyn to distribute information and forms to schools.

### **General Discussion.**

The discussion focused on improving the timely submission of forms to the Grand Lodge, with Brother John emphasizing the need for Lodges to comply in a timely manner and prior to the deadline. Brother Philip suggested that District Deputies encourage Lodge Secretaries during official visits.

Brother Mark shared an experience with a newly amalgamated lodge that lacked awareness of procedural deadlines, highlighting the need for better communication.

Brother Jason noted that one District still lacks a District.

The Executive also discussed upcoming Initiatory Degrees, with Mark and Jason mentioning events in Brantford and Madoc, respectively.

It was properly moved we adjourn, at 5:10 pm.

No further business appearing the meeting adjourned with the **next meetings of the Executive to be held, Friday October 17, In Person Stratford, Friday January 2, Zoom, Friday March 13, In Person Stratford, unless a zoom meeting needs to be called in the interim for specific purposes.**

**The meeting closed in harmony.**